

MEDIA RELEASE
14 October 2020

Wednesday 14 October 2020 – World Skin Health Day

CALLS ANSWERED TO DELIVER INTEGRATED SKIN HEALTH CARE

World Skin Health Day 2020 celebrates improved access to care and asks Aussies to ask questions about their skin

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2020: The Australasian College of Dermatologists is today celebrating [World Skin Health Day](#) with the launch of a new resource to help Australians navigate how they access specialist dermatologist care in a new way in the new normal.

Your dermatology telehealth appointment: A five step guide will help guide the many Australians with skin conditions to prepare for a dermatology appointment by telehealth. Almost one million Australians suffer from a long-term condition of the skin¹ and this guide will help those who are suitable for telehealth get the most out of their appointment.

“In 2020, the significant and unprecedented challenges presented by COVID-19 have demanded a new, integrated and innovative approach to skin health care,” says Australasian College of Dermatologists President, Associate Professor David Francis.

“Dermatologists are experienced at seeing patients by telehealth and understand the skin conditions and situations for which telehealth appointments work well, or when a face-to-face consultation is required.

“This World Skin Health Day, we are highlighting the value of these flexible approaches in improving Australians’ access to appropriate dermatological care, and the role that telehealth has played in achieving that,” says Associate Professor Francis.

The Australasian College of Dermatologists seeks to empower Australians to access specialist care when it is needed and is committed to informing the community about dermatologists and the conditions they treat.

In launching *Your dermatology telehealth appointment: A five-step guide*, the Australasian College of Dermatologists is reminding Australians that when it comes to telehealth appointments, it’s OK to ask questions. Like any medical appointment, patients always have a right to ask questions about their skin, their health and any treatments they may be offered. Asking questions will help patients get the best possible care and support.

A telehealth appointment is like a face-to-face appointment with your healthcare provider except it happens by phone or video chat. Dermatology by telehealth is a valuable complement to in-person care, helping patients access specialist dermatology care in a timely, safe and convenient way, from the comfort of their own home or from their GP’s office.

“Telehealth appointments have played an important role alongside traditional face-to-face consultations in 2020, to ensure continuity of care and access to support throughout the pandemic,” explains Associate Professor Francis.

“The Federal Government’s decision to extend the temporary Medicare telehealth items and develop options for the permanent adoption of telehealth is welcomed by the Australasian College of Dermatologists. The decision ensures this valuable option continues to be available for patients, GPs and dermatologists to incorporate into an integrated care plan; allowing patients to access specialist dermatology care in a timely, safe, and convenient way,” concludes Associate Professor Francis.

How can Aussies help spread the message of World Skin Health Day 2020?

1. Talk to your loved ones about skin health
2. Visit dermcoll.edu.au/world-skin-health-day/ to download the new resource 'Your dermatology telehealth appointment: A five-step guide' and the World Skin Health Day campaign toolkit
3. Share #worldskinday social posts encouraging your friends and family to access the skin health care they need, in the way that best suits them:
 - Facebook: [@australasiancollegeofdermatologists](https://www.facebook.com/australasiancollegeofdermatologists)
 - Twitter: [@DermatologyACD](https://twitter.com/DermatologyACD)
 - Instagram: [@acderm](https://www.instagram.com/acderm)
 - LinkedIn: [@theaustralasiancollegeofdermatologists](https://www.linkedin.com/company/theaustralasiancollegeofdermatologists)

ENDS

Links to further information:

- Visit dermcoll.edu.au/world-skin-health-day/ on the day to download *Your dermatology telehealth appointment: A five-step guide* and the World Skin Health Day 2020 campaign toolkit
- Facebook: [@australasiancollegeofdermatologists](https://www.facebook.com/australasiancollegeofdermatologists)
- Twitter: [@DermatologyACD](https://twitter.com/DermatologyACD)
- Instagram: [@acderm](https://www.instagram.com/acderm)
- LinkedIn: [@theaustralasiancollegeofdermatologists](https://www.linkedin.com/company/theaustralasiancollegeofdermatologists)

About the Australasian College of Dermatologists:

The Australasian College of Dermatologists is the sole medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and continuing professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology.

It is the leading authority in Australia for dermatology, providing information, advocacy and advice to individuals, communities, government and other health stakeholders on skin health and dermatological practice.

Dermatology is the area of medicine that deals with the skin including the hair and nails. Dermatologists are medical specialists trained in the diagnosis, treatment and management of all skin diseases including skin cancer.

As the national peak membership organisation, the College represents over 550 specialist dermatologist Fellows (FACD) and 100 trainees across the country.

For more information, patient stories, or to arrange an interview with Australasian College of Dermatologists President, Associate Professor Francis, or a dermatologist, please contact:

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