

Rationale

Palmview State Secondary College believes a key aspect of supporting the health and well-being of our school community is ensuring that all members (including students, staff, parents/carers and the broader community), adopt behaviours and habits that are sun smart. This is best achieved by having a clear set of guidelines to direct choices within our school and committing to ongoing education and instruction in this area. In this way, we support all members of the Palmview Learning Community to look after their skin and their health in general from the risks of damage from prolonged exposure to the sun.

Purpose of the Sun Safety Policy

The purpose of the Palmview State Secondary College Sun Safety Policy is to outline (1) the proactive measures the school has taken to provide a sun-safe environment for our community members; and (2) the considerations all members of our school are asked to make when engaging in outdoor activities. These considerations focus on encouraging our school community members to use a combination of measures when considering outdoor activities that align with the *slip, slop, slap, slide, seek* sun protection message, promoted by the Cancer Council Australia¹, including (but not limited to):

- the provision and utilisation of shade;
- appropriate dress and personal protection wear; and
- curriculum and timetable decisions.

Responsibilities and Expectations

School Leadership Responsibilities and Expectations:

- To keep the Palmview SSC Sun Smart Policy up to date based on current research-based information and disseminated regularly and thoroughly throughout the school community.
- To provide, and make readily available for use, Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 30+ sunscreen (water-based, broad spectrum) to students and staff, with consideration to medical conditions that affect the use sunscreen (including allergies).
- To include effective educational programs on sun safety and preventive measures in the students' learning programs across all year levels, including incidental learning.
- To maximize the use of available shade for outdoor activities and to seek ways to increase the volume and quality of the shade across the school. This may include the use of temporary shade shelters (for example, for sporting events and carnivals).
- To consider within the school timetable the scheduling of lessons that may require outdoor activities, and reduce the need for these lessons to occur between the hours of 10.00am and 2.00pm as much as practicable.
- To model sun smart behaviours consistently in daily activities and promote the importance of other adults in the school community to do the same.
- In conjunction with the school's Parents and Citizens Association, to include shade tree planting and maintenance programs in the development of the school.
- To actively promote a positive, proactive approach to sun protection at Palmview SSC widely and frequently.

Student Responsibilities and Expectations:

- To wear the Palmview SSC uniform to school each day (including in transit to and from school). This school uniform includes the wide brimmed bucket hat and collared shirt. Palmview SSC supports students who choose to wear sunglasses outdoors during lunch breaks. A close-fitting wraparound style that meets AS/NZS 1067 is recommended.

Student Responsibilities and Expectations (Cont.):

- To wear the Palmview SSC uniform hat during all lunch breaks, outdoor Health and Physical Education lessons, and any other lessons that are conducted outdoors.
 - If a student does not have a hat at school, they will be required to stay in an approved shaded area during the lunch breaks.
 - If they have a lesson outdoors and do not have a hat at school, students will need to sign out a school hat so that they may still participate in their learning program. Recurrent patterns of behaviour of this nature may result in contact being made home.
- To access and apply sunscreen – either supplied by the school or of their own – before outdoor lessons and activities.
- To take advantage of the shaded areas around the school before school and during lunch breaks.

Staff Responsibilities and Expectations:

- To model sun smart behaviours consistently in daily activities, including professional dress choices. This also includes during rostered duties outdoors; if staff members do not have a suitable wide-brimmed hat to wear, they may use an umbrella. Palmview SSC encourages staff to choose to wear sunglasses outdoors during lunch breaks; a close-fitting wraparound style that meets AS/NZS 1067 is recommended.
- To reinforce the expectations outlined within this policy with students and seize opportunities to reiterate its contents, both formally through learning programs and informally.
- To access and apply sunscreen – either supplied by the school or of their own – before outdoor lessons and activities.
- To plan outdoor learning activities to minimise exposure to the sun between the hours of 10.00am and 2.00pm as much as practicable.

Parent/Carer and School Community Responsibilities and Expectations:

- To comply with the guidelines outlined within this policy when visiting Palmview SSC or school-related events, role modelling sun safe behaviours.
- To reiterate the importance of these guidelines with their children and support Palmview SSC students to adhere to this policy.
- In conjunction with the school leadership staff, to include shade tree planting and maintenance programs in the development of the school through the Palmview SSC Parents and Citizens Association.

Relevant Departmental Links and Documents:

- [Sun Safe Strategies](#)
- [Sun Safety in Secondary Schools](#)
- [Sun Safety at Work](#) (Workplace Health and Safety link)