

HOXTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROTECTION FROM THE SUN

The increasing occurrence of skin cancer in Australia is a matter of concern for the whole community, especially schools. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world and there are five major factors that contribute:

- * a large proportion of the population has fair skin
- * ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from the sun is of high intensity
- * people's lifestyle, work, school and recreational practices may expose them to the sun frequently and for long periods
- * a suntan has often been viewed as healthy and attractive
- * exposure of the skin to the sun is common during peak UVR times.

Skin cancer and related skin damage are the result of frequent and unprotected exposure to the sun. This school has a responsibility to provide a safe environment for students and staff and this responsibility includes the provision of protection from the sun throughout the year.

Strategies

- * effective teaching and learning about the need for sun protection at all times - not just during school hours
- * information published in the school newsletter to further increase the awareness of parents and caregivers
- * promotion of sun protection as a health and safety issue (rather than as a matter of discipline) through reminders at morning lines and at assemblies
- * positive role modelling by staff and all members of the school community
- * provision of shaded areas (trees, verandahs, etc) especially during terms one and four
- * the extension of existing shade areas
- * timetabling of sport and physical fitness activities during the morning sessions, especially during terms one and four
- * protection from UVR for all outdoor activities including swimming carnivals and excursions
- * the wearing of school caps and collared shirts and dresses