



PROJECT SAFEGUARD

A Child Safeguarding Approach
To FGM Prevention

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NO FGM
AUSTRALIA

PROTECTING GIRLS
EMPOWERING SURVIVORS

www.nofgmoz.com

Overview: Project Safeguard



1. FGM Hotline, designed to provide information and support to:
 - girls at risk, or
 - anyone concerned for a girl who may be in danger of FGM
2. Professional development training for frontline professionals, including:
 - GPs
 - Teachers
3. Schools' program to provide education to girls, via lesson streams including:
 - health, cultural studies, geography, ethics, law and human rights

1. FGM Hotline: a safe space to seek advice & guidance

- Trial 1800 FGM hotline launched in 2015
- Addresses a general lack of knowledge about FGM:
 - what constitutes FGM
 - risk factors
 - why FGM is against the law in Australia
 - how to protect a child at risk anonymously
- Staffed by fully trained counsellors, who can provide
 - Appropriate advice about FGM including legal position, reporting pathways and support services
 - A form of ‘mediation’

2. Professional Development Training

- Developed and delivered for frontline professionals, with input from frontline professionals
- Designed particularly for those considered to be mandatory reporters of child abuse
- Includes:
 - Identification of factors which may indicate a girl is at risk
 - How and when to act and report to relevant authorities
 - How to communicate effectively and in a culturally appropriate way with people from FGM affected communities
- Incorporates a holistic approach to data-gathering to enrich the quantitative and qualitative data available

3. Schools' program

- Development of core curricula which can be included in the existing education system for all students about FGM
- Designed to empower girls with knowledge about their rights and the dangers of FGM
- Incorporate information for girls who consider they may be in danger of FGM and how they might find ways to seek protection, such as seeking further information via the hotline



Project Safeguard: guiding principles

- FGM is an Australian problem, and Australian girls need protection
- FGM is child abuse, sexual abuse and a severe abuse of human rights
- A child safeguarding approach is required to provide frontline professionals and those at risk with the knowledge and tools to prevent FGM from occurring
- Education is critical to ensuring that girls can be protected
- FGM survivors should be able to seek advice and support from a knowledgeable and impartial source
- FGM is a cultural practice, not a religious practice
- The act should be separated from the communities that practice it (i.e. it is the act that is wrong and not the community)
- All communication and training should be culturally and age appropriate
- Where possible, community review will be sought