



## CORINDA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

# SUN-SAFE POLICY

### RATIONALE

Skin cancers account for around 80% of all new cancers diagnosed each year in Australia (Cancer Council, 2004). People in Queensland and the Northern Territory face the highest risk of developing skin cancer and over 720 000 skin cancer removal operations take place in Australia annually, at a cost to the Federal Government of over \$300 million (SunSmart, 2004). Two out of every three Queenslanders will develop some sort of skin cancer in their lifetime (Cancer Council, 2005).

Despite the fact that Australians are well aware of the risks of developing skin cancer, approximately 5.6 million Australians still get burnt every summer (Cancer Council, 2004). Research indicates that childhood sun exposure is an important contributing factor to the development of skin cancer in later life. Schools play a major role in both minimising students Ultra-Violet Radiation (UVR) exposure and providing an environment where procedures can positively influence student behaviour.

Corinda State High School recognises the importance of their role in dealing with sun exposure and has developed guidelines and strategies to minimise the sun risk to students.

### AIMS

The policy aims to

- provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection.
- provide strategies, actions, and an environment that supports sun-safe practices.

### OUR COMMITMENT

Corinda State High School will

- inform parents of the school's sun-safe policy when the student is enrolled via the prospectus.

- provide shade in the school grounds (shelters and trees).
- expose learners to skin cancer prevention and early detection.
- encourage all teachers and staff to act as positive role models of sun-safe behaviour.
- seek ongoing support from parents and the school community for the sun-safe policy and its implementation, through newsletters, parent meetings etc.
- encourage all students and staff to wear hats, and SPF 15+ broad-spectrum sunscreen, when involved in outdoor activities.
- encourage students without adequate sun protection to use shaded or covered areas at recess and lunch times.
- review the school uniform code regularly with consideration to the Queensland Cancer Fund Sun-Smart clothing guidelines.
- ensure that adequate shade is provided at sporting carnivals and other outdoor events.
- permit the wearing of sunglasses for outdoor lessons, unless involvement in a sporting activity prohibits this for safety reasons.
- ensure that SPF 15+ broad spectrum sunscreen is included in the school sports kits, water resistant for camps and excursions and is readily available to students and staff.
- review the sun-safe policy annually.

## **OUR EXPECTATIONS**

Students should

- take responsibility for their own health and safety by being sun-safe.
- be aware and follow the school's sun-safe practices.

**use shaded or covered areas, where possible, for outdoor activities.**