



MelNet update

20 November 2024

Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Strategy | To be launched in February

A working group of skin cancer experts, with support from MelNet and funding support from Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand, has reviewed and updated the Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Strategy.

The Strategy outlines recommendations aimed at reducing the incidence and impact of skin cancer in New Zealand through primary prevention and early detection. These recommendations are supported by research on the epidemiology of skin cancer in New Zealand and the effectiveness of prevention and early detection interventions globally.

The Strategy comprises three key documents:

1. Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Strategy
2. Supplementary information to the Strategy
3. Guidance for skin cancer prevention and early detection messaging

The Strategy will be formally launched in February 2025. Further details will be released shortly.

In the media: Calls for sunscreen to be made cheaper

Dr Bronwen McNoe, a Senior Research Fellow and Co-Director of the Social and Behavioural Research Unit at the University of Otago, as well as an Executive Committee member of MelNet, was recently interviewed by Radio New Zealand. The interview follows a petition led by skincare brand Raaie, calling for the removal of GST on sunscreen in New Zealand.

In the interview, Bronwen shared her expertise in skin cancer prevention and stressed that New Zealand cannot afford to continue to pay the \$330 million it currently costs to treat skin cancer. She argued that greater focus needs to be given to the prevention of skin cancer, with sunscreen being one of the more popular measures for reducing skin cancer risk.

[Listen to the interview](#)

Launch of Melanoma New Zealand Counselling Service

Melanoma New Zealand have recently introduced new, **free** patient support services:

- **1:1 counselling service (online and phone)**
Their experienced Counsellor supports anyone affected by melanoma, including individuals, families, whānau and carers facing the challenges of a new diagnosis, ongoing treatments or post treatment. Up to four free sessions are offered, after which the Counsellor will discuss with the patient what further support they would like, if any, and guide them to find alternative additional counselling. Individuals can book directly and health professionals can refer on the [Counselling Services page](#) of the Melanoma NZ website.
- **Patient and family support groups (online)**
These will involve monthly online group sessions (with separate groups for patients and family members) facilitated by the Counsellor. Individuals can [register their interest](#) as Melanoma NZ work to set these up once sufficient numbers have been reached.

Visit the [Melanoma NZ website](#) for more information, including an introduction to the Counsellor.



Dminder | Useful tool to track vitamin D

The Dminder app tracks the sun and tells you how much Vitamin D you are getting, as well as the optimal time of day to get your sun exposure.

[Install the app](#)

Upcoming opportunities and events

2025 events calendar

The 2025 events calendar is now available on the [MelNet website](#). This is where we post events we are aware of and think our members may be interested in. If you have an event you would like listed, please [get in touch](#).

If you are a Primary Care Practitioner and would like to upskill in skin cancer next year, you may find the [Skin Cancer Education for Primary Care Practitioners page](#) helpful. Note that it includes a section on online courses starting any time – a great opportunity to upskill at your own pace.

HealthCert Black Friday offer: 15% off all courses this November

All HealthCert courses are discounted by 15% until 30 November 2024. Enrol now to complete your 2024 professional development, or take advantage of the savings to upskill in 2025 at a significantly reduced rate.

Use code [15BF24](#) to save 15% until 30 November 2024.

[Skin Cancer Medicine courses](#) [Skin Cancer Surgery courses](#) [Dermoscopy courses](#)



21 – 23 February 2025 | Melbourne, Australia

Pathology Update 2025 shines a light on ‘excellence in diagnosis’ to showcase the advances in evolving technologies and the latest developments in research that are shaping the future of pathology and medical diagnostics.

[Find out more](#)

Other upcoming opportunities and events

December, January, February

ESMO Immuno-Oncology Annual Congress

11 – 13 December 2024

Geneva, Switzerland

[Find out more](#)

Melanoma 2025: 35th Annual Cutaneous Malignancy Update

24 – 26 January 2025

Coronado, California, USA

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Dermoscopy – Online (Skin Cancer College Australasia)

Starts on 7 February 2025

Online

[Find out more](#)

21st Annual International Symposium on Melanoma and Other Cutaneous Malignancies

8 February 2025

Online

[Find out more](#)

Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine (Skin Cancer College Australasia)

Starts on 14 February 2025

Online and practical workshop in Sydney, Australia

[Find out more](#)

For more events see the [MelNet events calendar](#)

Online courses starting anytime

[Advanced Certificate of Dermoscopy](#)

Provides a more advanced understanding of dermoscopy.

Provider: Skin Cancer Symposiums

[Dermoscopy Masterclass](#)

Recording of course delivered in Manchester in August 2024

Provider: Skin Cancer Symposiums

[Mini course \(free\): Dermoscopy and Melanomas](#)

To facilitate the early recognition of melanoma

Provider: Skin Cancer Symposiums

[Introduction to Skin Cancer](#)

Introduction to the fundamentals of skin cancer medicine.

Provider: Skin Cancer College Australasia

[Skin Cancer Medicine](#)

Acquire introductory to advanced skin cancer diagnosis and management knowledge. Some courses offer an optional practical workshop.

Provider: HealthCert

[Skin Cancer Surgery](#)

Acquire introductory to advanced skin cancer surgery skills. Some courses offer an optional practical workshop.

Provider: HealthCert

[Dermoscopy](#)

Improve diagnostic performance and clinical management of skin lesions by using dermoscopy.

Provider: HealthCert

[Medical Certificate of Dermoscopy for Dermatology](#)

Gain advanced knowledge in dermoscopy for the diagnosis and management of common skin conditions.

Provider: HealthCert

[Advanced Certificate of Dermoscopy for Dermatology](#)

Explores applications of dermoscopy in diagnosing skin and hair conditions commonly seen in primary care.

Provider: HealthCert

[Advanced Certificate of Histopathology for Dermoscopy](#)

Comprehensive guide to the principles of dermatopathology.

Provider: HealthCert

[Certificate of Case Management: Dermoscopy](#)

Improve diagnostic accuracy using dermoscopy.

Provider: HealthCert

[Masterclass in Dermoscopy](#)

Update your dermoscopy knowledge and finetune your lesion diagnostic skills.

Provider: HealthCert

Recent MelNet website postings

Below is a selection of recent **news postings** on the MelNet website. Please visit the [website](#) to view all the latest news items.

[Campaigns with AI-driven skin aging simulation can improve intent of cancer-preventative behaviour](#)

[Participant motivators and expectations in the MEL-SELF randomized clinical trial of patient-led surveillance for recurrent melanoma](#)

[Melanoma sentinel lymph node biopsy in the modern era](#)

[Melanoma metabolism: novel treatment approaches could significantly enhance clinical management and prognosis of melanoma](#)

[Nivolumab + ipilimumab combination provides longer overall survival than nivolumab in patients with ICI treatment-naïve advanced melanoma](#)

[Targeting RAF1 gene fusions with MEK inhibition in metastatic melanoma](#)



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