

News Release

Minister John Hill

Minister for Health and Ageing

Minister Paul Caica

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation



Government
of South Australia

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Commercial sun beds to be banned from 2015

The owners of tanning salons in South Australia will be consulted on adapting their businesses ahead of a ban on the commercial use of sun beds from 2015.

Minister for Health and Ageing John Hill said the Government's become increasingly concerned about the health impacts of tanning units or sun beds.

"There is strong evidence that using sun beds increases the risk of health impacts on users including the occurrence of melanomas," Mr Hill said.

Research published in the British Medical Journal earlier this year concluded that the risk of cutaneous melanoma is increased by 20 percent for people who have used indoor tanning devices with artificial ultraviolet light. The risk of melanoma was doubled when use started before the age of 35 years. (*BMJ 24 July 2012.*)

Earlier this year NSW announced plans to ban commercial solarium from 31 December 2014.

South Australia and Victoria were the first states to regulate on the safer use of tanning units.

Environment Minister Paul Caica said "While the tougher regulations prohibit under 18s and people with sensitive skin from using commercial sun beds, the risk to all users is just too high.

"In light of this, the Government has made the decision to implement a ban on the commercial use of cosmetic tanning units from 31 December 2014," Mr Caica said.

"We will now work with the existing registered businesses towards adapting to this measure."

The registered commercial solarium in SA have been notified of the Government's decision and efforts will be made to help them adapt their operations for the future.

The South Australian Government provides a referral service for small business operators seeking information, advice and free business planning tools.

The *Small Business Contact Service* offers support through three partners: Business SA, Salisbury Business and Export Centre and Southern Success Business Enterprise Centre.

Today's announcement has been welcomed by the Cancer Council of SA.

Cancer Council Chief Executive Professor Brenda Wilson said "The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classed UV emitting tanning beds as a Grade 1 carcinogen – the highest risk category. Ultimately, the lives of many young image-conscious South Australians will be saved because of the Ministers' announcement today.

"We applaud the government for taking such a strong stance," Professor Wilson said.