



## **National Women’s Health Advisory Council Meeting Communiqué**

On 20 November 2023, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon. Ged Kearney MP, chaired the fifth meeting of the National Women’s Health Advisory Council (Council). Members attended the meeting representing peak stakeholder organisations, academia, consumer groups, and medical and professional bodies. Officers from the Department of Health and Aged Care (Department) and the National Health and Medical Research Council also attended.

The Council has been established to provide strategic advice and recommendations on how to improve the nation’s health system to provide better, more targeted and effective healthcare for Australian women and girls to ensure improved health outcomes.

At the meeting:

1. The Council welcomed Dr Robyn Langham AM as an Ex Officio member, to represent the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Associate Professor Ines Rio was welcomed as the new Australian Medical Association representative and Dr Gillian Gibson was welcomed as the new Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists representative.
2. The key meeting agenda item related to the work of the subcommittees and the four focus areas - safety; research; access, care and outcomes; and empowerment. The Council’s subcommittee leads provided an update on their subcommittees’ work and presented their draft recommendations. The Council discussed the draft recommendations, and the next steps in addressing the focus areas. Key themes related to workforce, health literacy, intersectionality (priority populations), funding models and implementation of the Senate inquiry into universal access to reproductive healthcare report recommendations.
3. The Council received an update on the #EndGenderBias survey, which closed 13 October 2023. Survey results will be available in the first half of 2024.
4. The Council received an update on the Monitoring and Reporting Framework (Framework) to measure progress on implementation of the National Women’s Health Strategy 2020–2030. Stakeholder consultation on the draft Framework commenced in November 2023 and will continue to early 2024.
5. The Council received an update on a literature review on gender bias in the health care system. The Department has engaged Monash University to undertake the review and it is expected the report will be completed in the first half of 2024.



6. The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care provided a presentation on the revision of the Heavy Menstrual Bleeding Clinical Care Standard and the development of the Women’s Health Focus Report. The Council provided advice on ways to raise the national profile for the effective use of clinical care standards.

The next Council meeting will be held in March 2024.