



Media release



Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001
211 Victoria Square Adelaide SA 5000
T (08) 8204 2004
Country areas 1800 623 445

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Fine for illegal tanning bed operator

A Glenelg man was convicted and fined \$600 plus \$800 in prosecution costs in the Adelaide Magistrates Court today over an illegal tanning operation at Somerton Park.

Luke Andrew Mason, 31, pled guilty to a single count of operating a cosmetic tanning service for fee at the TanEzy Spray Tan Salon on Brighton Road, a business that has since closed down.

Environment Protection Authority Manager Investigations Stephen Barry said while owning a tanning bed for personal use was not against the law, it had been illegal to charge for the service since 2015.

“This sends a warning to anyone thinking of operating or working in illegal solaria,” he said.

“When EPA officers inspected the TanEzy premises, they found six operational tanning beds, one of which was in use.

“The maximum penalty for the illegal use of solaria is \$10,000.

“Mr Mason did not own this business, but he was a paid employee and he was responsible for the operation of the equipment at the time.

“This solarium has been shut down, and we will continue to pursue and prosecute other illegal operators.”

Mr Barry said tanning beds produced dangerous levels of radiation, and their use was associated with an increased risk of cancer.

“Research has shown that no solarium can provide a safe tan,” he said.

“A 2008 study found that every year in Australia, solaria were responsible for the deaths of 43 people and for 281 new cases of melanoma, as well as 2572 new cases of squamous cell carcinoma.

“Other studies at the same time found that as many as one in six melanomas in Australians aged 18 to 29 could be prevented if solaria were shut down.”

Anyone with information about the illegal use of solaria should contact the EPA on 8204 2000 or 1800 623 445 outside of the metropolitan area.