



AN AUSTRALIAN NETWORK IS FORMED TO ELIMINATE FGM/C AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.

The East African Women's Foundation is establishing a network, called The Network to End FGM in Australia ("NEFA"), to end FGM/C in Australia.

In the Somali language, **NEFA** means soul. The elimination of FGM/C against women and girls goes to the souls of the affected women and girls. FGM/C has a profound and tragic impact on their lives.

NEFA will work to support action to end female genital mutilation. NEFA will create and sustain cooperation between the networks of professionals and the affected members of the community.

NEFA will sustain and further develop partnerships and strategic alliances in the broader children's rights, women's rights, and human rights communities within and beyond Australia.

NEFA's objectives will be to:

- deliver community-based education to stop FGM/C
- review policy and legislation and make recommendations for improvement
- bring awareness of and support for the prevention of FGM/C to the wider Australian community
- increase the knowledge of the medical risks and consequences of FGM/C
- refute arguments that FGM/C is justified on cultural or religious grounds
- form a community network of agencies and organisation that are positioned to identify girls at risk and respond to eligible survivors/victims
- prepare and disseminate legal kits to help community members to prevent the removal of children at risk to other countries for FGM/C
- support victim survivors and assist with recovery from physical and psychological damage arising from FGM/C
- actively work with the community to prevent the continuation of FGM/C including educating the community (men and women) about the legal position against FGM/C in Australia
- celebrate the progress towards elimination of FGM/C on 6 February each year as part of world-wide celebrations of Zero Tolerance for FGM/C.