Women’s Health West’s FARREP program

Women’s Health West’s FARREP workers support women and girls from diverse ethnic, cultural and religious background who have migrated from countries where FGM/C is traditionally practiced.

Community education

FARREP provides prevention and health promotion programs for African women from communities affected by FGM/C. These programs focus on women’s health and wellbeing and are facilitated by an experienced FARREP worker. Programs aim to empower women and girls to make informed decisions regarding their own sexual and reproductive now, and promote attitudes and behaviours among communities that promote the elimination of FGM/C.

Professional development

FARREP provides professional development training and capacity building opportunities for health professionals, including general practitioners, nurses and midwives. The training focuses on the social, cultural and clinical aspects of FGM/C to build capacity, confidence and expertise of services working with women and girls affected by, or at risk of FGM/C. FARREP workers provide secondary consultation and advice relating to FGM/C-related care and appropriate service delivery.

Women’s Health West publications:

- FGM/C mandatory reporting tool to support health professionals (2014)
- ‘Female genital cutting (FGC) & cervical screening: A guide for practitioners’ (2015)
- ‘Caught between two cultures: A sexual and reproductive health project for young African women’ (2016)
- FGM/C fact sheet (2009)
- Working with African women fact sheet (2009)

More publications relating to FARREP can be found on the Women’s Health West website.
### What is FARREP?

The Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program (FARREP), established in 1995, aims to improve access to mainstream healthcare services for women and girls from diverse ethnic backgrounds who have migrated from countries where female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is practiced.

The state-wide program works with women and girls, men, community Elders and service providers to build trust and increase confidence to promote the wellbeing and human rights of women and girls who have experienced FGM/C.

### What is the aim of FARREP?

FARREP works to build trust with women and communities to promote the wellbeing and human rights of women and girls. The program works with communities that traditionally practice FGM/C to:

- Increase women’s access to culturally, socially and clinically appropriate health services and support
- Build the capacity of health professionals to work with women and girls affected by, or at risk of being affected by, FGM/C in a culturally appropriate manner
- Promote attitudes and behaviours among women, men and communities that support and promote the elimination of FGM/C

### Victorian legislation

In Victoria, FGM/C falls under the Crimes Act 1996 and the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005.

- It is illegal to perform FGM/C procedures on a child or adult. It is illegal to take a person from Victoria to have FGM/C procedures performed (Crimes Act 1996)

- Professionals that include education staff, police, medical and nursing staff are mandated to report FGM/C to Child Protection, if they form a ‘belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection’ and has suffered or is likely to experience FGM/C. Individuals do not need to be mandated to make a report to Department of Human Services (Children, Youth and Families Act, section 182)