



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

National Women's Health Advisory Council Meeting Communiqué

The eleventh meeting of the National Women's Health Advisory Council (council) was held on 10 November 2025. The meeting was attended by council members and chaired by the Hon Rebecca White MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health and Assistant Minister for Women.

The council was 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. Associate Professor Tania King of the University of Melbourne presented on a 2025 council work plan activity to develop guidance to help clinical guideline developers ensure consideration of sex and gender in clinical practice guidelines. Members provided feedback on the draft guidance.
2. Professor Bronwyn Graham of The George Institute's Centre for Sex and Gender Equity in Health and Medicine outlined initial findings from a 2025 council work plan project to review the extent to which sex and gender issues are considered in the Australian health and medical university curricula. Members discussed the findings and considered possible recommendations to improve the curricula.
3. The council received updates on several activities relevant to women and girls' health, including the findings of a series of focus groups with migrant and refugee women to understand their experiences of gender bias and discrimination in the health system.
4. Dr Sue Matthews shared the key findings from Victoria's Inquiry into Women's Pain.
5. The council reviewed its activities and achievements since it was established and noted the Government would be transitioning the council to new time-limited Ministerial Expert Panels that will advise on priority areas of women's health with the first Expert Panel to commence in 2026. The Expert Panels will build on the success of the Council by focusing on targeted conditions that disproportionately affect women or where women face inequities in health outcomes. Membership will include clinicians, researchers, advocates and women with lived experience, and representation from priority populations to ensure a diverse range of experiences and perspectives are reflected.
6. The council acknowledged the significant benefit the 2025 Budget's women's health package is delivering to women with over 1.2 million PBS prescriptions dispensed to just under half a million women between 1 March 2025 and 30 September 2025.
7. The Chair acknowledged the significant contribution of time and expertise provided by council members and special advisors over the council's three-year term, and the shared ongoing commitment to improving women's health.



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8. The Chair requested the group be consulted annually to update on progress toward implementing the women's health package and the National Women's Health Strategy 2020-2030, in recognition of the expertise provided by members.