



National Women's Health Advisory Council Meeting Communiqué

The 7th meeting of the National Women's Health Advisory Council (Council) was held on 18 June 2024. The meeting was attended by Members and Special Advisers and chaired by Dr Liz Develin, Deputy Secretary Department of Health and Aged Care, on behalf of the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon. Ged Kearney MP.

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 discussed the progression of its four subcommittee findings across safety; research; access, care and outcomes; and empowerment. The Council discussed the approach to key findings to come out of the sub-committee work, including overarching advice that addresses intersectionality including gender safety, First Nations, rural and remote and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, which should accompany the findings and opportunities for progressing reforms. This included potential activities for the Council's future workplan.
2. The Council received an update on the Monitoring and Reporting Framework to measure progress on implementation of the National Women's Health Strategy 2020-2030. The Council will consider the Framework out of session.
3. Ms Megan Leahy, First Assistant Secretary of the Office for Women at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, provided an update on the National Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality and how the Council can support the implementation and reporting of the Strategy.
4. Mr Mark Roddam, First Assistant Secretary of the Primary Care Division at the Department of Health and Aged Care provided an update on the Strengthening Medicare policies and linkages to the Council's work in particular how a gender lens may be applied to relevant policies
5. The Council received an update on various Council activities including the first annual report.

The next Council meeting will be held in September 2024.