**To the Hon. Speaker of the House of Representatives and Members of the House of Representatives**

Access to dermatology services in rural and regional areas is critically limited due to a shortage of dermatologists and clinics. This results in long wait times for appointments, challenges in accessing qualified specialists, and insufficient preventative and early intervention care.

WPRS offers one of only two accredited dermatology training positions in a regional setting. However, the high costs associated with establishing, employing, and supporting trainees mean we can no longer privately fund these positions and need additional STP funding.

The provision of STP funding has already improved dermatology services in southwest Victoria. WPRS is urging the Minister for Health to formally request that the Department direct the Australasian College of Dermatologists to redistribute STP funding to support regional positions in 2025 and beyond. Without this funding, our regional training position will be at risk, leading to even longer wait times for patients and jeopardizing the overall sustainability of our services due to the burnout and fatigue experienced by our consultant specialists.

**Chief Petitioner**
Christopher Kiroff, CEO, WPRS

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