



## Illawarra teenagers not heeding skin cancer warning

Illawarra teenagers are continuing to ignore sun safety warnings, putting themselves at unnecessary risk of skin cancer, according to local health professionals.

This warning co-incides with the Cancer Council's comments that teenagers are not absorbing the sun safety message as effectively as adults.

Dr Rob Salmon, dermatologist at the Illawarra Dermatology and Laser Clinic, says that he sees the after-effects of young people having spent time unprotected in the sun.

"For health professionals in the Illawarra region, the reluctance among young people to cover up when out in the sun is a growing concern," said Dr Salmon.

"We see the results of sun exposure on young skin, including basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, sunspots, and even melanoma in people as young as 19, and wonder what it will take before the SunSmart message starts to sink in."

To address the growing concern of skin cancer in Australia and the shortage of dermatologists, the Australasian College of Dermatologists has developed a certificate training course to upskill GPs in the detection and treatment of skin cancers.

"The GP training course is going to relieve pressure on the waiting list to see a dermatologist, which is currently up to six months for new clients," said Dr Salmon.

"At our clinic, we have two GPs who are upskilling through this course.

"The process is working well, as it allows patients to be seen faster, and to be seen by GPs with additional skills and training, with the support of a qualified dermatologist in the practice should the patient need to be referred to them."

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### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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