



Media Release

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Australia's first de-infibulation clinic at the Women's

The Royal Women's Hospital has today launched Australia's first de-infibulation clinic for women who have experienced female genital mutilation (FGM).

The clinic is for women of all ages who have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM), which is also referred to as traditional cutting or female circumcision.

There are several forms of FGM, which are categorised by the extent of the injury to the genital area. De-infibulation is the term that refers to a variety of corrective procedures for FGM. As required, de-infibulation is conducted by a Women's health nurse as a day procedure under local anaesthetic or by a surgeon under general anaesthetic. The service is free to Medicare card holders.

Doctors, nurses and counsellors from the Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program (FARREP) will staff the facility to discuss any health issues or concerns women may have.

According to the Chief Executive of the Women's, Dale Fisher, the launch of the clinic reflects the hospital's commitment to providing high quality care to women from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds and responding to women's individual needs and circumstances.

"Through FARREP, we are working to educate the community that FGM in any form is unacceptable and has no medical value," Ms Fisher said.

A national initiative that aims to educate the community about FGM and help eradicate the practice, FARREP is a free service that provides health information and support for women and families from cultures in which FGM is sometimes practiced. It coordinates doctors, nurses and social support during antenatal care, childbirth and beyond.

FARREP workers at the Women's have not encountered any women who have undergone FGM in Australia. All cases of FGM seen by the Women's FARREP workers have been migrant women who were subjected to the practice in their country of origin.

For more information, contact Sarah White, Director Communications, The Royal Women's Hospital, on 83452007 or 0427380893.