

18 August 2022

**Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery and Medicine statement concerning
Professor Allan Fels**

The Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery and Medicine (the College) welcomes amendments made by Fairfax Media to a commentary by Professor Allan Fels in The Sydney Morning Herald (first published on 28 October 2021).

The College has long been an advocate for an independent, competency-based, national accreditation Standard to be applied to all doctors performing cosmetic surgery.

In his piece, Professor Fels discussed the regulation of cosmetic surgery in Australia, and inferred the College is acting in its own commercial, self-interest.

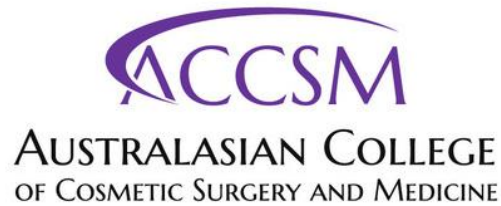
The College contacted Professor Fels amid concerns his initial remarks had the potential to cause serious harm and were defamatory of the College and its office holders.

Professor Fels was asked to clarify any suggestion that the College seeks to become the sole credentialing body for cosmetic surgeons in Australia or is opposed to independent regulation.

The College also served Professor Fels with formal Notice of Concerns under the Defamation Act, seeking redress including by means of a retraction and apology.

On 18 August 2022, the Sydney Morning Herald amended the original article to include a statement from Professor Fels, who now acknowledges the College's position on the independent regulation of cosmetic surgery and corrects his position in relation to his article.

The amended article can be seen here: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/cosmetic-surgery-industry-needs-more-than-a-tummy-tuck-20211027-p593ns.html>



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About the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery & Medicine

Established as the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery in 1999, the Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery & Medicine (ACCSM) is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary fellowship-based body of cosmetic surgeons, cosmetic physicians, plastic surgeons, general surgeons, maxillofacial surgeons, 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 ACCSM is to ensure the safe provision of cosmetic medical and cosmetic surgical procedures to the Australian community through the supply of appropriately trained and certified health care practitioners. The ACCSM 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. For additional information about the ACCSM, please visit: <http://www.accsm.org.au/>