



Adelaide public hearing for skin cancer inquiry

The House of Representatives Health Committee will hold a public hearing for its inquiry into skin cancer in Australia in Adelaide on Monday 14 April.

The Adelaide hearing will be the first of the current inquiry to be held outside of Canberra.

“The Committee is keen to learn more about the innovative work of South Australian researchers, as well as the initiatives of community groups involved with either raising awareness of skin cancer or assisting people with the condition,” said Committee Chair Steve Irons MP.

The committee is investigating the awareness, prevention, early diagnosis and management of both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers.

“Melanoma is often called Australia’s ‘national cancer’ due to the high incidence of this deadly disease in our community,” Mr Irons said. “On top of this, non-melanoma skin cancer is an enormous burden on our health system, with well over 400 000 cases being diagnosed in Australian patients every year.”

“The committee is interested both in the success of awareness campaigns in improving skin cancer prevention, and in the effectiveness of our health system in making sure skin cancer patients have access to the best possible diagnosis and treatment services.”

The inquiry expands on concerns raised by the health committee of the previous parliament, which held a public roundtable hearing on skin cancer with selected national experts in June 2013. Amongst other things, this roundtable revealed that Australians have more than 12 times the global average rate of melanoma of the skin—the highest recorded incidence in the world—though our medical system is world leading in skin cancer treatment.

Details of the hearing are as follows:

Monday 14 April – 1.00pm to 4.00pm
Plaza Room, South Australia Parliament House, Adelaide

The hearing will be broadcast live (audio only) at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>

Representatives of the South Australia Health & Medical Research Institute, the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Australian Melanoma Research Foundation and Cancer Voices SA will appear before the Committee.

A detailed program and further information on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, are available on the committee’s website: www.aph.gov.au/skincancer

For media comment please contact Jonathan Martin from the office of Mr Steve Irons MP on 0419 993 677. **For all other enquiries**, please contact the committee secretariat by phone on (02) 6277 4145 or visit the committee’s website: www.aph.gov.au/health.