



***Established 1896***

**Patron: Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley**

16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Hon. Mark Butler MP  
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House of Representatives  
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**Re: National Women's Health Advisory Council**

The National Council of Women of Australia applauds the creation of the National Women's Health Advisory Council and congratulates the eminent experts in their appointment.

According to the National Women's Health Strategy 2020-2030, the five priority areas are:

- Maternal, sexual, and reproductive health,
- Healthy Ageing,
- Chronic conditions and preventative health,
- Mental health and
- Health impacts of violence against women and girls

Further, the National Women's Health Advisory Council's remit is to consider:

- Health equity in healthcare and services,
- Health literacy for women in priority populations,
- Strengthening and diversifying medical research and
- health workforce training and education

Given the above, we observe that there is an over-representation of members with extensive research expertise in female preponderant conditions. In contrast, there appears to be minimal clinical experience or research expertise in mental health, healthy ageing and chronic conditions and preventative health.

[www.ncwa.org.au](http://www.ncwa.org.au)

Registered Office: 224 Dennis Road Springwood Q4127



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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Consider additional special advisers in the following areas:
  - Mental health
  - Healthy ageing
  - Chronic disease and conditions
  - Preventative Health
- Under the remit of "Health equity in healthcare and services" work with the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce to review health care costs and out-of-pocket costs for women compare to men.
- Under the remit of "Health workforce training and education" consider:
  - Refresher training on "known" gender specific differences in presentation and treatment.
  - Mandatory sex-difference units to be taught in all health courses (including pharmacy).
  - Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and programs accredited by the Australian Medical Council to include education on sex-difference units.
- Under the remit of "Strengthening and diversifying medical research" consider:
  - Gender equitable allocation of funds by the National Health and Medical Research Council,
  - Reframe research methodology and TGA approvals to require equal consideration of women and men as subjects for non-gendered disease and treatment and
  - Examine any differential/comparative efficaciousness of known treatments on subjects that are not limited to men and male mice so that we can improve treatment outcomes for women.

The National Council of Women of Australia is a civil society organisation representing over 140 affiliate organisations throughout Australia for the past 127 years. We thank you for the opportunity to submit our observations and recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chiou See Anderson', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Chiou See Anderson  
President

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