



AFRICAN WOMEN'S CLINIC

Who can come to the clinic?

The clinic is for women of all ages, young, pregnant or older, who have had female circumcision (traditional cutting) and would like to talk about their circumcision and/or reversing it.

This procedure is called **deinfibulation** though we will refer to it as **reversal** because this is what women seem to prefer.

You can have a reversal done if you are pregnant, but it must be done no later than 34 weeks into your pregnancy.

We do not do any other surgical procedures in this clinic.

The clinic is on every alternate Friday morning

How we look after you

The African Women's Clinic is a nurse-led clinic staffed by women's health nurses and midwives experienced in providing care for women who have experienced female circumcision or traditional cutting. The clinic nurse/midwife will talk with you about your health issues and circumcision. She will also talk with you about the procedure, changes you will feel after the procedure is done and your recovery.

The clinic nurse/midwife can also give you information and support with other health issues you may want to talk about.

A Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program (FARREP) worker is available to support you at your appointments.

If you have a **Medicare card** the service is free. If you do not have a Medicare card please talk to the FARREP worker. You can call them on the (03) 8345 3058.

Making an appointment

You do not need a referral from your local doctor (GP) to come to this the clinic. Please telephone (03) 8345 3037 or 1800 442 007 (country callers) to make an appointment.

If you need help to make an appointment contact FARREP on (03) 8345 3058.

Your GP can fax a referral to (03) 8345 3036.



Please tell us if you need an interpreter at your appointments.

You will have three appointments:

- First appointment – we talk with you and find out about your health history
- Second appointment – we do the reversal
- Third appointment – we see how you are feeling and if the reversal is healing well.

In some cases, the reversal can be done at your first appointment.

What will happen at my appointments?

The clinic nurse/midwife will:

- look at your circumcision to see what the type of reversal you need
- talk to you about any health issues you may have
- if you decide you want a reversal we can give you information using pictures if you like and we can talk with you about how it is done
- talk to you about changes to your body after the reversal and your recovery
- if you have other health issues we can tell you about other services and how to contact them
- see you four weeks after the procedure to see how you are doing.

The FARREP worker will:

- support all women from cultures in which female circumcision is sometimes practised
- help to get you to your appointment and will be with you during your appointment with the nurse
- help you with practical things like transport to and from the hospital, childcare, interpreters and other services
- give you information about useful services and how to contact them, at the hospital and in the community
- give you information about circumcision and the law in Victoria
- give you health information for you and your daughter.

Contact details

**The FARREP workers are available
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm**

T: (03) 8345 3058

E: farrep.program@thewomens.org.au

F: (03) 8345 3053

**Or contact the FARREP worker at your local
community health centre.**

Search our website for more information:

www.thewomens.org.au/healthinformation