



# Making sense of the skin cancer statistics B

## 1. Read the statements below:

In Australia, from 1982 to 2016:

- the mortality rate (number of deaths per 100,000 people) per year from melanoma:
  - dropped for the three youngest age groups (0–39 yrs, 40–49 yrs, 50–59 yrs)
  - increased for the three oldest age groups (60–69 yrs, 70–79 yrs and 80 yrs and over)
- for people 0–39 years of age, deaths dropped from 93 in 1982 to an estimated 50 deaths in 2016
- melanoma was the most common cancer in 15–39 year-olds, making up 20% of all their cancer cases
- the skin cancer rate dropped:
  - 4 per cent for those aged five to 24 years
  - 2 per cent for those aged 25 to 34 years
  - 1.5 per cent in those aged 34 to 45 years.

Most sun damage is done before the age of 30 years.

## 2. Debate the following:

*As at 2016 Australians aged 60 years and over had acted responsibly with regards to skin cancer*  
OR

*As at 2016 Australians aged 40 years and under had acted responsibly with regards to skin cancer*

In your response:

- Include arguments for and against the statement
- Include personal behaviours, parenting, and information available to the group.
- Where possible, use statistics to support your case.

Further information to assist in the debate is available in Fact file B: [At a glance-Skin cancer statistics](#)