



# CLONCURRY STATE SCHOOL P-12

*"Excellence in Education in the Outback"*

## Sun Protection Policy

### 1. Rationale

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year, 80 per cent are skin cancers. Research indicates that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer in later life. Given students are at school during peak ultraviolet radiation (UVR) times throughout the day, between 10am and 3pm, schools play a major role in both minimising a student's UVR exposure and providing an environment where policies and procedures can positively influence student behaviour.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Research shows severe sunburn contributes to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable.

UVR levels are highest during the hours children are at school. As children will spend a portion of their day outdoors, we are committed to protecting them from the harmful effects of the sun.

With this in mind Cloncurry State School P – 12 realises the need to protect children's skin and educate them about sun safe behaviour, thus reducing the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

### 2. Aims

The policy aims to:

- Take all reasonable steps to ensure all children and staff at Cloncurry State School P-12 are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year;
- Provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for sun safety and
- Provide environments that support sun safety practices.

### 3. Our Commitment

Cloncurry State School P-12 will:

- Ensure that appropriate skin protective clothing is included in the school dress code. This includes shirts with collars. The Parents' and Citizens' Association will make every reasonable effort to ensure the school uniform complies with the Cancer Council Standards;

- Ensure the wearing of swim shirts during all water-based activities, with the exceptions of competitions and carnivals;
- Ensure all students wear hats when outside, particularly during lunch breaks and HPE lessons. All students will be encouraged to wear a hat with a wide continuous brim. *This is mandated for all primary aged students;*
- Ensure SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is provided for students to apply to uncovered areas of the skin when they are outdoors;
- Encourage all staff to act as positive role models for students in relation to sun protection strategies;
- Work towards increasing the number of shade structures present in the school so to provide adequate sun protected areas in the school grounds;
- Provide flexible planning of activities to reduce, as far as practicable, time spent by students in the sun between 10am and 2pm;
- Incorporate education programs into the school curriculum that focus on sun safety and preventative measures;
- Inform parents of the Sun Protection Policy when they enrol their child;
- Include the Sun Protection Policy statement in the Teachers Handbook;
- Review the Sun Protection policy annually to ensure that the information remains current and relevant.

#### **4. Our Expectations**

##### Parents/Carers will:

- Provide a suitable hat for their child and ensure they wear it to and from school.
- Ensure their child's clothing provides adequate protection from UVR.
- Support the school's Sun Protection Policy.

##### Students will:

- Be aware of the school's Sun Protection policy.
- Take responsibility for their own health and safety by being sun safe.
- Comply with rules and guidelines by wearing suitable hats and clothing.
- Be encouraged to apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen before going outdoors.
- Use shaded or covered areas when outdoors.
- Participate in Sun Safety education programs.