



PORT NEILL PRIMARY SCHOOL SUN PROTECTION POLICY

- **Skin Cancer Facts**
- Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world with 140,770 new cases and 21,000 deaths recorded each year
- Australia's population is predominately fair skinned and ultraviolet light from the sun is of sufficient intensity to induce skin cancer in this susceptible population
- 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 sunburn and sun exposure is a contributor to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as wrinkles, sunspots, blemishes, and premature aging. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable.
- **Parent Responsibilities**
- purchase a school wide brim hat for their children to wear
- ensure sunscreen is applied prior to their child coming to school
- model sun protection practices while on site
- **Student Responsibilities**
- Wear a wide brimmed school hat while outside in Term 1, 3 & 4. Sunscreen will be provided for outdoor activities
- Apply /reapply sunscreen 20mins before heading outdoors and reapply every 2 hours as necessary when outdoors.
- ensure that their school hat is clearly labelled with their name as the school does not allow sharing of hats
- play in hard shaded areas when they do not have their school hat in Term 1,3 & 4
- **Staff Responsibility**
- ensure sun protection lessons are part of the classroom curriculum
- model good practice by wearing a school hat, sun protective clothing, sunscreen, sunglasses and seeking shade while on yard duty, during P.E. lessons and other outdoor events
- encourage and remind students to wear hats and apply sunscreen in Term 1, 3 & 4
- ensure students who do not have their own hat, remain in designated shade areas protected from the sun during play times
- encourage play and set up activities under shaded areas where possible
- ensure that SPF30 or higher broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen is available in classrooms so that students can apply /reapply as necessary
- encourage students to use their drink container while at school, water only.
- Reschedule outdoor activities outside of peak UV times of the day or in existing shaded areas where possible.
- Availability of shade will be considered when planning outdoor activities.

This policy will be shared with new staff and families and supported through school activities, assemblies, displays and other.