



MelNet update

20 April 2022

New Zealand has highest melanoma death rate in the world | Recent research

According to recent research, New Zealand had the world's highest death rate from melanoma in 2020. University of Otago social and behavioural researcher Dr Bronwen McNoe, who also sits on the MelNet Executive Committee, says high rates of melanoma in New Zealand are primarily due to higher levels of exposure to UVR and a high number of people having fair skin. Dermatologist and University of Auckland Adjunct Associate Professor at the Department of Medicine Amanda Oakley, who is also a MelNet Executive Committee member, explains that we have a burgeoning ageing population of white New Zealanders (baby boomers) that baked in the sun during their youth or have worked outdoors with little protection from sunburn or daily relentless ultraviolet radiation. Added to that our health services are under a great strain with far too few dermatologists, surgical specialists, and GPs to effectively manage our skin cancer epidemic.

A link to the research can be found [here](#) and related media articles are posted on the [media section](#) of the MelNet website.

Estimated healthcare costs of melanoma and keratinocyte skin cancers in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand in 2021 | More recent research

Recent research estimates the total cost to New Zealand in 2021 for new patients with melanoma was \$51.2 m, and for keratinocyte skin cancer \$129.4 m, with a total combined cost of \$180.5 m. These up-to-date national healthcare costs of melanoma and other skin cancer accentuate the savings potential of successful prevention strategies for skin cancer.

Researchers involved in this study include Associate Professor Louisa Gordon and Professor David Whiteman who both spoke at the New Zealand Melanoma Summit in February, and MelNet Executive Committee member Dr Bronwen McNoe.

[Read the article](#)

Sunscreen (Product Safety Standard) Bill passed

The Sunscreen (Product Safety Standard) Bill has passed its third reading and on 8 March 2022 was given Royal assent. This means sunscreens will be regulated under the Fair Trading Act and it will be mandatory for products to meet the Australian and New Zealand sunscreen standard. Companies that breach the requirements may face fines of up to \$600,000.

The Bill will become law by 8 September 2022.

[Read more](#) or [read the Bill](#)

Cancer Care and COVID-19 | Impact of COVID-19 on cancer services to end of February

The Cancer Control Agency Te Aho o Te Kahu continues to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on cancer diagnostic and treatment services. The most recent report includes DHB data up until the end of February 2022. It looks at the number of cancer diagnoses and treatments to end of February 2022, compared to the same time period in the previous year/s.

[View the report](#)

[View the full series](#)

Melanoma 101: From detection to survivorship | Recorded nurse webinar

This webinar hosted by Cancer Nurses Society of Australia in collaboration with [Melanoma Institute Australia](#) will provide an overview of the latest understanding of melanoma. It covers detection, early and late-stage disease management, up-to-date research on emerging treatments and caring for patients through the survivorship phase.

You can [watch the recording](#) on MIA's Melanoma Education Portal (free registration required).

Please note there may be differences between Australia and New Zealand for some content.

Free short course in dermoscopy

Offered by HealthCert and presented by pioneers in the field, this series of six online video lectures will provide valuable insights and refresh your knowledge in skin cancer screening and diagnosis.

[More information](#)

Upcoming opportunities and events



Australasian Skin Cancer Congress

20 – 22 May 2022

Gold Coast, Queensland or virtual

Join Skin Cancer College Australasia in-person or virtually at this year's Australasian Skin Cancer Congress. The programme will include presentations from primary care practitioners, oncologists, researchers and pathologists, many of whom are global thought leaders in skin cancer medicine. The 10 important session themes include *Setting up your Clinic for Surgery*, *The Cost of Skin Cancer*, *Surgical Repairs on Ears*, *Field Cancerisation* and more. Standard rates close 30 April.

[Register now](#)

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Join more than 40,000 oncology professionals from around the world at the 2022 ASCO Annual Meeting. Stay up to date on new clinical cancer advances in every area of cancer research, gain real-time insights from world-renown faculty, and connect with one of the largest, most diverse audiences in global oncology – in person or online. Earlybird registration closes on 27 April.

[More information](#) [Register now](#)



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