



URANGAN STATE HIGH SCHOOL

SUN SAFETY STRATEGY

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RATIONALE:

Urangan State High School is located in Hervey Bay, Queensland.

Statistics state that Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year, 80% are skin cancers. Our climate makes it imperative that we educate our school community on sun protection procedures. Research indicates that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer.

Given that students are at school during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day (that is between 10 am and 2 pm), our school will play a major role in:

- minimizing students UVR exposure (which are highest during school hours),
- increasing students sun awareness (aiming to impart a knowledge that most skin damage and skin cancer is preventable),
- providing an environment to positively influence student's sun safe decisions,
- maintaining a continued implementation of the school's *Sun Safety Strategy* throughout the year.

AIMS:

Urangan State High School Sun Safety Strategy aims to:

- cater for continued learning that promotes personal responsibility
- create an awareness of effective sun safe procedures
- provide an environment that supports sun safety practices

POLICY STATEMENT:

Urangan State High School Sun Safety Strategy will:

- include the *Sun Safety Strategy* statement in the School Handbook,
- inform parents and students of the *Sun Safety Strategy* when enrolling,
- seek ongoing support from the school community for the implementation of the *Sun Safety Strategy* (continue to inform the Urangan State High School community through newsletters, parent meetings, assembly topics, etc),
- increase the amount of shade in the school grounds when possible, by creating shade areas and planting trees,
- provide shade at sporting and outdoor events / activities,
- integrate learning opportunities that focus on skin cancer prevention and sun safe practices (as identified in current curriculum documents),
- ensure that where possible, outdoor activities do not take place during peak UVR times (i.e.: 10 am - 2 pm),
- ensure that SPF30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen is made available to all students, staff and parents within the school community (i.e: school sport kits, teaching blocks) ,
- include SPF30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen as an item on the school book list,
- encourage all students to apply SPF30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen prior to coming to school each day and when involved in outdoor activities,
- encourage students to apply sunscreen at least 20 minutes prior to outside activities to give the sunscreen time to protect the skin,

- encourage all within the school community to act as positive role models for the students, through the wearing of hats and application of sunscreen, and encouraging outdoor play activities to take place in shaded areas,
- require the wearing of swim shirts during all water-based activities (such as swimming lessons) for all students from Year 7 to Year 12 (with the exception of competitions / carnivals where it will be encouraged),
- require students to wear hats that adequately protect their face, neck and ears (e.g. school uniform hat - bucket style hats (these are made from closed dark coloured materials),
- encourage students to wear the school uniform as per the school dress code. The uniform consists of these features to provide better UVR protection.
- ensure consideration is given to sun safe measures, such as closely woven fabrics, natural materials, dark colors including collar and sleeves when any review of school uniform occurs,
- ensure that all students without adequate sun protection remain in shaded areas ,
- review the *Sun Safety Strategy* annually.

The *Urangan State High School Sun Safety Strategy* links with the following policy statements:

- School Annual Operational Plan – Health and Personal Development.
- Department of Education Sun Safety Strategy and Guidelines.
<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/healthy/wellbeing-guidelines/sun-safety.html>
[attachments/Developing_Sun_Safety_Strategy/guidelines.pdf](http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/healthy/wellbeing-guidelines/sun-safety.html)

Considered and accepted by the Principal: _____

Considered and accepted by the School Council _____

Considered and accepted by the School P&C: _____

Considered and accepted by the Student Council: _____