



The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians

## Media Release

### RACP takes a stand on female genital mutilation/cutting

29 April 2016

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) congratulates the Australian Human Rights Commission on today's Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) conference, hosted by the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit and NO FGM Australia.

Featuring Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health and RACP Fellow, Elizabeth Elliott, *Female Genital Mutilation in Australia is Everyone's Business* facilitated stories from survivors of FGM and presented the latest in Australian medical research on FGM in children.

RACP President, Laureate Professor Nicholas Talley says female genital mutilation/cutting (FGMC) is recognised internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women and is illegal in Australia, New Zealand and most other western countries.

"FGMC violates basic human rights, exposes children and women to significant health risks and has no measurable health benefit," he says.

"The RACP believes that it is not an acceptable practice because it causes significant short and long-term health risks for girls and women, including acute and chronic infection, infertility, childbirth difficulties, sexual relationship difficulties and significant short and long term psychological trauma."

He said it is important that paediatricians are aware of the practice and the risks associated with it, and the opportunities for prevention and child protection.

For more information on the RACP female genital mutilation/cutting policy, [click here](#).

**Ends**

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**About The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP):** The RACP trains, educates and advocates on behalf of more than 15,000 physicians and 7,500 trainee physicians across Australia and New Zealand.

The College represents a broad range of medical specialties including general medicine, paediatrics and child health, cardiology, respiratory medicine, neurology, oncology, public health medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, palliative medicine, sexual health medicine, rehabilitation medicine, geriatric medicine and addiction medicine. Beyond the drive for medical excellence, the RACP is committed to developing health and social policies which bring vital improvements to the wellbeing of patients.

The College offers 60 training pathways. These lead to the award of one of seven qualifications that align with 45 specialist titles recognised by the Medical Board of Australia or allow for registration in nine vocational scopes with the Medical Council of New Zealand.