



## **The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery**

***Raising Standards, Protecting Patients***

# **MEDIA RESPONSE**

**December 2017**

### **AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF COSMETIC SURGERY RESPONDS TO POSSIBLE RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF THE TITLE 'COSMETIC SURGEON'**

Federal and State Governments are currently considering imposing restrictions on the use of the title 'cosmetic surgeon'.

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery acknowledges that there are unqualified medical practitioners performing cosmetic surgery.

But the premise that 'plastic surgeons' are safer than appropriately trained and highly experienced cosmetic surgeons is simply not correct.

Fellows of The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery are formally trained and qualified by examination in cosmetic surgery.

The College agrees there is no agreed consistent method of accreditation for medical practitioners performing cosmetic surgical procedures. This causes confusion amongst the public, medical practitioners, the media and as it would seem even the regulators and can result in patients making choices that may put their safety at risk.

The College believes the Health Minister should bring together plastic surgeons from the Royal Australian College, cosmetic surgeons from the ACCS and other stakeholders to develop a system of accreditation which will provide better and safer outcomes for patients.

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**Response to possible restrictions  
on the use of the title 'Cosmetic Surgeon'**

ACCS Media Response  
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**About the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery**

Established in 1999, the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery (ACCS) is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary fellowship based body of Cosmetic Surgeons, cosmetic physicians, plastic surgeons, general surgeons, maxillofacial surgeons, dermatologists, ear nose and throat surgeons, ophthalmologists and other doctors and health care practitioners who practice in cosmetic medicine and surgery.

The primary goal of the ACCS is to ensure the safe provision of cosmetic medicine and cosmetic surgical procedures to the Australian community through the supply of appropriately trained and certified health care practitioners. Its Fellows and spokespeople are regularly quoted in the media and consulted by Commonwealth and state health and consumer regulators as authoritative sources of information and expert opinion.

The ACCS is the only medical college which provides education and training leading to fellowship specifically in cosmetic medicine and surgery. Fellows of the College are medical doctors who have completed post-graduate education and training and demonstrated competency specifically in cosmetic medicine and surgery. To become an ACCS Fellow, doctors must typically complete a minimum of 12 years of medical and surgical education and training.

For additional information about the ACCS, please visit: <http://www.accs.org.au/>