

# ANROWS

AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH  
ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

*to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children*

## ANROWS Practitioner Engagement Group (PEG) 2016-18

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*December 2016*

### Introduction

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety Limited (ANROWS) has established the ANROWS PEG (Practitioner Engagement Group), to facilitate the translation of evidence to practice. This is to give effect to ANROWS's goal of ensuring effective dissemination and utilisation of research findings (ANROWS Strategic Plan).

The ANROWS PEG will assist in the development of knowledge translation and exchange initiatives, promote the take up of evidence in practice, and support monitoring and evaluation of the impact on practice of ANROWS's knowledge translation and exchange activities within the **specialist women's services sector** (i.e. domestic and family violence, sexual assault, women's health, women's legal services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and women with disabilities) and **the broader community services sectors** (i.e. mental health, alcohol and other drugs, housing and homelessness).

Participation in the PEG is voluntary and membership is not a paid position. Members of the PEG will comply with the relevant provisions of the ANROWS Staff and Associates Code of Conduct.

The following sets out the terms of reference for the PEG and the process for convening the second term of the ANROWS PEG, which involves calling for expressions of interest in PEG membership.

### Terms of Reference

#### Role

ANROWS's knowledge translation and exchange function is principally governed by its strategic goal to "ensure the effective dissemination and utilisation of research findings" (ANROWS Strategic Plan). ANROWS's Practitioner Engagement Group (ANROWS PEG) is one of a number of initiatives ANROWS will employ for the dissemination and application of evidence in policy and practice. ANROWS has established regular meetings with a network of National Plan Senior Officials (policy-developers) to support the translation of evidence to policy. The key role of the PEG is to assist in the translation of evidence to practice. It is intended, therefore, that PEG members will be practice

decision-makers, or influencers, able to facilitate the uptake of ANROWS's research findings into organisational practice.

The PEG will:

1. Constitute a network of practice leaders and work towards the development of a national community of practice in the area of violence against women and their children.
2. Discuss the practice implications of research findings, including those from the ANROWS research program and other research under the National Research Agenda to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children.
3. Contribute, via discussion and engagement, to the dissemination and application to practice of evidence related to violence against women and their children;
4. Discuss and advise on a range of ANROWS's KTE activities and products in order to maximise uptake of research evidence in practice;
5. Support monitoring and evaluation of the impact on practice of ANROWS's knowledge translation and exchange activities within the specialist women's services sector and the broader community services sectors;
6. Identify gaps in knowledge and KTE opportunities in areas that resonate with, are relevant to, and consider the outcomes and strategies of the *National Plan*.

### Out of scope

ANROWS PEG does not have:

1. a decision making role in regard to ANROWS's governance or operations;
2. PEG members do not represent ANROWS; and
3. funding is generally not available to support participation in PEG meetings or other activities. It is expected that such activities will fit within existing professional roles.

### Chair

ANROWS PEG will be chaired by the CEO, ANROWS, or the CEO's representative.

### Secretariat

The secretariat will be hosted by ANROWS and managed by the CEO's nominated representative. The secretariat will be responsible for preparing and distributing the agendas and minutes and any supporting documentation for meetings. The secretariat will follow up on any matters arising from meetings. The agenda for each meeting will be formed by the secretariat in consultation with the Chair. ANROWS PEG members are welcome to liaise with the secretariat regarding the submission of items for inclusion on the agenda. Brief meeting minutes – including action items – will be taken and distributed by the secretariat. Minutes will be distributed electronically to all members within two weeks of the relevant meeting.

### Duration

ANROWS PEG membership will be considered biennially, with a view to a systematic approach to continuity while enabling opportunities for others to contribute.

## Delegation

There are two major categories of PEG membership: 1) peak body representation; and 2) individual expertise. While it is expected that peak body representatives will be constant, it may be necessary on occasion to delegate to another representative of the peak body. Members appointed on an individual basis will not be able to delegate to another person if unavailable for PEG meetings or other PWG activities.

## Operations

### Meeting Schedule

ANROWS PEG will meet four times per year, with one face-to-face meeting per annum if possible. ANROWS may also meet bi-laterally with PEG members, particularly peak body representatives, between meetings to progress knowledge translation and exchange initiatives and facilitate the uptake of evidence in particular practice areas.

### Meeting Procedure

Meetings will be facilitated by the Chair and will follow a pre-determined agenda, which will include cross-sector information sharing. Members may add items for discussion under “other business”

### Resignation

If members wish to resign, they must notify the Chair in writing of their intention. Members who are absent for two consecutive meetings without explanation may be deemed to have resigned from ANROWS PEG.

### Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed biennially before the end of each term.

## The process for establishing the PEG

ANROWS invites representatives from specialist women’s services’ peak bodies (e.g. domestic and family violence; sexual assault; women’s legal services and women’s health peaks) as well as individual organisations who meet the eligibility and selection criteria to submit an [expression of interest form](#). Expressions of interest are to be submitted through the ANROWS website and are due by **midnight on Sunday 26 June 2016**.

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners

ANROWS proposes to include a minimum of five Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander practice leaders among the PEG membership. Peak bodies and/or individual organisations are encouraged to nominate Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people within their organisation. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are also encouraged to apply independently.

### Membership eligibility criteria

Membership of the ANROWS PEG is open to **practice decision-makers and influencers**:

1. with a professional interest in domestic and family violence and sexual assault and its effects on women and their children;
2. working in sectors that provide a comprehensive range of support services to victims/survivors of violence against women and their children. This includes practitioners who provide crisis support, outreach, safety planning and case management, advocacy, court assistance, housing and legal assistance, women's health support, advice and information, training and referrals;
3. who have a demonstrated understanding of the issues affecting victims/survivors who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, women with disabilities, women from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, intersex and queer women;
4. who have high level knowledge and skills in responding to the impacts of trauma and undertaking work with victims/survivors with complex support needs; and
5. who have the capacity to assist in monitoring and evaluating the impact on practice of ANROWS's knowledge translation and exchange activities.

### Membership selection criteria

1. Demonstrated ability to facilitate uptake of evidence from ANROWS research findings into everyday practice.
2. Demonstrated ability to provide high level strategic advice on strategies to influence practice related to violence against women and their children.
3. Ability to assist in monitoring and evaluating the impact of ANROWS's knowledge translation and exchange activities.
4. Participation and involvement in relevant networks or in harnessing and amplifying perspectives from specific sub-populations.

Please be advised that in selecting membership of the PEG, ANROWS will give consideration to diversity among its membership.