



Health Ministers Meeting (HMM): Statement

2 September 2022

Federal, state and territory Health Ministers met today and discussed their concerns regarding cosmetic surgery, especially the risks to consumers. There was agreement to take urgent action including to:

- protect the title of ‘surgeon’ through legislative amendment to ensure doctors using this title have the requisite training
- task the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) to immediately begin work to safeguard patients by leading a review of licensing standards and arrangements of private hospitals, day procedure centres and clinics where cosmetic procedures are performed and to develop national standards for the safe delivery of high-quality cosmetic procedures
- endorse the decision of the Medical Board of Australia (MBA) to implement all recommendations from the *Independent review of regulation of health practitioners in cosmetic surgery*, including to:
 - commence work on credentialing providers of cosmetic procedures through an ‘Area of Practice’ endorsement on a doctor’s medical registration – this will specify the level and kind of training required to perform higher-risk cosmetic surgery
 - initiate a crackdown on misleading advertising including the use of testimonials and social media
 - strengthen guidance and deliver education to the medical profession about the requirements for doctors performing cosmetic procedures and surgery, and
 - establish a national team of regulatory experts to address existing complaints.
 - request the Health Chief Executives Forum (HCEF) to commission a national public education campaign, and
- withdraw clauses regarding patient testimonials from the current bill in the Queensland Parliament that is amending the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. The issue of patient testimonials will be reviewed to ensure any changes are consistent with the agreed cosmetic surgery protections, which are likely to result in a further bill being drafted to reflect these protections in law.

Health Ministers emphasised their expectation that action is taken urgently. The MBA and ACSQHC have been asked to report back in two months at the Health Ministers Meeting in November 2022 to provide advice on progress.