

Lady Gowrie Community Kindergartens

SUN PROTECTION POLICY

CONSIDERATIONS:

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS	2.1, 2.2, 3.1
NATIONAL LAW ACT & NATIONAL REGULATIONS	Law: Section 167 Regulations: 73, 100, 114, 168
OTHER	Queensland Development Code MP 5.4 Child Care Centres Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011 Building Code of Australia

POLICY STATEMENT:

To implement sun protection initiatives to ensure that all staff and children are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

RELEVANT FORMS/MATERIAL:

- Lady Gowrie Community Kindergartens Child Safe Environment Policy
- Lady Gowrie Community Kindergartens Clothing for Children Policy
- Lady Gowrie Community Kindergartens Safety and Supervision Policy
- Kindergarten Service Handbook
- Kindergarten Service Enrolment Form
- Conscientious Objection to Sunscreen Application Form
- Sun Protection Information Posters and Brochures
- Belonging, Being, Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework v 2.0 (EYLF)
- Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline (QKLG)

POLICY SPECIFIC SOURCES:

- ACECQA and Queensland Government, Department of Education Early Childhood Education and Care, Sun Protection policy guidelines.
- Cancer Council Queensland (2024), Policy Guide – Schools and Early Childhood Sun Protection
- Cancer Council Queensland (2022), *Sun protection and young children*.
- SunSmart, *Sun Smart UV Alert, Your Daily Guide to Sun Protection*.
- Cancer Council Queensland (2013), *Early Childhood Centre – SunSmart Policy Guidelines*, www.cancerqld.org.au.
- SunSmart- Position Statement – Sun Protection in the Workplace www.cancerqld.org.au
- Cancer Council Victoria (2011), *Be Sun Smart, Play Sun Smart Early Childhood Resource*
- Richmond, C (2011) *Sunny Side Up*. Every Child Magazine (17, 4) 2011: Australia
- Starting Blocks Sun Protection at your child's service (www.startingblocks.gov.au)
- Queensland Government, Queensland Health (2019), Early Childhood Sun Safety (www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/sun/early-childhood).
- www.careforkids.com.au/child-care-articles/article/130/protecting-your-childs-skin-in-child-care
- [Be a SunSmart family - SunSmart](#)
- ACECQA (www.cecqa.gov.au)

(Accessed 2025)

POLICY GENERAL SOURCES:

- Australian Government, Department of Education for Ministerial Council, (2022). *Belonging, Being and Becoming, The Early Years Learning Framework For Australia*. V 2.0 Commonwealth of Australia.
- The State of Queensland (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority), 2024. *Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline (QKLG)*. Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority: South Brisbane.
- Education and Care Services National Law Act (Queensland).
- Education and Care Services National Regulations.
- National Health and Medical Research Council (2024) *Staying Healthy in Early Childhood Education and Care: Preventing Infectious Diseases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services* (6th Ed). Commonwealth of Australia: Canberra.

Reviewed: September 2025

Date to be Reviewed: March 2027

IMPLEMENTATION	
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. • Skin cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in Australia. About two in three Australians will be diagnosed with some form of skin cancer before the age of 70. • Winter sun also contributes to skin damage. • Research indicates that childhood sun exposure is a significant factor to the development of skin cancer in later life. <p>Sun Protection Strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slip – slip on clothing that covers as much skin as possible. • Slop – slop on sunscreen. • Slap – slap on a hat that shades the face, neck and ears, such as a wide brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hat. • Seek – seek shade. • Slide – slide on wrap-around sunglasses (labelled AS1067). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This policy was created by Lady Gowrie QLD for Affiliated Kindergartens throughout QLD.
<p>WHAT YOU SHOULD DO</p> <p>APPROVED PROVIDER (Executive Committee)</p> <p>/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR</p> <p>/RESPONSIBLE PERSON</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform families of the Sun Protection Policy when they enroll their child/children. • Inform staff, students and volunteers of the Sun Protection Policy during their induction at the Service. • Provide shade in outdoor spaces using trees, shade cloth, and other items. • Consider shade availability when planning all outdoor events and excursions. • Wherever practical outdoor experiences will be scheduled to minimize time outdoors during periods when the UV is high to extreme (UV 6 or above) Whenever children and staff are outside they will all have sun protection strategies in place. • Consider Sun Protection Strategies as part of excursion risk assessments when planning excursions including regular outings i.e. Bush/ Beach Kindy and community walks. • Provide a sun protection program for children and provide families, staff and carers with up to date sun protection information through newsletters, Service displays and family meetings.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply communal sunscreen and where possible provide mirrors at child height to support children to apply their own sunscreen with supervision. Permission will be sought to apply sunscreen. Families can elect to provide their own preferred sunscreen if they choose. Where a family has made the informed decision not to use sunscreen, they will need to complete an Objection to Sunscreen Form. • Ensure that all staff and educators act as role models for children in all aspects of sun protection strategy/behaviour by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wearing appropriate hats (broad brimmed, deep bucket hat or legionnaire styled), shoes and clothing that cover shoulders and upper arms for all outdoor activities. ○ Using SPF 50+ or higher, broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen. ○ Seeking shade whenever possible. ○ Ensuring that children who come to the Service without a hat will be provided with a spare hat for the day. ○ Staff may select to wear sunglasses. • The sun protection strategy/behaviours shared above, should be used for all outdoor experiences when UV is 3 +, which for Services based in Queensland is most experiences. • Staff should be encouraged to access daily local sun protection times (through SunSmart or BOM Weather App) to assist with implementation of Policy. This should be implemented all year round in Queensland.
<p>WHAT YOU SHOULD DO</p> <p>TEACHERS/ EDUCATORS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice sun protection strategies/behaviours as described above. • Ensure sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 50+ is applied to every child before any outdoor session and then reapplied every two hours or more often if wiped or washed off. Where possible, sunscreen should be applied 20 minutes prior to going outside. The Service will have a process by which staff are informed of children who have their own individual sunscreen or an Objection to Sunscreen Form completed. • Encourage independence and support hygiene practices by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encouraging older children to apply their own sunscreen with supervision and having mirrors available at child height. ○ If supporting children to apply cream, wash your hands after each application to reduce cross contamination. • Ensure children wear sun smart hats whilst playing outdoors. If a child does not have a hat they will be offered a spare hat or will play in the shade.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that children wear sun safe clothing in the outside environment, if not they are to be changed or a sun safe shirt placed over the top of the singlet or dress. If a child does not have sun safe clothing to put on they will be offered spare sun safe clothing or will play in the shade. • Encourage children to take responsibility for their own sun protection and to minimise their exposure to the sun. • Educate children on the importance of sun protection and strategies to minimise the risks of exposure to the sun and UV radiation. These discussions may take place during group sessions with the use of resources such as story books, posters or puppets, during play as appropriate or when applying sunscreen. The educational program provided will support each child's learning and development outcome in relation to wellbeing. • Direct children to use shaded areas where possible. • Conduct regular shade assessments to determine current or future needs. Where areas of the outdoor learning environment are being refurbished, a review of shade provided by trees, shade sails or other structures will be discussed with the Approved Provider. • Set up outdoor learning experiences in shaded areas where possible. • Check often to see that any soft fall area/ items (mats etc.) are not too hot for children's feet / to touch. As per the Lady Gowrie Community Kindergartens Safety and Supervision Policy, if the surface temperature is 50° C or more children should not play in the playground. • Staff/Committee will provide information to families regarding sun safe practices during excursions, social or fundraising events. • Educators/ teachers may choose to undertake the Generation SunSmart Cancer Council free online learning modules.
<p>WHAT YOU SHOULD DO</p> <p>FAMILIES/ PARENTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a well-fitting, named hat, broad-brimmed style (brim of 8 – 10 cm), bucket style (with a deep crown and brim size of at least 5 cm) or legionnaire style (not cap) that shades the face, back of neck and ears. • Provide sunglasses for children where appropriate. • Provide clothing that covers the shoulders and arms, preferably with a collar, and longer style shorts and skirts to provide protection from the ultra violet rays of the sun. Singlet tops do not offer enough protection and are therefore not recommended. • Apply broad spectrum sunscreen (SPF 50+) to their child each morning upon arrival at the Service if this is not applied prior to arrival. • Where a child has sensitive skin, provide a personal sunscreen. <i>This sunscreen must be clearly labelled with the child's name and left with a staff member/designated individual sunscreen storage basket and not in the child's bag or locker.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete an Objection to Sunscreen Form if relevant for their family. • Support the Sun Protection Policy by practicing skin protection behaviour as a part of the family lifestyle. • Act as role models by practicing sun protection behaviour and protecting their own skin. • Wash hands in between application of sunscreen to each child, or have the children apply it for themselves, or use a separate tissue to apply it to each child. <i>This helps to prevent any cross infection.</i> • Provide a spare T-shirt in the summer months as well as sun protective bathers and a towel for water activities.
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