

Early Childhood Education and Care SunSmart Policy and the National Quality Framework Fact Sheet

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancer, including melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer, is the most common cancer in Australia. Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in childhood is a major risk factor for the development of skin cancer later in life. By implementing a best-practice Sun Protection Policy, early childhood education and care services can help protect staff and children from UV radiation and teach children good sun protection habits from an early age to reduce their risk.

This Factsheet will support your service to align SunSmart practices with the requirements of the *Education and Care Services National Law*, the *Education and Care Services National Regulations* and the *National Quality Standard (NQS)*:

**Education and Care Services
National Law Act -2010:**

Section 167- Protection of children from harm and hazards

**Education and Care Services National
Regulations:**

Regulation 113 - Outdoor space-natural environment
Regulation 114 - Outdoor space – shade
Regulation 168(2) - Policies and procedures: (2)(a)(ii) sun protection

National Quality Standard

All seven quality areas

SunSmart Recommendations

SunSmart makes 10 recommendations for early childhood education and care.

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| 1. Scheduling outdoor activities and excursions | 4. Clothing | 8. Education and Information |
| 2. Shade | 5. Sunscreen | 9. Policy Availability |
| 3. Hats | 6. Babies | 10. Policy Review |
| | 7. Role Modelling | |

All of the SunSmart recommendations link to Quality Area 2 – Children’s Health and Safety, and reflect the following NQS standards and elements:

Standard 2.1 Each child’s health and physical activity is supported and promoted.

Standard 2.2 Each child is protected.

Element 2.2.1 At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children and protected from harm and hazard.

Implementing a SunSmart policy can enable your service to make links between the SunSmart recommendations, service practice and the National Quality Standard (NQS).

SunSmart Recommendation 1. Scheduling outdoor activities and excursions

Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice

Element 1.1.3 All aspects of the program, including routines, are organised in ways that maximise opportunities for each child’s learning

Element 1.2.1 Educators are deliberate, purposeful, and thoughtful in their decisions and actions.

SunSmart Recommendation 2. Shade

Quality Area 3: Physical Environment

Standard 3.1 The design of the facilities is appropriate for the operation of a service.

Element 3.1.1 Outdoor and indoor spaces, buildings, fixtures and fittings are suitable for their purpose, including supporting the access of every child.

Element 3.1.2 Premises, furniture and equipment are safe, clean and well maintained.

Standard 3.2 The service environment is inclusive, promotes competence and supports exploration and play-based learning.

Element 3.2.1 Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experience in both built and natural environments.

SunSmart Recommendation 7. Role Modelling

Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice

Element 1.2.1 Educators are deliberate, purposeful, and thoughtful in their decisions and actions.

Quality Area 4: Staffing arrangements

Element 4.2.1 Professional collaboration - Management, educators and staff work with mutual respect and collaboratively, and challenge and learn from each other, recognising each other's strengths and skills.

Element 4.2.2 Professional standards - Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships.

Quality Area 5: Relationships with children

Standard 5.1 respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.

Element 5.1.1 Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.

SunSmart Recommendation 8. Education

Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice

Standard 1.1 The educational program enhances each child's learning and development.

Element 1.1.1 Curriculum decision making contributes to each child's learning and development outcomes in relation to their identity, connection with community, wellbeing, and confidence as learners and effectiveness as communicators.

Element 1.1.3 All aspects of the program, including routines, are organised in ways that maximise opportunities for each child's learning.

Quality Area 4: Staffing arrangements

Element 4.1.1 Organisation of educators – The organisation of educators across the service supports children's learning and development

Quality Area 5: Relationships with children

Standard 5.1 respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.

Element 5.1.1 Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.

SunSmart Recommendation 9. Information and Policy Availability

Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

Standard 6.1 Respectful relationships with families are developed and maintained and families are supported in their parenting role.

Element 6.1.1 Families are supported from enrolment to be involved in the service and contribute to service decisions.

Element 6.1.2 The expertise, culture, values and beliefs of families are respected and families share in decision-making about their child's learning and wellbeing.

Element 6.1.3 Current information is available to families about the service and relevant community services and resources to support parenting and family wellbeing.

Element 6.2.3 The service builds relationships and engages with its community.

Quality Area 7: Governance and leadership

Standard 7.1 Governance supports the operation of a quality service.

Element 7.1.2. Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service.

Element 7.1.3 Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and understood, and support effective decision making and operation of the service.

Standard 7.2 Effective leadership builds and promotes a positive organisational culture and professional learning community.

Element 7.2.2 The educational leader is supported and leads the development and implementation of the educational program and assessment planning cycle.

SunSmart Recommendation 10. Review

Quality Area 4: Staffing arrangements

Element 4.2.2 Professional standards – Professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships

Quality Area 7 – Governance and leadership

Element 7.2.1 There is an effective self-assessment and quality improvement process in place.

Element 7.2.2 The educational leader is supported and leads the development and implementation of the educational program and assessment planning cycle.