

Sun Protection for Carinity Education Services – POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Responsibility:	Executive Manager Education Services	
Implementation:	September 2020	Review: Triennial
Application:	Carinity Education Services	
Distribution:	Executive Management, Line Management, Human Resources	

1 POLICY

Carinity aims to maximise protection of all students attending Carinity Schools from the harmful effects of sun throughout the year.

2 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- 2.1 Minimise the harmful effects of sun on students;
- 2.2 Increase student, staff and parent awareness and adoption of sun protection behaviours by the provision of ongoing education that promotes sun protection behaviours and personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection;
- 2.3 Promote lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths, by promoting the use of shade areas and wearing protective clothing; and
- 2.4 Create an awareness of the need to schedule outdoor activities to support sun protection practices where possible.

3 SCOPE

This procedure applies to Carinity staff, students, parents of students, contractors and other visitors to the site.

4 DEFINITIONS

Parent means a custodial parent or lawful guardian of a child.

Staff Member means an employee or volunteer.

5 LEGISLATIVE OBLIGATIONS

Carinity is committed to complying with obligations imposed on Carinity under all relevant legislation including but not limited to.

- 5.1 Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011
- 5.2 Work Place Health and Safety Regulation 2011

6 RATIONALE AND PROCEDURE

Rationale

Queensland's sub-tropical climate and abundance of outdoor attractions entice people to spend time outdoors. However, with the world's highest incidence of *skin cancer* it is vital that as an Education Provider, Carinity is committed to 'sun protection'.

Skin damage including skin cancer is the result of the cumulative exposure to the sun. Much of the danger occurs during childhood and adolescence. Research suggests that severe sunburn is a significant contributor to *skin cancer* and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemishes and premature aging of the skin. Research also suggests that at least two-thirds of all melanomas occurring in Australia could be prevented if children were protected from the sun during their first 15 years of life.

Skin Cancer is so common, that as many as one in two Australians will develop some form of *skin cancer* during their lifetime.

Ultra Violet Radiation (UVR), the cause of *skin cancer*, is at its highest levels during normal school hours. Carinity can help reduce the risk of skin cancer and the number of related deaths by encouraging all members of our School communities to take effective measures to prevent skin damage from the sun.

Most skin damage and *skin cancer* is preventable, and with this in mind, Carinity understands the need to protect children's skin and educate students, staff and parents about Sun Protection, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

Carinity recognises that winter sun contributes to skin damage. The implementation of this policy and procedure will therefore be conducted throughout the year.

Procedure

Carinity Education Schools will endeavour to:

- a) include information on the Sun Protection for Carinity Education Services Policy and Procedure in student handbook;
- b) maximise the use of available shade for outdoor activities;
- c) incorporate education programs that focus on sun protection behaviour, and skin cancer detection and prevention in the school curriculum;
- d) encourage teachers and staff to act as positive role models in sun safety matters by practising sun protection behaviour (i.e. wear hats outdoors, apply sunscreen, wear clothing which provides adequate protection);
- e) have available in a variety of easily accessible locations, supplies of 30+ sunscreen to meet the needs of the students;
- f) encourage students without adequate protection to use shaded or covered areas when engaged in outdoor activities; and
- g) ensure that wherever practicable, outdoor activities take place before 10.00 am or after 2.00 pm.

Students will be encouraged to:

- a) be aware of the Sun Protection for Carinity Education Services Policy and Procedure;
- b) take responsibility for their own health and safety by adopting sun protection practices;
- c) wear an appropriate hat (e.g. broad rimmed) for all outdoor sporting activities;
- d) wear long or short sleeved sports shirts;
- e) apply SPF 30+ sunscreen to unprotected skin before going outdoors;
- f) wear protective sunglasses for outdoor activities when and where appropriate;
- g) use shaded areas when outdoors;
- h) bring a water bottle from home and keep in an easily accessible place; and
- i) participate in sun protection education programs.

Parents will be asked to buy a school hat, or provide a suitable hat for student use.

From time to time, parents may be asked to provide a quantity of SPF30+ sunscreen for general class use. Parent support is sought in this matter. While the wearing of sunscreen is not compulsory, it is recommended.

7 RELATED DOCUMENTS

7.1 Policies

- (a) Infection Prevention and Control Policy
- (b) Workplace Health and Safety Policy

7.2 Procedures

- (a) Infection Prevention and Control Procedure

7.3 Forms

- (a) Curriculum Activity Risk Assessments

7.4 Internal Documents

- (a) Carinity Code of Conduct
- (b) Employee Guidelines