

Executive Officer, Medical
AHPRA
GPO Box 9958
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To Whom It May Concern;

RE: Public Consultation Paper - Registered medical practitioners who provide cosmetic medical and surgical procedures

I currently work for **anti-aging Cosmetic and Laser** here in Melbourne as a Relationship Manager. My role is to service the venues that our cosmetic nurses, Doctors and CNPs work from. In the 12 months I have worked for this company, I have been staggered at the level of continued education the team has access to – monthly team sessions with **anti-aging** in association with Allergan and Galderma, as well as one-on-one sessions with Allergan and Galderma trainers. This is a far cry from what was offered at the large cosmetic surgery company in the UK I worked for supplied for their nurses. Dr Dennis McCurdy and Dr Juan Romero, who founded **anti-aging** in 1998 are both heavily involved in the training and support of the nurses that wish to and have joined the company over the years. They are constantly updating policies and procedures to move with the times but to ensure that the team is following the guidelines and providing their patients the best medical care. Live video consultations are a 21st Century tool that is used and recommended through Medicare and other forms of medicine so why is it being discriminated against for cosmetic medicine? As a patient I have undergone this process and found it to be extremely thorough, the nurse took a thorough medical history, we had an open discussion about the treatment options available, consent was given and the live video consultation with the consulting Doctor allowed for questions to be asked or in some cases other treatment options to be discussed. Not once through this process did I feel that my medical needs were not being met, it was actually the opposite. If I compare it to going to my local GP for a checkup, I never fill in a medical history (apart from the first appointment which was many years ago), they touch on what has been happening lately before prescribing drugs and sending you on your way in a matter of 5-10 minutes. With our nurses, their consultations are 30 minute durations sometimes longer for new patients, allowing for everything I have mentioned previously to be covered as well as going through any concerns the patient may have. At no point are patients made to feel they need to have treatment on the day, they provide a no obligation consultation and if the patient want's to think about it, they are welcome to leave and rebook at a time that is more convenient.

As my role entails going out and visiting the venues that these procedures are being performed at, I can tell you that the majority are of a very high standard. Most are beauty clinics or medispas and are heavily regulated by the Health Department as well as their local council to offer the treatments that they do. Surveying patients as to why they choose to attend these clinics is simple – it is easily accessible to their home or work location, there is no additional charge for attending outside normal business hours (as with GP clinics), and the venues themselves are of a high presentation and cleanliness standard. I myself would prefer to attend a beauty salon or dedicated cosmetic medicine clinic over a GP clinic for

cosmetic injectables as I do not want to be in a waiting room with people with other medical concerns which could in turn make me sick or spread infection.

I welcome the fact that AHPRA are looking in to making the cosmetic surgery and medicine industry better and safer for its patients but I believe that the outcome you are hoping for is not in the best interest of the patients and industry in general. I welcome looking in to the way patients are being scripted for S4 drugs, but live video consultations are just as good as a face to face consultation with a Doctor or Nurse Practitioner and should not be included in the same category as phone, email, picture or any other ways other companies are working as the safety of the patient could be at risk in those instances. I also welcome looking in to the locations that these treatments are being offered in but many clinics out there are at an extremely high standard and should not be penalised for being a beauty clinic rather than a medical centre. Lastly for many of our nurses, cosmetic medicine is what they do day in day out so if you take away live video consultation as a way for Doctors and Nurse Practitioners to consult patients, many will have to find other work or even another industry. Some of our nurses have been working in the industry for 15+ years so if you take their livelihood away, you will also be taking away a wealth of experience. I truly hope that you rethink your preferred option and move to working with those companies and nurses who are doing the right things to strengthen the industry not cutting dedicated individuals who chose nursing over medicine and making it harder for patients to have their treatments performed in an environment they feel safe and comfortable in.

Yours sincerely,

Marie Wright