



Wandana Child Parent Centre Sun Protection policy

This policy applies to all centre activities and events on and off-site.

Rationale

At Wandana CPC we acknowledge that Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world and understand that skin cancer is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Two out of every three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer before aged 70, however up to 95% of skin cancers can be prevented by adequately protecting the skin when the ultraviolet (UV) is 3 and above.

Melanoma is the most common cancer in Australians aged 15-29, and sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is a critical determinant of future skin cancer risk.

A balance of ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV radiation can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Sun exposure during childhood and adolescence is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk.

Too little UV radiation from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for healthy bones and muscles, and for general health. Sensible sun protection when UV is 3 and above does not put people at risk of vitamin D deficiency.

Objectives

This sun protection policy has been developed to:

- encourage children and staff to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever the UV Index level reaches 3 and above.
- work towards a safe centre environment that provides shade for children and staff at appropriate times.
- assist children to be responsible for their own sun protection by promoting positive attitudes towards skin care.
- Educate our preschool community for lifelong learning and promote awareness by ensuring families and new staff are informed of the centre's sun protection policy.

Procedures

Policy implementation times

Staff are encouraged to check the daily sun protection times each morning for our location using the free [SunSmart Global UV app](#), [SunSmart widget](#), [myuv.com.au](#) or the [Bureau of Meteorology website](#) to support the implementation of sun protection at the centre.



Consistent with the Department for Education and SunSmart guidelines, our centre uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities during the period of the 1st August to 30th April and whenever UV levels reach 3 and above at other times.

Scheduling

A combination of sun protection measures are considered when planning outdoor activities such as excursions and water-based activities.

Care is taken during peak UV times—11:00 am to 3:00 pm during daylight saving, and 10:00 am to 2:00 pm outside of daylight saving. During these hours, activities are planned to minimise sun exposure. Outdoor play is prioritised in shaded areas such as the veranda, under trees, and beneath permanent shade structures.

During periods of extreme heat, the centre remains open and is fully air-conditioned. However, families are welcome to collect their children early if they wish. If outdoor play is offered during extreme heat, it will be limited to heavily shaded areas. On some occasions, children may remain indoors or play on the veranda to ensure their safety and comfort.

Sun protection measures

Hats

All children are required to have a Wandana legionnaire hat which are available for purchase at the school's front office. Wandana CPC maintains a supply of preloved legionnaire hats for children to borrow. In the event that this supply is insufficient, children may wear their own legionnaire or bucket-style hats from home until the issue is resolved.

All children, staff, and visitors are expected to wear a sun-safe hat (broad-brimmed, legionnaire, or bucket style) during outdoor activities and excursions.

Baseball caps are not acceptable.

Preschool educators will encourage children to wear hats during outdoor play. Hats are required when the UV level is 3 or above. Children without a sun-safe hat will be directed to play in shaded areas and may borrow a spare hat if available.

Clothing

Parents are encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain and provides good sun protection, this includes covering shoulders and midribs. Please remember young children can become quite hot during periods of hot weather. Clothing in layers that can be easily removed during activity that is sun-safe is most suitable.



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Children who are not dressed appropriately for outdoor play will be supported to put on some of the preschool's spare clothes that provide adequate sun protection. Rash tops are recommended to be worn when participating in water-based activities.

As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling staff will wear polo tops with collars sun protective hats where possible and seek shade when outdoors.

Sunscreen

SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen is provided by the preschool for use by both children and staff.

Families of children with sensitive skin are asked to supply a suitable SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for their child's use. Families of children who are allergic to sunscreen are asked to either provide an appropriate alternative or ensure their child's clothing offers full coverage to protect them from harmful UV rays.

Families with concerns about vitamin D requirements are encouraged to consult their GP or paediatrician.

Families are encouraged to apply sunscreen to their child before or upon arrival at preschool.

Children will be supported to apply sunscreen to their face, neck, ears, and any other exposed skin 20 minutes before outdoor activities on days that when the UV is 3 or above. To ensure this timing, children will be prompted to apply sunscreen before washing their hands for snack and lunch, which typically occurs approximately 20 minutes before outdoor play.

Sunscreen is re-applied every 2 hours when children remain or return outdoors.

Shade

Staff are expected to utilise available shaded areas for outdoor activities whenever possible and to actively encourage children to play in the shade.

Children who are not wearing a legionnaires hat or appropriate sun-protective clothing will be asked to play in shaded areas or return indoors.

Drinks

Families are asked to provide their child with a water bottle each day. Children will be regularly reminded to drink water throughout the day, especially during periods of hot weather. Water will be provided to children who do not have a water bottle, and bottles will be refilled as needed.



Extreme Hot Weather

Staff WH&S and role modelling

For work health and safety and role modelling, when the UV is 3 and above, staff are encouraged to practice SunSmart behaviours including:

- wearing sun protective hats, clothing, and sunglasses when outside
- applying SPF 50+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen
- seeking shade whenever possible.

Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures when participating in or attending outdoor activities with the centre.

Enrolment and information for families

When enrolling their child families are:

- informed of the Wandana CPC sun protection policy.
- asked to purchase a Wandana legionnaire hat suitable for their child from the front office.
- asked to provide their child with suitable outdoor clothing that is cool and covers as much skin as possible.
- required to give permission for staff to apply sunscreen to their child.

Learning and development

Sun protection is embedded into our curriculum through our child protection curriculum and incorporated into the learning framework and planned experiences.

Policy promotion

Sun protection information and the sun protection policy is regularly promoted to the whole Wandana community including staff, volunteers and families through Seesaw, newsletters, and in enrolment packs.

Policy review

The preschool will review the policy regularly (at least every three years) and revise the policy when required.

The preschool will notify any relevant stakeholders should any significant policy updates be made (e.g., families, staff, Cancer Council SA).

Approved by Governing Council:June 2025.....

Date of next policy review:.....June 2028.....



Legislation

This policy relates to the following National Law and Regulations:

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010

- Section 167 – Protection from harm and hazards

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

- Regulation 100 – Risk assessment must be conducted before excursion
- Regulation 113 – Outdoor space–natural environment
- Regulation 114 – Outdoor space–shade
- Regulation 168: Policies and procedures (2)(a)(ii)–sun protection
- Regulation 170 – Policies and procedure to be followed
- Regulation 171 – Policies and procedures to be kept available
- Regulation 172 – Notification of change to policies or procedures.

Work Health and Safety Act 2012

National Quality Standards

All of the following sun protection procedures link to:

- **Quality area 2: Children’s health and safety**

There are also links to:

- Quality area 1: Educational program and practice
- Quality area 3: Physical environment
- Quality area 5: Relationships with children
- Quality area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- Quality area 7: Governance and leadership.



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Relevant resources

SunSmart Literature Activities

Literature resource activities for over 20 picture books with various themes related to the sun, weather, the seasons, sun protection and skin. Visit: www.generationsunsmart.com.au/sunsmart-literature-activities/

Be SunSmart Play SunSmart

A curriculum resource using the Being, Belonging and Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia. Visit:

https://www.cancersa.org.au/uploads/sunsmart/A4P_BeSunSmart_PlaySunSmart_ECR_document_WEB.pdf

SunSmart Hat-Wearing Toolkit

Leads staff through simple steps, with useful tips and resources to reinforce current SunSmart hat-wearing behavior to reach 100% compliance or to phase out baseball caps. Visit:

<https://www.cancersa.org.au/prevention/sunsmart/sunsmart-resources/hat-wearing-toolkit>