

Consultation paper – Questions and key elements

Queensland Health is seeking your input to help develop a Queensland women’s health strategy. As a starting point in our journey, we have reviewed and heard the voices and concerns expressed by women and girls about the health system, consulted with some of our partners and looked at available data and to date. We are keen to hear your thoughts on this.

Tell us what you think?

Barriers, enablers and services that make a difference

We have heard some women and girls experience barriers to accessing health care, such as services not being available, limited time to attend appointments, fear of the results, getting permission to attend, lack of health professionals understanding of the needs of women and girls and cost of services.

We have also heard that there are enablers and services that may support women and girls to attend health services, such as appointment reminders, extended opening hours, culturally appropriate services, patient-centric models and improved access.

Question 1: What, if any, are the key barriers you have experienced, or seen, for women and girls accessing health services?

Question 2: What, if any, do you think are the main enablers that you believe would support women and girls to access health services and improve health equity?

Question 3: From your experiences, please indicate Queensland Health services that you believe need more support to improve health equity for women and girls.

Question 4: From your experiences, please indicate activities outside of direct health service delivery that you believe would have the largest impact on improving health equity for women and girls.

Our proposed approach

We have identified a potential core driver and elements (Table 1) to guide and consider any actions to improve health equity for women and girls, alongside of potential focus areas for action (Table 2). We are keen to hear your thoughts on this approach.

Question 5: From your perspective, have we got the core driver, elements and focus areas, right? Please indicate from highest to lowest regarding their impact on improving the overall health of women’s and girls’ (1 being highest impact, 9 being lowest impact).

Question 6: Please tell us about an existing evidence based program you believe is working well.

Question 7: Please indicate any additional issues that you would like us to consider.

Table 1: Potential core elements – what should drive action?

APPLY A LIFE SPAN APPROACH				
Girls	Adolescent women	Young women	Adult women	Older women
KEY PRINCIPLES				
Gendered approach				
Connected and accessible health systems and services				
Women centred, trauma informed placed based services				
CORE DRIVER				
Improve health equity for women and girls from priority communities				
CORE ELEMENTS				
Address domestic, family and sexual violence		Consider social determinants of health		Empower women to prevent and act on health concerns

Table 2: Potential focus areas – what are the critical focus areas?

Focus Area	Potential areas for action
All areas to prioritise the health and healing needs of First Nations women and girls	
Access and accessibility to services in rural, remote, and regional Queensland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Nations focus: wholistic healing approach and health services on country - mental health - maternity/pregnancy, including contraception - cervical screening - termination of pregnancy - cancer screening
Gendered wellbeing and mental health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Nations focus: recognising intergenerational trauma - women and girl specific mental health services - focus on youth and older women - reducing stigma - integration of mental health services throughout preconception and perinatal stages
Wholistic maternal, sexual and reproductive health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Nations focus: birthing support on country and culturally capable maternity and antenatal care - reproductive health - preconception health - perinatal health - awareness of miscarriage - menopause, perimenopause and menstruation concerns - consideration of infertility concerns - breastfeeding support - termination of pregnancy
A gender informed health workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Nations focus: culturally capable workforce - Increase knowledge of specific health issues for women and girls - increase knowledge of health issues, DFSV impacts, trauma and accessibility for priority communities - increase provision of trauma informed care
Prevent and address chronic health conditions and preventable hospitalisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First Nations focus: improved physical exercise and decrease in smoking - oral and dental health - focus on reducing coronary heart disease Dementia, Cerebrovascular disease and Lung cancer - chronic pain - preventing Urinary Tract Infections - reducing fall-related injuries

For more information, and to access the online survey, please visit:

www.health.qld.gov.au/womens-health-strategy

Closing date for submissions is **16 January 2023**