

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2015-16 Supplementary Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities**

**Question No: SQ15-000955**

**Topic: FGM Grant**

**Hansard page: 73**

**Senator Moore, Claire** asked:

I want to get some information about the current status of the Office for Women's response around FGM. There was a grant provided to multicultural women to do some work around this issue and come up with a process. What is the current status with the FGM response?

Dr Baxter: Did you say you were after information from the Office for Women in PM&C?

Senator MOORE: No, I am after information from your area because you own the grant about FGM. It came up with a national education tool for FGM.

**Answer:**

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is recognised internationally as a harmful practice and a violation of the human rights of girls and women, as well as being a gender, legal, social and health issue.

The Department of Health funded the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health (MCWH) to establish the National Education Toolkit FGM Awareness (NETFA) project in 2013-14. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet engaged the MCWH to continue to deliver the NETFA project on 10 February 2015.

The NETFA project aligns with the Second Action Plan of the *National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*, which includes a dedicated action to work with culturally and linguistically diverse communities to reduce violence and provide support to women and their children. The NETFA project has developed national resources to increase awareness of FGM, support victims to seek help and change attitudes to end this harmful practice. These resources will continue to develop over time.

MCWH works to promote NETFA in Australian communities through various media outlets and their website, broaden the national service provider network, and produce multilingual FGM resources. MCWH plans to hold a NETFA annual forum on 5 February 2016 to commemorate International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM Day.