



Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons

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Plastic Surgeons urge State Governments to follow NSW lead on cosmetic surgery laws

The Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) welcomes today's announcement by the NSW Health Minister, Jillian Skinner, of new laws that will mean cosmetic procedures such as breast augmentation, abdominoplasties, and high volume liposuction can only be conducted in licensed premises subject to the same standards as private hospitals.

"This is a long overdue win for patient safety that will help ensure people undergoing cosmetic surgery procedures are afforded the same protections as patients undergoing any other type of invasive of surgery," said ASPS Vice President, Dr Gazi Hussain.

"The Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons has for years advocated for tighter regulation around cosmetic surgery procedures. We urge other State Governments to follow New South Wales' lead.

"We have long been concerned by the gap in quality and safety systems surrounding cosmetic surgery which has meant some patients were being administered high volume local anaesthesia in unlicensed premises which have been able to fly under the radar in terms of accreditation and audit."

"Unfortunately consumers are ill-equipped to distinguish the difference between licensed and unlicensed premises and the fundamental differences in safety and quality control associated with surgical procedures performed at hospital day procedure centres compared with doctor's offices or other unaccredited facilities.

"Cosmetic surgery carries the same risks associated with any other type of surgery. It is critical that basic standards be required of all facilities where surgery of any description is undertaken." said Dr Hussain.

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