

National Women's Health Policy Team
By email: National.Women's.health.policy@health.gov.au

20 November, 2009

Dear National Women's Health Policy Team,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to make a written submission to the development of a New National Women's Health Policy.

Further to the YWCA of Adelaide comments at the Adelaide Consultation Forum (12/10/09), our research indicates the following three policy priorities:

- Gender Role Stereotypes
- Self Image, including Body Image
- Violence Against Women

These priorities emerged from a YWCA of Adelaide consultation with over 1000 women and girls, coming from a range of backgrounds and representing both metro and regional areas. I have attached a copy of our Policy Platform, which outlines our perspective on these issues in more detail.

Further research has indicated that above three issues are encapsulated in the following issue – but also that the complex nature of the issue means it deserves to be treated as a priority in its own right:

- The Sexualisation of Girls and Women

In Australia and internationally, experts in children's health and welfare agree that premature sexualisation places children at risk of a variety of harms, including disruption to healthy physical and psychological development. The YWCA of Adelaide held a public forum on this issue in October 2009, to present the evidence about health impacts and discuss constructive ways to challenge this sexualisation. Attendance at the forum, which included representatives from federal, state and local governments, indicates the breadth and depth of community support for addressing the Sexualisation of Girls and Women.

Yours Sincerely,



Jo De Silva
On behalf of the YWCA of Adelaide

Jo De Silva
Policy Officer
YWCA of Adelaide

