



National Women's Health Advisory Council Meeting Communiqué

The 8th meeting of the National Women's Health Advisory Council (Council) was held on 17 September 2024. The meeting was attended by Council Members and chaired by the Hon. Ged Kearney MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health.

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 a set of findings based on its first 18 months of work, including key findings across safety; research; access, care and outcomes; and empowerment. The Council considered proposed actions for progression of the findings to feed into the Council's 2024-25 work plan. A summary of the Council's findings will be published once endorsed on the Department of Health and Aged Care website once finalised.
2. Following a discussion, the Council endorsed the Monitoring and Reporting Framework to measure implementation of the National Women's Health Strategy 2020-2030 and the accompanying baseline report. The framework and baseline report will be published on the Department of Health and Aged Care website, along with an interactive version of the baseline report.
3. The Council discussed and provided feedback on a draft Council work plan 2024-25. The work plan will focus on activities to address the issues and opportunities identified through the Council's work to date. The work plan will be finalised and endorsed out of session.
4. Ms Prue Torrance, General Manager from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Council Ex-officio Member provided an update and the next steps for the Statement on Sex, Gender, Variations of Sex Characteristics and Sexual Orientation in Health and Medical Research.
5. The Council received an update on various activities including the Council's first annual report, the finalisation of the #EndGenderBias survey detailed report and the literature review on gender bias. As well as an update on new initiatives and activities impacting gender bias in the health system, including the recent roundtable held with the Council of Medical Deans.
6. Ms Sienna Aguilar from the Australian Women's Health Alliance provided an update on the Gender Responsive Health and the Women's Health Hub.
7. The Council noted the Waminda Conference 'Strong Women, Strong Community, Leading the Way' is underway and looks forward to the outcomes being discussed at the next Council meeting.

The next Council meeting will be held in November 2024.