

## 1. POLICY CERTIFICATION

Policy title:	<b>Crèche – Sun Smart Policy</b>
Policy number:	<b>FACS008</b>
Category:	<b>Policy</b>
Classification:	<b>FACS</b>
Status:	<b>Approved (26/06/2013 OCM)</b>

## 2. POLICY PURPOSE

The Roper Gulf Regional Council Crèche has a duty to ensure the health and wellbeing of all children and Childcare Educators enrolled at the crèche. This policy will minimise the negative effects ultraviolet radiation will have the children in care and the Childcare Educators.

## 3. RATIONALE

Too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun causes sunburn, skin damage and increases the risk of skin cancer. Sun exposure, particularly in the first 15 years of life, has a significant contribution towards lifetime risk of developing skin cancer (Department of Health & Aging, 2009). Solar radiation; broad spectrum ultraviolet radiation is a proven carcinogen (cancer causing agent), which is categorised in the same risk band as tobacco smoking and passive smoking (Stewart, 2007). Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Skin cancers account for 80% of all new cancer diagnosed in Australia each year. Melanoma is also the most diagnosed cancer for 15-44 year olds.

## 4. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

This policy applies to Crèches run under Roper Gulf Regional Council.

## 5. POLICY STATEMENT

Roper Gulf Regional Council understands the negative affects UV radiation can cause. This policy will be implemented all year round as the Northern Territory UV radiation is always high to extreme all year round during peak UV periods (10am – 3pm). Crèche aims to ensure the protection of both children and staff from skin damage caused by the harmful rays of the sun. This is regularly reinforced through messages at the Crèche, and is also included into the children’s educational programs.

## 6. DEFINITIONS

Crèche	is a day care centre where child care educator will take care of children in place of their parents
RGRC	Roper Gulf Regional Council

## 7. PRINCIPLES

All Childcare educators and children will need to use the following skin protection strategies:

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- 6.1 Children will be discouraged from playing in the direct sun between the hours of 10am and 3pm. Shaded areas will be utilised where appropriate, such as trees, pergolas and shade sails. Children will be actively encouraged to use available areas of shade for outdoor activities.
- 6.2 Care will be taken to schedule outdoor activities outside peak UV periods where possible.
- 6.3 A combination of sun protection methods are considered when planning outdoor events.
- 6.4 All Childcare Workers / educators and children are required to wear a sun protective hat (a hat that effectively covers the face, ears and neck such as a broad brimmed, legionnaire or bucket hat with at least 6cm brim). These are to be worn all year round. Base ball caps are not considered sun protective. In the event that a child does not have a sun protective hat, Crèche will supply a hat or will ensure that the child plays indoors.
- 6.5 All Childcare Workers / educators and children are encouraged to wear clothing that offers suitable protection from the sun.
- 6.6 The Crèche supplies SPF 30+ broad spectrum water resistant sunscreen which will be applied to all children 20 minutes before going outside.
- 6.7 For OWH&S as well as role modeling purposes, all staff, volunteers and parents are required to wear sun protective hats and clothing, as well as a broad-spectrum 30+ sunscreen while outdoors.
- 6.8 All new families and staff members will be familiarised with the centre Sun Smart policy and invited to view a copy in an accessible location as required.

**8. REFERENCES**

Acknowledgements (original author/source documents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cancer Council of the Northern Territory:</b> <a href="http://www.accc.gov.au">http://www.accc.gov.au</a></li> <li>• <b>Sun Smart Website:</b> <a href="http://www.sunsmart.com.au">http://www.sunsmart.com.au</a></li> </ul>
Related Policies	
Related Publications	
Relevant Forms	

**9. DOCUMENT CONTROL**

Policy number	<b>FACS008</b>
Policy Owner	<b>Family and Community Services</b>
Endorsed by	<b>OCM</b>
Date approved	<b>26/6/2013</b>
Revisions	
Amendments	
Next revision due	<b>October 2015</b>

**10. CONTACT PERSON**

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