



National Women's Health Advisory Council Meeting Communiqué

The Ninth meeting of the National Women's Health Advisory Council (Council) was held on 22 November 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 their work plan for 2024-25. The work plan outlines actions in line with issues and opportunities identified by the Council to date. Members discussed next steps for the implementation of the work plan.
2. Following an update on the Senate Inquiry into Issues related to menopause and perimenopause, Professor Susan Davis AO gave a presentation on the 19th World Congress on Menopause.
3. Dr Cara Tannenbaum, a women's health specialist and a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the Université de Montréal, gave a presentation on Canada's experience of integrating sex and gender in health research and policy. The Council discussed the insights relevant to the Australian context.
4. The Council received an update on new initiatives and activities impacting gender bias in the health system. The Council received an update from Dr Adele Murdolo from the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health on the focus groups to better understand the barriers and bias migrant and refugee women face in the health system.
5. The Council noted several reports which will be published by the end of the year or early 2025, including the Council's annual report. The Chair thanked Council Members for their advice, expertise, and contributions in 2024.
6. It was noted the next meeting will be held in early 2025, with the date to be confirmed.