
NSW Women's Advisory Council – 2025 summary and outcomes

Across 2025, the NSW Women's Advisory Council delivered substantial strategic, advisory and collaborative outcomes across both its four formal meetings and multiple out of session consultations and submissions. The year was marked by productive and constructive engagement with government agencies, expert presenters, and cross-sector stakeholders, with a strong emphasis on intersectionality, gender equity reform, and evidence-informed policy advice.

Strategic advice to the NSW Government

Throughout 2025, the Council:

- Contributed to seven major NSW Government initiatives, including submissions to the NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025–2035, the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* (NSW) Review, the Independent Review into Criminal Hate Speech, and the NSW Telco Authority.
- Provided advice on the NSW Treasury Performance and Wellbeing Framework, the NSW Carers Strategy 2020-2030 and the Single Digital Patient Record.

Progress against the Council's Strategic Plan

- The Council tracked 49 actions linked to its Strategic Plan. 33 actions were completed, with 16 still underway.
- Key progress against the Plan's five priority areas included:
 - Elevating gender analysis across government initiatives, including thinking beyond the end of the current NSW Women's Strategy in 2026.
 - Strengthening Council involvement in the 10 NSW Government Gender Equality Action Plans (GEAPs).
 - The integration of applying gender lensing to inquiries and reviews, a key action within the Premier's Department and The Cabinet Office GEAP.

Key outcomes and insights from 2025 Council meetings:

- Worked with the NSW Law Reform Commission on review of the Anti-Discrimination Act, consolidating member feedback into a formal submission.
- Received updates on the work of the Office of the Women's Safety Commissioner to improve women's safety, primary prevention, and regional engagement.
- Engaged with the Older Women's Network NSW to identify gaps in age-disaggregated data for older women and recommended improving data architecture across housing, health, and justice.
- Endorsed the need for expanded gender-disaggregated datasets as part of ongoing GEAP and gender reform work.
- Focused on the experiences of:
 - Migrant and refugee women.
 - Carers and unpaid carers.
 - Older women facing poverty, homelessness, and violence.
 - Women navigating shifts across life stages, careers, and locations, particularly in rural communities.

- Considered research from Jesuit Social Services on the *Man Box* reports and methodology inquiries on masculinity norms.
- Engaged with Professor Michael Flood on emerging work around healthy masculinities, best-practice standards, and scaling prevention initiatives.
- Heard from the Premier's Department & The Cabinet Office, NSW Health and Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water on their GEAP development and implementation.
- Discussed innovations and inequities highlighted by:
 - The Cancer Institute NSW, including the NSW Cancer Plan and Aboriginal Cancer Strategy.
 - The George Institute's work on sex and gender bias in medical research and practice.
- Explored intersections with:
 - The NSW Anti-Slavery Commissioner.
 - LGBTIQ+ Advisory Council Co-Chairs.
 - Breast Cancer Trials.

Council operations and collaboration

- Strengthened relationships with key agencies across health, justice, wellbeing, climate, digital transformation, and social policy portfolios.
- Recruited the newest member, Georgia Shakeshaft, who brings a breadth of youth and advocacy experience to the Council.

End of Summary