

The Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program (FARREP)

The Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program (FARREP) is the primary response point for people who may have been exposed to cultural practices in their country of origin which have led to reproductive health issues.

Funded by the Department of Health, the main objective of FARREP is to strengthen community knowledge about the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and support a change in attitude to prevent its occurrence.

In July 2009, the Department of Health appointed Family Planning Victoria (FPV) as host agency for the FARREP Facilitation role for 2009 – 2011. The purpose of this role is to develop, implement and evaluate the Victorian FARREP Integrated Health Promotion plan. This plan aims to identify and reduce any gaps in service provision, provide a coordinated approach to program delivery and report and promote the efficient and effective use of resources.

FARREP supports access to timely and appropriate sexual and reproductive health services to inform women and girls from communities that are, or could be, affected by FGM.

FARREP uses a system-wide method of reform through building the capacity and expertise of mainstream and specialist sexual and reproductive health services to support women and girls affected by or at risk of being affected by FGM.

When providing care to these individuals, FARREP demonstrates cultural sensitivity and ensures responsiveness to any emerging concerns relating to FGM.

Role of FARREP

The primary focus of the FARREP program is to raise awareness among affected communities and health professionals about FGM and build their capacity to effect positive change. This is in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion.

FARREP has two components:

- **Direct care:** To provide referrals to medical services and/or counselling if needed or requested.
- **Health promotion:** To provide community education, social marketing, capacity building and advocacy to communities and health professionals.

Department of Health Interim Guidelines (November 2009)

The five core FARREP integrated health promotion measures, as outlined by the Department of Health, are:

- reach
- increased knowledge about health, welfare and human rights issues associated with FGM
- change in behaviours regarding FGM
- social action and influence
- re-oriented health services regarding FGM.

The four core FARREP capacity building measures also outlined by the department are:

- increased organisational commitment to make FGM health promotion a priority
- more effective targeting of FGM health promotion investment through evidence-based practice
- enhanced organisational learning and improved practice through evaluation
- greater proportion of planned FGM health promotion initiatives delivered in partnership with local communities and other organisations.

Department of Health Interim Guidelines

Victorian FARREP service providers

There are currently 11 FARREP service providers working in Victoria. FPV contributes to the monitoring of FARREP through its overarching management of the statewide FARREP health promotion plan. FPV will provide advice to the department about the progress of relevant agencies against this plan, aligning with the new health promotion reporting arrangements between community health services, Primary Care Partnerships and the Department of Health.

Banyule Community Health

21 Alamein Rd
West Heidelberg 3081
www.bchs.org.au

City of Darebin

274 Gower St
PO Box 91
Preston 3072
www.youthdarebin.vic.gov.au

Doutta Galla Community Health Service

12 Gower St
Kensington 3031
www.dgchs.com.au

Greater Dandenong CHC (Southern Health)

229 Thomas St
Dandenong 3175
www.southernhealth.org.au

Mercy Hospital for Women

Level 3
163 Studley Rd
Heidelberg 3084
www.mercy.com.au

Multicultural Centre for Women's Health Carringbush Bldg

Suite 207, Level 2
134 Cambridge St
Collingwood 3066
www.mcwh.com.au

North Yarra Community Health

365 Hoddle St
Collingwood 3066
www.nych.org.au

The Royal Women's Hospital

132 Grattan Street
Carlton 3053
www.thewomens.org.au

Western Region Health Centre

72 – 78 Paisley Street
Footscray 3011
www.wrhc.com.au

Women's Health in the North

680 High Street
Thornbury 3078
www.whin.org.au

Women's Health West

317 – 319 Barkly Street
Footscray 3011
www.whwest.org.au

Target populations

With a focus on those most at risk, FARREP targets all communities which practise FGM, regardless of mode of arrival, period of settlement, race, religion or culture. Some communities known to practise FGM are newly arrived, while others have a long history of settlement in Victoria.

The World Health Organization Interagency statement on eliminating Female Genital Mutilation (WHO 2008) identifies the following countries where FGM is prevalent (in varied degrees):

- **Latin America:** Columbia, Peru
- **Africa:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan (Northern), Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen
- **Middle East:** Oman, United Arab Emirates, Iraq (Kurds), Israel
- **Asia:** India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia.

Contact

Claire Naffah

FARREP Facilitator
T/ 03 9257 0176
E/ cnaffah@fpv.org.au

Links

www.who.int/reproductive-health