

Suggested Policy Statements and Actions



SunSmart encourages council to incorporate the below statements, or similar, in strategic statements when they are next due for review.

Suggested Policy Statements

For Municipal Public Health Plans, Municipal Strategic Statements:

<Name local government authority> recognises that Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world and that skin cancer is primarily caused by exposure to solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation. <Name local government authority> acknowledges the important role local government can play in providing the community with access to services and facilities that provide protection from UV radiation.

Council aims to provide safe and attractive open spaces and facilities for the community. This includes the provision of sustainable, quality shade and sun protection strategies to reduce the risk of skin cancer. Council is committed to improving the provision of shade across existing and newly developed council facilities. Community members within the municipality will also be encouraged to practice personal protection measures as recommended by SunSmart.

For Municipal Early Years Plan:

<Name local government authority> recognises that Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world and that skin cancer is primarily caused by exposure to solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation. It is also known that sun exposure in the first 15 years of life contributes significantly to the lifetime risk of skin cancer.

<Name local government authority> acknowledges the important role local government can play in providing children and families with access to services and facilities that provide protection from UV radiation.

Suggested Policy Actions for Integration in Existing Policies

SunSmart recommends that the following policy documents/policies/strategies be reviewed within council to ensure that shade provision and sun protection objectives are incorporated. Suggested policy actions have been suggested to meet these objectives, and can be linked to broader, overarching plans such as the MPHP, MSS and MEYPs.

Policy/Guideline Documents	Suggested Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Urban Design Guidelines</i> - <i>Planning Provisions</i> - <i>Landscape Design Guidelines</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend planning provisions to ensure that consideration of shade is incorporated in decisions on open space and urban design proposals • Provide information about planning and designing quality shade with planning application kits • Amend renovation guidelines for existing infrastructure and landscape to ensure that consideration of shade is incorporated • Conduct shade planning and design workshops with relevant staff to strengthen knowledge and understanding of the importance of shade and of quality planning and design principles



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sports and Recreation Strategy</i> - <i>Open Space Strategy</i> - <i>Playgrounds and Parks Strategy</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a meeting across departments responsible for implementing and managing early childhood services, parks, playgrounds and sporting and recreation facilities to educate staff of the importance of sun protection and quality shade provision • Amend urban and open space planning strategies and/or policies to ensure that consideration of shade is incorporated • Conduct an audit of existing shade at early childhood services, parks, playgrounds and sporting and recreation facilities • Develop a collaborative plan for increasing the amount of sustainable, quality shade at these sites/facilities • Provide shade at outdoor recreational facilities and outdoor eating venues • Employees at outdoor recreational facilities will protect themselves using hats, sunscreen, long sleeved shirts and sunglasses
<p><i>Community Event Guidelines</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain a copy of the SunSmart Outdoor Events kit and incorporate this into existing community events policy and/or implementation guidelines • Facilitate an information session to relevant staff informing them of the amended policy and implementation guidelines • Where possible, host outdoor community events outside peak UV times (if during September to April) • Ensure the provision of shade at events • Participants and spectators will be encouraged to use sun protection at events
<p><i>Privately Owned Public Facility Guidelines</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information about planning and designing quality shade to developers, builders and to individuals requesting planning application kits • Amend residential planning provisions to ensure that consideration of shade is incorporated • Conduct shade planning and design workshops with relevant staff to strengthen knowledge and understanding of the importance of shade and of quality planning and design principles
<p><i>Community Education Policies</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote information on sun protection practices to both employees and community members to raise awareness of the risks of skin cancer • Provide signage at community outdoor facilities/spaces encouraging sun protection practices of individuals
<p><i>Council Staff Policy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All council staff will receive information and training on sun protection practices and skin cancer prevention • Council staff who work outdoors will be provided with, and encouraged to use, sun-protective clothing, a broad-spectrum, water-resistant SPF30 or higher sunscreen, broad-brimmed or bucket hats and sunglasses that meet the Australian standard.

Last updated October 2015