

From: [Assistant Minister White DLO](#)
To: [MCU - MinCorro](#)
Cc: [Assistant Minister White DLO](#)
Subject: FW: Invitation for International Women's Day [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 20 February 2026 12:23:58 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi team

Grateful if OfW could please draft the below event brief + 5min speech, due 27 Feb.

Please reach out directly if any questions or concerns.

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Departmental Liaison Officer

Office of the Hon Rebecca White MP

Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care

Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health

Assistant Minister for Women

M: s 22(1)(a)(ii) | E: s 22(1)(a)(ii), s 47E(d) @health.gov.au

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present

OFFICIAL

From: s 47E(d) @health.gov.au
Sent: Friday, 20 February 2026 12:20 PM
To: s 47E(d) @health.gov.au
Cc: s 47E(d) @health.gov.au; s 22(1)(a)(ii) @Health.gov.au
Subject: FW: Invitation for International Women's Day [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Could you please request talking points for the launch of the Women in Government Relations Australia organisation on 4 March?

AM White has agreed to say a few words at the event (approx. 5 mins).

I have requested further info from the event organiser but flagging now given the short timeframe.

Thank you,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Diary Manager

Office of the Hon Rebecca White MP

Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care

Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health

Assistant Minister for Women

Ph: s 22(1)(a)(ii) E: s 47E(d) [@health.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d)@health.gov.au)

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OFFICIAL

From: s 47F [@precisionpublicaffairs.com](mailto:s 47F@precisionpublicaffairs.com)>

Sent: Monday, 16 February 2026 5:51 PM

To: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@Health.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@Health.gov.au); s 47E(d) [@health.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d)@health.gov.au)>

Cc: s 47F [@precisionpublicaffairs.com](mailto:s 47F@precisionpublicaffairs.com)>; s 47F [@precisionpublicaffairs.com](mailto:s 47F@precisionpublicaffairs.com)>

Subject: Invitation for International Women's Day

Importance: High

REMINDER: Think before you click! This email originated from outside our organisation. Only click links or open attachments if you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Evening, s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We hope that this finds you both well!

Senator Gallagher's Team kindly suggested that we contact your office as we finalise

plans for the launch of a new, bipartisan *Women in Government Relations Australia* organisation, and we are very grateful for that guidance.

A group of senior women working across politics, the public service, NGOs and the corporate sector are coming together to establish this organisation to recognise, support and build the next generation of women whose careers sit at the intersection of policy, government and advocacy. Our aim is to create a practical, inclusive network focused on mentoring, professional development and capability-building - regardless of party or background.

To mark the launch, we are planning a small, informal morning reception at Parliament House on 4 March to coincide with International Women's Day. We were wondering whether the Assistant Minister might be available for 5–10 minutes at a time of her choosing between 8am – 11am, to join us and say a few words.

Assistant Minister White is an outstanding example of women working at the highest levels of government with integrity, professionalism and purpose. Her leadership demonstrates to young women across the country how good government - and good government relations - is truly done. Her presence, even briefly, would send a powerful signal about the importance of women supporting women across all parts of the policy and political ecosystem.

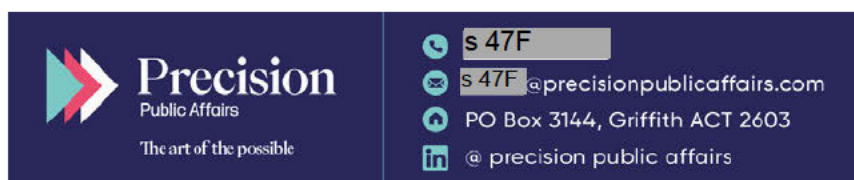
We completely understand how full the parliamentary calendar is, but we would be deeply honoured if she were able to join us.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

s 47F

Founder & Managing Director



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Save Paper & Save Our Environment - Please consider before printing this email.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Assistant Minister White DLO s 47E(d) @health.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 3:41 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: OFW Workplace Gender Equality; Invites White; Assistant Minister White DLO
Subject: RE: Seeking further information - AM White & Women in Government Relations launch [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Looping in s 22(1)(a)(ii) who will be able to assist 😊

Kind regards

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)
 Departmental Liaison Officer

Office of the Hon Rebecca White MP
 Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care
 Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health
 Assistant Minister for Women
 M: s 22(1)(a)(ii) | E: s 47E(d) @health.gov.au

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OFFICIAL

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 February 2026 3:32 PM
To: Assistant Minister White DLO <s 47E(d) @health.gov.au>
Cc: OFW Workplace Gender Equality <s 47E(d) @pmc.gov.au>
Subject: Seeking further information - AM White & Women in Government Relations launch [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

We are drafting an event brief + speech to support AM White's attendance at the Women in Government Relations launch on 4 March (MB26-000044).

In the handling instructions, s 22(1)(a)(ii) (AM White's diary manager) noted that she had requested further info from the event organisers. If this has been received, grateful if you could please share with us so we can include in the event brief.

Thanks,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Senior Adviser | Workplace Gender Equality, Procurement and Leadership

Women's Economic Policy Branch | Office for Women

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

p. s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) @pmc.gov.au

Ngunnawal Country

I work flexibly. If you receive an email from me outside of hours, I'm sending it at a time that suits me and my work arrangements. Please note, I don't expect you to read or respond outside of your working hours.



The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing spiritual, social and cultural relationship with the land, waters, skies and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to their community leaders, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



IMPORTANT: This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

OFFICIAL

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THE HON REBECCA WHITE MP
EVENT BRIEF

ROLE: Assistant Minister for Women

EVENT DETAILS:

Date:	Wednesday 4 March 2026
Time:	Event start time: 8:00 AM Event conclusion time: 11:00 AM Minister arrival/departure time: XX:XX AM - XX:XX AM
Location:	Enid Lyons Alcove – Australian Parliament House
Event contact/s:	S 47F
Staff Attending:	[AMO to complete.]
Dress Code:	[AMO to complete.]
Lectern Available	☐ YES ☐ NO

EVENT OVERVIEW:

You have been invited to provide brief remarks at the launch of a new organisation, Women in Government Relations Australia, ahead of International Women's Day (IWD).

GUESTS OF NOTE ATTENDING EVENT:

- [AMO to complete.]

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The event organisers have requested you give a 5-minute speech at the launch.
- A draft speech has been prepared at Attachment A.

RUNSHEET:

[AMO to insert once provided by event organisations.]

BACKGROUND:

- This is an informal event to mark the launch of Women in Government Relations Australia. The aim of the organisation is to create a practical, inclusive network focused on mentoring, professional development and training for women working at the intersection of policy, government and advocacy – regardless of their political party or background.
- The organisation is being established by a group of senior women working across politics, the public service and non-government sector.

- s 47F Precision Public Affairs, contacted your Office on 16 February 2026 inviting you to speak at the launch.
- International Women's Day (IWD) is on Sunday, 8 March 2026. This year marks its 115th anniversary.
- UN Women's IWD theme for 2026 is 'Balance the Scales' – a commitment that every woman and girl – regardless of background or identity – should be safe, heard, and free to shape their own lives.

KEY DATA:

- The 2024-25 Gender Balance on Australian Government Boards Report released on 3 February 2026 found:
 - 54.3 per cent of overall board positions were held by women, with women's representation improving for the fourth consecutive year.
 - Over the past 15 years, since reporting on Gender Balance on Australian Government Boards began, women's representation has increased by over 20 per cent.
- Women comprise 52 per cent of federal Cabinet and 49.6 per cent of the 48th Parliament.
- Australia is ranked 13th (out of 148) in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2025, up from 24th in 2024 and 43rd in 2022.
- In 2025, only 10 per cent of ASX300 CEO positions were held by women, up from 9 per cent in 2024.

DEPARTMENT CONTACT:

Contact Officer:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Job Title/Level:

Assistant Director, Women's Economic Policy, Office for Women

Telephone:

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Sent: Friday, 27 February 2026 5:19 PM
To: 'Assistant Minister White DLO'
Cc: OFW Workplace Gender Equality; Invites White; Hope, Angela; Writers; 'leonie.kolmar@pmc.gov.au'; 'belinda.small@pmc.gov.au'
Subject: AM White Event Brief + Speech - Launch of Women in Government Relations [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: MB26-000044.docx; 2603 AM White speech - Women in Government Relations launch.docx

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Please find attached an event brief (MB26-000044) and draft speech to support Assistant Minister White's attendance at the Women in Government Relations launch on 4 March. I've also progressed these items in PDMS.

In the event brief, we have included the information provided to us and flagged where further details could be added by the Assistant Minister's Office (upon receipt from the event organisers).

Please let me know if I can help further.

Thanks,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Senior Adviser | Workplace Gender Equality, Procurement and Leadership

Women's Economic Policy Branch | Office for Women

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

p s 22(1)(a)(ii) e. s 22(1)(a)(ii) [@pmc.gov.au](mailto:s 22(1)(a)(ii)@pmc.gov.au)

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**ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR WOMEN
THE HON REBECCA WHITE MP**

**WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AUSTRALIA LAUNCH
PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA
WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH 2026**

Thanks for inviting me to say a few words.

I'm delighted to help launch Women in Government Relations Australia.

For those of you who don't know much about me, I'm a proud country girl.¹

I grew up on a farm, in a town called Nugent in southeast Tasmania.²

It taught me a lot of life skills.

I can drive a tractor — and I still milk a mean cow.³

But more than anything, farm life taught me the importance of community.

In Nugent, if something breaks, there's no maintenance team to come fix it.⁴

And you can't call roadside assistance when you're bogged in a paddock.

Instead, you call on the friends and neighbours around you.

¹ "I'm a country girl through and through, a fiercely proud Tasmanian and someone who was taught early on to never give up." [Hansard - House of Representatives 24/07/2025 Parliament of Australia](#)

² [Hansard - House of Representatives 24/07/2025 Parliament of Australia](#)

³ "We climbed trees, rode our bikes, played cricket, kicked the footy and shot at tin cans with our air rifles. I rode horses and learnt how to drive in a tractor. We would help with the jobs of feeding hay out to the beef cattle, looking after the pigs or milking the dairy cows" [Hansard - House of Representatives 24/07/2025 Parliament of Australia](#)

⁴ "That resilience comes from a place of knowing that in the country you cannot give up because there is no backup. If the tractor breaks down or stock gets through the fence, you have to find a way to fix it. There is no maintenance department you can call to come and help you out." [Valedictory: Rebecca White's state parliament farewell - New Norfolk News](#)

The people you know will stand by you, even when things are toughest.⁵

Now, representing the same part of Tasmania I grew up in, I'm still guided by what I learned on the farm ...

... that we're always strongest when we work together.

It's the same understanding that's inspired Women in Government Relations Australia.

You're a group of women, working together to build each other up.

Mentoring, guiding and learning from each other — regardless of your political views, or what sector you work in.⁶

And a shining example of this year's International Women's Day theme — 'Balance the Scales' — a commitment for all women to be heard and free to shape their own lives.⁷

As government relations' professionals, you give voice to the communities and industries that MPs like me are here to serve.

And through your work — and the example you set for other women — you help us progress gender equality in Australia.

That's something that matters to this Government.

Almost two years ago, we released *Working for Women*.

⁵ "I always knew, growing up in the country at my home in Nugent, that there was something special about belonging to a community. In Nugent, we all look out for one another, support one another and stand up for one another, and you keep each other going even when things can get really tough." [Valedictory: Rebecca White's state parliament farewell - New Norfolk News](#)

⁶ **From organisation's invitation to AM White:** "A group of senior women working across politics, the public service, NGOs and the corporate sector are coming together to establish this organisation to recognise, support and build the next generation of women whose careers sit at the intersection of policy, government and advocacy. Our aim is to create a practical, inclusive network focused on mentoring, professional development and capability-building -regardless of party or background."

⁷ [UN Women 2026 International Women's Day theme is 'Balance the Scales'](#).

It's our strategy for achieving gender equality, and it sets out where we'll focus our efforts over the next decade.

One of its priority areas is leadership, representation and decision-making.

Because we can't achieve equality without women like you — from a range of backgrounds — having a meaningful say in public life.

And we're seeing some promising signs.

For the fourth straight year, we've improved women's representation on Australian government boards.⁸

In fact, women now hold more than half of these positions.⁹

In this very building, women make up 52 per cent of the Cabinet — and almost half of the entire Parliament.¹⁰

And, just last year, we recorded our highest-ever ranking in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index.¹¹

None of this has happened by accident.

It's the result of years of effort.

But, for everything we've achieved, there's still more to do.

At last count, only one out of every 10 CEOs in the ASX's top 300 companies was a woman.¹²

⁸ **From OfW talking points:** "For the fourth consecutive year, the Australian Government has improved women's representation on Australian Government boards."

⁹ **From OfW talking points:** "The 2024-25 Gender Balance on Australian Government Boards report released in February 2026 showed 54.3 per cent of overall board positions were held by women"

¹⁰ **From OfW talking points:** "Women comprise 56 per cent of members and Senators under this Government and 52 per cent of federal Cabinet. Women's representation in federal Parliament is also growing with women comprising 49.6 per cent of the 48th Parliament."

¹¹ **From OfW talking points:** "Australia has achieved its highest ranking to date, 13th (out of 148) in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2025, up from 24th in 2024."

¹² **From OfW talking points:** "In 2025, only 10 per cent of ASX300 CEO positions were held by women, up from 9 per cent in 2024."

Women are still under-represented in senior decision-making roles across almost every industry in this country.¹³

They're even under-represented in our highest national honours.

That's why groups like this — and helping more women get a seat at the table — are so important.

As is taking the time to nominate the remarkable women around you for an award in the Order of Australia.

So we can celebrate all they've achieved, together, as a nation — which adds up to a more equal Australia.

There are some pretty big differences between the community I grew up in, and the community you're building together.

In Nugent, it's kind of expected that you show up to work in flannelette and gumboots.

For all of you, that'd probably be career limiting.

But what you do have in common with my hometown is the unshakeable belief that we're at our best when we look out for each other.

I'm on the record as saying that women should walk through doors when they're open ...

... and kick them down when they have to.¹⁴

And, hopefully thanks to you, the next generation of women in government relations will have to do a lot less kicking.

Thanks again for having me. Enjoy the event.

[ENDS]

¹³ Workplace Gender Equality Agency (2025) [Australia's gender equality scorecard 2024-25](#), November 2025.

¹⁴ [Rebecca White Resigns as Labor Leader](#)

Word count:

- 655 (approx. 5 minutes 25 seconds @ 120 words per minute)



THE HON REBECCA WHITE MP

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ROLE: Assistant Minister for Women

EVENT DETAILS:

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Event contact/s:	S 47F
Staff Attending:	[AMO to complete.]
Dress Code:	[AMO to complete.]
Lectern Available	☐ YES ☐ NO

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DEPARTMENT CONTACT:

Contact Officer:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Job Title/Level:	Assistant Director, Women's Economic Policy, Office for Women
Telephone:	s 22(1)(a)(ii)



ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR WOMEN THE HON REBECCA WHITE MP

WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AUSTRALIA LAUNCH PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH 2026

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[ENDS]

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