



## Sun Protection Policy

### Policy Statement

Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer in later life. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before age 70.

### Purpose

This SunSmart policy provides guidelines to:

- are protected from over-exposure to UV radiation;
- ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for students and staff;
- ensure students are encouraged and supported to develop independent sun protection skills to help them be responsible for their own sun protection;
- support the service's strategies to meet its duty of care and occupational health and safety obligations to minimise harmful UV exposure for students, staff and visitors.

### Scope

This policy applies to all educators and children in attendance at the service, and the adults providing sun-safe clothing and materials to their children.

### Commencement of Policy

This Policy commences on and from 24th September, 2020. It replaces all other policies or arrangements governing the service's program and practice. This Policy will be reviewed on or before 24th September, 2021.

### Responsibilities

#### *Responsible Person*

- To ensure that all staff are always following the Sun Protection policy and procedure, including their clothing and wider sun safety directions.
- To ensure that children are always sun safe and following the procedure at all relevant times.

#### *Educators*

- To be always aware of the UV level throughout the afternoon and ensure that children are safe and protected from UV rays as per the procedure.

- To follow the policy and procedure at all times regarding personal protective equipment (ie hats and sunscreen).

#### *Children*

- To follow the policy and procedure as always directed by educators.
- To apply sunscreen and wear hats when instructed by educators.
- To play only in shaded spaces if required personal protective equipment (ie hats and sunscreen) if is not applied.

#### *Carers*

- To provide alternative methods that align with the service's Sun Protection Policy if sunscreen cannot be worn.
- To understand that their children will be required to play in shaded areas only if they are not wearing personal protective equipment that aligns with the service's policies and procedures.

#### **Further Reading**

- DET School Policy & Advisory Guide (SPAG) Sun & UV protection (2019)
- DET Outdoor activities (2018)
- Education and Training Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Dress Codes and School Uniforms in Victorian Schools –Final Report (2007)
- ARPANSA Radiation Protection Standard for Occupational Exposure to Ultraviolet Radiation (2006)
- Safe Work Australia: Guidance Note – Sun protection for outdoor workers (2016)
- AS 4174:2018 Knitted and woven shade fabrics
- AS/NZS 1067.1:2016, Eye and face protection - Sunglasses and fashion spectacles
- AS/NZS 4399:2017, Sun protective clothing - Evaluation and classification
- AS/NZS 2604:2012 Sunscreen products - Evaluation and classification
- Australian Government Therapeutics Goods Administration (TGA) – Australian regulatory guidelines for sunscreens: 4. Labelling and advertising – directions for use of the product
- AS/NZS 4685.0:2017, Playground equipment and surfacing - Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation.6.2.1: General considerations, 6.3.9: Shade and sun protection, Appendix A: Shade and sun protection

#### **Applicable Education and Care Services National Regulations (2020) and Law (2011)**

<i>r.77</i>	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
<i>r.114</i>	Outdoor space—shade
<i>s.165</i>	Offence to inadequately supervise children
<i>s.167</i>	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards

# Sun Protection Procedure

## Scope

This policy applies to all educators and children in attendance at the service, and the adults providing sun-safe clothing and materials to their children.

## Commencement of Policy

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## Monitoring UV Levels

- To assist with the implementation of this procedures, staff and students are encouraged to access the daily local sun protection times via the free SunSmart app, or at [sunsmart.com.au](https://sunsmart.com.au)
- The sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the daily local sun protection times.
- The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types. In Victoria, UV levels regularly reach 3 or higher from mid-August to the end of April.

## Environment: Seek shade

- The physical environment of the service provides sufficient shelters and trees providing shade in outdoor areas particularly in high-use areas
- The availability of shade is considered when planning all other outdoor activities.
- Children are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Children who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

## Behaviours: Slip on sun protective clothing

- In situations where school uniform is not worn (ie Vacation Care) children are required to wear t-shirts (no singlets or sleeveless shirts), and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

## Behaviours: Slap on a protective hat

- All students must wear a hat when in any unshaded play spaces. Peak caps are considered suitable but hats that protect their face, neck and ears (legionnaire, broad-brimmed or bucket hat), are preferred.
- All educators must wear a wide-brimmed hat at all times when supervising or facilitating play, including in shaded areas. If educators do not bring their own wide-brimmed hat, one will be provided by the service. A peak cap or other alternative is not permitted.

## Behaviours: Slap on sunscreen

- The service will provide SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for children on arrival. Educators will assist children in applying sunscreen and will monitor to ensure that each child applies the sunscreen appropriately (ie across all exposed area of the body).
- If children supply an alternative sun protection method, this must be applied on arrival at the service and monitored by educators.
- For both children and educators, sunscreen is applied in accordance with the manufacturer's directions (applied at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours, or more frequently if sweating or swimming).

- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).

#### **Learning**

- Programs on sun protection are included in the curriculum for students and activities.
- Students are encouraged to be involved in initiatives to promote and model sun protection measures to the whole school community.
- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, school website/intranet, staff and parent meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and at student enrolment/new staff orientation.

#### **WHS**

- As part of OHS UV risk controls and role-modelling, staff, families and visitors:
  - wear a sun protective hat, covering clothing and, if practical, sunglasses;
  - apply sunscreen; and
  - seek shade whenever possible.

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date Reviewed</b>	<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Comments/Amendments</b>	<b>Next Review Date</b>
1	8 January 2018	Dr Brenda Abbey (Author)	Updated to changed NQF requirements 1 February 2018. Service to modify policies to its specific needs.	
2	22 April 2021		No changes	21 April 2022