



## Ministerial Expert Panel on Women's Health

### Meeting communiqué

The second meeting of the Ministerial Expert Panel on Women's Health (expert panel) was held on 20 April 2026. The meeting was attended by expert panel members and was chaired by the Hon Rebecca White MP, Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health and Assistant Minister for Women.

At the meeting, the Chair and expert panel discussed potential intervention points for cardiovascular health throughout a woman's life course. The panel also planned for the upcoming stakeholder roundtable on 19 May 2026 in Sydney. The roundtable will bring together women and gender-diverse people with lived experience to share perspectives on cardiovascular disease, including diagnosis, early detection, treatment and secondary prevention.

During the meeting, the expert panel:

- Identified opportunities for early detection and intervention of cardiovascular disease and associated risk factors by considering cardiovascular health across the life course
- Acknowledged the close relationship between social determinants of health and cardiovascular risk
- Highlighted the importance of identifying system-wide intervention points that account for access disparities and avoid further burdening intervention points or settings that are already under significant pressure
- Suggested data sources that could also be analysed to further inform potential opportunities
- Agreed on an agenda for the upcoming stakeholder roundtable. The expert panel agreed discussion should focus on women and gender-diverse people with lived experience across the following themes:
  - primary prevention, recognition of symptoms and understanding cardiovascular risk
  - seeking care and first contact with the health system
  - clinical assessment and testing
  - receiving and understanding a diagnosis
  - treatment options and decision-making
  - follow-up care, rehabilitation, and ongoing support
  - potential channels and settings to reach different groups of women and gender-diverse people.

The next meeting of the expert panel will be held in July 2026.