



NSW Education Program on FGM

Show & Tell African women's
stories...from anger to action and the
policy response

Presenters
Shairon Fray
Linda George

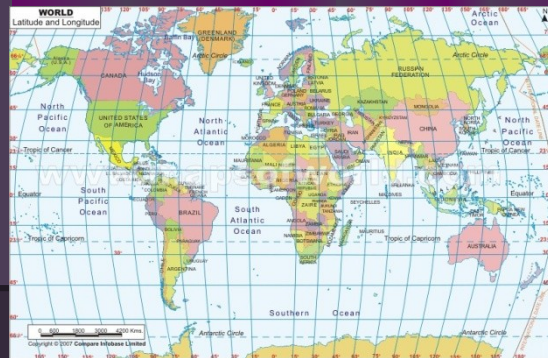
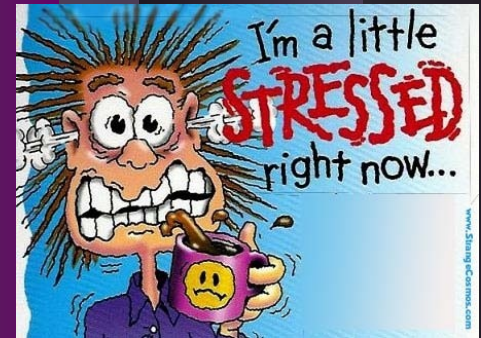
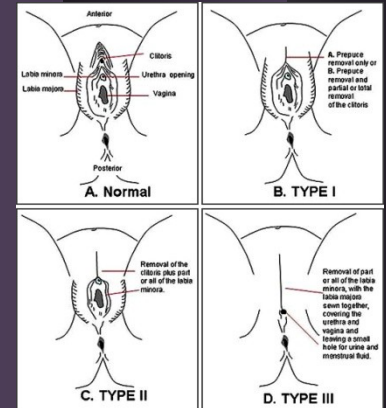
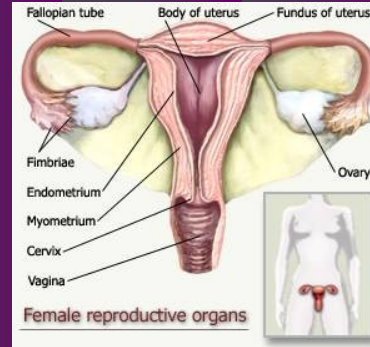
Women's Health and Traditions in a New Society (WHATINS)

- Backbone of the Community Education and Development program
- Began in 1998 with 14 Bilingual Community Workers (BCWs) were trained
- 11 sessions on women's health
- Holistic approach to women's health
- Feed back and evaluation informs the program
- Bilingual Community Workers (BCWs) advise the program

METHODS OF ENGAGEMENT USED IN THE WHATINS MANUAL

- Group Agreement
- Small group and paired exercises – easy talk about sensitive subjects
- Group discussions – sharing of knowledge, opinions and experiences.
- Minimal use of reading and writing – different literacy levels
- Self care exercises to enhance self-esteem
- Time for reflection
- Practice of communication and relaxation skills
- Examine health and community issues from the women's perspectives and different cultural experiences
- Evaluation and feed back is collected during the program.
- Certificates of Participation are presented to women who attend the training.

Topics covered in the WHATINS Manual



BCW TRAINING OCT-NOV 2010

- 8 new female Bilingual Community Workers were trained in the WHATINS manual.
- Cultural Backgrounds were:
 - 1 Sudanese
 - 2 Sierra Leone
 - 2 Ethiopian/Eritrean
 - 2 Kurdish
 - 1 Somali



NSW FGM RURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Since May 2006 rural outreach teams have been organized and gone out to the following rural areas:



Comment:

In policy – where staff can get further training in FGM

Response

Clinical Guidelines to include directions to staff about how to get information, DVD and arranging training by the FGM Education Program

Comment:

Many negative experiences. Some hospitals don't prepare the women in time

Response:

Consistency in approach will occur through implementation of the Clinical Guidelines

Comment:

Table of countries to go upfront in the policy of the countries that practice FGM

Response:

Clinical Guidelines will include a combined table of countries and types of FGM and possibly map.

Comment:

Lack of experience of doctors in repairing the deinfibulation area

Response:

Clinical Guidelines to include directions to staff about how to get information, DVD and arranging training by the FGM Education Program

Comment:

Explain to woman if she has any concerns about her care/treatment and to inform her that if she is unhappy with her care she can report/tell????? Or put her rights in brochure. Need to find out about this

Response

Clinical Guidelines to include further information to increase awareness of option of complaints, but also rights and responsibilities

Comment:

This policy **MUST** come with accountabilities. How to enforce this? This needs to happen.