



MEDIA RELEASE
20 February 2020

MINISTER AND COLLEGE ALIGN TO INCREASE ACCESS TO SKIN HEALTH CARE

With the number of skin cancer diagnoses on the rise and an under supply of dermatologists Australia-wide, the [Australasian College of Dermatologists \(ACD\)](#) and Federal Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government, have aligned on ACD's new Strategic Plan to improve community access to skin health and dermatology care.

Released today, the [ACD Strategic Plan 2020-23](#) focuses on enabling greater access, and advocacy for sustainable funding, for specialist dermatology services throughout Australia.

ACD President, Associate Professor David Francis, says, "ACD is dedicated to managing and supporting Australians' skin health through education, accessibility, advocacy and innovation.

"A primary focus for the College is to drive significant growth in the number of specialist dermatologists available to Australians. The College is building the specialist pipeline by exploring innovative methods for delivering training including in regional areas, strengthening the College's professional and community networks and reinforcing our commitment to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors."

"The Strategic Plan launches us into the new decade, where we are determined to build on the achievements of the last five years to improve the skin health of Australians," says Associate Professor Francis.

Federal Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government, The Hon. Mark Coulton MP says, "The Australasian College of Dermatologists has delivered significant achievements under the previous Strategic Plan, including the graduation of 78 new dermatology Fellows in the 2015-2019 period."

The Strategic Plan aligns with work to develop the National Medical Workforce Strategy, led by the Australian Government on behalf of the COAG Health Council.

"The Australian Government is committed to improving access to quality medical services for all patients, just as the College is committed to working towards increasing the number of dermatology specialists delivering services to patients in regional and rural areas.

"The ongoing work of the College will see continued delivery of its high-quality training program and commitment towards training more Fellows who can work in areas of need," says Minister Coulton.

ACD's Strategic Plan 2020-23 ushers in a new era for the College with goals to represent, lead, deliver and innovate. Research and innovation will be front and centre in the next three years, paving the way for earlier detection and diagnosis as well as better treatment options.



“The College’s Strategic Plan firmly places patients and community at the centre. The College and the dermatologists it represents are committed to ensuring that all Australians can receive the highest standard of specialist dermatology care when and where they need it.

“We look forward to ongoing collaboration with government, health and community sectors to help us achieve our vision of optimal skin health for all,” concludes Associate Professor Francis.

ENDS

Links to further information

[Strategic Plan](#)

[A-Z of Skin](#)

[Find a local dermatologist](#)

For further information on the ACD, visit www.dermcoll.edu.au, or see our updates on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or Twitter at [@DermatologyACD](#)

About the Australasian College of Dermatologists:

The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) is the sole medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and continuing professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology. As the national peak membership organisation, the College represents over 550 specialist dermatologist Fellows (FACD) and 100 trainees across the country.

ACD is the leading authority in Australia for dermatology, providing information, advocacy and advice to individuals, communities, government and other health stakeholders on skin health and dermatological practice.

Media enquiries:

For more information, images, or to arrange an interview with Associate Professor Francis, please contact:

Emily Nowland
The IMPACT Agency
02 9519 5411 / 0413 942 179
emily@impactagency.com.au

Charlotte Hartley-Wilson
The IMPACT Agency
02 9519 5411 / 0424 855 835
charlotte@impactagency.com.au