



Ministerial Expert Panel on Women's Health

Meeting communiqué

The Ministerial Expert Panel on Women's Health (expert panel) held its fourth meeting on 3 August 2026. The Hon Rebecca White MP chaired the meeting in her role as Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, Indigenous Health and Women.

The expert panel discussed the current Commonwealth and sector communication, engagement and education initiatives aimed to improve cardiovascular disease and stroke outcomes for women. Members considered how primary care could be better leveraged, and key considerations in relation to providing culturally safe care, to better support prevention, early recognition, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.

The meeting included presentations on:

- how primary care can better support women with cardiovascular disease
- the Rheumatic Heart Disease Strategy, presented by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- current communications and education initiatives for women's cardiovascular health.

The expert panel considered where sex and gender considerations are already embedded in cardiovascular disease and stroke initiatives. Members also discussed where gaps or drop-offs occur across prevention, early recognition, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up care.

The expert panel identified opportunities for Government to align existing activity, reduce duplication and improve national coordination. Members considered the role of awareness, education and access to evidence-based information in improving women's cardiovascular health literacy.

The expert panel also prepared for the next roundtable, which will bring together clinicians and sector representatives to discuss practical actions that could improve women's cardiovascular health outcomes. Specifically the roundtable will:

- use lived experience insights to inform discussion with clinicians and sector representatives;
- Increase their understanding about patient education, culturally safe care, digital health, healthcare provider training and clinical guidelines; and
- consider how guidance and training can better reflect sex-specific symptoms, risks and treatment needs.

The roundtable will be held in Melbourne on 24 August 2026.