Suggested year level
Years 9 and 10

Prepare yourself (teacher)
View the clip *Dangers of a deadly tan* and familiarise yourself with the ideas presented.

Visit the SunSmart website (www.sunsmart.com.au) to develop an understanding of the use of solariums.

*Note:* This segment focuses on a young Melbourne woman, Clare Oliver, who was diagnosed with melanoma at the age of 22. She wanted to tell her story to make people aware of the dangers of solariums, because she attributed her melanoma to her solarium use. Clare died, aged 26 in 2007. Her determination to ensure the industry became regulated will have a lasting legacy.

Some useful information: Solariums use artificial UVA and UVB radiation. Both are known to be directly responsible for causing skin cancer and prematurely ageing skin. An international review (IARC 2006) of studies on sunbed use found increased risks of melanoma and squamous cell carcinoma among users, in particular those exposed to sunbeds before the age of 35 years.

Class resources
- Computer, data projector and screen to show the Dangers of a deadly tan clip.
- Student access to a computer with internet connection.
- Copy of the newspaper article, *Solariums banned across NSW.*

Estimated time required
1 period

The activity
Watch the clip *Dangers of a deadly tan* and respond to the following questions.
1 Clare Oliver was diagnosed with melanoma two years after she used a solarium. What does this tell you about the risk of using this product?

2 Marks

2 What were the reasons for using the media as an opportunity to share her experience?

2 Marks

3 The solarium operators attempted to distract from the risks of using this product. What are some strategies used by these operators to attract clients?

3 Marks

4 What is the major concern about the operation of the solarium industry according to Craig Sinclair from the Cancer Council?

2 Marks
What is Clare Oliver's legacy?

3 Marks

Total / 12

Extend yourself

Each student is to read the article Solariums banned across NSW and answer the following questions.

Solariums banned across NSW

The New South Wales Government has become the first in the country to announce it is banning all solariums.

The Cancer Council has been lobbying for solariums to be banned for years, arguing that anyone who first used a tanning bed before they turned 35 has doubled their risk of developing melanoma.

The campaign gained momentum after the death of Melbourne woman Clare Oliver from skin cancer in 2007.

Now NSW Environment Minister Robyn Parker says the Government has agreed to ban tanning beds from 2014.

“It is a number one carcinogen. It’s equivalent to asbestos,” she said.

Greens MP John Kaye has welcomed the ban but says it should be immediate.

“Waiting around for waiting around for three years means about 43 people we estimate will die needlessly,” he said.

Ms Parker says the 2014 deadline was chosen to give tanning businesses a chance to diversify.

Cancer Council chief executive Dr Andrew Penman says despite the delay, the ban will still be effective.

“I think the effect of today’s announcement will be to send out a very strong message to the industry,” he said.

“I suspect the industry will start dismantling its capacity ahead of 2014 and I’m sure that people who potentially are users of these centres will really prick up their ears and understand the seriousness of the exposure they’ve subjected themselves to.”

Source: www.abc.net.au/news/2012-02-04/nsw-bans-solariums/3811454
1. Why was the Cancer Council lobbying for the banning of solariums?

2. What was one circumstance that contributed to the banning of these products in NSW?

3. Define ‘carcinogen’.

4. The ban will be introduced in 2014. In your view, why is the ban not effective immediately?

5. The increased incidence of melanoma has significantly impacted on both the mortality and morbidity statistics in Australia. This also contributes to both the direct and indirect health costs. Outline the direct and indirect costs associated with skin cancer in Australia.

Teacher assessment advice
To assess the question and answer activity, use the allocated marking scheme.