



# THE SOUTH AFRICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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23 June 2011

Mr Dean Ferris  
Co-Director  
National Organisation of Circumcision Information Resource Centres  
South Africa

Dear Mr Ferris

## **CIRCUMCISION OF BABIES FOR PROPOSED HIV PREVENTION**

We refer to the above matter and your email correspondence of 16 February 2011.

The matter was discussed by the members of the Human Rights, Law & Ethics Committee at their previous meeting and they agreed with the content of the letter by NOCIRC SA. The Committee stated that it was unethical and illegal to perform circumcision on infant boys in this instance. In particular, the Committee expressed serious concern that not enough scientifically-based evidence was available to confirm that circumcisions prevented HIV contraction and that the public at large was influenced by incorrect and misrepresented information. The Committee reiterated its view that it **did not** support circumcision to prevent HIV transmission.

We trust that you will find this in order.

Yours faithfully

Ms Ulundi Behrtel  
Head: Human Rights, Law & Ethics unit  
Obo Chairperson: Human Rights, Law & Ethics Committee  
SA Medical Association