



SUN-SAFETY GUIDELINES

Purpose

To ensure that all students attending school and/or participating in school approved activities are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultra-violet rays.

Relevant DET Documents

- Occupational Health and Safety Policy PD2004007
- Protection from the Sun – memorandum 97/152
- Student Welfare Policy PD20020014

Rationale

- The increasing occurrence of skin cancer in Australia is a matter of concern for the whole community including schools. Schools have a responsibility to provide a safe environment for students and staff and this responsibility includes the provision of protection from the sun throughout the year.
- Skin cancer rates in Australia are higher than anywhere else in the world with skin cancers accounting for 80% of all new cancers diagnosed each year.
- The major cause of skin cancer is exposure to ultraviolet radiation over many years, particularly during childhood and adolescence. Even if exposure does not cause obvious sunburn, damage still occurs and accumulates over the years.
- OH&S legislation requires all managers and supervisors to provide and maintain, as far as practicable, a working and learning environment and conditions that are safe and without risk to health.

Implementation

- All students are required to wear a broad brimmed school hat in the sun, as approved by the Cancer Council.
- Students who do not wear an approved hat must remain out of the sun for play periods. Students are to sit in a shaded area in the playground during these times if they do not have a hat.
- Students are encouraged to bring and use sunscreen lotion for personal use during sport or play periods.
- All staff are expected to model effective sun protection procedures such as wearing hats, using sunscreen and seeking shade.
- As far as possible, sport and other outdoor activities will be scheduled before 11:00am in Summer months.
- Students are to be encouraged to assess their own skin type and take greater precautions if highly susceptible to direct sunlight.
- Teaching and learning about the need for sun protection will be included in class programs. Staff will be given the opportunity to participate in relevant professional learning opportunities as they arise.
- The promotion of sun protection is a health and safety issue, not a discipline issue.

Evaluation

As a result of these guidelines:

- The students will understand why sun protection is important and will take effective action to protect themselves when in the sun;
- Most outdoor Summer sporting activities, where possible will be held before 11:00am; and
- Parents, staff and other community members will understand the risks of sun exposure and will support each other in developing and implementing the school's sun protection plan.

The guidelines will be reviewed by the school community on a regular basis.

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