



New laws regulating tanning salons in ACT start today

By **Natasha Rudra**

People with very fair skin and children under 18 will be turned away from solariums starting today under new laws regulating Canberra's tanning salons.

Tanning salon operators must now be licensed to work in the ACT and must assess each customer's skin before they are allowed to use sunbeds. People with type-1 skin, which is very pale, fails to tan and always burns, will not be permitted to use the salons.

Customers must wear protective eyewear, must be aged over 18 and must sign a consent form before they use a solarium.

The owner of Nefertari Solarium and Beauty Salon, Betty Gobin, said the new regulations simply echoed normal practice at her salon.

"The laws that have come in are the laws that I've had in my salon for 12 years," she said. "The only difference [the new laws] will make to me is that I now have to pay for the privilege. It's \$188 per sunbed and \$188 for the licence, and I have five beds."

Ms Gobin said she had not noticed a drop in the number of people using sunbeds rather than spray tans. "I still have a lot of people using the sunbeds because they use them with discretion. The people who come here are adults, they're not silly about it, and a lot of people do it because they have psoriasis maybe, or lack of vitamin D."



NORMAL PRACTICE: Solarium owner Betty Gobin says she already adheres to the laws.

The regulations limit the amount of UV light users can be exposed to at each visit. They also ban people from visiting a salon more than once every two days. Health Minister Katy Gallagher said the changes would help to inform consumers of the dangers that tanning units can pose. Greens spokeswoman Amanda Bresnan welcomed the regulations but said they could have been implemented earlier.

Ms Bresnan said the regulations, which brought Canberra into line with NSW and Victoria, were overdue in the territory.

NSW and Victoria introduced laws regulating tanning salons after a campaign involving Melbourne woman Clare Oliver, who died from skin cancer after frequent sunbed use.