

Lady Gowrie Community Kindergartens

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

CONSIDERATIONS:

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS	2.1, 2.2, 3.1
NATIONAL LAW ACT & NATIONAL REGULATIONS	Law: Section 167 Regulations: 73, 114, 168
OTHER	Queensland Development Code MP 5.4 Child Care Centres Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 Building Code of Australia

POLICY STATEMENT:

To implement sun protection initiatives to ensure that all staff and children are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

RELEVANT FORMS/MATERIAL:

- Kindergarten Service Handbook
- Kindergarten Service Enrolment Form
- Sunscreen Objection Form
- Sun Protection Information Posters and Brochures
- Belonging, Being, Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
- Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline (QKLG)

SOURCES:

- Australian Government, Department of Education and Training, (2009). Belonging, Being and Becoming, The Early Years Learning Framework For Australia. Commonwealth of Australia.
- Australian Government, Department of Education for Ministerial Council, (2022). Belonging, Being and Becoming, The Early Years Learning Framework For Australia. V 2.0 Commonwealth of Australia.
- ACECQA and Queensland Government, Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care, Sun Protection policy guidelines.
- The State of Queensland (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority), 2018. Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline (QKLG). Queensland Curriculum and

Assessment Authority: South Brisbane.

- Cancer Council Queensland (2013), *Sun damage and young children. An important message for parents, carers and educators.*
- SunSmart, *Sun Smart UV Alert, Your Daily Guide to Sun Protection.*
- Cancer Council Queensland (2013), *Early Childhood Centre – SunSmart Policy Guidelines*, www.cancerqld.org.au.
- SunSmart- Position Statement – Sun Protection in the Workplace www.cancerqld.org.au
- Cancer Council Victoria (2011), *Be Sun Smart, Play Sun Smart Early Childhood Resource*
- Richmond, C (2011) *Sunny Side Up*. Every Child Magazine (17, 4) 2011: Australia
- Department of Education, (2019). NQF e-bulletin ‘Sun safe policies and practice in early childhood settings.’
- ACECQA, (2019) Starting Blocks Fact Sheet Sun Protection in Child Care – what to expect.
- Queensland Government, Queensland Health (2019), Early Childhood Sun Safety (www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/sun/early-childhood).
- www.careforkids.com.au/child-care-articles/article/130/protecting-your-childs-skin-in-child-care
- www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/parents/developing-sun-protection-skills
- [Queensland Government, Feel Good Facts \(www.qld.gov.au/health/staying-healthy/feel-good-facts\)](http://www.qld.gov.au/health/staying-healthy/feel-good-facts).
- ACECQA (www.acecqa.gov.au)
(Accessed 2023)

Reviewed : March 2023

Date to be Reviewed: September 2024

IMPLEMENTATION	
<p>BACKGROUND INFORMATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. • Skin cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in Australia. About two in three Australians will be diagnosed with some form of skin cancer before the age of 70. • Winter sun also contributes to skin damage. • Research indicates that childhood sun exposure is a significant factor to the development of skin cancer in later life. <p>Sun Protection Strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slip – slip on clothing that covers as much skin as possible. • Slop – slop on sunscreen. • Slap – slap on a hat that shades the face, neck and ears, such as a wide brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hat. • Seek – seek shade. • Slide – slide on wrap-around sunglasses (labelled AS1067).
<p>WHAT YOU SHOULD DO</p> <p>APPROVED PROVIDER (Executive Committee)</p> <p>/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR</p> <p>/RESPONSIBLE PERSON</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform families of the Sun Protection Policy when they enroll their child/children. • Inform staff, students and volunteers of the Sun Protection Policy during their induction at the Service. • Provide shade in outdoor spaces using trees, shade cloth, and other items. • Try to ensure that outdoor activities generally take place before 11.00 am and after 2.30pm. (Please note that whilst the recommendation for sunsafe hours are 10.00 – 3.00pm, children and staff in all Services whilst outside in our hours of general learning experiences, will all have sun protection methods in place – sunscreen on, sunsmart clothing – covered shoulders, hats and shaded areas.) • Provide a sun protection program for children and provide families, staff and carers with up to date sun protection information through newsletters, Service displays and family meetings. • Supply communal sunscreen and where possible provide mirrors at child height to support children to apply their own sunscreen with supervision. Permission will be sought to apply sunscreen. Families can elect to provide their own preferred sunscreen if they choose. Where a family has made the informed decision not to use sunscreen, they will need to complete an Objection to Sunscreen Form.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all staff and educators act as role models for children in all aspects of sun protection behaviour by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wearing appropriate hats (broad brimmed, deep bucket hat or legionnaire styled), shoes and clothing that cover shoulders and upper arms for all outdoor activities. • Using SPF 50+ or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen. • Seeking shade whenever possible. • Ensuring that children who come to the Service without a hat will be provided with a spare hat for the day. • Staff may select to wear sunglasses.
<p>WHAT YOU SHOULD DO</p> <p>TEACHERS/ EDUCATORS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice sun protection strategies as described above. • Ensure sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 50+ is applied to every child before any outdoor session and then reapplied as necessary, preferably where possible sunscreen is applied 20 minutes prior to going outside. The Service will have a process by which staff are informed of children who have their own individual sunscreen or an Objection to Sunscreen Form completed. • Encourage independence and support hygiene practices by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encouraging older children to apply their own sunscreen with supervision and having mirrors available at child height. ○ If supporting children to apply cream wash your hands after each application to reduce cross contamination. • Ensure children wear sun smart hats whilst playing outdoors. • Ensure that children are wearing sunsafe clothing in the outside environment, if not they are to be changed or a sunsafe shirt placed over the top of the singlet or dress. • Encourage children to take responsibility for their own sun protection and to minimise their exposure to the sun. • Direct children to use shaded areas where possible. • Educate children on the importance of sun protection and strategies to minimise the risks of exposure to the sun and UV radiation. These discussions may take place during group sessions with the use of resources such as story books, posters or puppets, during play as appropriate or when applying sunscreen. The educational program provided will support each child's learning and development outcome in relation to wellbeing. • Set up outdoor learning experiences in shaded areas where possible. • Check often to see that any soft fall area/items (mats etc.) are not too hot for children's feet/ too touch.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff/Committee will provide information to families regarding sun safe practices during excursions, social or fundraising events.
WHAT YOU SHOULD DO FAMILIES/ PARENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a well-fitting, named hat, broad-brimmed style (brim of 8 – 10 cm), bucket style (with a deep crown and brim size of at least 5 cm) or legionnaire style (not cap) that shades the face, back of neck and ears.• Provide sunglasses for children where appropriate.• Provide clothing that covers the shoulders and arms, preferably with a collar, and longer style shorts and skirts to provide protection from the ultra violet rays of the sun. Singlet tops do not offer enough protection and are therefore not recommended.• Apply broad spectrum sunscreen (SPF 50+) to their child each morning upon arrival at the Service if this is not applied prior to arrival.• Where a child has sensitive skin, provide a personal sunscreen. <i>This sunscreen must be left with a staff member not in the child's bag or locker.</i>• Complete an Objection to Sunscreen Form if relevant for their family.• Support the Sun Protection Policy by practicing skin protection behaviour as a part of the family lifestyle.• Act as role models by practicing sun protection behaviour and protecting their own skin.• Wash hands in between application of sunscreen to each child, or have the children apply it for themselves, or use a separate tissue to apply it to each child. <i>This helps to prevent any cross infection.</i>• Provide a spare T-shirt in the summer months as well as sun protective bathers and a towel for water activities.