



The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Raising Standards, Protecting Patients

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

9 December 2015

ACCS welcomes NSW Private Health Facility Act review

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery today welcomed the NSW government's consultation paper on the regulation of cosmetic surgical procedures performed in private facilities.

Australian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS) president Dr Ron Bezic said it was vital that the risks associated with all forms of surgery are properly regulated. "The College has been concerned that training for some practitioners and standards in some facilities may not be appropriate. We are pleased that the NSW Government is taking a closer look at regulation and that it is consulting with practitioners, medical colleges and the community," Dr Bezic said.

The College has been in the forefront of advocating for better regulation, including national standards based on a recognised specialty of cosmetic surgery.

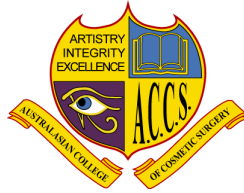
"The fact that the government recognises cosmetic surgery as a distinct area of practice, requiring appropriate training and standards is a step in the right direction," Dr Bezic said.

Dr Bezic noted that the review is also a reminder to the community that all surgery carries risks. "It is important that anyone considering having a cosmetic surgical procedure do their homework.

"You should inform yourself about the risks as well as the qualifications and experience of your surgeon before having any cosmetic procedure, no matter how minor the procedure may seem," Dr Bezic said.

"Just because someone has a medical degree or even a specialist qualification in another area doesn't automatically mean they can do cosmetic surgery. Everyone needs proper training such as the ACCS provides," Dr Bezic warned

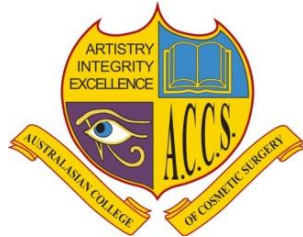
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The ACCS has produced a useful information brochure for anyone considering a cosmetic medical or surgical procedure that can be downloaded from the College's website:

<http://www.accs.org.au>

When looking for a cosmetic medical or surgical practitioner, look for the ACCS Seal and Code of Practice Seal or ask your practitioner about their education and training specifically in cosmetic medicine and surgery.



Quick facts:

Australians now spend as much as \$1bn annually on appearance medicine. More than a third of all cosmetic surgery is booked in the weeks leading up to summer.

The top five procedures performed by College Fellows are:

- Anti-wrinkle and filler injections
- Microdermabrasion and Laser resurfacing (of skin)
- Breast augmentation, lifts and reductions
- Liposuction (fat removal)
- Blepharoplasty (eye surgery)

For further information or interviews, contact:

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About The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Established in 1999, the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS) is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary fellowship based body of cosmetic surgeons, cosmetic physicians, plastic surgeons, general surgeons, maxillofacial surgeons, dermatologists, ear nose and throat surgeons, ophthalmologists and other doctors and health care practitioners who practice in cosmetic medicine and surgery – the field of Cosmetic Medical Practice.

The primary goal of the ACCS is to ensure the safe provision of cosmetic medicine and cosmetic surgical procedures to the Australian community through the supply of appropriately trained and certified health care practitioners. The ACCS is the only medical college which provides education and training leading to fellowship specifically in cosmetic medicine and surgery. Fellows of the College are medical doctors who have completed post-graduate education and training and demonstrated competency specifically in cosmetic medicine and surgery. To become an ACCS Fellow, doctors must typically complete a minimum of 12 years of medical and surgical education and training.