



The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery

Raising Standards, Protecting Patients

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

21 December 2009

Santa doesn't do cosmetic surgery

College of Cosmetic Surgery warns against giving cosmetic surgery as a gift for Christmas

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery today warned against the practice of giving cosmetic surgery as a gift for Christmas. "Surgery and medical procedures are not gifts to be treated lightly," ACCS President Dr Russell Knudsen warned today.

"Cosmetic surgery can benefit many people but should only be undertaken after careful consideration. It's not something to rush into."

"Cosmetic procedures like all surgery and medical treatments carry risks. And they should be weighed carefully and discussed with an appropriately trained doctor."

"The College's view is that gift vouchers and discounts to induce people to have cosmetic surgery or other medical treatments, is inappropriate," Dr Knudsen said.

The ACCS introduced a Code of Practice which bans such practices as time sensitive coupons and discounts for cosmetic surgery. The Code, which was authorised by the ACCC, has been in operation for six months.

"Regrettably some practitioners do not have any such Code of Practice. This does however set the College apart and demonstrates that 'Raising Standards, Protecting Patients' is not just empty rhetoric but a commitment to our patients backed by action," Dr Knudsen said.

Continues...



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As part of its Code of Practice, the ACCS has also produced a patient information brochure, "Things you should know". The brochure provides information about choosing a doctor and questions to ask before deciding to have cosmetic surgery.

The Code of Practice and patient information brochure are available from the College's website www.accs.org.au.

**For further information or interviews, contact:
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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. The College has made a full application to the Australian Medical Council to have Cosmetic Medical Practice recognised as a new Medical Specialty. That application may be viewed at:
www.cosmeticmedicalpracticesubmission.info