

NSW Women's Advisory Council

Communique 18 March 2024

The NSW Women's Advisory Council was convened in person and virtually today attended by:

Council members

- The Hon. Jodie Harrison MP - Chair
 - Belinda Cashman – member
 - Elise Coppins - member
 - Elizabeth Hill – member
 - Janine Farah - member
 - Jill Duncan - member
 - Julie Perkins - member
 - Karen Price - member
 - Lisa Annese – member
 - Mariam Mourad - member
 - Marlene Krasovitsky – member
 - Tara Hunter – member
 - Violet Roumeliotis - member
 - Kate Meagher (Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement, Premier's Department) – ex-officio
 - Tanya Smyth (Director, Women NSW) – ex-officio
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Other attendees

- Dr Hannah Tonkin (NSW Women's Safety Commissioner)
- Pia van de Zandt (Director, Connected Communities, Premier's Department)
- Sophie Murray-Farrell (Associate Director, Connected Communities, Premier's Department)
- Dr Max Harwood (Acting Associate Director, Connected Communities, Premier's Department)
- Annie Pettitt (Acting Director, Women's Economic Outcomes, NSW Treasury)
- Liz Drakopoulos (Associate Director, Women's Economic Outcomes, NSW Treasury)
- Hannah Schulz-Fulham (Senior Associate, Women NSW)

- Renee Roylance (Senior Associate, Women NSW)
- Gemma Worboys (Associate Director, Women NSW)
- Alex Haigh (Intern, Women NSW) – minutes

The Women's Advisory Council met on 18 March 2024 for the first official meeting of the calendar year.

Minister and Member Updates

The Minister for Women provided a portfolio update, and members shared key updates from their work and items relevant to the broader group.

The Minister emphasised the Council's valuable diverse perspectives and encouraged them to provide frank advice to influence women's policy in NSW and nationally. In particular, members reflected on NSW Women's Week 2024, and committed to efforts to make 2025 celebrations more inclusive for all women in NSW.

Member Presentations

- Lisa Annese presented research by the Diversity Council of Australia on centring marginalised voices in workplaces.
- Elise Coppins highlighted the challenges regional and rural families face in accessing childcare and the wide-ranging impacts on their communities when women can't work due to childcare limitations.

All members committed to sharing the issues raised and findings with their networks.

Women's Advisory Council Strategic Plan

Members refined the Council's draft Strategic Plan for finalisation and out-of-session endorsement. Key additions included prioritising First Nations and migrant women and integrating social class and life stages throughout the plan. Women NSW will highlight relevant Commonwealth priorities and Premier's Department work to inform the Council's strategic advice.

Gender Equality Action Plans (GEAPs)

Women NSW presented on Phase 2 of the NSW GEAP rollout, outlining the process for all NSW Government departments to deliver plans by 2025. This was followed by a discussion

led by NSW Treasury on their experience developing a GEAP during the 2023 pilot. The Council will continue to provide advice to NSW Government departments on GEAP implementation, monitoring, and evaluation throughout 2024 and beyond.

Other Discussions

- The Women's Safety Commissioner discussed her recently released Strategic Plan, seeking the Council's expertise.
- Connected Communities (Premier's Department) briefed members on their priorities and will engage the Council in future discussions on strengthening social cohesion, addressing hate and extremism, including gender-based issues.