

Rationale

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year, 80 per cent are skin cancers. Given that children may be in care during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, education and care settings play a major role in both minimising children's UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence long-term behaviour.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Research shows that sunburn contributes to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable.

The rationale for this policy was provided by the Queensland Cancer Council and is consistent with their Sun Smart Policy Guidelines for Education and Care Settings.

The purpose of this Sun Safety Policy is to ensure that all children educators attending our service are protected from skin damage caused by harmful UVR from the sun.

As children will spend a portion of their day outdoors, we are committed to protecting them from harmful effects of the sun. The service will provide a SunSmart environment that supports sun safe practices and create an awareness of the need to reschedule outdoor activities to support sun safe practices.

Relevant Laws and other Provisions

The laws and other provisions affecting this policy include:

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
- *Duty of Care*
- *Cancer Council Queensland's SunSmart Policy Guidelines – Early Childhood Cancer Council Australia*
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety*
- *Policies: 3.7 – Physical Activity, 4.1 - General Health and Safety, 4.4 - Preventative Health and Wellbeing, 9.2 – Enrolment, 9.3 – Communication with Families.*

Procedures

Sun safety will be practiced at our service throughout the whole year.

Parents/Carers will be asked to provide for their child a broad brimmed hat which protects the face, neck, ears and crown of the head and encourage them to wear it. If a child is sent with a hat, they will be encouraged to wear it and apply sunscreen to exposed areas.

Parents/Carers will be asked to provide appropriate SunSmart clothing that protects as much of the skin as possible, and in particular covers the shoulders. If a child is sent with a singlet top they will be encouraged to apply sunscreen to exposed areas and play in shaded areas.

Educators will ensure that all children and educators attending the service are protected from the harmful UV effects of the sun during the recommended times of the day. The Coordinator/Responsible Person will:

- Inform parents/carers of our Sun Safety Policy when children are enrolled.
- Ensure all sun protection measures are applied to children and educators while outside when the UV level is 3 or above, which in Queensland, is all year round including:
 - Wearing adequate SunSmart clothing and making use of shaded and/or covered areas;
 - The wearing of broad-brimmed hats if preferable, in the instance that this is not available a cap or other headwear can be used with the provision of sunscreen to cover exposed areas and;
 - Encourage the application of SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreens before going outdoors and encouraging frequent reapplication of sunscreen. If a child is sensitive to the services sunscreen, parents are encouraged to provide a suitable alternative sunscreen.
 - No Hat/ Shade Play will be initiated if a child does not bring a hat to any session.
- Ensure all educators and children act as positive role models and demonstrate SunSmart protective measures (as above) when attending the service; and
- Ensure that adequate shade is provided during outdoor events including excursions.

Ongoing feedback and support will be sought from Parents/Carers and the school community for the Sun Safety Policy and its implementation through community and CKC newsletters.

The Sun Safety Policy will be reviewed regularly and during review it will be added to our newsletter for feedback from stakeholders.

References

Cancer Council Queensland SunSmart Policy Guidelines – Early Childhood,
http://www.cancerqld.org.au/icms_docs/54255_Early_Childhood_Settings_SunSmart_Policy_Guidelines_.pdf

DATE DEVELOPED	DATE RATIFIED	DATE REVIEWED	DATE RATIFIED
September 2020	September 2020	October 2021	October 2021