

SUNSMART POLICY

(HEALTH & SAFETY)



February 2002

PURPOSE

This SunSmart policy has been developed to ensure that all students and staff attending Warragul Regional College are protected from over-exposure to the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. The sun protection practices will be applied to all college activities including sports carnivals, excursions and camps.

GUIDELINES

The SunSmart policy aims to:

- increase students and community awareness of skin cancer
- assist students to develop strategies which encourage responsible decision making about skin protection
- work towards a safe college environment which provides shade for students and staff
- encourage students, parents, teachers and staff to wear protective clothing, hats and sunscreen during high risk times, sports, excursions and camps.
- ensure that parents are informed of the college's SunSmart policy.

IMPLEMENTATION

Behaviour

- All students and staff are strongly encouraged to wear sun protective hats that shade the face, neck and ears during recess, lunchtime and during sporting and other high risk activities; wear clothing with sleeves and collars that are made from closely woven fibre; and apply at least SPF 30 broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen before all outdoor activity and re-apply every two hours.
- Staff may claim a twenty-dollar rebate for the purchase of an appropriate hat.

COLLEGE ORGANIZATION

- Include a SunSmart hat as part of the college uniform.
- Outdoor assemblies are held early morning or in shade where possible.
- Hat wearing is compulsory, where practical, for sport and physical education.
- Maximize the use of indoor and shade facilities.
- Suitable hats, clothing and sunscreen are required for all camps and excursions. These items are listed on the parent permission form.
- Consideration is given to sun protection for all teachers, particularly physical and sport education teachers involved in outdoor activities including yard duty.
- All new staff are briefed on the SunSmart policy.
- SunSmart policy is included in the college handbook each year.
- Sunscreen is included on the college booklist.
- Sunsmart policy is included as an agenda item at staff and college council meetings.

SUNSMART POLICY

(HEALTH & SAFETY)



February 2002

Curriculum

- Incorporate sun protection and skin cancer prevention programs into appropriate Key Learning Areas.
- Encourage students to be actively involved in initiatives to protect the college community from over exposure to the sun.
- Promote sun protection throughout the year via the college newsletter, assemblies, daily messages, parent and staff meetings and whole college activities.

Environment

- Ensure there is adequate provision of shade within the college grounds for students and staff.
- Schedule sports carnivals to minimize UV risks by holding them indoors or outside the peak UV period.

EVALUATION

The Student Wellbeing sub-committee in collaboration with and the Student Union will monitor and review the effectiveness of this policy.

They will:-

- Review the SunSmart behaviour of students, staff, parents, and guests visiting the college.
- Assess the provision and use of shade by students and staff in the college.
- Evaluate and update the SunSmart protection and skin cancer prevention component of the curriculum.