



# Mulga Street Primary School Sun Protection Policy

## Mulga Street Primary School's Sun Protection Policy

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

### Rationale

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 in the first ten years of life 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.

### Objectives

This policy has been developed to:

- encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above
- work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times
- ensure all students and staff have some UV radiation exposure for vitamin D
- assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
- ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's Sun Protection policy.

Staff are encouraged to access the daily sun protection times to assist with the implementation of this policy.

The school uses a combination of sun protection measures for all outdoor activities year. In term 2 UV levels will be monitored and all students and staff will be advised of Hat Free Days where the UV index is lower than 3

### 1. Clothing

Sun protective clothing is included in the school uniform/dress code and sports uniform. The clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of closely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and elbow length sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash vests or t-shirts for outdoor swimming.

### 2. Sunscreen

- Students must provide their own SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen, if they have sensitive skin. The school supplies SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen for staff and student's use.
- Sunscreen is applied at least twenty minutes before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours if outdoors for an extended period.
- Strategies are in place to remind students to apply sunscreen before going outdoors (e.g. reminder notices, sunscreen monitors, sunscreen buddies).

### 3. Hats

All students and staff are required to wear hats that protect their face, neck and ears e.g. legionnaire, broad brimmed (without neck cords) or bucket hats, whenever they are outside. Baseball or peak caps are not acceptable.

### 4. Shade

- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities.
- Outdoor activities are scheduled outside the peak UV radiation times or in the shade where possible.
- In consultation with the school council, shade provision is considered in plans for future buildings and grounds.
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun.

### 5. Sunglasses [optional]

Students and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting wraparound sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard AS/NZS 1067:2003 (Sunglasses: lens category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible