We would like to invite you to participate in a one day symposium ‘Our Bodies, Our Voices, Our Lives’ as part of the project: “Our Voices: Filling in the Gaps – FGM Spokesperson Program” initiated and organised by African Women Australia Inc., in partnership with Social and Community Services Section, TAFE SWSi, Granville College.

This symposium is the outcome of a six month human rights education program that has brought together 14 women from 9 affected communities across Australia to develop leadership and advocacy for social change around FGM. The aims of this program have been to build the capacities of community-based women to dialogue, educate and lead from within as human rights advocates and educators; as well as bringing the voices of their communities into the main debate.

The symposium will include a keynote address delivered by a leading International Human Rights advocate, the screening of short films produced by participants in the program, interactive round table community dialogues, and a response from Minister for Family and Community Services and Women Honourable Pru Goward.

This symposium is an opportunity for government and non-government agencies to engage in a constructive dialogue with women who are at the grassroots working on the issue of FGM. Delegates from health, education, legal, community, universities, law enforcement agencies, women, migrant and refugee sectors, and other key stakeholders are encouraged to participate. Sessions include medical responses, intergenerational issues, women’s health and child protection.

Date: 30 May
Time: 8:30am to 4pm
Venue: Moyolong Hall, 136 William St, Granville TAFE

Free onsite parking entrance off The Avenue, Granville (see map for directions)

Registrations open on 15 April and close on 23 May 2014.

Cost: $150

If small non-government organisations and community agencies need support to be able to attend, please email awau@auburndiversity.org.au or juliana.nkumah@gmail.com with subject line REGISTRATIONS. Alternatively you can contact AWAU staff on (02) 9649 6955.

For those travelling from other states in Australia the closest accommodation to the Symposium venue is at Rosehill Racecourse. We have attached details of the three hotels located a short distance from Granville College. You can contact these hotels directly for bookings.

We look forward to your participation.

Thanking you

Symposium Organising Committee