

MEDIA RELEASE



**family
planning
victoria**

Reproductive & Sexual Health
Care. Education. Advocacy.

Melbourne, Friday 21 April 2017

Stand with us to ensure Australia's funding commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights internationally.

Dear Supporter,

Can you help us to ensure Australia's funding commitment to sexual and reproductive health and rights is maintained and grown, as the US winds back vital support to women and girls?

We stand united in opposition to the U.S.-imposed Global Gag Rule, which undermines women's health, rights and autonomy and we support the Australian Government's funding of sexual and reproductive health activities within the Australian aid program.

Complications arising from pregnancy, childbirth and unsafe abortions are leading killers of women and girls in developing countries, causing the deaths of 830 women each day.

This need is close to home - in countries like Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste. We are urging the Government to safeguard vulnerable communities by bolstering investment in sexual and reproductive health and rights through the international development and humanitarian portfolios of the aid program.

You can help by:

1. **Sending a letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Julie Bishop MP**
https://fpnsw.good.do/SRHR/support_women_and_girls/
2. **Spread the word by sharing our posts on**
 - a. **Facebook:** <https://goo.gl/1zahYi>
 - b. **Twitter:** <https://goo.gl/krvVND>

We need to show our support as soon as possible before the Budget. **1 May is our deadline.**

Thank you! Together we can continue Australia's commitment to leading the way in funding of sexual and reproductive health activities within the Australian aid program.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Vissenga, CEO, Family Planning Victoria

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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.

For media enquiries, please contact Rhonda Garad, General Manager, Policy, Health Promotion & Data, Family Planning Victoria on T/ 9257 0188 or at E/ rgarad@fpv.org.au

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