

## Media Statement

### Accord's ongoing advocacy for improved sunscreen testing opens the door for acceptance of new laboratory-based testing methods in Australia

**Sydney. Thursday, 18 September 2025.** Accord's longstanding calls for the acceptance of laboratory-based SPF testing for sunscreens have been realised with the recent release by the Australian Standards sunscreen committee (CS-042) of proposals that will allow for acceptance of *in vitro* (ISO 23675) and hybrid (ISO 23698) testing in Australia.

"This is a big step forward for more repeatable and cost-effective testing of the effectiveness of sunscreens on the Australian market," Accord Executive Director Damian Mitsch said.

"It is a known problem both in Australia and globally that SPF test results from conventional methods using human volunteers<sup>1</sup> can vary wildly between testing laboratories. And as a result, industry and academic scientists have been engaged for many years in efforts to validate more repeatable lab-based testing methods for SPF, such as *in vitro* tests.

"Given recent concerns about SPF test results, this sets us on the right pathway towards greater test result repeatability and also opens the door for ongoing research effort towards lab-based tests for water resistance.

"It has been disappointing to witness the sensationalised manner in which the known problem of human test variability has recently been presented to the media. Maintaining consumer confidence in sunscreens is an important public health goal that is taken seriously by the industry and all other responsible stakeholders.

"All sunscreens contain UV-filters and are formulated by their manufacturers to be effective at blocking harmful UV radiation. SPF testing is undertaken as a validation step.

"Industry is committed to ongoing improvement as science advances and this step towards acceptance of more repeatable and cost-effective lab-based testing is most welcome," Mr Mitsch said.

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<sup>1</sup> Also known as *in vivo* tests.