



**Cancer Society New Zealand
Te Kāhui Matepukupuku o Aotearoa**

National Office
Level 2, Red Cross House
69 Molesworth Street, Thorndon
PO Box 12700
Wellington

Telephone: 64 4 494-7270
Facsimile: 64 4 494-7271

Websites: www.cancernz.org.nz
www.daffodilday.org.nz

Email: admin@cancer.org.nz

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Cancer Society recognised for its contribution to the revised Trans-Tasman Solaria Standard

The Cancer Society of New Zealand has been awarded the 2008 Standards Australia Committee award for 'Outstanding Service to Standardisation', along with other members of the Joint Australian/New Zealand Standards Committee on Solaria.

Standards Australia's CEO, John Tucker, said "each year Standards Australia recognises a select group of committee members for their meritorious contribution to standardisation in their field. I am pleased to advise that CS-064 Solaria has been selected to receive the 2008 Standards Australia Committee award for Outstanding Service to Standardisation."

The Committee of dermatologists, UVR experts, cancer control advocates as well as sunbed industry representatives, oversaw the strengthening of trans-Tasman guidelines governing the operation of the solarium industry.

As part of the process the Cancer Society also prepared a submission calling for a stronger Standard governing the solarium industry. Other New Zealand submitters included the Cancer Society's Social and Behavioural Research Unit at Otago University, the New Zealand Dermatological Society and NIWA.

Dr Judith Galtry, the Cancer Society's Skin Cancer Control Advisor, who represented the Society on the Committee, said "while the new Standard is welcome, it remains voluntary in New Zealand, highlighting the need for mandatory controls such as in Australia."

"Two recent studies from Australia note the significant impact associated with regulation of the industry - firstly in terms of controlling the practices of the solarium industry and, secondly in regard to the avoidable skin cancers and the ensuing cost-savings to government. These benefits are shown mainly to stem from restricting sunbed use by minors and individuals with fair skin."

The revised Standard strengthens the guidelines outlined in the 2002 Standard by restricting the use of sunbeds to people aged 18 and over and recommending the maximum permissible UV intensity for sunbeds be reduced by 40 per cent.

It also requests operators to warn their clients with fair skin, and skin that burns easily, about the increased risk of skin cancer and skin ageing associated with radiation from sunbeds, to display prominent warning notices advising about the risks of sunbeds and ensure clients complete skin type assessment forms to assist operators determine UV exposure.

Committee Chairperson, Mr Craig Sinclair, Director of the Cancer Prevention Centre at the Cancer Council Victoria, will be presented with the award at Standards Australia's Innovation Day on Monday 30 March 09.

Dr Judith Galtry
Skin Cancer Control Advisor
Mob: 027 458 3484

Lynne St. Clair-Chapman
Communications Manager
04 494 7196 or mob 027 444 4150