



# Reynella South School-Based Preschool

## Sun Protection Policy

### RATIONALE

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world with two out of three Australians developing a form of skin cancer during their lifetime.

Skin damage, including skin cancer is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Much of the damage occurs during childhood and adolescence. Research suggests that severe sunburn is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemishes and premature aging. Most skin damage and cancer is therefore preventable.

Our Preschool is ideally placed to help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths by encouraging children, staff and parents to use effective skin protection measures.

### AIMS

The aim of our Sun Smart Policy is to promote among children, staff and parents:

Positive attitudes towards skin protection

- Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths
- Personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection
- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in our centre to reduce the level of sun exposure

### IMPLEMENTATION

- Children, staff and parents will be expected to wear a broad brimmed hat,\* legionnaire style hat, or a bucket hat whenever they are involved in outside activities. **No hat, no outside play will apply.**
- Children will be encouraged to wear protective clothing when at preschool (tank tops, sleeveless tops and dresses are inappropriate)
- Families are encouraged to apply sunscreen before arriving at preschool
- The preschool provides 50 + sunscreen, and parents are encouraged to supply individual named roll-on sunscreen for their children to promote independence. Please inform staff if your child has sensitivity to sunscreen.
- Reinforcing the SunSmart message in all service activities and in general service procedures is an important strategy in the adoption of skin protection behaviours
- Staff will model appropriate SunSmart strategies at all times
- Skin cancer prevention will be included in appropriate teaching activities
- Information about the centre's SunSmart Policy will be given to all new staff and families.

This centre will not close on days of extreme heat (38 degrees or more); however, parents are encouraged to take precautions with young children travelling in the heat. Parents may use their discretion to determine whether children attend or are collected early on days of extreme heat.

\* The Department has issued a hazard alert to preschools advising us that the adjustable cord on hats may pose a risk to children if it becomes tangled in play equipment. To ensure the safety of your child, please remove any cords

Reviewed September 2022