

## Rationale

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Two out of every three Queenslanders will develop some sort of skin cancer in their lifetime. Research suggests that at least two-thirds of all melanomas occurring in Australia could be prevented if children were protected from the sun during their first 15 years.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Research shows that severe 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. Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) levels are highest during the hours that children are at College.

With this in mind Unity College realises the need to protect children's skin and educate them about SunSmart behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

## Aims

The policy aims to:

- provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection
- provide environments that support SunSmart practices
- create an awareness of the need to reschedule work commitments and outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices

## PROCEDURES

Our College recognises that winter sun also contributes to skin damage. The implementation of this policy will therefore be conducted throughout the year.

The purpose of the SunSmart policy is to ensure that all children attending our College are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

## Our commitment

### Unity College will

- inform parents of the SunSmart policy upon enrolment. All students are to comply with the policy by wearing the school hat to and from school and during all outdoor activities during class time and recess.
- include the SunSmart policy statement in the College Student Diary
- provide shade in the College grounds, where possible, by building shelters and planting trees
- incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention into the College curriculum
- encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models for children in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour

- seek ongoing support from parents and the College community for the SunSmart policy and its implementation, through newsletters, parent meetings etc.
- ensure that all students and staff wear hats that protect the face, neck and ears, and SPF 30 or higher, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, when involved in outdoor activities
- encourage students without adequate sun protection to use shaded or covered areas at recess and during excursions off site
- ensure the College uniform is worn to conform with the Queensland Cancer Fund SunSmart clothing guidelines
- ensure that, wherever practicable, outdoor activities take place before 10am or after 2pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time [AEST])
- ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events

### Our expectations

Parents/carers will:

- provide a Unity College SunSmart hat for their child and ensure that they wear it to and from College
- ensure that their child applies SPF15 or higher, broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before leaving for School
- ensure that their child wears their Unity College uniform to provide adequate protection from UVR. The Queensland Cancer Fund recommends clothing that has the following features:
  - dark-coloured
  - collars and sleeves
  - closely woven fabric
  - natural fibre
- act as positive role models by practising SunSmart behaviour
- support the College's SunSmart policy and help to design and regularly update the policy.

Students will:

- be aware of the College's SunSmart policy
- take responsibility for their own health and safety by being SunSmart
- comply with SunSmart rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats, clothing and sunscreen
- apply SPF 30 broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors
- act as positive role models for other students in all aspects of SunSmart behaviour
- help to design and regularly update the SunSmart policy
- participate in SunSmart education programs and activities