

1 September 2022

PATIENT SAFETY A PRIORITY IN INDEPENDENT REVIEW

THE Australasian College of Cosmetic Surgery and Medicine (ACCSM, the College) welcomes the findings of an independent review into the cosmetic surgery industry in Australia.

The review recommends the implementation of a powerful regulatory reform, known as the 'endorsement model', to protect patients and prevent the appalling practices reported in the media.

"The College has been fighting for 20 years to introduce real reform that will protect patients by ensuring doctors performing cosmetic surgery are properly trained and qualified and we are now seeing them," the ACCSM President, Dr Anoop Rastogi, said.

"The reforms are practical sensible and enforceable and when implemented have real power to protect patients and prevent the disturbing outcomes we have seen in the recent media.

"Any doctor, or organisation, that is serious about protecting patients will support these reforms."

Commissioned by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), the review aligns with ACCSM's calls and recommends doctors are properly trained, accredited, and endorsed to perform cosmetic surgery.

The College commends AHPRA, and the Medical Board of Australia (MBA), for committing to implement the findings of this review in full.

A key element of the endorsement model is the public register of accredited doctors.

"People seeking a practitioner will be able to refer to the list and know that they are in the hands of people with the skills, training and experience in the procedures, because it is backed by a system that is regulated by the medical board, the Australian Medical Council, and overseen by AHPRA," Dr Rastogi said.

As a modern development in medical practice, cosmetic surgery is not recognised as alleviating disease, or its own medical specialty, and therefore has no associated specific standards for those practicing in the field.

NOTE TO EDITORS

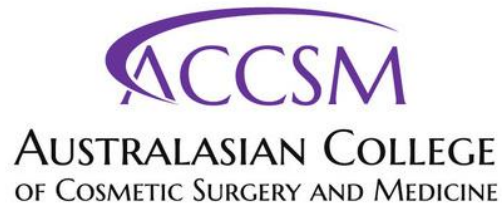
Table 1: Three types of registered medical practitioners performing cosmetic surgery in Australia

Group	Type of practitioner performing cosmetic surgery	Approximate no. in Australia	Details of training
1	Cosmetic surgeon (ACCSM Fellow)	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery 4-6 years • 5 years postgraduate training/experience, including minimum 3 years accredited surgical training in non-cosmetic posts. • Additional mandatory 2 years ACCS dedicated cosmetic surgical training & examination
2	Plastic surgeon (RACS Fellow)	500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery 4-6 years • 3 years basic training/experience • 5 years postgraduate reconstructive surgical training/experience • Optional 6 months dedicated cosmetic surgical training • May or may not obtain further <i>voluntary</i> cosmetic surgical training after qualification as a plastic surgeon • FRACS plastic surgery qualification determined by the Australian Medical Council (the specialist regulator) to have '<i>a deficit</i>' in experience of aesthetic surgery and '<i>a gap in this area of practice</i>'
3	Cosmetic surgeon (non-ACCSM Fellow) Examples: RACGP general practitioner, non-RACGP general practitioner, other such as FRACS non-plastic surgery.	More than 31,000 ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery 4-6 years • Variable postgraduate training/experience • May or may not have basic or advanced generalised surgical training/experience. • Zero dedicated cosmetic surgical training & examination leading to Fellowship in Australia

Media enquiries

Julie Snook
0409 169 836
jsnook@apollo.sydney

¹ [https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/doctors-and-specialists/in-australia#:~:text=In%20Australia%2C%20in%202020%2C%20there,31%2C000%20were%20general%20practitioners%20\(GPs\)](https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/doctors-and-specialists/in-australia#:~:text=In%20Australia%2C%20in%202020%2C%20there,31%2C000%20were%20general%20practitioners%20(GPs))



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/>