



TELEMEDICINE: THE FUTURE IS HERE, NOW

The Australasian College of Dermatologists welcomes the government's \$393 million telemedicine initiative announced yesterday.

Dermatologists around Australia have been providing telemedicine services to rural and remote areas for a number of years. These services will now be eligible for Medicare rebates which is a welcome announcement; this recognises the value of E-health in the provision of medical services for the future.

We are very fortunate to have one of the world leaders in telemedicine in Australia. Professor H. Peter Soyer, who is co-founder and past president of the International Society of Teledermatology, is the inaugural Professor of Dermatology at The University of Queensland.

He says "Electronic consultations using rather conventional web-based technology will help reduce waiting times for assessment of patients with skin disease and facilitate rapid diagnosis and treatment of skin problems not only in rural and remote areas".

"However, consideration of the medico-legal implications of electronic consultations including adequate medical indemnity insurance for doctors providing telemedicine services must be addressed by the government before the scheme can be adopted successfully".

In this age of E-health this initiative will take the traditional doctors consultation into the 21st century.

To arrange an interview or comment from:

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