

### **Who Will You See?**

Our skin clinic doctors are all experienced GP's with a special interest and extra training in skin cancer medicine. Our GPs participate in on-going skin education and the Skin Cancer Society of Australia's surgical audit of excisions and biopsies, to ensure our management of your skin is best practice.

### **What happens in a skin check?**

Your skin will be checked from head to toe. A polarised light dermoscope may be used to assist with diagnosis and management of your skin. A digital photograph may be taken if a spot needs observation. Be sure to tell the doctor about any spots you are worried about.

You might have spots that need **cryotherapy** (or freezing). Some spots do not settle with cryotherapy and not all spots are suitable for this treatment. A **biopsy** (taking a small sample of skin and sending it to the laboratory for analysis) or an **excision** might be needed to fully treat the problem. If you need a biopsy or an excision you will probably be asked to make another appointment.

### **Can all skin cancers be found at a skin check?**

**No.** Not all skin cancers have features that allow immediate or accurate diagnosis. Melanomas can be "featureless" or unrecognizable and other skin spots can look like melanoma or non-melanoma cancer yet turn out to be harmless. Sometimes it is a change in the appearance or feel of a spot that makes it suspicious for a skin cancer. It is important to remain vigilant for any skin changes between visits.

### **What if I need referral to a specialist?**

Some skin cancers are better managed by specialist dermatologists or surgeons. In these cases your doctor will refer you for specialist care.

### **What will it cost?**

Your skin check in the Skin Cancer Clinic will be charged as a standard consultation fee.

Any extra procedures such as freezing or biopsies will incur an extra fee. Medicare refund will apply for the rebate.

**Excisions: All excisions will incur an out of pocket fee. Your doctor will advise you of the cost.**

**DVA Gold Card Patients – All fees will be incurred by DVA.**

### **When do I need to come back?**

Yearly skin checks are sufficient for most people. If you have had cryotherapy we like to check you in 3 months. If you have had a skin cancer treated we need to see you in 3-6 months. Your doctor will tell you when to return. We will send you a reminder to help you remember.