UV meter call for schools

BY GIOVANNI TORRE

THE Cancer Council WA is pursuing the introduction of UV meters at high schools as part of its State Election priorities.

The group also called for reforms in the areas of prevention, care, screening, early detection and research in New Zealand on Friday.

Cancer Council WA chief executive Susan Rooney said the new medical tool could come "at a small cost and make a big difference".

She said UV meters at high schools would enable students to be more aware of the danger and encourage them to take appropriate sun smart measures.

"This will reduce the incidence of skin cancer into the future," Ms Rooney said.

Cancer Council WA president and breast cancer surgeon Christobel Saunders supported the call for the next State Government to act in response to the impact and incidence of cancer, with 12,000 new cases diagnosed every year and about 8,700 West Australians living with cancer.

Professor Saunders said in comparison to other Australian states and territories, WA had seen "a very poor level of investment in local cancer research from successive state governments".

Cancer Council WA also called on the next State Government to maintain and build upon its current investment in cancer prevention efforts.

"We call on the next State Government to commit $350,000 per annum of dedicated funding for four years to enable improved psychological care and support to reach more West Australians," Ms Rooney said.

Cancer Council WA also said the next State Government had to implement and resource the recommendations of the 2015 Cancer Care Taskforce.

She urged West Australians to join Cancer Council WA's online campaign at www.unleadagesm-cancer.com.au.

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