



## **AAWAA Women's Summit 2024**

### **Getting it Done Together**

**THEME.** Getting it Done Together: Strategies and tools for effective activism and advocacy for women and girls

**DATES.** Friday 4 October - Saturday 5 October 2024

#### **AIMS OF THE SUMMIT**

- For women to walk away knowing they have the tools, skills, resources, networks, and safety mechanisms to join with other women to effectively advocate for women and girls
- For women to develop supportive connections that we can draw upon in our activism and advocacy efforts
- Acknowledge achievements over the past year, make and consolidate connections, and have fun!

**TARGET AUDIENCE.** Women who want to work collaboratively with other women to effectively advocate for women and girls.

**TOPICS.** See program

**FORMAT.** Group discussions with session lead(s), break-out workshop-type groups, lots of note-taking/scribing so we can share what we come up with.

**NOTES.** We have chosen the term 'summit' to indicate peak, height, attainment, apex, pinnacle – and, of course, as women united we are getting there together, not just as individuals: Dux Femina Facti, each and all of us.

**REGISTRATION.** Email [women@womensactionall.org](mailto:women@womensactionall.org). Participants will be vetted.

## DETAILED PROGRAM

Note: This is very detailed; we are just getting an idea of what we want to do and cover – we will provide a slimmed-down version later.

FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 9 am with 9.30 am hard start	SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 9 am with 9.30 am hard start
SESSION 1. WELCOME TO AAWAA 9.30 am	SESSION 4. PANEL SESSION: IMPLEMENTING WOMEN'S LIBERATION IN AUSTRALIA 9.30 am
<p><b>Session lead: Karen</b> <i>Overview (9.30 - 10 am)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Background.</i> AAWAA's formation, model, structure, members, activism strategies, and national role.</li> <li>• <i>Values.</i> Our guiding principles, women's autonomy, manifesto, FAQs.</li> <li>• <i>Leadership.</i> The myth of leaderlessness (<a href="#">The tyranny of structurelessness</a>); building a safe and supportive group culture; developing and sticking to principles, goals, values; directing focus and avoiding side-tracks.</li> <li>• <i>Command.</i> The need to direct resources and to take decisions. How to do this honestly and openly.</li> <li>• <i>Collaboration, coalition, and co-operation.</i> Staying true to our values when working with other groups; respecting other groups' autonomy.</li> <li>• <i>Reputation.</i> The importance of building and maintaining standing and reputation. Engaging publicly.</li> <li>• <i>Keeping it all together.</i> Creation, nurture, building, and cohesion vs conflict and destruction; acknowledging women's different life experiences; respecting and managing differences of opinion in the service of a clear goal.</li> </ul> <p><i>Group work (10 - 10.40 am)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Outreach and group-building.</i> Finding and nurturing women in your women's action group. Developing principles and guidelines.</li> <li>• <i>Teamwork.</i> Playing to individual strengths and sharing the load (admin, planning, research, writing, organising, etc.).</li> <li>• <i>Leadership.</i> Decision-making, strategy and planning, discipline.</li> </ul> <p><i>Report back to the larger group and commit to following-through (10.40 - 11 am)</i></p>	<p><b>Session lead: Karen + panel</b> <i>Overview (9.30 - 10.20 am)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Roots and legacies.</i> The Women's Liberation Movement. The Australian status, protections, rights, dignity, and safety of women and girls achieved through foundational, first and second wave feminism (divorce, status of children, rape law, Beijing, CEDAW, SDA, etc.)</li> <li>• <i>Backlash.</i> Women's current sex-class experience and condition in Australia; facing the present backlash/erasure and its sources.</li> <li>• <i>Challenges.</i> Identifying direct opponents as well as those who don't know/care what is happening; taking up the fight; truth-telling in public (safely).</li> <li>• <i>Feminist analysis.</i> The tools of feminist analysis we can draw on and how to use them to foster change.</li> <li>• <i>Making our mark.</i> How can we use Australian participatory democracy (politics), the courts (law), and other means to advance our agenda?</li> </ul> <p><i>Group work (10.20 - 10.45 am)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small group discussion of panel topics.</li> <li>• Is there anything practical we can take away from this? Or is the fuel for thought enough?</li> <li>• Has the panel discussion given you a new or revised framework for action and analysis? What does that look like?</li> </ul> <p><i>Report back to the larger group and commit to following-through (10.45 - 11 am)</i></p>
TEA & COFFEE BREAK 11 - 11.20am	TEA & COFFEE BREAK 11 - 11.20am

SESSION 2. PRACTICAL ACTIVISM TIPS 11.20 am - 12.30 pm	SESSION 5. POLICY ACTION: EFFECTIVE WRITING FOR SUBMISSIONS, LETTERS, AND FOIs 11.20 am - 12.30 pm
<p><b>Session lead: Karen and Emma</b> <i>Overview (11.20 - 11.50 am)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A note on privacy, safety, and security.</i> Browsers and messaging apps, encryption, email, considerations for activists (Karen)</li> <li>• <i>Street activism.</i> Deciding on an effective action, choosing a location, making materials, safety and privacy, keeping it legal, debriefing (15 minutes)</li> <li>• <i>Meetings with government reps.</i> How to decide who to target in the corridors of power, how to request a meeting, preparation, engagement, follow-up (Emma, 10 minutes)</li> </ul> <p><i>Workshop/group work (11.50 - 12.20 pm)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Split into groups and mock up an action.</li> <li>• <i>Street activism:</i> Account for choice of action, choosing a location, making materials, safety and privacy, keeping it legal, debriefing</li> <li>• <i>Meetings with government reps:</i> Account for who to target in the corridors of power, meeting requests, preparation, engagement during the day, follow-up</li> <li>• Plan it!</li> </ul> <p><i>Report-back to the larger group and commit to following-through (12.20 - 12.30 pm)</i></p>	<p><b>Session lead: Karen and Fran</b> <i>Overview (11.20 - 11.50 am)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Knowing your strategy.</i> Identifying your approach and plan of action; deciding on who to engage.</li> <li>• <i>Topics and targets.</i> Finding calls for submissions and input; determining 'worthwhileness'; making sure the topic is within your remit; identifying coalition partners as possible co-signatories.</li> <li>• <i>Tackling issues effectively.</i> Ensuring focus, perspective, and clarity; avoiding side-tracks and irrelevancies; using good evidence; keeping things tight and polite.</li> <li>• <i>Building trust with the audience.</i> Accounting for sensitivities; getting and keeping the reader onside; engaging in constructive dialogue; attending to tone.</li> <li>• <i>Team writing.</i> Deciding on process and who will do what; establishing good writing relationships; respecting others' contributions; accepting honest, good-faith critique.</li> <li>• <i>Avoiding perfection.</i> Recognising the point of entropy/diminishing returns; knowing when to stop and move on to the next writing task; proofreading and submission.</li> </ul> <p><i>Workshop/group work (11.50 - 12.20 pm)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Practicalities.</i> Choosing your topic, using a digital platform e.g. Google docs, establishing deadlines, organising contributors</li> </ul> <p><i>Report-back to the larger group and commit to following-through</i></p>
12.30 - 1.30 pm LUNCH BREAK	12.30 - 1.30 pm LUNCH BREAK

<b>1.30 - 3 pm</b> <b>SESSION 3. INVITATION TO OTHER GROUPS TO SPEAK AND SHARE</b> <b>AAWAA PLANNING MEETING</b>	<b>1.30 - 3 pm</b> <b>SESSION 6. APPLYING WHAT WE'VE LEARNT</b>
<b>Session lead: Karen</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups to be named IDC</li> </ul> <b>Year in review</b> <b>Session lead: Karen</b> <i>Overview and discussion (1.30 - 2.10 pm)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What we have done, nationally and locally (reports)</li> <li>What submissions and letters have worked/not worked?</li> <li>What actions have been most effective in creating change or raising awareness? What has worked or not worked?</li> <li>What have we spent time and effort on but to little effect?</li> </ul> <b>Year in forecast</b> <b>Session lead: TBA</b> <i>Small or whole group discussion (2.10 - 3 pm)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What do we want to focus on in 2025?</li> <li>How to achieve that</li> <li>Spreading the load</li> <li>Recruiting and retaining members, expanding membership base</li> <li>Forming an executive</li> </ul>	<b>Session lead: QWAA and WAWAA</b> <i>Overview and discussion (1.30 - 1.50 pm)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Review of topics</i> (Karen)</li> <li><i>Networking.</i> Useful and sustainable relationships; knowledge-sharing and activism through digital networks; reducing our geographical distance.</li> <li><i>Resources.</i> Building resources to create momentum and impact; groups, alliances, lobbying, legal cases; getting incorporated.</li> </ul> <i>Small group work (1.50 - 2 pm)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Split into small groups</li> <li>Choose a topic or area to start planning for: a submission, letter, street action, blog post, meeting,</li> <li>Plan it!</li> <li>Report back to larger group and commit to following-through</li> </ul> <i>Report-back to the larger group and commit to following-through</i>
<b>DAY WRAP-UP</b> <b>3 - 3.30 pm</b> <b>Session lead: Helen</b>	<b>SUMMIT WRAP-UP</b> <b>3 - 3.30 pm</b> <b>Session lead: WAAC</b>

**SUNDAY MORNING: DIRECT-ACTION BANNER DROP, TBA**