



Monday 16 December

MEDIA RELEASE

THE LABIA LIBRARY ANSWERS QUESTIONS WE'RE TOO AFRAID TO ASK

Since Women's Health Victoria launched The Labia Library, the website has been answering questions that women are often too afraid or had not thought to ask.

The website, which is designed for women questioning whether their genitals look normal, was launched in September and has received over 100,000 visits. 'The Labia Library addresses common concerns such as labia size and shape. It also features a photo gallery that shows just how unique everyone's labia are, including unaltered images of twenty real vulvas', said Rita Butera, Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria.

'The Labia Library is about showing women that, just like any other part of the body, genitals come in all shapes and sizes. Many people have no idea what healthy female genitals actually look like and lots of women have never seen their own,' Ms Butera said.

'Many women are misinformed. They don't realise that the images they see in magazines and pornography are usually photoshopped,' Ms Butera added. The Labia Library also provides information about the classification process, which requires that pictures of vulvas that appear in women's magazines and soft core pornography are 'neat and tidy', so that any visible labia and clitoris are photoshopped out of pictures.

Feedback on the site has been overwhelming. Responses have come from women of all ages saying 'I always thought there was something wrong with me, but I guess I'm not so weird after all'. Some women were also considering labioplasty to address their concerns. Their comments indicate that, after visiting the site, they are no longer worried about the appearance of their labia.'

'The Labia Library is clearly meeting a need for information and education in the community. We're aiming to make all women aware that there's no such thing as normal', Ms Butera said.

Visit The Labia Library for more information at www.labialibrary.org.au

The Labia Library was developed by Women's Health Victoria with a grant from the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust. WHV also acknowledges the funding support of the Victorian Government.

- Ends -

For further information contact:
Rita Butera, Executive Director
Phone: 03 9664 9300 or 0437 578 182