



Greens to push for solarium regulation

By Natasha Rudra

People with fair skin and teens aged under 18 could be banned from tanning salons under new laws proposed by the ACT Greens.

The Greens will attempt to force the issue of regulating solariums in March, introducing legislation which will regulate the tanning industry in the ACT if passed.

Health spokeswoman Amanda Bresnan said the private member's Bill took its cue from Victorian legislation which regulated the state's tanning industry in 2008.

"What we'll be putting forward will be based on the Victorian model which has been highlighted as being the strongest and the best model," she said.

Under the proposed laws, tanning salon owners will be required to hold a licence to operate and staff must undergo training to assess customer's skin types.

People with very fair "type 1" skin – the most prone to burning – will be banned from using solariums, as will under-aged customers.

Salons will be forced to display mandatory information on the risks

of tanning and customers will have to sign consent forms and wear protective eyewear while using sunbeds.

Ms Bresnan said the ACT Government had dragged its feet on the solarium issue for more than a year.

In January 2009, Chief Minister Jon Stanhope said the territory was waiting for states and territories to develop a national approach on regulating solariums.

But Ms Bresnan said this would take too long. "We've heard it before from the Government and if we were waiting constantly for things to happen through COAG and the ministerial health council we'd be waiting for a very long time because we know how long those processes often take," Ms Bresnan said.

She called on Labor and the Liberals to support the legislation.

The Cancer Council says regulation has led to a drop in the number of tanning salons in Victoria, West Australia and South Australia.

An October survey of the Yellow

Pages showed a 51 per cent drop in the number of solariums in Melbourne, a 33 per cent decrease in Adelaide and 25 per cent drop in Perth.

But the number of tanning salons actually increased by 10 per cent in Canberra and the capital continues to have the highest per capita number of salons in the country.

The ACT Cancer Council's Sunsmart services coordinator, David Wild, said the council had been calling for regulation for several years but he had not received a firm date for action.

"We'd support anyone who's encouraging the regulation of solariums in Canberra," he said.

"I think many other states have regulated solariums and it's only time now for the other states and territories to move up to that level."

Mr Wild said the World Health Organisation's cancer research agency had recently moved solariums into the highest risk category for cancer.