

## NSW Women's Advisory Council – 22 September – Communique

### Attendance and Apologies:

Members who attended the meeting included:

- Associate Professor Jill Duncan OAM
- Ms Janine Farah
- Ms Karen Price
- Ms Tara Hunter
- Ms Mariam Mourad
- Professor Elizabeth Hill
- Ms Elise Coppins
- Ms Julie Perkins
- Ms Violet Roumeliotis AM
- Ms Georgia Shakeshaft
- Ms Tanya Smyth (Director, Women NSW) – ex-officio

Apologies for the session included:

- Ms Gill White (Deputy Secretary, Social Policy and National Reform, The Cabinet Office) – ex-officio
- Ms Belinda Cashman PSM
- Dr Marlene Krasovitsky

Other attendees included:

- Ms Simone Walker – A/Deputy Secretary, Social Policy and Intergovernmental Relations
- Ms Gemma Worboys (Associate Director, Women NSW)
- Ms Rosie Castle (Senior Associate, Women NSW)
- Mr Lucian Lax (Support Intern, Women NSW)
- Ms Elizabeth Wood, Deputy Secretary, Health System Strategy and Patient Experience, NSW Health
- Professor Tracey O'Brien AM, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Cancer Officer, The Cancer Institute
- Dr James Cockayne, NSW Anti-Slavery Commissioner
- Professor Bronwyn Graham, George Institute Centre for Sex and Gender Equity in Health and Medicine
- Dr Hannah Tonkin, NSW Women's Safety Commissioner

**Minister's Portfolio Update:**

The Minister for Women updated the Council on her recent work and priorities. The Minister welcomed new member Georgia Shakeshaft, noting her youth and advocacy experience. The Minister updated on the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Portfolio, the Women and Women's Safety Ministerial Council and the recent launch of the DFSV Workforce strategy.

**Chair's Update:**

The Chair updated the Council on two recent out of session submissions: the Anti-Discrimination Act Review and the Independent Review into Criminal Hate Speech. The Chair encouraged members to review recent submissions and highlighted opportunities for further collaboration.

**Presentation - NSW Health: Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP):**

Elizabeth Wood and Neil Clements presented the NSW Health GEAP to the Council. The NSW Health GEAP team outlined the four priorities, seventeen actions, the consultation and plan development process. Council members discussed challenges to ownership and accountability, and recommendations for implementation. Council requested that NSW Health be invited to come back to the Council next year to report on their progress.

**Member Updates:**

Council members shared key updates from their work and networks since the 16 June meeting. Noting the focus this meeting on Women's Health, member Karen Price provided a longer update on the work of Breast Cancer Trials and introduced Professor Tracey O'Brien AM from the Cancer Institute.

**Cancer Institute NSW:**

Chief Cancer Officer and CEO, Professor Tracey O'Brien AM presented the work of the Cancer Institute. Professor O'Brien AM shared information on the *NSW Cancer Plan* and the *NSW Aboriginal Cancer Strategy 2025-2027*. Council members discussed with Professor O'Brien AM Australian cancer outcomes and incidence across priority populations including the impact of social determinants on cancer outcomes

**NSW Anti-Slavery Commissioner:**

The NSW Anti-Slavery Commissioner Dr James Cockayne presented the work of the Office of the NSW Anti-Slavery Commissioner and opportunities for collaboration with the Council in intersecting areas of work. Dr Cockayne outlined the intersection of modern slavery and gender, the need for trauma-informed frontline training, and opportunities for increased funding and governance mechanisms.

**Centre for Sex & Gender Equity in Health and Medicine:**

Professor Bronwyn Graham presented on the work of the George Institute Centre for Sex & Gender Equity in Health and Medicine. Professor Graham highlighted sex/gender bias in research and practice, the need for disaggregated data, and the economic and health benefits of addressing these gaps.

**NSW Women's Safety Commissioner:**

Dr Hannah Tonkin presented on the work of the Office of the Women's Safety Commissioner and provide an update on the progress of the strategic plan, since her previous presentation to the Council in March 2024. Dr Tonkin provided updates on regional visits, work underway for the Primary Prevention Strategy, the Lived Experience EOI best-practice process and the Primary Prevention Advisory Group.

*End of Communique*