



Events organisers urged to keep people of Canterbury safe from the sun

Media release: November 2009

Canterbury is renowned for its outdoor events, and with a sizzling summer season coming up, organisers are being encouraged to ensure people are protected from the sun.

Martin Witt from the Canterbury Cancer Society says people in Canterbury are in for a treat this summer, with a line up of great summer fun like New Zealand Cup and Show Week, the World Buskers Festival, Addington's Christmas at the Races, the Santa Parade and a huge programme of events at Garden City SummerTimes 2010.

"It's possible to enjoy some great days out – while still staying safe from the sun. Organisers can easily include sun protection in their planning to help keep Canterbury residents safe from skin cancer."

He says events can be kept SunSmart by following a few easy steps.

"Wherever possible schedule events outside of 11am and 4pm, as these are normally the times when UV rays are at their strongest.

"Make the most of any existing shade at the event site, and organise some of your own – like marquees, tents and umbrellas. Encourage people to bring their own shade as well.

"A SunSmart message can be displayed on your programmes, invitations, flyers, tickets, posters and signage. And during the event itself, simple SunSmart reminders can be given over the public address system."

Officials at summer events can also contribute by modeling SunSmart behaviour.

"Wearing clothes that keep you safe in the sun sets a great example. Officials should be encouraged to wear hats with wide brims or bucket style hats, as well as sun protective clothing such as shirts with collars and long sleeves.

"And if possible, arrange a supply of SPF30+ broad spectrum sunscreen for officials and participants who don't bring their own.

"Summer in Canterbury is as good as it gets. So get everyone out there having a good time, without them going home with sunburn!"

Further information: Martin Witt, 03 379 5835, martin@canty.cancernz.org.nz