Spotlight on Skin Cancer nz

September 2026

Skin Cancer NZ: Looking ahead

The Skin Cancer NZ Executive recently met to consider the organisation's strategic direction and priorities for the coming years.

There are a number of exciting projects and initiatives on the horizon, spanning skin cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, care and research. We will provide more detail in due course, as well as information about opportunities to contribute your expertise and experience through working groups and other initiatives, so keep an eye on your inbox.

Skin Cancer NZ exists to bring together people and organisations from across the skin cancer sector, and collaboration will be central to achieving our shared goal of improving skin cancer outcomes for all New Zealanders.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and engagement. We look forward to continuing this journey together.

Petition to ban sunbeds in New Zealand: Reminder to sign now

Last chance to support a ban on sunbeds

The petition calling for a national ban on commercial sunbeds closes on **30 September**. If you haven't already signed, please add your voice to the call for stronger action on skin cancer prevention in New Zealand.

Sign the petition on the New Zealand Parliament website

Read why Skin Cancer NZ supports the ban

Public support for cancer prevention, screening, treatment and care policies: Webinar recording

Advocacy to action across the cancer spectrum

A recent nationally representative survey of more than 1,600 New Zealand adults found overwhelming public support for government-led action to prevent skin cancer in Aotearoa New Zealand – providing a strong public mandate for the direction set out in the Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Strategy 2024–2028.

The skin cancer findings are presented in one of nine articles examining public support for a range of cancer prevention policies, published in the 28 August issue of the *New Zealand Medical Journal*.

The authors also discuss the research in an accompanying webinar, with Dr Bronwen McNoe presenting the skin cancer prevention findings from 21:17.

Watch the webinar recording

Find out more about the research

New Zealand Cancer Action Plan 2026–2029: Refreshed plan published

Important commitments for skin cancer

The New Zealand Cancer Action Plan 2026–2029 sets out the Government's priorities for improving cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care over the next three years.

Released by Te Aho o Te Kahu – Cancer Control Agency in July, the refreshed Plan includes several commitments relevant to preventing skin cancer and improving outcomes for people affected by it.

Our website article highlights the areas of particular relevance to the skin cancer sector and where continued attention will be needed.

Read the full article

New Zealand research highlight: Are we missing melanoma follow-up? Surveillance adherence in a rural general practice

In their study *Are We Missing Melanoma Follow-Up? Surveillance Adherence in a Rural Primary Care Cohort*, Li Ning Yong and Zara Bolam examined melanoma follow-up at a rural Taranaki general practice.

The retrospective review of 57 patients found that among those with melanoma in situ, 48% were fully adherent and 26% partially adherent to recommended follow-up. Adherence was more variable for invasive melanoma, with lower rates seen in early-stage disease (T1/T2, though subgroup numbers were small) compared to more advanced disease, where greater specialist involvement may have supported more consistent follow-up. New primary melanomas and a late recurrence were identified during surveillance.

The findings highlight the challenges of delivering consistent melanoma follow-up in rural primary care and suggest that structured recall systems and clearer responsibility for ongoing surveillance could help improve equity and long-term outcomes for rural patients.

This study was presented as an e-poster at the 2026 NZ Skin Cancer Summit.

Download e-poster

In the media: Promising results from international melanoma vaccine trial

New Zealanders were among more than 1,000 participants in a major Phase 3 trial evaluating a personalised mRNA treatment for people with high-risk melanoma.

Initial findings indicate that the treatment, given alongside pembrolizumab following surgery, may help reduce the likelihood of melanoma returning.

Find out more

In the media: How to catch skin cancer early

Sector experts reinforce the importance of early skin cancer detection

A recent Consumer NZ article examines the different ways skin cancer can be detected early. Sector experts including Skin Cancer NZ Chair Dr Susan Seifried and Chief Executive Katrina Patterson explore skin self-examination, professional skin checks, mole mapping and smartphone apps.

The article highlights the importance of prompt clinical assessment, a skilled primary care workforce and equitable access to early detection.

Find out more

SkinWise: What's on

In New Zealand

- **NZNO College of Primary Health Care Nurses Symposium 2026** – 9-10 October, Christchurch
- **NZ Society of Oncology Conference** – 15-17 October, Wellington

Hybrid

- **EADV Congress** – 30 September - 3 October, Vienna, Austria
- **5th Multi-Stakeholder Summit on Occupational Skin Cancer: "The Sleeping Giant"** – 2 October, Vienna, Austria (alongside EADV Congress)
- **Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine** – starts on 9 October, Skin Cancer College Australasia, with practical workshop in Auckland
- **ESMO Congress** – 23-27 October 2026, Madrid, Spain

Online

- **Webinar: Exploring Rhenium-SCT for Selected NMSC Patients** – 13 October, Skin Cancer College Australasia
- **Certificate of Dermoscopy** – starts on 16 October, Skin Cancer College Australasia

See the Skin Cancer NZ calendar for **more information about these events and other upcoming events**.

Email us if you'd like us to add your event.

Skin Matters: In the News

Keep up to date with the latest skin cancer news. Read these articles and more on our **website**:

- *AI-assisted scoring of tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes is linked to neoadjuvant immunotherapy response,* npj Precision Oncology **Read article**
- *Digital tools may improve self-skin examination and skin cancer detection,* Health Education & Behaviour **Read article**
- *Immune response may help predict melanoma recurrence,* Journal of Translational Medicine **Read article**
- *Victorian SunSmart Dermoscopy programme boosts GP skin cancer management,* Public Health Research & Practice **Read article**
- *Study finds imiquimod is more cost-effective than radiotherapy for lentigo maligna*, Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology **Read article**
- *Additional diagnostic significance of multicomponent and latticelike features may help acral melanoma early detection,* JAMA Dermatology **Read article**
- *Oral nicotinamide shows promise as cost-effective and patient-centred supplement for keratinocyte carcinoma prevention*, JAMA Dermatology **Read article**

Please support our work to help save New Zealanders from skin cancer.

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Skin Cancer nz
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