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MEDIA RELEASE

SOLARIUM CLAIMS 'FALSE AND MISLEADING'

People in the Indoor Tanning Industry are now being subjected to personal insults and damage is being caused to private property.

"The correct facts are not being presented; the public are being misled," Mr Scott Meneilly, President of the Australian Tanning Association, said today.

"The claim by Grant McArthur in today's Herald Sun directly relating skin cancer to excessive use of solariums is false and misleading," he added.

"The claim made by Cancer Council Victoria that there is a 75% increase in risk of skin cancer if you use a sun bed is false and misleading. This claim is based on a report released in 2006. The report was discredited in March 2007.

"The claim that solarium lamps are 5 times stronger than the midday summer sun is also false and misleading." Mr Meneilly said.

"There is no evidence to support that a solarium puts you at more risk than the sun," Mr Meneilly said.

"UV exposure in a solarium is moderated by time according to skin type. Outdoor UV exposure is not moderated at all.

"What has been lost over time is the element of common sense," Mr Meneilly said.

"There has been no case in the world that has directly linked sun-beds to skin cancer," he added.

Mr Meneilly said the statement made by Craig Sinclair of Cancer Council Victoria that solariums provide no Vitamin D benefit was demonstrably false.

"This sensational campaign through the media is not based on fact and is causing a tremendous amount of damage to people's lives," Mr Meneilly said.

"People have been seriously misled and misinformed by vested interests," he said.

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