

Sun Safe Policy



Policy Relevant to:	All staff, FDC Educators & Families
Policy links to:	Sun Protection Procedure
Last Reviewed:	October 2024
Next Review:	November 2027
ECS National Law:	S167
ECS National regulations:	r100, r113, r114, r136, r168, r168 (2) (a) (ii), r170, r171
NQS:	2.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.3, 2.2, 2.2.1, 3.1.1

Rationale

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world with two in three Australians developing some form of skin cancer before the age of 70. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun can cause sunburn, skin and eye damage and skin cancer. Infants and toddlers up to four years of age are particularly vulnerable to UV damage due to lower levels of melanin and a thinner stratum corneum (the outermost layer of skin). UV damage accumulated during childhood and adolescence is strongly associated with an increased risk of skin cancer later in life (Cancer Council Australia).

Purpose

By implementing a 'best practice' Sun Safe Policy, Adventure Patch can help protect all children and staff from the harmful effects of UV radiation from the sun and teach children good sun protection habits from an early age to reduce their risk. To ensure the outdoor environment provides shade for children, educators and staff to minimise unsafe UV exposure. Additionally, this policy provides guidance on how to protect children and staff from severe hot weather events which are becoming more prevalent in Australia resulting from climate change.

Implementation

Adventure Patch will work in compliance with the *National SunSmart Early Childhood Program* to ensure children's health and safety is maintained at all times whilst at our services. Our services will monitor the Australian Bureau of Meteorology for notification of severe heat events and implement risk mitigation strategies to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of children. This policy applies to all activities on and off site.

Monitoring UV Levels

Sun protection is required when UV levels reach level 3 or above. In Tasmania, the UV is generally 3 and above from the start of September until the end of April. Adventure Patch will monitor the UV levels daily through one or more of the following methods:

- using the smartphone [SunSmart global UV app](#) available at iTunes App Store and Google Play store
- viewing the Bureau of Meteorology website <http://www.bom.gov.au/>
- visiting www.myuv.com.au

Outdoor Activities

The sun protection measures listed are used for all outdoor activities during the daily local sun protection times, when the UV Index is 3 or above. The sun protection times are a forecast from the [Bureau of Meteorology \(BOM\)](#) for the time-of-day UV levels are forecast to reach 3 or higher. At these levels, a combination of sun protection is recommended for all skin types.

Adventure Patch will use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above (refer to the *Sun Safe Procedure* for guidelines).

Sun Protection Times

From September to end of April

For the general population, sun protection is required when UV levels reach 3 and above which usually occurs from the beginning of September through to the end of April. This means using a combination of sun protection such as hats, clothing, shade, sunscreen and sunglasses between these months.

From May to end of August

When average UV levels are below 3, sun protection is not recommended during these months unless in alpine regions, near highly reflective surfaces such as snow or outdoors for extended periods.

During high UV periods, all sun protection methods will be used with special care being taken at peak UV times of day.

Adventure Patch encourages our educators and staff to download the [SunSmart App | Cancer Council](#) to check the UV Index when you are out and about.

Cancer Council – Sunsmart Agreement

Adventure Patch Sun Safe Policy and Procedure are reviewed by the Cancer Council every three years. We implement sun safe awareness in our services and hold Sun Safe membership.

Policy date: 13/11/2024

Review date: 13/11/2027

Please Note: Cancer Council Tasmania recognises the importance of and encourages regular outdoor play for children. The above recommendations help to ensure this can occur in a safe way.

This information is based on current evidence available at time of review. Last updated: November 2024.

For more information

email: sunsmart@cancertas.org.au

w: www.cancertas.org.au/prevent-cancer/sunsmart/

Related Policies

Supervision Policy	Excursion / Incursion Policy
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Sources

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
 ACECQA. (2021). Policy and procedure guidelines- Water Safety Guidelines
 Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).
 Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).
 Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2011) <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/>
 Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and National Regulations (2017).
 Guide to the National Quality Standard. (2017).
 KidSafe (2021).
 Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).
 Cancer Council of Tasmania [Cancer Council Tasmania | Cancer Council](#)

Review History

Policy Reviewed By:	Scott Norris	DCEO	October 2024
POLICY REVIEWED	October 2024	NEXT REVIEW DATE	November 2027
Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor adjustments made, regulations checked • Removed background section • Added Monitoring UV levels and Outdoor activities. • Added related policy list • Updated sources list • Approved by Cancer Council - SunSmart 		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor adjustments made, regulations checked • Approved by SunSmart 	September 2024	

Signed

CEO:	
Manager:	S. Norris