4.8 CKC SUN SAFETY POLICY

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, Policy Guide for Schools and Early Childhood Sun Protection*
- *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. Currumbin Kids Club will provide SPF50+ sunscreen for use by Educators and children. Parents/Carers who do not wish for their child/ren to use centre-supplied sunscreen, will be required to provide their own and have it accessible in their child's bag.

Parents/Carers will be asked to provide for their child a broad brimmed, bucket or legionnaire style hat which protects the face, neck, ears and crown of the head and require them to wear it whilst playing outside. If a child is sent with a hat, they will be required to wear it and apply sunscreen to exposed areas.

Currumbin Kids Club will provide a limited number of spare bucket hats for children who do not have a hat available. These hats will be washed regularly for hygiene purposes.

Parents/Carers will be asked to provide appropriate SunSmart clothing that protects as much of the skin as possible and 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. For activities involving the pool or water play, parents/carers will be asked to pack a rash top or t-shirt and children will beach required to wear it during water play activities.

Where practical, children are encouraged to wear close-fitting, wraparound sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard AS1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible.

During all day care sessions (vacation care and pupil-free days), children who show up in clothing not deemed SunSmart such as singlets, sleeveless shirts and dresses, crop tops, or short dresses and shorts maybe turned away at sign-in and requested to come back in appropriate attire as stated in the program and consent form.

To support the implementation of this policy, employees are encouraged to check daily local sun protection times using the SunSmart widget or app at https://www.sunsmart.com.au/resources, or by visiting https://www.myuv.com.au/?location=gold-coast-seaway-qld-forecast or the Bureau of Meteorology website https://www.bom.gov.au/qld/forecasts/index.shtml. 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, bucket or legionnaire-style hats are 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 service's sunscreen, parents are encouraged to provide a suitable alternative sunscreen.
    - Children are encouraged to apply sunscreen 20 minutes prior to going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours when outdoors for extended periods, or immediately after swimming, sweating or towel drying.
    - If a child does not bring a hat, a child will be encouraged to use a spare centre-provided bucket hat for outdoor play. If a child does not have a hat and does not wish to use a spare hat, the child will have to play indoors, in the courtyard, or undercover in shade.
- Scheduling of outdoor activities: the recommendation in QLD is minimising outdoor activities between 10am and 3pm to, whenever practical, outdoor activities are scheduled to minimise time outdoors during periods when the UV is high to extreme (UV6 or above)
- Provide a variety of shaded areas (i.e. built, natural and portable) in all areas where children congregate including areas for meals, outdoor teaching, sport, and whilst on excursions.
    - Currumbin Kids Club will conduct regular shade assessments to determine future needs and collaborate with the school to meet these needs.
- Ensure all educators and children act as positive role models and demonstrate SunSmart protective measures (as above) when attending the service;
    - In addition, Educators and staff are encouraged to complete Cancer Council's free online learning modules (Generation SunSmart)
- Learning activities that promote sun protection are included in activity programming
- Families and visitors are strongly encouraged to role model sun protection behaviours when involved in outdoor organisational activities

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.

Non-compliance:
Non-compliance can result in harm to the health of children, young people, and Educators with skin damage, including skin cancer, as the result of cumulative exposure to the sun.

- Children and young people who do not wish to wear their hat and sunscreen, or have not worn appropriate SunSmart clothing, will be given the option of alternative areas to play in, such as indoors or

undercover areas out of direct sunlight in the courtyard or in front of the sports hall. Parents/carers will be reminded of our Sun Protection Policy.

- Educators who do not wear a hat outside will be referred to Policy 8.21 Educator Uniform and Personal Presentation policy or be assigned to supervise indoor areas.

Involvement:
Currumbin Kids Club is a single service. Policy development is by management and P&C executives of the service and feedback is open to all stakeholders (parents/carers, children, and wider community).

09/2020: Sun Safe Policy was developed by Liz Keppie and P&C Executives.
07/2023: Policy was reviewed by Coordinator, Carone Anderson and P&C Executives
09/2025: Policy was reviewed by Coordinator, Carone Anderson, Assistant Coordinators, Jessica Boyle & Paris McKay, and P&C Executives
03/2026: Policy was reviewed by Coordinator, Carone Anderson, Assistant Coordinators, Jessica Boyle & Paris McKay, and P&C Executives

References

Cancer Council Queensland, National SunSmart Program, SunSmart Program - Cancer Council Queensland

Cancer Council Queensland, Policy Guide for Schools and Early Childhood Sun Protection, 2024-Policy-Guide-Sun-Protection-Schools-and-Early-Childhood-24040.pdf

DATE DEVELOPED	DATE RATIFIED	DATE REVIEWED	DATE RATIFIED
September 2020	September 2020	October 2021	October 2021
		July 2023	July 2023
Next Review Due		September 2025	November 2025
March 2027		March 2026	March 2026