

National Women's Health Advisory Council
#EndGenderBias survey



Cancer Council Australia completed a submission to the #EndGenderBias survey for the National Women's Health Advisory Council. The Council is tasked with providing the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care with advice and recommendations to improve health outcomes for women and girls in Australia. This consultation was launched to better understand the barriers and biases that women face in Australia's health system.

Cancer Council's submission included the following areas of focus:

- Sex and gender intersect with other dimensions of inequality, which can account for much of the observed cancer inequalities and differential experiences of cancer prevention and care.
- Representation of sex, gender and sociodemographic factors in health and medical research is important to understand these differences and their outcomes. This should include the development of evidence-based national, state and territory-based policies on the consideration of sex and gender in research, with the aim of promoting greater inclusivity of women, intersex, and gender-diverse people.
- Development of a national clinical trial dataset and cancer health statistics that capture gender and sex, would enable better reporting and monitoring of gender diversity in cancer research.
- Issues of gender and age bias that can act as a barrier to cancer screening should be addressed to ensure equity of access for all Australians.
- There is a need for more sophisticated research and data regarding the impact of intersectionality on groups of women marginalised by the power relations imposed by race, disability, age, ethnicity, or sexual identity.
- Gender can impact cancer patient's needs and preferences and should be considered in cancer care. This information can be used to help educate healthcare professionals and organisations in the potential development of gender-specific healthcare guidelines and protocols to improve cancer patient-centred care.

Information about the progress of the consultation can be found on the consultation's webpage:

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/end-gender-bias-in-australias-healthcare-system>