

# MEDIA RELEASE



**family  
planning  
victoria**

Reproductive & Sexual Health  
Care. Education. Advocacy.

Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 17 February 2017

## **Family Planning Victoria urges the Australian Government to strengthen global efforts in protecting women's rights.**

The Global Gag Rule, reinstated by US President Trump in January 2017 extends far beyond reproductive and sexual health care, affecting global health assistance, which includes HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, public and child health. This will result in a global shortfall of **9.4 billion US dollars**.

An international movement is underway with a host of countries including the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg, Finland, Canada and Cape Verde pledging to help raise millions of dollars to counter President Trump's ban.

Family Planning Victoria (FPV) commends Labor Senator Lisa Singh for her address to parliament on Tuesday February 14th, 2017. In her speech, she highlighted the significant harms of the Global Gag Rule and urged the Australian Government to join the international community's efforts to fill the funding gap. On Wednesday February 15th, 2017, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop announced a commitment of 9.5 million dollars to the International Planned Parenthood Foundation.

Family Planning Victoria's CEO Claire Vissenga states:

*"The evidence is very clear that investing in family planning is one of the most cost-effective interventions in global health and development. Therefore, we commend Foreign Minister Julie Bishop's decision to provide an additional 9.5 million to the IPPF."*

FPV also recognises the need to pledge a stronger commitment and continued support to the global fund to ensure the protection of human rights and promotion of universal access to sexual and reproductive health.

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**Family Planning Victoria is a leader in sexual and reproductive health care, education and advocacy. Our vision is to improve reproductive & sexual health and wellbeing for everyone in Victoria and beyond.**

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