



MEDIA RELEASE

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World Skin Health Day Highlights Burden of Disease for Sufferers

Significant quality of life and financial impact of skin, hair and nail conditions remains under-recognised

An online patient support group roundtable aimed at discussing challenges and solutions for those impacted by skin diseases and their families was held to mark World Skin Health Day which is being marked globally today. The event was hosted by the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) with leading dermatologist A/Prof Stephen Shumack offering a global patient perspective during the session.

“We know that skin, hair and nail conditions and their significant psychosocial and financial impact on people, their family and carers are too often under-recognised”, says A/Prof Shumack, “and addressing this has been a key focus of ACD’s World Skin Health Day activities since 2018.”

ACD’s 2024 World Skin Health Day Roundtable saw the College come together with representatives from patient support groups from across Australia. The discussions highlighted the need to increase recognition of the impact of dermatological conditions among policymakers, health professionals, media and the general public, including the quality of life and financial impact on patients and their families.

The discussions also focussed on the need to continue advocacy to government to address inequities in access to care, treatment and support, particularly for those in regional and rural Australia and from diverse cultural backgrounds.

“This was a valuable opportunity to explore the collective insights and knowledge that we can bring together to highlight the burden of skin, hair and nail conditions, and the joint actions needed to improve awareness and understanding”, says Associate Professor Shumack.

World Skin Health Day was established in 2013 by the [International League of Dermatological Societies](#) (ILDS) and [International Society of Dermatology](#) (ISD). Until this year, activities have taken place on different days in different parts of the world. 2024 marks the launch of an annual dedicated day of awareness-raising, aimed at highlighting the significant impact of skin diseases and the need for more education and increased equity of access to treatment for patients globally.

The online patient support group roundtable is one of a series of events around the world selected for support by the ILDS and ISD to help to launch this first dedicated World Skin Health Day.

“For ACD, World Skin Health Day has been an invaluable opportunity to collaborate with patient support groups and other organisations to progress our joint commitment to ensuring the highest standard of skin health and dermatology care is available and accessible to all patients and communities”, says A/Prof Shumack.

ILDS President Prof Henry W. Lim explained: “Living with skin diseases can have a devastating impact on those affected and, with many patients disabled or socially isolated by their condition, skin



diseases also put a significant strain on already stretched public health systems and on economic productivity.

“We thank the Australasian College of Dermatologists for hosting patient support group roundtable and for supporting our global call for ‘Skin Health for All’.”

Dr Nellie Konnikov, MD, ISD President said, “In the past decade, World Skin Health Day has reached more than 42 million people, while providing essential dermatological care to 190,000+ patients in over 50 countries.

“We thank everyone who has contributed to ensure that World Skin Health Day impacts positively on people’s lives. Please join us this year by undertaking skin health related activities which raise awareness, provide care or educational opportunities to extend the reach of World Skin Health Day to further benefit individuals and communities around the world.”

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Further information

For more information on ACD’s previous World Skin Health Day activities and campaigns visit:
<https://www.dermcoll.edu.au/for-community/partnerships/>

About the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD):

The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) is Australia’s accredited training body and peak professional and membership organisation for medical specialists in dermatology. We are the Australian authority in skin, hair and nail health, education, information and advocacy.

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