

## Permitted indications for listed sunscreen therapeutic products

### Submission from Cancer Council Australia

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**Contact:** Deshanie Rawlings, Public Health Policy Manager, Cancer Council Australia:  
[deshanie.rawlings@cancer.org.au](mailto:deshanie.rawlings@cancer.org.au) (02) 8063 4112

Cancer Council is Australia's peak national non-government cancer control organisation. Its members are the eight state and territory cancer organisations, working together to undertake and fund cancer research, prevent and control cancer and provide information and support for people affected by cancer.

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancer accounts for the largest number of cancers diagnosed in Australia each year.<sup>1</sup> Ultraviolet (UV) radiation is the major cause of skin cancer.<sup>2</sup> It has been conservatively estimated that 7,220 melanomas and all non-melanoma skin cancers occurring in Australia in 2010 could be attributed to UV radiation exposure.<sup>3</sup> Sunscreen is one of the most common methods of sun protection and therefore an important component skin cancer prevention.

Cancer Council Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the draft list of permitted indications. Our organisation supports the introduction of a list of permitted indications. The list of permitted indications can assist to increase consumer awareness about skin cancer prevention by only permitting sunscreen products with an SPF rating of 30 or higher to indicate that they can prevent skin cancer. It enables consumers to make an informed choice to protect themselves from skin cancer when purchasing sunscreens. Cancer Council recommends SPF 30 (or higher) broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen as part of a combination of sun protection measures including clothing, broad brimmed hat, shade and sunglasses.

Given the impact of skin cancer on the Australian population, it is important to increase consumer awareness of skin cancer. Cancer Council supports the introduction of the list of permitted indications to avoid consumers being misled by inappropriate indications.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2016. Skin cancer in Australia. Cat. no. CAN 96. Canberra: AIHW.

<sup>2</sup> Armstrong B. How sun exposure causes skin cancer: An epidemiological perspective. In: Hill D, Elwood JM, English DR. Prevention of Skin Cancer. Dordrecht, Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers; 2004

<sup>3</sup> Olsen CM, Wilson LF, Green AC, Bain CJ, Fritschi L, Neale RE, et al. Cancers in Australia attributable to exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation and prevented by regular sunscreen use. Aust N Z J Public Health 2015 Oct;39(5):471-6