

Investigator College is committed to implementing current advice and procedures as stipulated by relevant Government and/or Health Authorities.

1. RATIONALE:

- Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with 2 out of 3 people developing some form of cancer in their lifetime.
- There are four factors, often occurring simultaneously, which contribute to these statistics:
- The population is predominately fair-skinned.
- Ultraviolet light from the sun is of sufficient intensity to induce skin cancer in this susceptible population.
- Social values have supported the belief that a suntan is healthy and attractive.
- 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 student hood and adolescence. Research suggests that severe sunburn 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.
- Schools are ideally placed to help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths, by encouraging all members of the school community to use effective skin protection measures.
- Under the Work Health and Safety Act 2013, employers and employees have responsibilities in reducing the risk of all types of injuries and risks to health whilst at work. Over exposure to the sun is one of these risks.
- Schools and teachers owe a special duty of care to students because of their special relationship with them. This duty of care is to take reasonable steps to protect them against risks of injury which are reasonably foreseeable. Over exposure to the sun is one of these risks.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES:

Principal / Manager:

- To ensure that information about the dangers of exposure to UVR and information about how to self-screen brought to the attention of the staff.
- Make available to all employees approved sun protection
- Facilitate instruction and training to employees in the use of the sun protection items and inform employees of the potential harmful effects of the sun.
- Provide appropriate supervision to ensure that the sun protection items are being utilised, used correctly and are appropriate to the hazard.

- Assist in arranging of work schedules, where practicable, to take advantage of natural shade and avoid midday sun.
- Provide manufactured shade where practicable for work undertaken in full sun e.g sunshades, shade cloth.
- Authorise replacement of employee's sun protection on an 'as required' basis.
- ensure appropriate records are maintained of sun protection/equipment issued.

WHS Committee:

- In consultation with all employees affected will review the activities undertaken outdoors at peak UVR times of the day, to determine whether the activities can be rescheduled or whether natural or artificial shade can be provided.
 - Ensure that appropriate sun protection equipment is made readily available for all employees at designated places.
 - Ensure that information about the dangers of exposure to UVR and information about how to self-screen are readily available to all employees at designated places.

Employees:

- Ensure activities that are to take place during times when the level of UVR is high are assessed to determine whether the activities can be rescheduled or whether natural or artificial shade can be provided.
- Employees are to use sun protection equipment/resources as provided and instructed throughout the year.
- Maintain sun protection equipment/resources in a clean and undamaged condition to maximise protection.
- Will notify the WHS Committee if sun protection equipment is damaged or if requiring more so as to ensure it is replaced.
- Will promote among students, staff and members of the school community:
 - Positive attitudes towards sun protection
 - Lifestyle practices which can help reduce the incidence of skin cancer and the number of related deaths
 - Personal responsibility for and decision making about skin protection
 - Awareness of the need for environmental changes in schools to reduce the level of exposure to the sun.
- Comply with any reasonable instruction or request that the school and or its representatives may issue in relation to health and safety at Investigator College.
- Reinforce the sun safe message in classroom activities and in general school procedures
- Avoid being in the direct sun between the hours of 10am and 2pm (11am and 3 pm daylight saving time).
- Make use of shade such as trees, pergolas, umbrellas and tents when outdoors.

- Wear appropriate clothing, which protects the skin from the UVR.
- Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen with a SPF of at least 30 to clean, dry skin 10-15 minutes before going outdoors. Reapply sunscreen every two hours if outdoors for a prolonged period of time, or more frequently if swimming or perspiring.

Visitors, contractors and members of the school community:

- Comply with any reasonable instruction or request that the school and or its representatives may issue in relation to health and safety here at Investigator College.
- Avoid being in the direct sun between the hours of 10am and 2pm (11am and 3 pm daylight saving time).
- Make use of shade such as trees, pergolas, umbrellas and tents when outdoors.
- Wear appropriate clothing, which protects the skin from the UVR.
- Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen with a SPF of at least 30 to clean, dry skin 10-15 minutes before going outdoors. Reapply sunscreen every two hours if outdoors for a prolonged period of time, or more frequently if swimming or perspiring.

References:

Anticancer Foundation - WHS Act 2013