

29012

2017

BELAIR JEAN BONYTHON KINDERGARTEN

SunSmart / Skin Protection Policy

Rationale

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with one out of every two people developing some form of skin cancer in their lifetime.

There are 4 factors, often occurring simultaneously, which contribute to these statistics:

1. The population is predominantly fair- skinned.
2. Ultra violet radiation from the sun is of sufficient intensity to induce skin cancer in this susceptible population.
3. For many years social values have supported the belief that a suntan is healthy and attractive.
4. Lifestyle, work, school and recreational habits expose people to the sun for long periods.

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 ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore, preventable.

Early childhood services are ideally placed to help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths by encouraging all members of the services' community to use effective skin protection.

Aims

The aims of Belair Jean Bonython Kindergarten Skin Protection Policy are 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.

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Review date: Feb

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- Awareness of the need for environmental changes in our centre to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

- **Implementation**

This policy is for implementation throughout the whole year.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that all members of our Early Childhood Service are protected from skin damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun.

All members of the Belair Jean Bonython Kindergarten will be strongly encouraged to use the following skin protection strategies:

- Take particular care if in the direct sun between the hours of 10.00 am & 3.00 pm.
- Wherever possible, outdoor activity sessions will be held in shaded areas.
- Use the shade of trees, umbrellas and awnings whenever possible outdoors.
- Wear appropriate clothing which protects the skin.
- Children, staff and parents will be expected to wear broad-brimmed or Legionnaire style hats whenever they are involved in outside activities.
- Children not wearing an appropriate hat will be expected to play inside.
- Staff are expected to be appropriate role models in their sun protection behaviour through clothing as well as hats, and adherence to shaded areas.
- Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen to their child/ren before they come to kindergarten sessions.
- Also to provide a small named Roll On sunscreen for reapplication after lunch if desired.

Reinforcing the Sun Smart message in all service activities and in general service procedures is an important strategy in the adoption of skin protection behaviours. Skin cancer prevention will be included in appropriate teaching activities.

Staff will be encouraged to keep up to date with new information and resources.

The Belair Jean Bonython Skin Protection policy will be evaluated on an ongoing basis and reviewed annually.

Policy issues will be a periodic agenda item and discussed at staff and parent meetings.