



For Immediate Release

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Australians Say “Yes” to Cosmetic Surgery Choice
New research reveals community’s support for making informed choices

An overwhelming 93% of Australians say people have the right to choose to have cosmetic surgery to enhance their appearance, according to new research from the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS)¹.

Almost unanimously, 97% of those surveyed – regardless of gender or age – also say that doctors should have to pass an exam and be certified in cosmetic surgery before they are allowed to practice in the field.

Additional findings revealed:

- 95% believe patients have the right to know how many times the doctor has previously performed that procedure
- 96% of Australians maintain patients have the right to see realistic, technically accurate before-and-after photos on websites and information brochures before having cosmetic surgery

Dr Daniel Fleming, President of the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery, the industry’s leading educational body said, ‘We agree that Australians’ should be able to make this choice. However it is our mission to help consumers avoid any unnecessary risks and make the most informed choice possible when considering cosmetic surgery. The ultimate issue is transparency for patients.’

Although the terms are often used interchangeably, cosmetic surgery varies from plastic surgery in that it is primarily undertaken to address a person’s discomfort with appearance and their lack of self-esteem rather than to correct an abnormality. Furthermore, whilst all plastic surgery is invasive, only certain cosmetic procedures are invasive.

Currently, cosmetic surgery is not officially recognised as a medical specialty in its own right and consequently, there is some confusion about the training and skills of different types of doctors offering cosmetic services.

“Certification of the cosmetic surgery discipline as a medical specialty will help remove the confusion about the training and skills of different types of doctors offering cosmetic services.

“We want to ensure the same high standards applied to other areas of medicine are matched in the training for and provision of cosmetic surgery services, ultimately ensuring quality patient care,” explained Dr Fleming.

The ACCS is currently working toward certification of cosmetic surgery as a medical specialty in order to best assist the community in making informed choices.

¹ This Galaxy study was conducted via phone in July 2007 among adults aged 18-64 nationally

Whilst cosmetic surgeons are providing services that Australians desire, certification as a medical specialty will better ensure transparency and best practice for all consumers of these services.

Additional statistics:

- 18 to 34 year olds (96%) are slightly more likely than 35 to 64 year olds (90%) to agree that people have a right to choose to have cosmetic surgery
- Women are more likely than men² to *strongly agree* that people have the right to choose to have cosmetic surgery to enhance their appearance
- 79% of Australians *strongly agree* that patients have the right to see realistic, technically accurate before and after photos
- Women are slightly more likely than men³ to believe patients have the right to know how many times the doctor has previously performed the procedure
- 81% of Australians *strongly agree* that cosmetic surgery should be recognised as a medical specialty

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For further information or interviews, contact Daemon 2iC –
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The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery is a multi-disciplinary body of general surgeons, plastic surgeons, dermatologists, ear nose and throat surgeons, ophthalmologists and other doctors who specialise in cosmetic surgery. The goal of the ACCS is to ensure the safe provision of cosmetic surgery and cosmetic medical procedures to the Australian general community through supply of appropriately trained and certified medical practitioners.

² 58% women vs 51% men

³ 97% women vs 93% men