

## **DERMATOLOGY WORKFORCE SHORTAGE OF 90 DOCTORS BY 2030**

According to the Department of Health, the Australian dermatology workforce is projected to be in shortage of 90 specialist dermatologists by 2030. This is a 14% deficit of the projected demand for dermatology services.

President of the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD), Dr Andrew Miller says: “To meet the skin health needs of the Australian population, eight more doctors must be trained each year to become specialist dermatologists. This requires more funding for dermatology departments in public hospitals around the country. Health services have tended to assign dermatology services a low priority, which has resulted in a historic funding shortfall. Increased training numbers will only be achieved when public hospital dermatology services are appropriately prioritised to meet community needs.”

More than 4.5% of Australians suffer from a long-term condition of the skin- this is 1.06 million people.

Dr Miller says: “Many skin diseases are chronic conditions, requiring long term specialist care. Skin disorders place a considerable burden on the Australian health care system, ranking sixth of the 13 disease groups for non-fatal burden of disease. Dermatologists specialise in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of diseases affecting the skin, hair and nails, including skin cancer; and play an essential role in both acute and chronic skin disease diagnosis and management.”

Delivery of specialist dermatology services in regional, rural and remote areas is particularly challenging.

Dr Ian Hamann, dermatologist and Chair of the College Rural and Regional Services Committee says: “Nationally, continued funding for outreach services is critical to meet the health service needs of all Australians. This must also be accompanied by measures to increase dermatology services in larger regional centres. Investment in new technology, such as teledermatology, will help enable the delivery of services to rural and remote communities. Specialised surgical work provided by dermatologists in the private sector removes a huge burden on the public hospital system.”

Dr Miller says: “State and territory support to public hospitals, complemented with Federal investment to explore new models of training is essential to address the dermatology workforce shortage.”

**ENDS**

### **Links to further information**

[A-Z of Skin](#)

[Find a local dermatologist](#)

For further information on the ACD, visit [www.dermcoll.edu.au](http://www.dermcoll.edu.au), or see our updates on [Facebook](#) or Twitter at [@DermatologyACD](#) #dermcoll or [LinkedIn](#)



### **About the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD):**

The ACD is the peak medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology. They provide authoritative information about dermatology to Government, the media, other health professionals and the general public.

### **Media enquiries:**

For more information, images, or to arrange an interview with a dermatologist, please contact:

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