

Sunbeds a major cancer hazard

SUNBEDS have been branded a major cause of skin cancer, confirming "what many Australians have long suspected", a health expert says. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has elevated tanning machines into its topmost cancer risk category. University of Sydney Professor of Public Health Bruce Armstrong was a member of the IARC working group that reviewed ionising and solar radiation, and rated sunbeds as "carcinogenic to humans".

"We can now say unequivocally that artificial sources of solar radiation - including ultraviolet-emitting tanning devices - can cause both skin and eye melanomas," Prof Armstrong said.

"The IARC has confirmed what many Australians have long suspected, tanning devices emitting ultraviolet (UV) rays are dangerous and can cause cancer.'

The IARC, which is tasked by the World Health Organisation to review and report on causes of cancer, last reviewed solar and ultraviolet radiation in 1992. Prof Armstrong said at that time sunlight was ruled to be a cause of cancer but the IARC determined there was insufficient evidence to show artificial sources of UV rays were also carcinogenic.

"Evidence considered in the latest review - much of which wasn't available in 1992 - found using UV-emitting tanning devices increases a person's risk of developing skin melanomas by about 15 per cent overall," he said. Most Australian states moved to ban minors from using tanning beds, and increase regulation of the industry, following the well-publicised plight of Melbourne woman Claire Oliver who died of melanoma in 2007 at age 26.

A study released last year found tanning beds kill 43 Australians a year and they were responsible for another 2,600 annual skin cancer diagnoses.

Aussie blokes 'worst husbands in the world'

AUSTRALIAN men make the worst husbands in the world because they loathe helping out with the housework, a British study claims.

n economist from Oxford University found that women wanting to settle down were better off finding a bloke from Scandinavia, the US or Britain than Australia. Study author Dr said that based on her study of 12 developed countries, men and women were both more likely to cohabit or marry if they believed their partner would help out with the household chores and child-

But it appears that when it comes to



Domestic hell ... Australia is the least egalitarian country, a study of 13,500 people in 12 countries has found.

finding a husband willing to help out, Australian women have a tough time. Dr Sevilla-Sanz's study ranked Australia as the least egalitarian society,

making its men unattractive marriage partners because they were more unlikely to do household chores.

Norway, Sweden, Great Britain, the US and were judged to be the most egalitarian countries, making their men the most attractive marriage partners.

Next were the Netherlands, Ireland, Spain, New Zealand, Japan, Germany, Austria and Australia in last place. "In egalitarian countries you might, in principle, expect to see women preferring to remain single rather than face the prospect of spending more time doing household chores," Dr Sevilla-Sanz said.

"However, this study shows that in egalitarian countries there is less social stigma attached to men doing what was traditionally women's work.

"For instance, if paternity leave is the social norm, more men take it.

"This leads to men in egalitarian societies taking on more of a domestic role so the likelihood of forming a harmonious household becomes greater, resulting in a higher proportion of couples setting up households in these countries." The study's findings were based on a survey of 13,500 men and women aged 20 to 45 from each of the 12 countries.

Each was asked about their attitudes to gender, housework and childcare responsibilities.

Just how sad can we Greeks be?

"Whadayawant? A withdrawal? Well, why didn't you say so? Come on..." The bank teller could not have been more than 30 years old. Throughout my wait, I watched him speak to elderly men and women, and people his own age in the most informal Greek address. He had stripped himself of any pretence of professionalism, of any effort to be polite. While I am neither conservative nor a great stickler for form, I do believe that using formally addressing people who are older than us or that we do not know, even when they are the same age, shows a certain cultivation, a politeness - though neither quality can be acquired solely by using the plural. This particular bank clerk was sarcastic and arrogant; he was moody and brusque, rash and a smart aleck. A Greek of the worst order. The extent of his obnoxiousness was displayed in all its splendor when the next customer, a shy and by then terrified foreigner, walked up to the window: "Whadayawant, you?" I let my imagination loose considering this young man. I saw him waking up a bundle of nerves. I saw him take out the garbage and throw it into the nearest bin, without caring whether it was for recyclables or not. Blue bins, green bins, red bins, what's the difference? I watched him drive to work, honking all along the way. At the traffic light, he threw his cigarette out the window as he punched a number into his cell phone. He parked blocking a ramp for the disabled. In the afternoon, he sat around with his friends sucking down a frappe. Their conversation came around to how much they hate immigrants. At dinner, at a trendy beachfront restaurant, he picked a fight with the waiter: "Can I get some service over here?! I was here before those guys!" On the weekend, he takes a ride in a friend's boat; dumping his garbage into the sea. He is the star, the protagonist in a microcosm of self-complacency and inadequacy, selfishness and false bravado, ersatz luxury. There is only one truth, his own. One opinion, his own. One ethnicity, his own. One religion, his own. One group, his own. How sad.

실실요Ρ⊙Σ Ελληνικός Ραδιοφωνικός Σταθμός κύμματα) μεσαία 1683 $(\sigma T a)$

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