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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

QAL-sponsored skin checks remove deadly Melanomas

No one thinks it will happen to them, but the likelihood of getting skin cancer in Queensland is very high and QAL has helped to prevent its employees and their families from becoming a statistic.

In recognition of 750 000 hours of serious injury free work, QAL offered a free skin cancer check to all employees, contractors and their families in 2008. During the program, 1 062 people took advantage of the offer with 890 treatments being performed where either pre-cancerous or cancerous lesions were identified and removed.

Of the treatments performed, there were:

- 533 benign lesions removed (non cancerous, non malignant)
- 167 biopsies conducted
- 129 lesions identified as Basal-cell or Squamous carcinomas (non melanoma skin cancer), and
- Five melanomas removed.

Managing Director Phil Campbell said it is imperative that people are vigilant towards getting regular skin checks to avoid deadly cancers.

"We are very pleased to have encouraged people to get their skin checked, but at the same time it's worrying to see so many skin cancers identified, including the removal of five melanomas," Mr Campbell said.

"95 per cent of skin cancers are treatable if detected early so I truly hope QAL's skin check program has given employees the incentive to continue with or begin regular checks."

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world and Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in any Australian state. Remember to make a booking with a qualified skin check doctor at least once a year.

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About Queensland Alumina Limited:

Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) commenced operation in March 1967 with an annual production rate of 600,000 tonnes of alumina. Today QAL is one of the world's largest alumina refineries, producing 3.95 million tonnes of the world's best smelter grade alumina per year. With an average workforce of 1050 employees, QAL one of the region's largest employers and annually contributes approximately \$300 million directly to the local economy.

For further information and images, contact:

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