



AAWAA women's summit 2026

Building our capacity together

Friday 2 October – Saturday 3 October 2026, Canberra

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER	SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER
Registration. 9 am with 9.30 am hard start	Registration. 9 am with 9.30 am hard start
Session 1. 9.30 – 10.40 am (70 mins) Who we are and how we work • AAWAA's purpose: organised, independent advocacy for women's sex-based protections and rights • Our national structure, governance and developing organisational foundations • Our focus: women and girls, female-only spaces, health and safety, law and policy, public accountability • How the work moves from an issue or institutional failure to research, intervention, follow-up and public record • Guiding principles for working together: good faith, goodwill, compassion, charity and a serious, sensible, civil, 'eyes front' approach	Session 5. 9.30 – 10.40 am (70 mins) Guest presentation: ARMS (15 mins) Focus, audience and advocacy discipline • Who we represent: women and girls, and AAWAA's focus on women's sex-based protections and rights • Setting boundaries, choosing priorities and avoiding mission drift • Understanding different audiences: women, decision-makers, public institutions, journalists, the wider public • Speaking through clear, practical and evidence-based advocacy • Working constructively with other women and groups while avoiding internal conflict, public point-scoring and unnecessary distraction
10.40 am. Morning tea break (25 mins)	10.40 am. Morning tea break (25 mins)
Session 2. 11.05 am - 12.35 pm (90 mins) The work before us: current advocacy priorities and engagements • Report-backs on AAWAA's recent advocacy, institutional meetings, public events and international engagement • Current pressures on women's sex-based protections and rights in law, policy, services and public institutions • Priority areas including Sex Discrimination Act reform, female-only spaces, women's health and safety, surrogacy abolition, pornography and freedom of association	Session 6. 11.05 am - 12.35 pm (90 mins) Strategic advocacy: leverage, institutional judgment and holding institutions to account • Starting with the outcome: identifying the change, information, response or commitment being sought • Identifying the real decision-maker, relevant statutory duties and routes to institutional influence • Creating leverage through questions, meetings, submissions, FOIs, correspondence and public records • Making strategic use of public events, including National Press Club engagements and AHRC seminars

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What has worked in practice: formal processes, clear asks, evidence, disciplined public engagement and reliable follow-up	Following through, reading institutional responses, escalating proportionately and building long-term credibility
12.35 Lunch break (45 mins)	12.35 Lunch break (45 mins)
Session 3. 1.20 - 2.40 pm (80 mins) From issue to intervention: submissions, FOIs, correspondence and public advocacy - Identifying an issue, responsible institution and live opportunity for intervention - Using the GAPPS framework: governance, accountability, policy, process and structure - Building an evidence-based case from law, policy, official data, documents, experience and international obligations - Choosing the right intervention: submissions, FOIs, correspondence, meetings, public questions, articles - Making one intervention support the next through records, follow-up and public advocacy	Session 7. 1.20 - 2.50 pm (90 mins) Building the work together - A facilitated group session on the knowledge, experience, connections and practical capacity women can bring - Identifying current local, state and national opportunities affecting women - Matching women's interests and skills with manageable tasks in research, drafting, monitoring, administration, events and communications - Considering practical work already under way, including calendar management, recruitment, vetting, FOIs and pornography-conference preparation - Identifying clear next steps, working groups, useful contacts and pathways for sustained involvement after the Summit
2.40 - 2.50 pm Short break	
Session 4. 2.50 - 3.20 pm (30 mins) Building and sustaining our network: membership, recruitment and fundraising - Building a strong national network while drawing on local and state-based knowledge - Recruitment, membership, vetting and onboarding that protect women, confidentiality, organisational purpose and good working relationships - Funding serious advocacy while maintaining independence, honest donor care and financial accountability	
Day wrap-up 3.20 pm	Summit wrap-up 2.50 pm
Day close 3.30 pm	Summit close and afternoon tea 3 pm