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Submission: Transforming Health

We are writing to you on behalf of the South Australian Premier's Council for Women (the Council). The Council is strongly supportive of health policy that addresses public health planning through coordinated action, and welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the Transforming Health discussion paper.

The Council commends the South Australian Government for committing to transforming our healthcare system. The Council strongly supports the six quality principles and the recognition in the Clinical Standards of Care of vulnerable groups (Standard 1) and of the health needs specific to women (Standards 213–255). The Council also supports the need for health literacy (Standard 2) as a core element of preventative strategies.

In 2014 the Council undertook a state-wide online survey to identify what issues are important to women in South Australia. Women's health and well-being emerged as one of three top issues. According to women who responded to the survey, positive action that impacts their health and wellbeing include:

- improved accessibility to affordable health care, particularly in rural and remote regions;
- maintenance of women's health services;
- proactive health strategies which focus on prevention and early intervention services.

The Council acknowledges that Transforming Health is focused on the metropolitan hospital system with intent to then look at the wider health system. However, in line with issues voiced by women in our survey, we are interested in understanding how a quality health system will link with community based services in the country and metropolitan, particularly women's health services and workers, to ensure quality services and referrals are managed effectively across the care continuum for women in both metropolitan and regional areas.

The Council recommends a gendered approach in the implementation of the Clinical Standards of Care particularly considering the significant restructuring of Women's Health Services in the metropolitan area.

In the past the Council has articulated the importance of recognising the social determinants of health and implementing health in all policies and the role of SA Health in advancing these important approaches to health prevention and health care.



We have also provided comment about the development of State Public Health Plan and supported the need for a public health plan for South Australia which takes into account the impact of wide range of social, economic and environmental determinants of health (in its broadest sense). In addition, we commented on the development of a Women's Health Service Model of Care supporting the need for population-based primary prevention strategies, particularly for integrated service responses to violence against women and children in South Australia.

The Council is a high level advisory body which advises the Premier of South Australia and the Minister for the Status of Women on issues relating to women to facilitate a whole of government approach to meeting the needs of South Australian women. The views expressed in this submission are those of the Council and do not necessarily reflect those of the South Australian Government. The Council will watch with interest the further development and implementation of strategies to monitor the impact of changes on health outcomes for women in South Australia.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Blair'.

Amanda Blair
Co-Chair
Premier's Council for Women

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christine Zeitz'.

Christine Zeitz
Co-Chair
Premier's Council for Women