

Dear Members,

I am very pleased to announce that in the 2021-22 Federal Budget, the Government supported the public listing of a new item for autologous fat grafting by injection for treatment of burn scars and treatment of facial defects due to craniofacial abnormalities. This was as a result of the ASPS Medical Services Advisory Committee application that was approved last year. This new item is **scheduled to commence on 1 November 2021**.

Additionally, the Government also supported the public listing of two items for autologous fat grafting by injection for defects arising from breast surgery, breast cancer treatment/prevention and congenital breast deformity on the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). This Medical Services Advisory Committee application had been submitted by BreastSurg ANZ with co-ordination from ASPS. These two new items are also **scheduled to commence on 1 November 2021**.

The restriction on claiming an anaesthetic for a patient over 18 who is having a keloid injected has been lifted **from the 1 November 2021** as a result of our representations to the Skin Advisory Group.

Most importantly, the entire Medicare review of Plastic surgical Services chaired by Nicola Dean has been **approved for 1 November 2022**. Although this is a whole 18 months away, at least we now have a time frame to work towards and certainty that these changes will come in.

I am sure you will agree that these Society outcomes are of great benefit for our members and your patients. I thank Nicola for her pivotal role in the whole process. ASPS will be providing educational sessions on the changes over the next year.

Dan Kennedy
President