

Women's Advisory Council – 18 November 2024 – Communique

Stakeholder presentation: Noor Azizah, 2024 NSW Young Women of the Year

Noor Azizah delivered a presentation on her experience of displacement due to the Rohingya Crisis and her work as the Director and co-founder of Rohingya Maiyafu'inor Collaborative Network. The Council discussed the importance of Ms Azizah's work and the issues relevant to migrant and refugee women in Australia.

Minister's update

The Minister for Women briefly updated the Council on her recent work and priorities.

The Minister congratulated Jill Duncan on her appointment as the new Chair from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2026, with this meeting being the Minister's last as Chair.

The Minister reflected on the Social Media Summit in Sydney on 10 October 2024. The Minister and Council members spoke about the 'Digital dangers: Bullying, misogyny and extremism' panel session.

The Minister updated on the most recent Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council meeting. The ongoing work between meetings on the National Plan and rapid review was highlighted, with NSW leading some of this work.

The Minister spoke to the Working Women's Centres election commitment and noted that there could be the opportunity for Council involvement. The Minister closed by thanking the members for all their work over the Council's first year.

Member updates

Council members shared key updates from their work and networks since the 16 September meeting. Members discussed several events for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. Marlene Krasovitsky discussed her meeting with the Ministerial Advisory Council on Aging Chair, Ms Joan Hughes. She raised the possibility of the Council Chair meeting regularly with the chairs of other NSW Advisory Councils. Council members endorsed the suggestion. Regular meetings with other Advisory Councils will be organised for 2025.

Stakeholder presentation: YWCA Australia, Young Women's Council

The Council heard from YWCA Australia and their Young Women's Council, who presented their work on gender-responsive housing and homelessness policy. The Council heard from: Kate Whittle (General Manager, Advocacy and External Affairs), Bianca Tini Brunozi (Campaigns and Advocacy Officer), Rhiannon Halling (Member, Young Women's Council) and Sarah Williams (Member, Young Women's Council). The Council was keen to expand its engagement with youth voices and contribute to action in the homelessness space. It was discussed that the Council would provide input to Women NSW to coordinate a Council submission to the consultation process on the draft NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025-2035. Additionally, the Council committed to meeting with youth organisations at least twice a year to discuss shared priorities and opportunities for engagement.

Stakeholder presentation – NSW Treasury

Council members received an update from NSW Treasury on the recent launch of the Gender Impact Assessment Policy, which came into effect on 1 October 2024. The update contained information on the launch of the new Resource Hub, which includes various data sources and learning modules to help uplift departments' capabilities in completing their Gender Impact Assessments. The Council agreed to provide feedback on the Resource Hub and provide any data source recommendations.

Strategic Planning working session

Jill Duncan led the Council in discussing revisions to the SMART Goals document underpinning the Council's strategic plan. Women NSW will update the document to reflect edits and suggestions provided during the meeting. Council members will assign responsibility for actions and identify timeframes to ensure actions under the plan are completed.

Planning for future Council meetings

Jill Duncan has been approved as the new Chair for the Council until 31 December 2026. Women NSW will begin planning for the 2025 Council meetings. Council Terms of Reference will be amended to specify meeting papers are provided at least one week before scheduled meetings.

End of Communique