



13 June 2025

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## MelNet's new website | Progress update

Thank you for your patience as we continue to work on getting our new website up and running. With MelNet's limited people resource, this is taking some time, however, we are making progress. We're excited about launching a functional website as soon as we can.

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## Quality Statements to Guide Melanoma Diagnosis and Treatment in New Zealand | Under review

The National Melanoma Working Group will shortly be commencing a review of the *Quality Statements to Guide Melanoma Diagnosis and Treatment in New Zealand*. An updated draft is expected to be released for consultation around September this year.

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## Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Strategy | What's been happening?

Since its launch in February, the Strategy has created valuable opportunities to strengthen skin cancer prevention and early detection efforts in New Zealand. Recent highlights include:

- **Engaging with Government:** MelNet has met with the Minister of Health, Health NZ, and the Labour Party's Health spokesperson to discuss ways to improve skin cancer outcomes. These conversations have been encouraging, with several Government agencies expressing a commitment to incorporating the Strategy recommendations into future planning.
- **Supporting local councils:** At the Green Pavlova Conference in Auckland, Dr Bronwen McNoe presented her research on shade provision in council-owned playgrounds. This sparked productive discussions with councils and suppliers about creating sun-safe public spaces.
- **Raising awareness:** In May, MelNet Chief Executive Katrina Patterson presented the Strategy at the Skin Cancer Congress, hosted by the Skin Cancer College of Australasia and attended by over 500 health professionals.
- **Fostering collaboration:** The Strategy has helped strengthen relationships between key non-Government organisations in the skin cancer sector, encouraging greater alignment and collaboration across individual work programmes.

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## Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group | Next meeting on 9 October

**Thursday 9 October 2025, 10:15 am – 11:45 am**  
**Dunedin Centre**

The next meeting of the Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group will be held in conjunction with the [NZSO Conference](#) in Dunedin on 9 October 2025.

Dr. Ashani Weeraratna, a world-renowned melanoma translational scientist, will present at the meeting. More details will be available soon.

Please register to attend via the [NZSO website](#). For those wishing to attend the meeting only, registration is \$80 for Allied Health Professionals/Nurses/Students, \$150 for Scientists and \$450 for Clinicians. This fee provides access to all Thursday SIG meetings and sessions – see the programme [here](#).

The Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group is a national and inclusive multidisciplinary group of melanoma health professionals and researchers seeking:

- to achieve consensus on current issues and to seek to implement solutions to these issues, and
- to improve upon current standards of care by promoting and facilitating research in melanoma.

Please [contact us](#) if you are interested in joining the group.

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## New Pharmac funded melanoma treatments | Now available

The following medicines are now funded for stage IIIB to stage IV melanoma, subject to eligibility criteria:

- access to pembrolizumab has been widened for resectable stage IIIB to IV melanoma
- dabrafenib and trametinib is now funded for:
  - resectable stage IIIB to IV BRAF mutated melanoma after surgery; and
  - unresectable or metastatic BRAF mutated melanoma

Access to infliximab and tocilizumab for the management of immune checkpoint inhibitor-related toxicity has also been widened, subject to eligibility criteria.

[Find out more](#)

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## Webinar for newly funded dabrafenib & trametinib for melanoma | Wednesday 18 June

To support you in your practice and provide further insights into the use of Tafinlar® (dabrafenib) and Mekinist® (trametinib) in melanoma, Novartis are hosting an educational webinar with Professor Mark Shackleton from Alfred Health and Monash University in Melbourne. Professor Shackleton will discuss the use of these therapies in both adjuvant and metastatic melanoma, including the pivotal trials, his experience of using these medicines in the real-world and how he manages common side effects.

The webinar will be chaired by MelNet Executive Committee member Dr Annie Wong, Consultant Medical Oncologist.

**Webinar:** Tafinlar® and Mekinist® in the treatment of adjuvant and metastatic melanoma  
**Date:** Wednesday 18 June 2025  
**Time:** 7:00 – 8:00 pm  
**Speaker:** Professor Mark Shackleton, Clinical Lead and Medical Oncologist

[Click here to register](#)



Professor Mark Shackleton is the Director of Oncology at Alfred Health, a Professor of Oncology at Monash University, a Victorian Cancer Agency Clinical Research Fellow, Chair of Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Ltd and a Director of Cancer Trials Australia Ltd.



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## Online education session on new funded perioperative melanoma therapies | Recording

In May, MelNet hosted an online education session to help support the implementation of the newly funded perioperative melanoma therapies in New Zealand. The [recording of this session](#) is still available to view. Please complete a brief registration form to access the recording.

If you have any knowledge gaps or thoughts on other aspects of implementation that would be useful to learn more about, please [email us](#).

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## Do you undertake wide local excisions? | Your insights are needed

Researchers are seeking the input of practitioners who perform wide local excisions for the treatment of melanoma. The research aims to assess the variation in the deep surgical plane used in wide local excisions among an international cohort of practitioners.

If you perform these procedures, please take 3 – 4 minutes to complete a survey using the link below.

[Complete the survey](#)

Thank you in advance for your time and valuable contribution to this important research.

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## Nurse-led models of service delivery for skin cancer detection | Interesting read

This recent research aimed to consolidate evidence on nurse-led models for skin cancer detection, examining their roles, comparing their effectiveness to physician-led care, and identifying any added benefits. The study found that nurse-led models show strong potential for high diagnostic accuracy, effective treatment delivery, and improved patient education on skin self-examination. Although role delineation remains a challenge, nurses play a crucial role in supporting skin specialists to meet the growing demand for skin cancer referrals.

[Read the article](#)

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## Education updates from MIA

### Podcast: Integrating AI in melanoma care

The Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA) has released a podcast on integrating AI in melanoma care. Dermatologists Prof Pascale Guitera and Prof Victoria Mar, alongside pathologist Dr Nigel Maher, discuss how AI is transforming clinical practice – from lesion detection and triage to deep learning in pathology and enhanced clinical education.

[Listen now via the Melanoma Education Portal](#) (free log in required)

### Recordings from Nurse Melanoma and Skin Cancer Symposium

MIA have released recordings of their Nurse Melanoma and Skin Cancer Symposium, recently held in Sydney.

[Access the recordings](#) (free log in required)

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## Upcoming opportunities and events

### Savings on HealthCert Courses

Use the special code EOFY2025 to save 15% on all HealthCert programmes. Register by 30 June for the savings to apply.

[Browse courses](#)

### Advanced Skin Surgery Workshop | 18 – 21 July 2025 | Auckland

This Skin Cancer College Australasia course is specifically designed for doctors already undertaking simple skin excisions and routine closures in primary practice. It provides comprehensive tuition to improve the skills and clinical knowledge required to appropriately manage most lesions encountered in primary practice.

[Find out more](#)

### Certificate of Dermatoscopy 2025 | 26 – 27 July 2025 | Auckland

This course, hosted by Skin Cancer Symposia, is ideal for all clinicians (including nurse specialists) involved in skin cancer management who want to develop confidence in dermatoscopy. The course has been designed to reinforce the basics before delving into more thorough and comprehensive teachings in dermatoscopy.

[Find out more](#)



## South GPCME | 14 – 17 August 2025 | Christchurch

This conference will feature a diverse range of speakers, workshops, and presentations, with topics ranging from clinical updates to practice management. The programme is tailored to meet the needs of general practitioners, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, practice managers, pharmacists, health coaches and other healthcare professionals.

The programme features the following skin cancer related sessions:

- Workshop: *Skin Cancer Surgical Basic Skills* – presented by Dr Dylan James, Jane Young
- Workshop: *Skin Cancer Surgical Advanced Skills* – presented by Dylan James, Jane Young
- Workshop: *Dermoscopy Part 1: Case Based Learning, Diagnosis/Management: Pigmented Skin Lesions* – presented by Prof. Cliff Rosendahl
- Workshop: *Dermoscopy Part 2: Case Based Learning, Diagnosis/Management: Non Pigmented Skin Lesions* – presented by Prof. Cliff Rosendahl
- Plenary session: *Using Photo-Technology to Detect Featureless Melanomas* – presented by Prof. Cliff Rosendahl
- Workshop: *Dysplastic Naevus: Fact and Fiction* – presented by Prof. Cliff Rosendahl

[Find out more](#)

[Programme](#)

[Register now](#)



This conference will cover a broad spectrum of dermatological topics ranging from medical subspecialties to surgical and cosmetic aspects. Early bird registrations close on 13 July.

[Find out more](#)



## QRW | 31 August – 5 September 2025 | Christchurch

QRW is New Zealand's biggest annual scientific gathering. It is a week of co-ordinated meetings covering a wide range of areas of science.

Registration is now open. Early bird registrations close on 18 July.

[Find out more](#)

[Register now](#)

## Other upcoming opportunities and events

July	August
<p><b>Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) Starts on 4 July 2025 Online and practical workshop in Melbourne, Australia <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Genetics Society of Australasia Conference</b> 7 - 10 July 2025 Auckland <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Certificate of Dermoscopy – Online</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) Starts on 11 July 2025 Online <a href="#">Find out more</a></p>	<p><b>Immuno-Oncology Summit 2025</b> 11 – 13 August 2025 Hybrid event: Philadelphia, USA &amp; online <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Masterclasses in Dermoscopy &amp; Surgery</b> (HealthCert) 15 – 16 August 2025 Brisbane, Australia <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>26<sup>th</sup> World Dermatology Congress</b> 20 – 21 August 2025 Paris, France <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) Starts on 22 August 2025 Online and practical workshop in Brisbane, Australia <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>NZAPS ASM 2025</b> 22 – 23 August 2025 Queenstown <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>NZ Society of Cosmetic Medicine (NZSCM) Conference 2025</b> 28 – 31 August 2025 Queenstown <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>ANZHNCS ASM 2025</b> 29 – 31 August 2025 Adelaide, Australia <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Certificate of Dermoscopy – Online</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) Starts on 29 August 2025 Online <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p>For more events see the <a href="#">MelNet events calendar</a></p>

**Online skin cancer education courses** for Primary Care Practitioners **starting anytime** can be found [here](#).

*Skin Cancer Symposiums*  
[Advanced Certificate of Dermatoscopy](#)  
[Dermatoscopy Masterclass](#)  
[Mini course \(free\): Dermatoscopy and Melanomas](#)

*Skin Cancer College Australasia*  
[Introduction to Skin Cancer](#)

*HealthCert*  
[Skin Cancer Medicine](#)  
[Skin Cancer Surgery](#)  
[Dermoscopy](#)  
[Medical Certificate of Dermoscopy for Dermatology](#)  
[Advanced Certificate of Dermoscopy for Dermatology](#)  
[Advanced Certificate of Histopathology for Dermoscopy](#)  
[Certificate of Case Management: Dermoscopy](#)  
[Masterclass in Dermoscopy](#)



## Recent MelNet website postings

These are on hold for now while our website is out of action. We hope to be up and running again soon.

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