

## 4.8 Sun Safety

### Policy Statement

The purpose of the sun safety policy is to ensure that all children and staff attending the OSHC service are protected from the harmful effects of the sun. It also provides an opportunity to promote best-practice sun health and safety for children. The service views its sun-safe practices as a chance to form good life-long habits and educate children about sun smart behaviour. The policy will be implemented year round.

The policy has been informed by the Queensland Cancer Council and is consistent with their sun smart policy guidelines for education and care settings.

Children and staff are expected to wear sun-safe items while at the service (Broad-brimmed hats, sleeved shirts etc.) and apply sunscreen regularly. Individual circumstances and medical exemptions will be taken into consideration with the implementation of this policy.

The Approved Provider also recognises their duty to comply with *Education and Care Services National Regulations 168 (2)(a)(ii)*.

### Related Policies

- 2.24 – Children’s Participation & Decision Making
- 3.7 – Physical Activity
- 3.13 – Water Safety
- 4.1 – General Health and Safety
- 4.3 – Hygiene, Health and Wellbeing Practices
- 4.4 – Preventative Health and Wellbeing
- 6.1 – Space and Facilities Requirement
- 7.5 – Extreme Weather
- 9.2 – Enrolment
- 9.3 – Interactions and Communication with Families
- 10.9 – Risk Management and Minimisation

### Roles and Responsibilities

Approved Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure the policy is enacted and procedures in place to promote sun safety.</li></ul>
Nominated Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure the policy is made available to all staff, parents and children, and reviewed as required.</li><li>• Ensure that OSHC routines include sun-safe behaviours and education.</li></ul>
Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure staff are educated of the services sun-safe practices and expectations under this policy.</li><li>• Ensure practices are role-modelled and followed by all children and staff and that the service is compliant with the policy.</li><li>• Ensure sunscreen is provided.</li></ul>
Educational Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure the educational program affords opportunities for children to develop their knowledge of sun-safety.</li><li>• Ensure the services routine and program identifies and makes use of opportunities to reduce exposure to high-levels of UV radiation.</li></ul>
All Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage and educate children on sun-safe practices.</li><li>• Assisting children to engage in sun-safe practices.</li><li>• Role-model desired behaviours.</li><li>• Address instances where service policies are not being followed through supportive interactions.</li></ul>

## Procedures

Sun safety will be practiced at the service throughout the year, regardless of the season.

Parents will be informed of the policy when children are enrolled and included in the Parent Information Handbook.

Sun-Safe Measure	Directions
Hats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children and staff are to wear hats for all outdoor activities.</li><li>• The rule: <b>no hat – no outdoor (in the sun) play</b> will be enforced</li><li>• Children must bring their own hats to the service.</li><li>• Hats must be broad-brimmed or bucket hats.</li><li>• Staff will role model these expectations.</li></ul>
Sleeved Shirts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children and staff must wear a top with sleeves to the service. Singlets or sleeveless tops are not permitted.</li></ul>
Swimming Clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For swimming and water play activities, a sleeved sun top must be worn over swim suits. A lycra top is preferred.</li></ul>
Sunscreen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children and staff will be provided with minimum SPF30 sunscreen. This will be administered prior to outdoor activity sessions. Parents are to inform the service of any allergies to sunscreens.</li></ul>
Shade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where possible, educators will operate outdoor activities, including excursions, in shaded areas, especially during the summer months.</li><li>• Children will have access to shaded areas throughout the session.</li></ul>

### **Non-compliance**

The children will be directed to adopt sun-safe practices. Where a hat or sun-safe clothing is not available the child will be directed to play out of the sun either under a shelter or inside. When parents do not provide appropriate clothing and equipment for children, the first step is for staff on-duty to have a gentle 'prompting' conversation with the parent. Where this does not result in a change, the OSHC Management Team will communicate more formally with the parent to educate them on the policy and to request appropriate sun-safe clothing.

### **Routine Practices**

Staff will:

- Ensure sun protection measures are applied while staff and children are outside, including:
  - wearing adequate sun smart clothing and making use of shaded and/or covered areas;
  - wearing broad-brimmed hats that protect the face, neck and ears; and
  - applying SPF 30+ broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapplying with every role call (with parent/guardian permission and allergy safe as required).
- Incorporate education programs that focus on skin cancer prevention and early detection into the program;
- During outdoor events, including excursions, ensure that adequate shade is provided or sought out when exploring locations.
- During Vacation Care, the service will reduce where practical the time staff and children spend between the hours of 10am and 2pm in the sun.
- Program planning will identify alternatives when considering outdoor play in high UV radiation times.

The policy will be communicated to the OSHC community through, emails, social media, slack, the Parent Information Handbook, and direct parent engagement etc.

The sun safety policy will be reviewed periodically with input from the children, staff, parents, the P&C and the Approved Provider.

### **Relevant Laws and Provisions**

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011*

- *Cancer Council Queensland's SunSmart Policy Guidelines – Early Childhood Cancer Council Australia*
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety*

**ECEC Regulation Compliance**

- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 168 (2)(j), and 155-156.*

<b>Policy Controls</b>			
Endorsed by:	P&C General Committee	Date Endorsed:	13/10/2022
Date implemented:	20/10/2022	Date families notified	13/10/2022
Version:	2 - 2022	Date of review	13/10/2023