

NSW Women's Advisory Council – 16 June 2025 – Communique

Attendance and apologies

Members who attended the meeting included:

- Associate Professor Jill Duncan OAM
- Ms Janine Farah
- Ms Karen Price
- Dr Marlene Krasovitsky
- Ms Tara Hunter
- Ms Mariam Mourad
- Ms Gill White (Deputy Secretary, Social Policy and National Reform, The Cabinet Office) – ex-officio
- Ms Tanya Smyth (Director, Women NSW) – ex-officio

Apologies for the session included:

- Professor Elizabeth Hill
- Ms Belinda Cashman PSM
- Ms Elise Coppins
- Ms Julie Perkins
- Ms Violet Roumeliotis AM

Other attendees included:

- Yumi Lee – CEO, Older Women's Network NSW
- Cat Renshaw – Strategic Development Group
- Catherine Marriot OAM – Strategic Development Group
- Jane Lloyd – National Partnerships Lead, The Men's Project, Jesuit Social Services
- Matt Tyler – Executive Director, Community and Systems Impact, The Men's Project, Jesuit Social Services
- Daniel Silver – A/Associate Director, Women NSW
- Rosie Castle – Senior Associate, Women NSW
- Alex Haigh – Associate, Women NSW

Women's Portfolio update

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

The Minister advised that the Expression of Interest for a young member (18-24 years) to fill the vacant Council position opened on 3 June and would close on 27 June. The aim is for the new member to attend the next meeting on 22 September.

The Minister updated on the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Portfolio and noted that the state budget would be brought down on Tuesday 24 June.

The Minister updated on the Multi-Sport Coalition which launched on Friday 13 June under the Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence 2024-2028.

Chair update

The Chair provided a summary of relevant developments since the previous Council meeting. This included a recent meeting with the Minister's Office about how the Council can provide advice on a future Women's Strategy.

Member updates

Council members shared key updates from their work and networks since the 24 February meeting.

Following an initial consultation with members of the Council and the NSW Law Reform Commission (LRC) last week, the Chair asked the Secretariat to work with the Council to develop a submission to the LRC as part of the Commission's review of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977*. Notes from the consultation and feedback from members will be compiled into a submission.

Presentation – Older Women's Network NSW

Yumi Lee, CEO of the Older Women's Network NSW (OWN), was invited to present on the history and work of OWN and provide some key recommendations for policy, funding and program changes for the Council to consider in light of a growing incidence of poverty, homelessness, and violence among older women in NSW.

Ms Lee outlined how the lack of aggregated data on the experience of older women has led to their exclusion from research and policy and contributes to ongoing unmet needs. The team discussed key recommendations from OWN related to improved aggregated data across portfolios including housing, health and justice; violence prevention; cross-sector sexual assault response reform; social housing measures and increasing trauma informed support. Council members emphasised the importance of aggregating age categories for older women beyond '45+' or '55+' to inform more specific evidence and insights about their experience.

Presentation – Jesuit Social Services

Jane Lloyd and Matt Tyler from the Men's Project team at Jesuit Social Services were invited by Women NSW to present on their 2018 and 2024 Man Box Reports. The team discussed how this research had informed program delivery at JSS, and its connections to other work to address the root causes of violence, abuse and other forms of harm. Ms Lloyd noted how their research underpinned JSS's work with young people and men to create social change, specifically through programs with the construction industry and through the education system.

The Council asked JSS about the specific methodology behind the Man Box Reports, including on the availability of information on older men, and on whether there are any skews between the quintiles of men's endorsement of traditional views of masculinity.

Presentation – Strategic Development Group on the evaluation of the Rural Women's Network

Cat Renshaw and Catherine Marriot from Strategic Development Group were commissioned by Women NSW to evaluate the Rural Women's Network (RWN) and identify potential future priorities. Ms Renshaw and Ms Marriot provided an overview of the evaluation so far, highlighting the need for the RWN to redefine its target cohorts and purpose. Potential opportunity areas were tested with the Council, as well as a discussion on whether a closer relationship between the RWN and the WAC could be supported. Ms Renshaw and Ms Marriot also invited Council members to provide feedback on the draft cohort groups and strategic principles the RWN could centre on going forward.

Members emphasised the importance of highlighting overlaps between different community groups and cohorts, and it was recognised that groupings should capture the different experiences of women going through change, whether that be ageing, careers, or location, illustrating the significance of intersectionality to this work.

Discussion – Gender Equality Action Plans review

Ms Smyth outlined the gender equality action plan (GEAP) jointly developed by the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office (PD/TCO). Ms Smyth outlined key actions across the different themes within the plan, and invited feedback from the Council on potential opportunities to be involved in the rollout of action plans across NSW Government departments. Council members

identified priority actions within the PD/TCO GEAP they would like to be updated on over the course of the 3-year plan, and it was suggested that Departments could be invited to present on their GEAP at future Council meetings.

End of Communique