

Sun Protection Policy

Purpose

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancer, including melanoma and non-melanoma, is the most common cancer in Australia.

Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in childhood is a major risk factor for the development of skin cancer later in life. By implementing a best-practice Sun Protection Policy, Peak Sports & Learning can help protect staff and children from UV radiation and teach children good sun protection habits from an early age to reduce their risk.

Sun protection times are a forecast for the time of day UV levels will reach 3 or above. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types and the policy areas should be implemented. In NSW, UV levels are high enough (UV 3 or above) to damage unprotected skin most months of the year. UV levels are particularly high during the summer months, and highest in the middle of the day. UV levels and daily sun protection times can be accessed via the SunSmart App or Cancer Council Australia's home page to determine sun protection requirements.

Considerations

Education and Care Services National Regulations	National Quality Standard/s	Other Service policies/documentation	Other
Law: Section 167 Regulations 100, 101, 113, 114, 116, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172	National Quality Standard – All seven quality areas	Education, Curriculum & Learning Policy Interactions with Children Policy Duty of Care Occupational Health and Safety Act (2004) Children's Services Act 1996	My Time, Our Place The Framework for School Age Care in Australia

Procedures

The service is committed to ensuring all children, educators and staff are protected from ultraviolet (UV) radiation for all outdoor activities. This is done by:

- Utilising shade in the outdoor environment
- Ensuring all sun protection measures are promoted and utilised
- Encouraging and supporting children to develop independent sun protection skills
- Providing learning opportunities for children, staff and families

Scheduling outdoor activities

Quality Area 1 – Educational program and practice, Quality Area 2 – Children’s health and safety

- UV levels and daily sun protection times are used to plan daily activities and ensure a correct understanding of local sun protection requirements.
- Sun protection is included in service participation risk assessments, including excursions where all sun protection practices are planned, organised, understood and available.

Seek Shade

Quality Area 3 – Physical environment

- The availability of shade is considered for all outdoor activities and excursions.
- Shade options are provided, maintained and promoted to the children.
- Activities and play spaces are set up and moved throughout the day to take advantage of shade patterns. Shade options can include a combination of portable, natural and built shade. Cancer Council encourages regular shade assessments and the monitoring of existing shade structures, to assist in planning for additional shade.

Hats

Quality Area 2 – Children’s health and safety

- All staff and children are encouraged to wear SunSmart hats* that protect their face, neck and ears.
- Children without a SunSmart hat are encouraged to play in the shade or are provided with a spare SunSmart hat.

SunSmart hats include:

- Broad-brimmed hats with a brim size of at least 6cm (adults 7.5cm).
- Bucket hats with a deep crown and brim size of at least 5cm (adults 6cm).
- Legionnaire style hats.

Baseball caps or visors do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended.

Clothing

Quality Area 2 – Children’s health and safety

- Staff and children are required to wear SunSmart clothing that covers as much of the skin (especially the shoulders, back and stomach) as possible.
- Children without SunSmart clothing are encouraged to play in an area protected from the sun (e.g. under shade, veranda or indoors) or are provided with spare clothing.

SunSmart clothing includes wearing:

- Loose fitting shirts and dresses with sleeves and collars or covered neckline.
- Longer style skirts, shorts and trousers.

Midriff, crop or singlet tops do not provide enough sun protection and therefore are not recommended.

Sunscreen

Quality Area 2 – Children’s health and safety

- SPF30+ (or higher) broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen is available at the service.
- All staff and children are encouraged to apply sunscreen before going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours.
- Permission to apply sunscreen is included in the service enrolment form. Where children have allergies or sensitivity to the sunscreen, parents are asked to provide an alternative sunscreen, or the child encouraged to play in the shade.
- Families ensure sunscreen is applied prior to attending vacation care.

Cancer Council recommends usage tests before applying a new sunscreen. All sunscreen is stored in a cool, dry place and the expiry dates monitored.

Role modelling of staff

Quality Area 1 – Educational program and practice, Quality Area 5 – Relationships with children

Staff act as role models and demonstrate SunSmart behaviours by:

- Wearing a SunSmart hat, protective clothing, and wearing sunglasses (optional)
- Applying SPF30+ broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen
- Promoting the use of shade
- Discussing sun protection with children and demonstrating a positive and proactive approach to the management of sun protection in the service.

Sun safety is everyone's responsibility. By being role models ourselves and leading the way with our own sun safety, we can inspire our children to be SunSmart when they step outside.

Education

Quality Area 1 – Educational program and practice, Quality Area 4 – Staffing Arrangements, Quality Area 5 – Relationships with children

- Children are provided with opportunities to take leadership roles in managing sun protection e.g. accessing daily UV levels and sun protection times, hat reminders and management of sunscreen.
- Children understand why sun safety is important and learn how to take effective sun protection actions. Further information is available from Cancer Council NSW's website www.sunsmartnsw.com.au.

Information and policy availability

Quality Area 6 – Collaborative partnerships with families and communities, Quality Area 7 – Governance and leadership

- Sun protection policy, procedures, requirements and updates are made available to staff, families and visitors.
- Sun protection information and resources are accessible and communicated regularly to families.
- All parents/families are informed of the sun protection policy including appropriate hat, clothing and sunscreen requirements on enrolling their child in the service or vacation care.

Sunglasses (optional)

Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety

- Staff and children are encouraged to wear close-fitting wrap-around sunglasses that cover as much of the eye area as possible and comply with Australian Standard AS1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4).

Monitoring and Review

Quality Area 4 – Staffing arrangements, Quality Area 7 – Governance and leadership

- Management regularly monitor and review how effectively they implement their sun protection policy.
- The sun protection policy is available to staff, families and visitors.

Sun protection policies must be updated and submitted to Cancer Council NSW every three years to maintain SunSmart status.

Reference: Cancer Council SunSmart Policy CAN6643 03/19 and VIC Cancer Council OSHC Sunsmart Policy

Version Control Table

Version Control	Date Released	Next Review	Approved by	Amendment
1	January 2016	March 2019	Directors	Adopted SunSmart Cancer Council policy for Sun protection
2	May 2019	May 2020	Directors	Adopted the updated NSW SunSmart policy for Sun protection from Cancer Council.
3	March 2020	June 2020	Directors	Reviewed with no amendments. Moved to new document review timeline.
4	June 2020	June 2022	Directors	Review with no amendments.
5	June 2022	June 2024	Directors	Amendments with review of VIC Cancer Council sample policy for OSHC.