



New South Wales

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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FILE10/005444  
MATTER10/007258

25 NOV 2010

I refer to your letter to the Premier, the Honourable Kristina Keneally MP raising issues arising out of the circumcision of your infant son. The Premier has forwarded a copy of your correspondence to the Attorney General, the Honourable John Hatzistergos MLC who has asked me to respond on his behalf.

I note that the majority of the questions raised within your correspondence relate to the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Health, the Honourable Carmel Tebbutt MP and that the Premier has forwarded a copy of your correspondence to the Minister for her attention. I trust that the Minister will respond in due course.

With respect to your question relating to the classification of Female Genital Mutilation in NSW, I can confirm that this practice is prohibited by law in New South Wales and throughout Australia. Under section 45 of the *Crimes Act 1900 (NSW)* a person who carries out or aids, abets, counsels or procures a person to carry out female genital mutilation is liable to imprisonment for seven years. These laws apply to anyone who is usually a resident in NSW, whether or not the mutilation is performed within NSW or overseas. Child protection laws in NSW also provide for the mandatory reporting of cases of female genital mutilation.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



**Barry Collier MP**  
**Parliamentary Secretary**  
**Assisting the Attorney General**