

## **2026 New Zealand Skin Cancer Summit | Change of date**

Since confirming the dates of 5 – 7 March 2026 for the New Zealand Skin Cancer Summit, the Australasian Melanoma Conference has subsequently advised that their 2026 event will also be held on those dates. As a result, we have decided to move our Summit to **18 – 20 June 2026**.

Please update your diaries – we look forward to seeing you there.

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## **Pharmac decision to fund additional melanoma treatments**

We are very excited about Pharmac's decision to widen access to existing treatments and fund new treatments for people with stage IIIB to stage IV melanoma. Pharmac are also widening access to treatments to support the management of immune checkpoint inhibitor related toxicity.

From 1 June 2025 the following medicines will be funded for stage IIIB to stage IV melanoma, subject to eligibility criteria:

- access to pembrolizumab (branded as Keytruda) will be widened for resectable stage IIIB to IV melanoma
- dabrafenib (branded as Tafinlar) and trametinib (branded as Mekinist) will be funded for:
  - resectable stage IIIB to IV BRAF mutated melanoma after surgery; and
  - unresectable or metastatic BRAF mutated melanoma

Furthermore, access will be widened to infliximab (branded as Remicade) and tocilizumab (branded as Actemra) for the management of immune checkpoint inhibitor-related toxicity subject to eligibility criteria.

[Find out more](#)

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

To assist New Zealand clinicians with the implementation of the new funded perioperative melanoma therapies as described above, MelNet hosted an online education session where Australian colleagues shared their hands-on experience in perioperative melanoma care.

If you missed the session we invite you to [watch the recording](#). Please complete the brief registration form to access the recording.

We would love to hear your thoughts on the meeting or recording. Please complete a [brief survey](#) to share your feedback and any questions or knowledge gaps you may still have. If you have any thoughts on other aspects of implementation that would be useful to learn more about, please [email us](#).

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## **Sun safety policy implementation in Aotearoa New Zealand | Interesting read**

MelNet Executive Committee member Bronwen McNoe has published a noteworthy paper examining the current policy landscape for skin cancer prevention in Aotearoa New Zealand. The study evaluates key legislation and highlights gaps in policy implementation, such as insufficient shade provision in schools and variable adherence to sun protection protocols in workplaces and sports settings.

Bronwen explains that despite existing regulations, there is a need for stronger enforcement and comprehensive policy development. She also emphasises the importance of integrating sun protection into all levels of policy and practice and advocates for enhanced support, public awareness, and uniform implementation across sectors. By addressing these gaps, more effective sun protection strategies can be developed, ultimately reducing skin cancer incidence and improving public health outcomes.

[Read the article](#)

The content of the paper supports the recommendations outlined in the [Skin Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Strategy](#).

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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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### **Melanoma Research Fund | Applications opening soon**

Applications for the 2025 Melanoma Research Fund open on 2 June 2025.

Melanoma New Zealand, in partnership with Cancer Research Trust New Zealand, encourage clinicians, researchers, and academic institutions to begin preparing proposals for research that has the potential to make a meaningful impact in melanoma prevention, detection, and care.

Up to NZ\$80,000 is available to support high-quality research that advances earlier diagnosis, innovative treatments, and improved outcomes for people affected by melanoma in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The deadline for submissions is 2 August 2025.

For more information, including eligibility and FAQs, visit [Melanoma New Zealand – Research Fund](#).

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### **Sunscreen use | How high, how much, how often?**

Richard McKenzie, emeritus atmospheric research scientist at NIWA, has written an interesting post on his “UV & You” platform about how to use sunscreen, backed up with scientific explanations. The article gives a detailed overview of the different types of sunscreens, how much to use and how often to re-apply.

[Read the article](#)

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### **Trial offering new treatment combination for melanoma brain metastases | News from MASC**

The BETTER trial, recently activated in Australia, is testing a new treatment combination for melanoma that has spread to the brain, with the goal of improving outcomes for patients facing a poor prognosis and life expectancy. It examines a combined treatment of immunotherapy drugs nivolumab and ipilimumab with bevacizumab and targeted radiotherapy. The trial will evaluate the safety and efficacy of the treatment combination, potentially offering new hope for those with advanced melanoma.

[Find out more](#)

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### **Roadmap for a National Targeted Skin Cancer Screening Program in Australia**

Recently a grant was awarded to Melanoma Institute Australia to lead the development of a Roadmap for a National Targeted Skin Cancer Screening Program.

The Roadmap will set out an evidence-based program for screening that will target those in the population at highest risk of developing skin cancer and will be equitable in its reach, trustworthy for patients and clinicians and cost effective for the community and the healthcare system. A final Roadmap report will be delivered to the Australian Government in September 2028.

[Find out more](#)

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## Nurses in Skin Cancer Special Interest Group

The [Nurses in Skin Cancer Special Interest Group](#) has been going for almost a year now and is still growing. By fostering collaboration among nurses specialising in skin cancer care, we can make significant strides to alleviate the burden of this disease and enhance the overall health outcomes for affected individuals.

To join this group of highly engaged nurses, please read the [Terms of Reference](#) and register your interest to the [MelNet Chief Executive](#).

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## Upcoming opportunities and events



**IDC 2025 | 2 – 4 June 2025 | Rome, Italy or online**

IDC 2025 offers a premier platform for global engagement and cooperation under the theme "*Global Perspectives on Skin Health: Diversity in Dermatology and Cosmetology*".

The conference encompasses a wide array of topics, including dermatological investigations, melanoma, neonatal and paediatric dermatology, teler dermatology, cosmetic dermatology and many more.

This is a hybrid event with online registrations available. Mid term registration closes on 24 May.

[Find out more](#)



**Immuno-Oncology Summit 2025 | 11 – 13 August 2025 | Philadelphia, USA or online**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual 2025 Immuno-Oncology Summit showcases successes in preclinical and clinical studies grounded in a deep understanding of biology. Coverage spans solid tumour innovations, including bi/multispecific antibodies, antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs), allogenic and in vivo CAR-Ts, TILs, TCRs, Tregs, multiple cell therapies working together, the tumour microenvironment, innate immunity, gamma delta T cells, NK cells, organoid modelling, data science, and machine learning. The programme also explores autoimmunity as a critical and complementary area of focus.

[Find out more](#)

## Other upcoming opportunities and events

June	July
<p><b>GP CME</b> 5 – 8 June 2025 Rotorua <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Advanced Skin Surgery Workshop</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) 13 – 16 June 2025 Sydney, Australia <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>XIV International Congress of Dermatology 2025</b> 18 – 21 June 2025 Rome, Italy <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Certificate of Skin Cancer Medicine</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) Starts on 20 June 2025 Online and practical workshop in Auckland <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>2025 Skin Cancer Update: MIA and ASPS Satellite Meeting</b> 25 June 2025 Sydney, Australia <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>ASPS Plastic Surgery Congress (PSC) 2025</b> 26 – 28 June 2025 Sydney, Australia <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>13th European School of Dermato-Oncology: Updates on Cutaneous Oncology (ESDO)</b> 27 – 28 June 2025 Hybrid event: Berlin, Germany &amp; online <a href="#">Find out more</a></p>	<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>Advanced Skin Surgery Workshop</b> (Skin Cancer College Australasia) 18 – 21 July 2025 Auckland <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p><b>Certificate of Dermatoscopy 2025</b> (Skin Cancer Symposiums) 26 – 27 July 2025 Auckland <a href="#">Find out more</a></p> <p>For more events see the <a href="#">MelNet events calendar</a></p>

<p><b>Online skin cancer education courses</b> for Primary Care Practitioners <b>starting anytime</b> can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	
<p><i>Skin Cancer Symposiums</i></p> <p><a href="#">Advanced Certificate of Dermatoscopy</a> <a href="#">Dermatoscopy Masterclass</a> <a href="#">Mini course (free): Dermatoscopy and Melanomas</a></p> <p><i>Skin Cancer College Australasia</i></p> <p><a href="#">Introduction to Skin Cancer</a></p>	<p><i>HealthCert</i></p> <p><a href="#">Skin Cancer Medicine</a> <a href="#">Skin Cancer Surgery</a> <a href="#">Dermoscopy</a> <a href="#">Medical Certificate of Dermoscopy for Dermatology</a> <a href="#">Advanced Certificate of Dermoscopy for Dermatology</a> <a href="#">Advanced Certificate of Histopathology for Dermoscopy</a> <a href="#">Certificate of Case Management: Dermoscopy</a> <a href="#">Masterclass in Dermoscopy</a></p>

## 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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