

ECZEMA AWARENESS WEEK

Australia has one of the highest incidences of eczema in the world, affecting one in three Australians at some stage of their lives. For Eczema Awareness Week this week (14 to 20 May) The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) is partnering with the Eczema Association of Australasia (EAA) by providing dermatologists for free eczema clinics in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

ACD advocate and dermatologist, Dr Kathryn DeAmbrosio says: "I am proud to be involved with such a great initiative. By partnering with patient support groups on activities such as this, College is able to directly raise awareness of dermatology and skin health in the community."

The eczema clinics will offer the Australian public an opportunity to speak with medical professionals and EAA representatives about eczema management.

EAA President, Cheryl Talent says: "A recent report released by the Department of Health revealed that there will be significant shortage of dermatologists by 2030. Despite there being no cure, people can learn to manage eczema flare-ups effectively. Eczema at any stage of life is controllable as long as the condition is diagnosed and treated correctly by a healthcare professional."

Eczema is a genetically determined condition that tends to be most severe in early life. The problem is skin dryness which affects the skin barrier leading to inflammation and infection. It can be intensely itchy. Eczema has a number of triggers some of which are easy to avoid and some of which are difficult to avoid.

The range of eczema severity is very wide and it has a number of different presentations. There is significant impact on quality of life, but despite this patients can sometimes be too scared to use appropriate treatment.

Dr DeAmbrosio says: "Severe eczema costs in direct medical, hospital and treatment costs, as well as time off work for caregivers and untold distress for the family unit. In addition, it has a negative impact on sleep, education, healthy development and self-esteem. The ACD released a position statement, fact sheet and Q & A on the treatment of eczema last year. The College focus is to improve outcomes for the skin health of individuals and the community as a whole."

ENDS

Links to further information

[Eczema Association of Australasia Inc](#)

[Topical Corticosteroids and Eczema position statement](#)

[Patient Fact sheet](#)

[Patient Q&A](#)

[Eczema patient profile](#)



[A-Z of Skin](#)

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About the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD):

The ACD is the peak medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology. They provide authoritative information about dermatology to Government, the media, other health professionals and the general public.

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