



MEDIA RELEASE

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Plastic Surgeons urge caution on overseas surgery

The Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons is seeking more information from NIB following media reports of the insurer's plan to offer 'cosmetic tourism' options.

"While we welcome anything that assists patient safety, the Society has not been involved in discussions on the proposal, which we believe have been held with individual surgeons," said President of the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons, Dr Geoff Lyons.

"As the peak representative body for plastic surgeons in Australia, we would like to know more about the detail of the proposed packages, and how the insurer intends to monitor safety and the standard of surgeons and facilities in other countries to ensure Australian patients are protected," said Dr Lyons.

The Society has been proactive in raising consumer awareness of the potential safety risks of cosmetic tourism packages often promoted as a cheaper surgery option packaged with a beach holiday.

"Our members regularly deal with rectifying complications arising from cosmetic procedures that have been performed in overseas facilities. Often these patients find what they thought was a cheaper option ends up costing them more as costs blow out if revision surgery is required when they return to Australia," says Dr Lyons.

"Cosmetic surgery is real surgery with real risks, which is why we urge people considering travelling overseas for cosmetic procedures to do their homework ahead of the trip," says Dr Lyons.

The Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons has comprehensive cosmetic tourism checklist, "[Buyer Beware: Cosmetic Tourism](#)" on its website which provides consumer-friendly advice and outlines questions to consider ahead of a cosmetic procedure overseas.

Visit: www.plasticsurgery.org.au/protecting-patient-safety/current-issues/buyer-beware-cosmetic-tourism

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Founded in 1970, the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons Inc (ASPS) is the peak body for Specialist Plastic Surgeons (both reconstructive and cosmetic). The Society's main role is to protect the integrity of plastic surgery as a specialty.