

SUNBEDS - WHERE ARE WE AT IN NZ?

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The Cancer Society of New Zealand (CSNZ) has a moral and ethical obligation to New Zealanders to urge the Government to ban solarium in NZ.

New Zealanders are entitled to protection, which at a minimum, aligns with the current evidence and scientific practice. The government has a responsibility to protect people from the risks associated with the use of solarium. For this reason, CSNZ supports a total ban on the use of solarium for cosmetic purposes in NZ.

Skin cancer is NZ's most common cancer. Non-melanoma skin cancer, which is not recorded on the cancer registry, costs our health system and the individual over \$123 million per annum with an estimated 67,000 cases. It's important to remember over 500 people each year die from skin cancer which is higher than the annual road toll, yet over 90% of skin cancer is preventable. NZ has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. We live in an environment where UV exposure is dangerous and we are currently able to use unregulated solarium. Research indicates that solarium emit much higher concentrations of UV radiation than the sun, in fact international research indicates that nine out of ten solarium surveyed emitted exposure six times higher than the sun. Solarium are dangerous and unnecessary and should be banned.

Currently, our Health Committee has examined the Health (Protection) Amendment Bill and recommends that the following amendment is made with regard to solarium:

- Introduce a ban on the provision of commercial artificial UV tanning services to people under 18 years old.

The CSNZ and other organisations including District Health Boards and local councils presented overwhelming evidence (via submission), including that from Australia, to our Health Committee to support a ban of solarium in NZ. The recommendation back to the house for amendment does not go far enough.

This amendment bill is still in process and the opposition will be introducing a supplementary order paper that will ban the use of artificial UV tanning services. At the time of this meeting a full update on the process and the advocacy plan going forward will be presented.