Female Genital Mutilation in Australia is Everyone’s Business
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FGM/C: A global concern

UN International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM

- Data from 30 countries*
- 200 mill. girls living with FGM
- 50% live in Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia
- 44 mill. aged ≤14 years
- Most procedures <5y
- Somalia 98% prevalence
- 50% Indonesian girls ≤11 y

* Australian not included
FGM/C

- World Health Organisation
  4 ‘types’ of FGM/C

- Regardless of the type, and how it is performed, FGM is harmful and a violation of human rights (UNICEF)

- Fall from 51% - 37% (30 y)

- Uneven fall, if population growth continues, a rise in FGM predicted in 15y
FGM/C: Action

• September 2015, UN agreed on Sustainable Development Goal 5: eliminate all FGM/C by 2030.
• Since 2008, >15,000 communities in 20 countries publicly declared they are abandoning FGM
• >2,000 communities in 2015
• Several countries have passed national legislation criminalizing the practice (Australia, UK)
• where data exist nearly two-thirds of boys and men think FGM should end
FGM/C: Prevention

• UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM: *Accelerating Change*
• 16 countries in Africa/Yemen.
• legislation and policies to outlaw FGM
• care by health professionals
• Educate and empower girls, women, leaders to advocate to end FGM/C
• Collect data*
  – Understand size of problem
  – Monitor change
FGM/C

• High numbers, impacts huge
• Not just a problem for Africa
• Asia – highly prevalent ‘normalized’ uncounted
• Western countries
  – in Australia unrecognised, under ascertained, no accurate prevalence data