



# PROJECT SAFEGUARD

A Child Safeguarding Approach  
To FGM Prevention

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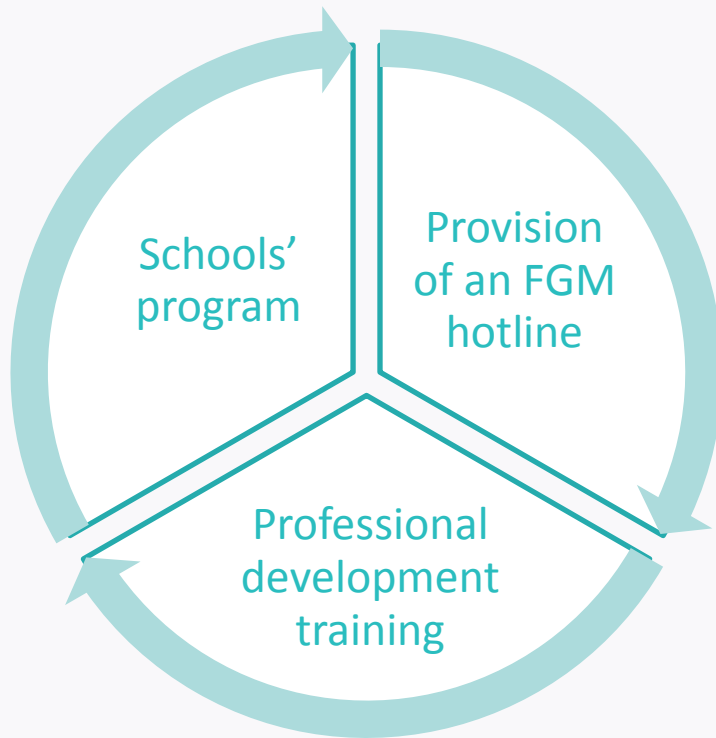


**NO FGM**  
**AUSTRALIA**

PROTECTING GIRLS  
EMPOWERING SURVIVORS

[www.nofgmoz.com](http://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