



## **ESA RESPONSE TO EUROPEAN COMMISSION COMMITTEE OPINION ON SUNBED USE**

The European Sunlight Association (ESA) today welcomed the main points of the published opinion of the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) to the European Commission that certain population groups should not use sunbeds. This includes children, people with sensitive skin, freckles and moles and/or a family history of skin cancer. These groups have been recommended by National Sunbed Associations to be prohibited from sunbed use since ESA was established.

Equally, it is the opinion of ESA that these groups should not sunbathe either, as the risk of burning or over-exposure to UV radiation is the same for these people whether on a sunbed or in sunlight and it is these factors that some scientific evidence has shown is likely to increase the risk of skin cancer.

Gary Lipman, Chairman of ESA's Media Committee "Whilst ESA welcomes any initiative that seeks to improve standards in the provision and use of sunbeds, ESA is concerned that SCCP did not make it clear that it is over-exposure to UV or burning, not tanning per se, that may increase the risk of developing skin cancer. This means for sunbed users who do not have any contra-indications to using a sunbed or sunbathing and who do not exceed the recommended annual number of sessions per annum, there is no scientific evidence to suggest they are at an increased risk of developing skin cancer. Indeed, there is mounting medical and scientific evidence that regular limited exposure to UV maintains vitamin D levels, which is essential to good health and helps prevent many chronic diseases."

ESA member manufacturers and distributors already provide appropriate warnings and instructions for use and all ESA member staff must be fully trained on all aspects of sunbeds provision and use.

## **Ends**

### *Note:*

*ESA is a non-profit making trade association, established to represent national tanning associations as well as manufacturers and distributors of components and products of the tanning industry. One of the main aims of ESA is to promote good practice throughout the industry.*

## **Contact**

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