

## **MINUTES OF STATUS OF WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY, 5 AUGUST 2025**

- Present: The Mayor, Councillor C Kay (Chairperson)  
Councillor, I Balachandran (Deputy Chairperson)  
Councillor, A Taylor  
Arti Kumria  
Angela Budai - online  
Susan Parker  
Unis Goh  
Samantha Bing  
Madeleine Steel  
Adrienne Bennett  
Leanne Fry
- Staff Present: Director Community, Janice Bevan  
Community Development Officer, Kim Harris  
Community Development Officer, Nick Goryl  
Administration Officer Community Development, Wendy Hou
- Others Present: Guest speaker, Angelica Molina, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter  
Manager
- Apologies: Councillor Barbara Ward  
Michelle Bell, Community Member  
Jebby Phillips, Community Member  
Peta-Jane Maynard, Community Member  
Manager Community Development, Danny Houseas  
Nicolette Boele MP, Member for Bradfield

*The Meeting commenced at 10:04 AM*

### **WELCOME BY CHAIRPERSON**

Mayor Christine Kay opened the meeting and welcomed Committee members.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

There were no matters arising.

### **NOTING OF MINUTES**

#### **Minutes of Status of Women's Advisory Committee**

File: S13683

Meeting held 6 May 2025

Minutes numbered – SWAC03 To SWAC04

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 May 2025 were presented and approved by Council..

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Address from Angelica Molina, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter for Homelessness Week**

File: S13683 *Vide: GB.1*

Angelica Molina, Shelter Manager, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter, provided an address to the Committee with reference to Homelessness Week 2025.

Angelica outlined how the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter supports women and children amid the growing housing crisis and shortage of affordable housing.

Homelessness Week is a time to reflect on domestic and family violence as it is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children in Australia. Women are not choosing to leave their homes, they are choosing to survive and often leaving their homes with nowhere to go.

The connection between violence and homelessness has been under-recognised and is not just the absence of a roof, it is the absence of safety, stability, and control over one's own life.

The Women's Shelter is committed to supporting women beyond just providing a bed. They support women through a person centred, strength-based and trauma-informed framework over a three-month period. Each victim works with a dedicated caseworker to find solutions to gain stability in their lives and free them from the danger of domestic abuse and homelessness.

In the last financial year, the Shelter has supported 78 women, provided 1,627 short term emergency accommodation bed nights and through Beecroft House provided 5,129 bed nights as transitional accommodation for women over the age of 55 years who are at risk of homelessness.

The Women's Shelter is embarking on the following 2 new projects this year to mark its 10 year anniversary:

A partnership with the Scentre Group (Westfield Hornsby), which has provided a dedicated office space where women can access the outreach service, and the opening of another shelter to house mothers and children.

These two new initiatives will assist women to receive guidance and support when they are experiencing family and domestic violence.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

For members of the Status of Women's Advisory Committee to receive and note the address from Angelica Molina, Shelter Manager, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter.

### **Guest Speaker - Member for Bradfield**

File: S13683 *Vide: GB.2*

The Status of Women's Advisory Committee was scheduled to be addressed by the Member for Bradfield, Ms Nicolette Boele MP. However, Ms Boele was unable to attend and has been invited to a future meeting of the Committee.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

For members of the Status of Women's Advisory Committee to accept the apology from Ms Nicolette Boele MP, Federal Member for Bradfield.

## **Menopause Information Forum**

File: S13683 *Vide: GB.3*

To provide the Status of Women's Advisory Committee with an update on a proposed menopause information forum.

October is recognised as World Menopause Month, with World Menopause Day observed on 18 October. The purpose of acknowledging this day, is to raise awareness and educate the women about menopause, its symptoms and the support options available. The theme for World Menopause Day 2025, Lifestyle is Medicine.

It is proposed to hold a menopause forum on Thursday, 23 October, at 6.00 pm in the Council Chambers, featuring three recommended guest speakers:

Doctor from the (Northern Sydney Local Health District) Menopause Hub with specialist training in fertility and menopause. Addressing the facts about menopause including hormone therapy, managing symptoms and understanding the different stages of menopause (perimenopause, menopause and post menopause).

Dietitian from the (Northern Sydney Local Health District) Menopause Hub - healthy eating and nutrition during menopause.

A fitness instructor from the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre – discussing ways to improve health and wellbeing through an active lifestyle.

There will also be opportunities for questions and answers.

A Committee member suggested contacting local organisations that provide women's fitness and health programs, such as the YMCA, to invite them to participate in the forum.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

For members of the Status of Women's Advisory Committee to receive and note the update on the proposed Menopause Information Forum.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Women's Leadership and inspiration Award - Nick Goryl**

The inaugural Women's Leadership and Inspiration Award is designed to celebrate local women who demonstrate leadership, advocacy and commitment to advancing gender equality.

The categories include addressing systematic barriers and empowering girls, supporting women in underrepresented fields, advancing education and lifelong learning, community building, grassroots impact and resilience and personal triumph.

Nominations close on the 10 August 2025.

Council is seeking 3 volunteers from the Committee to participate in the assessment panel. Committee members are asked to contact Kim Harris to express their interest.

The Award will be presented at a special event on 17 September, featuring Sonia Casanova from Dress for Success as the guest speaker. Guests will also be invited to donate gently used business attire to support the Dress for Success charity, which helps women thrive in both work and life. Committee members are encouraged to help spread the word about the Award and to nominate inspirational women whose leadership and achievements deserve recognition.

## Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan Update - Kim Harris

The following key actions in the Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan have been completed:

- The National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day Commemoration took place at St Ives Village Green on the 7 May 2025 with the unveiling of a purple seat and the planting of a purple tibouchina tree to remember women who have lost their lives to domestic and family violence. The Women's Humming Song Choir provided a performance of thoughtfully selected songs that added a deeply meaningful and special touch to the occasion. A short video of the National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day Commemoration was presented to the Committee members.
- Council has delivered 5 Family and Domestic Violence (DFV) training sessions in May 2025 to Council staff and the leadership team, in partnership with White Ribbon.
- Staff awareness about the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, which was observed on 19 June 2025.
- Council partnered with NAPCAN to deliver the Love Bites trauma-responsive training to 16 participants in June. The program is designed to support young people aged 15–17 years.
- Upcoming Family and Domestic Violence education sessions, in partnership with CASS for Mandarin-speaking and Korean-speaking residents, will be held on 18 and 25 September in the Gordon Meeting Room.
- Council Emergency relief grants closed 30 June. A total of \$110,000 was distributed to four organisations: Lifeline, Salvation Army, Catholic Care and Saint Vincent De Paul to assist people in the community experiencing financial hardship.

The NSW State Government has announced funding to support councils in addressing the root causes of domestic, family and sexual violence. LGNSW will develop a guide to help councils deliver primary prevention initiatives including action planning templates and prioritisation tools.

## 2026 International Women's Day - Kim Harris

International Women's Day is celebrated on 8 March. The Killara Golf Club has been tentatively booked to host this event.

Council is seeking Committee members to join a subcommittee to assist with the planning of the IWD event, this will include discussion on the format of the event and recommendations for a guest speaker.

It is also proposed to charge guests a nominal fee to attend the event next year, with donations going to organisations supporting women in the community.

## How can women be supported in our community - Madeline Steel

Madeline led a discussion with Committee members on integrated communities, noting that everyone's lives are busy and opportunities to connect can be limited. She suggested that providing a consistent message through existing communication channels could help women learn how to engage and provide feedback to Council about their needs, which in turn could inform future planning.

The discussion also covered outdoor exercise equipment in local parks, which could create additional opportunities for women to exercise independently and support their fitness and wellbeing.

How can the Committee help Council in making an impact to the wellbeing of the women in Ku-ring-gai - Unis Goh

Committee members are invited to review and provide feedback on the Legislative Council report number 65: *The Prevalence, Causes and Impacts of Loneliness in New South Wales*. The NSW government is required to respond to 20 of the recommendations in the report and develop a five-year strategic plan. The report will be shared with the Committee members.

**Suggested future meeting agenda items:**

- Women in Leadership – educate and support women who are interested in local government and becoming councillors.
- Women’s Safety in Ku-ring-gai
- Celebrate the strengths and experiences within the Committee, members to share a brief, five-minute overview about themselves, including what they are most proud of and any achievements they would like to highlight.
- Exercise opportunities for women with additional exercise equipment in local parks.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Tuesday, 4 November 2025 at 6pm

*The Meeting closed at 11.29am*