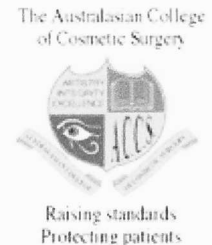


# The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery



**For Immediate Release**

**6 December 2007**

## **ACCS condemns inaccurate claims**

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery strongly condemned remarks by Dr Howard Webster, President of the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons, which appeared in a story in today's *Daily Telegraph*.

ACCS CEO Dr John Flynn is concerned that Dr Webster's comments may have the effect of tarnishing the reputation of the College and an entire group of surgical practitioners dedicated to improving patient care.

"Dr Webster has made a number of incorrect and unsubstantiated claims about the College's training program in general and about the College's liposuction workshops in particular that fosters confusion about the key differences between cosmetic and plastic surgery," Dr Flynn said.

"ASPS recently approached the College in order to work cooperatively to advance public health outcomes. Sadly these unwarranted comments do not assist this process. The College has been forced to instruct our solicitors to take appropriate action," Dr Flynn lamented.

"Training workshops play a vital role in all surgical disciplines in ensuring patients get the best available care from the most qualified and well trained doctors. The ACCS is committed to setting the benchmarks for best practice in the field of cosmetic surgery training," Dr Flynn said.

The workshops being conducted by the ACCS employ highly qualified surgeons to provide properly supervised training. They are among the most experienced in the field of cosmetic surgery.

The workshops form part of a diploma course in lipoplasty – the only one of its kind in the world – which involves multiple workshop attendance, a set study program and supervised mentored patient casework. Participants must then complete a comprehensive examination.

In comparison, a plastic surgeon receives their basic training in a public hospital and receives no such specialised training in lipoplasty.

Training in plastic surgery *does not* provide sufficient training to perform many cosmetic procedures. In fact various ACCS workshops and courses are attended by plastic surgeons wishing to learn or improve their skills.

Although the terms are often used interchangeably, cosmetic surgery varies from plastic surgery in that it is primarily undertaken to address a person's discomfort with appearance and their lack of self-esteem rather than to correct an abnormality.

Cosmetic surgery as a medical specialty also recognises that procedure rationale may ultimately impact technique, frequency of practice and patient outcome.

The ACCS advocates the recognition of cosmetic surgery as a specialty as we believe it is in the best interests of the Australian community and the medical industry as a whole.

**The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery** is a multi-disciplinary body of general surgeons, plastic surgeons, dermatologists, ear nose and throat surgeons, ophthalmologists and other doctors who specialise in cosmetic surgery. The goal of the ACCS is to ensure the safe provision of cosmetic surgery and cosmetic medical procedures to the Australian general community through supply of appropriately trained and certified medical practitioners.

**Dr John Flynn** has been practicing in the field of cosmetic surgery for 20 years, having undertaken a further 10 years of medical practice prior to this. He has professional experience in general surgery and has a fellowship from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, as well as a Diploma in Obstetrics from the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and a Diploma in Practical Dermatology from the University of Wales, Cardiff. He is currently CEO of the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS), a trainer for the college and is certified in cosmetic and dermatologic surgery by the American Board of Laser Surgery.

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