

NSW Women's Advisory Council – 24 February 2025 – Communique

Minister's update

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

The Minister acknowledged the resignation of Lisa Annese from the Council on 8 February 2025, due to commitments associated with her new role as Chief Executive Officer of Chief Executive Women. The Minister thanked Ms Annese for her contributions to the Council and wished her all the best for her future endeavours.

The Minister updated on the most recent Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council meeting and will provide a further update on developments in the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence portfolio out of session.

The Minister spoke to upcoming NSW Women's Week 2025 events on 2-8 March around International Women's Day on 8 March. The Minister shared the events she would be attending and encouraged members to attend events.

Chair update

The Chair provided a summary of relevant developments since the previous Council meeting. This included meeting with the NSW Treasury team leading the development of the NSW Performance and Wellbeing Framework. Council members provided feedback on the proposed framework and advice on further consultation.

As agreed at the 18 November meeting, the Council has been working with the Secretariat to develop a submission on the draft NSW Homelessness Strategy. Feedback from members has been compiled into a submission and will be provided to Homes NSW.

The Chair discussed her meeting with the Chairs of other NSW Advisory Councils and noted that regular meetings are scheduled throughout the year. The Chair noted that those meetings often feature sharing submissions and papers, and flagged this could be a useful opportunity for intersectional collaboration across the different Councils.

Member updates

Council members shared key updates from their work and networks since the 18 November meeting. Council members endorsed the Chair's proposal to allocate additional time for member updates in future meeting agendas.

Stakeholder workshop: The Insight Partnership – Mid-term review of the *NSW Carers Strategy 2020-2030*

Maura Boland and Lacy Barron of The Insight Partnership facilitated a consultation workshop with the Council. The Council provided feedback on the current strategy to inform a mid-term review of the *NSW Carers Strategy 2020-2030*. Members discussed the importance of the supports and services available for unpaid carers, and the gendered issues concerning 'sandwich' carers, who provide support for both children and aging parents.

The Council discussed access to services across the states and levels of support available to different communities of carers. Further, the Council discussed issues related to workforce participation, for people leaving professional work to become carers, and for professionals in the caring industry.

Members discussed the role of self-care, respite, availability of vocational care, and the issues related to formal and informal care systems. Members discussed the role of immigration and migrant labour for the caring workforce, flagging the significance of the Australian visa process for caring arrangements and the need for early childhood education centres to provide culturally informed services. The Council emphasised the need for an even greater focus on intersectionality within the strategy in the future.

Stakeholder presentation: Addressing anti-migrant sentiment in women's advocacy

Council member Violet Roumeliotis AM presented the advocacy work of Settlement Services International to elevate the voices of migrant and refugee women at a time when there are considerable negative sentiments towards migration, and also increasingly against women and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. Ms Roumeliotis asked members to consider opportunities for formal advocacy, leveraging existing networks, ensuring an intersectional consideration of the concerns of migrant and refugee women.

Strategic Planning working session

The Chair led members to work on the SMART Goals underpinning the Council's Strategic Plan. Members discussed the shared interest in working on all actions. Future meetings will be organised around specific priorities, with dedicating an agenda item within meeting schedules to focus on a specific goal. The Secretariat will update the SMART Goals and develop a more accessible action tracker for members.

End of Communique