

# Know the Difference

## 8-12 more years

Only those who have completed an additional 8-12 years of training beyond their medical degree, including AMC accredited specialist surgical training, can lawfully use the title Plastic Surgeon.

**100%**

of ASAPS members are recognised by AHPRA, the AMC and Medicare as specialists in plastic surgery, and have 8-12 years of specialist surgical training beyond their degree.

**93%**

of Australians agree that it would be easier for patients to differentiate between surgeons and doctors, if all practitioners were to go by their official AHPRA title.\*

**~60%**

of cosmetic surgery patients would have chosen differently if they knew their doctors were not qualified plastic surgeons.†

**86%**

of Australians agree that any doctor without any surgical training who is using the title 'surgeon' is wrong.\*

## Training & experience

Consumers often conclude that a cosmetic surgeon is best qualified to undertake a cosmetic procedure without recognising the gap in experience and training between a cosmetic surgeon and a registered specialist plastic surgeon.

## THE LAW

Only doctors registered as specialists in the recognised speciality of 'plastic surgery' can call themselves 'Plastic Surgeons'.

## THE FAKE TITLE

Cosmetic surgery is not recognised as a separate speciality. Doctors with NO specialist surgical registration portray themselves as surgeons by using the fake title, 'Cosmetic Surgeon'.

## AUSTRALIANS EXPECT SURGEONS TO FOLLOW THE LAW

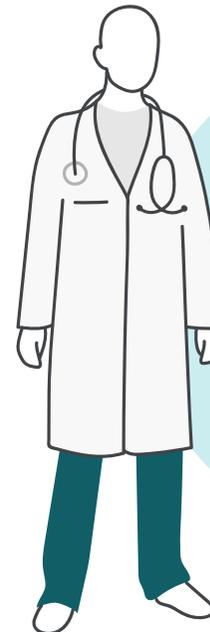
[ 93% of Australians expect all doctors to only use their official AHPRA title\* ]

**AHPRA REGISTERED  
SPECIALIST  
PLASTIC SURGEON**



VS

**UNREGISTERED  
"COSMETIC"  
SURGEON**



Practitioners who are not registered, specialist health practitioners must not falsely claim to be so. Individuals and bodies found guilty of false claims, can be fined up to \$120,000, 3 years imprisonment or both.

**Check your surgeon: [www.aestheticplasticsurgeons.org.au/your-safety](http://www.aestheticplasticsurgeons.org.au/your-safety)**

## Risk of harm

Some of these 'cosmetic surgeons' hold elementary medical degrees, which exposes consumers to a greater risk of harm or negative outcome.

**92%**

of Australians believe that a patient's safety is put at risk when a doctor performs surgery without surgical training.\*

**77%**

of Australians agree that banning the term "cosmetic surgeon" would help patients to separate the doctors from the surgeons.\*

**81%**

of Australians agree that the title of 'Cosmetic Surgeon' implies that a doctor is a registered specialist.\*

**90%**

of cosmetic surgery patients choose non-accredited surgeons because they believe they are less expensive and have visible online and social media profiles.†

## Uninformed decisions

There is a critical need for consumers to become better informed on the correct titles and levels of expertise, in order to make informed decisions that result in the best, possible outcomes.