



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS

PO Box 3785 Rhodes NSW 2138 Australia
Suite 2A Level 2 9 Blaxland Road Rhodes NSW 2138 Australia
Telephone +61 2 8765 0242 | Australia Only 1300 361 821
Facsimile +61 2 9736 2194 | Email admin@dermcoll.edu.au
Website www.dermcoll.edu.au

18 January 2019

Senator the Hon Zed Seselja
Assistant Minister for Treasury and Finance
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

Re: 2019-20 Pre-budget Submission – Proposal for feasibility study of Teledermatology for the delivery of specialist dermatology training and services

I am writing on behalf of The Australasian College of Dermatologists to submit the attached proposal for a feasibility study of Teledermatology for the delivery of specialist dermatology training and services, for the Government's consideration amongst priorities for the 2019-20 Budget.

The College is the sole medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and continuing professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology. Representing over 500 specialist dermatologist Fellows and 100 trainees, we are the leading authority for dermatology, providing information, advocacy and advice to individuals, communities, government and other health stakeholders on dermatological practice in Australia.

The College welcomes the Government's disciplined budget management and the anticipated return to surplus in 2019-20. We believe it is an ideal time for the Government to invest in innovative mechanisms that address inequalities in health outcomes and access to health services in regional, rural and remote Australia, which we note is a key Government priority.

In common with a number of medical specialties, dermatology has a marked geographic maldistribution of services, both public and private, and is faced with a burgeoning workforce shortage. Store and Forward teledermatology is a prospective solution to address these workforce issues. Our proposal also aligns with the Commonwealth's National Digital Health Strategy and addresses a key recommendation in the National Medical Training Advisory Network's Dermatology Action Plan.

Teledermatology using Store and Forward technology is an innovative model for service delivery, whereby a patient's digital images and clinical data are captured by their general practitioner or other medical specialist and securely forwarded to a specialist dermatologist for assessment, diagnosis and therapeutic recommendation. Patient management is undertaken by and is the responsibility of the referring practitioner. This service provides an alternative pathway to the traditional face-to-face specialist consult for patients deemed clinically suitable, including those with inflammatory skin conditions, skin infections and skin lesions.

The College has sought meetings with Ministers Hunt and McKenzie to discuss this proposal, and has briefed the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Brendan Murphy, on our proposed pilot.

We would be pleased to provide any additional information you may require and look forward to hearing from your office. Our contact on this matter is Dr Haley Bennett, Director of Policy, Advocacy and Engagement at haley@dermcoll.edu.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Miller', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr Andrew Miller FACD
President
The Australasian College of Dermatologists