

News From...



The Australasian College of Dermatologists

6 December 2005

Dermatologists applaud National UV Warnings.

Australia's leading professional organisation for the diagnosis and treatment of all skin diseases, the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD), has welcomed the news that as from December 5 the Bureau of Meteorology will issue UV (ultra violet) levels as part of its national weather forecasting protocol.

The Honorary Secretary of the ACD, Dr Stephen Shumack, said Dermatologists were firm believers in "prevention rather than cure" and with more than 1000 Australians likely to die from sun induced skin cancers in the next year; anything to warn Australians of the sun's intensity is welcome.

The ACD was the first organisation to issue UV level warnings in Australia with the introduction earlier in 2005 of a UV meter on Perth's Cottesloe beach. The organisation is currently working hard to ensure that other UV Indicators are installed at a number of popular beaches around the country.

Dr Shumack said the daily reports issued by the Bureau of Meteorology would definitely contribute to increasing awareness amongst Australians of the dangers of sun exposure.

"Increasing people's knowledge of UV levels and its strong relationship with skin cancer will save many lives in the future, but we must enhance the education process now and we need assistance and support from our local councils, state governments and community groups."

"Implementing such practices as UV warning levels and UV Indicators will be responsible for saving thousands of lives in the future."

"Young people, in particular young men must be educated on the dangers of UV radiation exposure. Our target group is aged 15 to 29 years of age," said Dr Shumack.

"We cannot continue being complacent about the dangers of the Australian sun."

For further information on sun protection and the risks of skin cancer please visit www.dermcoll.asn.au

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