

## West Lakes Shore Kindergarten Sun Protection Policy

Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with skin cancers accounting for around 80% of all new cancers diagnosed each year in Australia. At least 1 in every 2 Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer in their lifetime.

Most skin cancer and skin damage is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun and mainly occurs during childhood and adolescence. Children of all nationalities & skin types have very sensitive skin that will burn easily.

Children with fair or pale skin are most likely to burn but even children with dark skin can suffer sun damage. Sun protection during childhood & adolescence means life long reduced risk. Skin cancer is preventable.

Preschools are ideally placed to help reduce the incidence of skin cancer by developing good habits in and an understanding of the effects of the sun by the children at the centre.

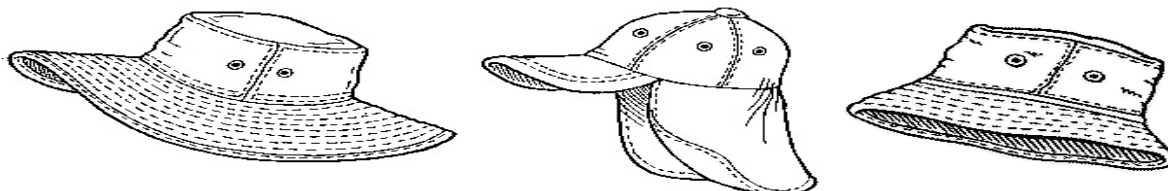
Our Centre's philosophy ensures the child's right to be safe at the Centre.

The aims of our policy are to promote amongst children, staff and parents:

- ☀ Positive attitudes towards skin protection.
- ☀ Lifestyles practices that help reduce the incidence of skin damage.
- ☀ Awareness of the need for environmental changes in our Centre to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.

### IMPLEMENTATION

- ☀ All children are to wear hats and sunscreen outside in Term 1 and Term 4.
- ☀ Children without hats will need to play inside or under the veranda (please consider this can be very difficult for a child who is staying for a full day).
- ☀ Hats must be either broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket (baseball caps, visors, beanies and hoods are not considered appropriate sun safe hats).
- ☀ In Term 2 and Term 3 children are not required to wear hats. Towards the end of term 3 staff will monitor the weather and will notify families via the Skoolbag App and notices if a hat is required. The children will be informed about the need to wear a hat. It is advisable to keep a hat in your child's kindergarten backpack at all times.



- ☀ Brims on broad brimmed hats should be at least 7.5cm wide. These hats reduce the amount of ultraviolet radiation reaching the face and eyes by up to 50%.
- ☀ Legionnaire style hats should have a flap that meets the sides of the front peak to provide protection to the side of the face
- ☀ A bucket hat should have a deep crown so it sits low on the head and have a brim of at least 6 cm.
- ☀ NO strings/cords on hats <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/departments/media-centre/news/school-hat-safety-alert>



- ☀ Parents are to apply sunblock to their own children before coming to kindergarten. Educators will reapply sunscreen after lunch in Term 1 and Term 4, if your child has sensitive skin please provide appropriate sunscreen.
- ☀ Outdoor activities will be located in the shaded areas on hot days.
- ☀ Shaded areas will be increased by the tree planting and shade coverings.
- ☀ Staff will incorporate sun and skin awareness activities into our teaching programs.
- ☀ Appropriate sun protection clothing is to be worn –no singlet or midriff tops.
- ☀ Staff and children can wear protective eye wear, ie sunglasses, if they choose.
- ☀ Children are encouraged to drink water frequently.