



# African Women's Clinic

## Who can come to the clinic?

Anyone who has had female circumcision (traditional cutting) can come to the clinic, no matter their age. You can come if you're young, pregnant, or older and want to talk about your circumcision.

If you want to have a procedure to open your vagina (called deinfibulation), you can have it done here.

If you're pregnant, it must be done before 34 weeks.

We don't do any other surgical procedures in this clinic.

The clinic is open on Fridays.

## How we look after you

The African Women's Clinic is run by nurses/midwives experienced in caring for people who have had female circumcision or traditional cutting.

They will talk with you about your health and your circumcision. They will explain the procedure, changes you will feel after the procedure, and your recovery.

They will also give you information and support with any other health issues.

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

If you have a **Medicare card**, the service is free.

If you don't 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 the clinic.

To make an appointment, contact FARREP on (03) 8345 3058.

Your GP or community health nurse can also fax a referral to (03) 8345 3036.



Interpreter

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

You may have more than 1 appointment:

- First appointment: we talk with you about your health history.
- Second appointment: we do the procedure.
- Third appointment: we check on your recovery after your procedure.

Sometimes, the procedure can be done at your first appointment.

## What will happen at your appointments?

The clinic nurse/midwife will:

- look at your circumcision to see what type of procedure you need
- talk with you about any health issues you have
- if you decide you want a procedure, we will explain how it's done - we can also use pictures if that helps
- explain how your body may change after the procedure and your recovery
- if you have other health issues, we can tell you about other services and how to contact them
- see you again in 4 to 6 weeks after the procedure to see how you are doing.

The FARREP worker will:

- support anyone from cultures where female circumcision is sometimes practised
- help you get to your appointment and be with you during your appointment with the nurse/midwife
- 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, both 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/s (if you have any).

## Contact details

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

T: (03) 8345 3058

E: [farrep.program@thewomens.org.au](mailto: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/health-information](http://www.thewomens.org.au/health-information)

## Language link

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للحصول على المعلومات بلغتكم زوروا موقعنا الإلكتروني

用您說的語言瞭解詳情，請瀏覽我們的網站

Για πληροφορίες στη γλώσσα σας επισκεφθείτε την ιστοσελίδα μας

अपनी भाषा में जानकारी प्राप्त करने के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट पर जाएं

Per informazioni nella vostra lingua visitate il nostro sito web

Macluumaad intaas ka badan oo af Somali ah booqo websaytkayaga

Kendi dilinizde bilgi almak için web sitemizi ziyaret edin

Để biết thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị, hãy truy cập trang mạng của chúng tôi

## Family Violence Support

### 1800 Respect National Helpline

You can get help if you have experienced sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse.

You can call any time of day or night.

1800 737 732

[1800respect.org.au](http://1800respect.org.au)

**Disclaimer:** This fact sheet provides general information only. For specific advice about your healthcare needs, you should seek advice from your health professional. The Royal Women's Hospital does not accept any responsibility for loss or damage arising from your reliance on this fact sheet instead of seeing a health professional. If you require urgent medical attention, please contact your nearest emergency department.

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