

Sunscreen ban mystifies Foreshore crowd and authorities



Suggested level

Year 10

Prepare yourself (teacher)

Pre-reading of the Canberra Times newspaper article *Sunscreen ban mystifies Foreshore crowd and authorities*.

Organise internet access for the class.

Class resources

- copy of *Sunscreen ban mystifies Foreshore crowd and authorities*. Reprinted with permission from Canberra Times. Article strictly for educational purposes only.
- access to the internet.

The activity

Part 1: Investigation

Use the internet to complete the following task:

- Outline the incidence of non-melanoma skin cancer and melanoma in young Australians.
- Discuss the importance of skin cancer prevention programs and how these promote a sun protection message to Australians.
- Find out about the UV Index. A UV level of 14 was recorded on the day of the festival. What does this mean for a person who is not regularly applying sunscreen or using other forms of sun protection?
- Explain the importance of regularly applying sunscreen whenever UV levels are three and above. Is sunscreen enough?

Part 2: Writing task

Use the information that you collected to prepare a letter to the Foreshore Festival organisers outlining the potential consequences associated with the sunscreen ban they implemented. What are some alternative strategies they could employ to promote sun protection behaviours at their event?

Sunscreen ban mystifies Foreshore crowd and authorities

Security guards surprised music fans and earned the ire of Cancer Council ACT by confiscating sunscreen at the popular Foreshore festival.

The confiscations came on the final day of National Skin Cancer Action Week, and as the Bureau of Meteorology was reporting extreme UV levels for Canberra.

Foreshore attendee Emma Wilson, of Farrer, said she was astonished when security personnel refused to let people take sunscreen into the venue on Saturday.

“They were taking it off people, claiming sunscreen was available inside.”

Once inside, Ms Wilson reported patrons found sunscreen very difficult to obtain.

Elinore Gerritsen, of Lyneham, said she was shocked by the behaviour of security guards.

“I don’t understand why they did it. There was nothing available inside except for the Red Cross and they were very difficult to find ... Why would they take sunscreen? It’s not like anyone is going to drink the stuff.”

Cancer Council ACT spokesman David Wild expressed concern at the reported confiscations.

“Without knowing exactly why they were confiscating sunscreen, I have to say it sounds like a very unfortunate thing to do,” he said.

“We do a lot to get the right messages out there and it would be disappointing if that message worked, only to be thwarted by event organisers.”

The Red Cross regularly operates its Save-A-Mate campaign at dance festivals and parties. Staffed by volunteers, Save-A-Mate supports festival-goers with healthy messages and on-the-spot care, such as providing water and sunscreen.

Red Cross Save-A-Mate organiser and coordinator Belinda Stedman attended Foreshore and reported the crowd was well behaved.

“It was a good day overall a great vibe,” she said. “I don’t know if we handed out any more sunscreen than usual, but it certainly was in high demand.”

A police spokesman expressed surprise that sunscreen had been confiscated. “That is unusual - maybe an over-zealous use of a no-liquids policy,” he said. “It’s certainly not something we would approve of.”

Foreshore organisers Kicks and security firm I-SEC could not be reached for comment.

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