

SEAWEED HITS NAIL DISEASE ON HEAD

AARON LANGMAID

MELBOURNE researchers have nailed the cure for one of our most awkward ailments in a world first.

The Brighton-based boffins have discovered a micro-organism in freshwater seaweed that fights nail fungus.

The naturally occurring response was developed primarily to help one in 10 Aussies who battle with the often embarrassing condition.

Experts at Victorian company BioVite have been competing against some of the biggest pharmaceutical companies in the world in the race to find a cure for the condition.

Chief executive Danny Goldman said the product, NailKalm, would provide huge relief to thousands of sufferers. "It comes from a natural source but it is more effective than other commercial products in the market," Mr Goldman said.

It is estimated more than two million Australians



BioVite chief executive Danny Goldman inspects Hannah's feet. Picture: TONY GOUGH

struggle with nail fungal complaints.

Mr Goldman said after 10 years of research, scientists found the greatest threat to wild spirulina was a fungal attack, and zeroed in on its defence mechanism — a microorganism known as Amycot.

The team says the product has been subjected to rigorous testing, including four international, independent trials. "A lot of people have tried products but because they don't work that well, they just live with the condition," Mr Goldman said.

He said other alternatives didn't kill off fungus but clinical data showed their product did.

The company hopes to push into the US market where more than 35 million people grapple with the condition on a daily basis.

Mr Goldman said the

product offered hope to thousands of diabetics where the rate of infection was considerably higher.

"It's easy to apply, you don't need to file the nail back," he said.

"You just put it on your finger and it works its way through the nail."