



# 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 reversing their circumcision.

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

If you are pregnant, the procedure can be done between 20–34 weeks.

**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 experienced in providing care for women who have experienced female circumcision or traditional cutting. The clinic nurse 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 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 can also be present at your appointments for support. Let us know, when making your appointment, if you would like a FARREP worker with you.

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.



Interpreter

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 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 *if you want them to*
- » 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

## 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 जाइए

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  
mana của chúng tôi

**www.thewomens.org.au**