

MEDIA RELEASE



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Solarium debate hots up

The Cancer Council Tasmania says it welcomes the release of the state government's solarium discussion paper as the first step to regulate the industry.

Cancer Council Tasmania health promotion coordinator Kay Gunn says *Solaria in Tasmania* provides the community with a chance to comment on this potentially life and death health issue.

"The desire for what many mistakenly consider a safe tan has led to the rise of a growing, self-regulated solarium industry," Ms Gunn says.

A 2006 survey shows a 400% increase in solariums advertised in the Yellow Pages for Australian capital cities since 1996.

"Solariums are far from safe; indeed they may emit concentrations of ultraviolet radiation up to five times as strong as the midday summer sun," she says.

"Overexposure to UV radiation is the major cause of skin cancer, can cause cataracts and other eye conditions, and it suppresses the immune system.

"The Cancer Council strongly believes that the industry needs regulation with strict penalties for those who breach the rules.

"Our recommendation remains that people avoid using solariums, full stop.

"We will argue in our submission that the state government legislate to prevent access for those under 18 years, provide for informed client consent, ban unsupervised operations and ensure suitable safety standards and staff training," Ms Gunn says.

For comment please call Kay Gunn on 0408 514 030

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