



A F F I L I A T I O N O F  
A U S T R A L I A N W O M E N ' S  
A C T I O N A L L I A N C E S

## AAWAA Women's Summit 2024

### Workshop tasks

#### Session 1. Welcome to AAWAA

##### **Introductions and orientation**

- Split into smaller groups of 2 - 5. It's up to you.
- Introduce yourselves to each other: where you are from, background, interests, whatever.
- What drew you to the summit?
- What are you expecting to get out of the summit? Make some notes and re-visit them at the end of the summit if you like.

##### **Outreach, group-building, and focus**

- What experience do you have in this already?
- Finding women for your action group. How many is too few?
- What model would you want to run with?
- Are there existing groups that you could join?
- What principles/values are important?
- What would be your focus?

##### **Structure, teamwork, leadership**

- What kind of structure is necessary?
- How do we identifying and nurture individual strengths and preferences?
- What tasks need to be distributed, e.g., admin, planning, research, writing, organising, etc.?
- When do we need leadership and what does that look like?
- How do we go about decision-making, strategy and planning, discipline?

##### **Notes**

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## ACTION ALLIANCES

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### Session 2. Practical activism tips

#### **SMALL GROUP WORK**

- Split into smaller groups of 2 - 5. It's up to you.
- Choose what kind of practical activism do you want to plan:
  - Street activism (Banner drop, protest, placard photo opportunity, other – it needs to be legal!)
  - Meeting with politician
- Other
- Plan it!

#### **Street activism**

Account for

- Deciding on an effective action + clear messaging
- Choosing a suitable location and making materials
- Doing a site recce and practice
- Briefing, safety and privacy, keeping it legal
- Staying observant and knowing when to leave
- Debriefing
- Refer to WAAC notes

Plan it!

#### **Meetings with politicians**

Account for

- Who to target in the corridors of power
- Deciding on a focus and what topic to discuss
- How to request a meeting
- Preparation
- Engagement
- How to keep on track during the meeting
- Follow-up

Plan it!

#### **Notes**

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## ACTION ALLIANCES

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## AAWAA Women's Summit 2024

### Workshop tasks

### Session 2. Practical activism tips

#### **MEETING WITH POLITICIANS**

##### **How to decide who to target in the corridors of power**

- Are you wanting to meet someone sympathetic to your cause or confront a politician who is against your cause?
- State or federal politician?
- Look up the politician in the Register of parliamentary interest document to learn more about them.
- What in their profile can you use to link to yourself or your cause?

##### **How to request a meeting**

- Phone call
- Email
- Visit in person
- Street action
- Finding yourself in the same place they are
- Community cabinet (Labour)
- Other opportunities to meet politicians in person
- Don't just stick to one approach
- Its ok to be a bit dishonest about your meeting agenda. Trojan horse!

##### **Have a summary prepared**

Include the following on your summary sheet:

- Names of attendees and date
- Topic
- Main points discussed
- Solutions and ways forward
- Up to three resources links they can look up
- Email and phone number of the contact person for more information
- Only one A4 sheet

##### **Preparation**

- Do not go alone - take at least one other woman with you.
- Is the MP on sympathetic or will this be a confrontational meeting
- Come with the problem. Try and stick to one problem
- Have a list of consequences for the problem not being addressed
- Suggest a solution
- Who will say what?

##### **Engagement**

- Congratulate them on their good work and express your appreciation.
- Make some small talk so you can make an assessment of your politician
- Be confident. You know far more about this subject than they do.
- Controversial approach – pander to that male ego. “We need your help on this issue, and we know it is something you can make meaningful change on.
- Have a sense of humour and don't take their response personally.



- ## Follow-up

- ## Notes

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## AAWAA Women's Summit 2024

### Workshop tasks

#### Session 3. Sister group updates + AAWAA planning meeting

##### **Carol Ann**

Carole Ann has been a lesbian feminist activist for forty years, building and nurturing lesbian culture and community. She has now come out of retirement to fight gender ideology and its erasure of lesbians. She says "We wanted to leave a vibrant culture for the younger generations of lesbians to enjoy. Unforgivably, it has almost been wiped out, and young lesbians today who don't identify with the LGBTIQA+ conglomerate have nowhere to go and have difficulty even meeting each other."

##### **GROUP DISCUSSION/PLANNING MEETING**

###### **Year in review**

- What we have done, nationally and locally (reports)
- What submissions and letters have worked/not worked?
- What actions have been most effective in creating change or raising awareness? What has worked or not worked?
- What have we spent time and effort on but to little effect?
- Is our admin working?

###### **Year in forecast**

- Small or large group discussion, TBD
- What do we want to focus on in 2025 and beyond? How to achieve that?
- How to not get distracted by every outrage, not be reactionary?
- Spreading the load, tasking
- Tasking
- Recruiting and retaining members, expanding membership base
- Do we want to/can we form an executive?

##### **Notes**

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## AAWAA Women's Summit 2024

### Workshop tasks

#### Session 4. Panel: Implementing Women's liberation in Australia

**Catherine Bell** is a Mother and maternity consumer advocate with a Master of Science in Communication. She is about to complete her PhD evaluating her book, *The Birth Map*. She is keenly aware of the power of language and the importance of matricentric feminism. Catherine is a founding member of NSWAA.

**Nina Evans** opted for reading, and the life of a happy-go-lucky lucky vagabond instead of university. She is an artist, performer, writer of prose, poetry, and song, and a radical feminist eco-socialist with anarchist leanings. After travelling extensively, Nina finally put down roots in Northern NSW, and became politically active outside of social media. She has hopes that the disparate feminist followers of Marx, the Great Mother Goddess, Andrea Dworkin, and Kellie-Jay Keen can somehow learn to get along.

#### **Amber Rossi**

Amber Rossi is a mother, philologist and teacher, born in outback south Australia, who has lived most of her life overseas moving from place to place. She learned a lot about different cultures and customs from the people who she met and who embraced her along her travels. She has finally returned to settle in Perth, WA with her family. In 2023, after attending a women's speaking event with her sister (that was sabotaged by rowdy protesters), her sister encouraged her to join the women's group WAWAA to advocate for women's rights, that they could see were being eroded daily.

#### **Bronwyn Winter**

Bronwyn Winter has been a radical lesbian feminist activist for over four decades, in Australia, France, the UK and transnationally. She is also an interdisciplinary feminist researcher, and is Professor Emerita of Transnational Studies at the University of Sydney, where she was located first in French Studies and then European Studies. With Susan Hawthorne she co-edited the first international feminist anthology on 9/11 and the so-called 'war on terror' (September 11, 2001: *Feminist Perspectives*, Spinifex Press 2002). In 2017 she published a followup monograph called *Women, Insecurity, and Violence in a Post-9/11 World* (Syracuse University Press). She has published a range of other books and articles on the dominant themes in her transnational research on women and lesbians, in which she explores the politics of race, religion, migration, violence and the state. She recently started a Substack blog called 'Bronwyn's adventures in fallacyland'.



- What were the most surprising, interesting, insightful, concerning, inspiring, whatever, points raised by the panel in relation to women's liberation and feminism in Australia today and in the past?
- Is there anything practical we can take away from this? Or is the fuel-for-thought enough?
- What balance of theory, practice, experience, analysis do we need in order to implement women's liberation in Australia?
- Has the panel discussion given you a new or revised framework for action and analysis? What does that look like?

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## AAWAA Women's Summit 2024

### Workshop tasks

#### Session 5. Policy action: Effective writing for submissions, letters, and FOIs

##### **Topic and target**

- Choose a specific topic. What is the matter you want to address? (e.g., changes to the SDA, Nordic Model, surrogacy, access to female-only protections, gender medicine for girls)
- Make sure the topic is within your remit. Is it clearly within your group's scope or should it be tackled by a different group?
- Determine 'worthwhileness.' Should you bother with this? Will/could your work have an effect?
- Aim for 'bang for buck'. Is there a current call for submissions or input or some other expression of interest that you can capitalise on?
- Choose who to engage. Why them? Do they have the right resources, authority, influence,
- power to be a useful target?

##### **Identify your strategy**

- Purpose. What will you try to achieve when addressing this topic and target? What does a successful outcome look like?
- Method. What is the most effective way of achieving that?
- Next steps. What response are you expecting? What will you do with the response?
- Account for misfires and backfires. What could go wrong with this strategy?

##### **Planning and resourcing**

- Make sure you can do the task. Do you have the resources and wherewithal (time, capacity, capability, skills)?
- Identify coalition partners as possible co-signatories. Who aligns with us, politically speaking? Who should we NOT be seen to publicly align with? How would we approach them? At what stage? Do we want to present them with something for feedback, comment, endorsements? Or ask them to co-write?

##### **Develop an exact plan of action. Is it SMART?**

- Specific
- Measurable
- Action-oriented
- Relevant
- Time- and resource -bound



*Establish the approach*

- Decide on process and who will do what*

- ## Notes

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## Workshop tasks

## Task

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