

## SunSmart Councils – Submission content

There are a number of elements important to your sun protection submission to council. It is recommended that your submission covers (at least):

- who you are and the organisations you represent
- a clear statement of the purpose of your proposal
- some background and research into the risks of UVR, with a focus on local statistics
- what a sun protection policy will achieve
- how a sun protection policy will contribute to the council's community outcomes
- your key messages.

Here is an example of wording that could be included with a submission to council requesting development of a sun protection policy.

We recommend that:

1. Council offer protection from harmful exposure to UVR by taking action in the following areas.

### ***Outdoor events***

- Develop a SunSmart outdoor events policy which includes consideration of timing of events, shade provision, role-modelling by officials and promotion of SunSmart behaviours at all council run or contracted events. Promote this to all community groups using council facilities.
- Where possible, schedule outdoor events, such as parades and festivals, at times when the risks of harmful exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) are low (usually before 11am and after 4pm during September to March when peak UVR levels exceed those when sun protection is recommended).
- Provide information, appropriately placed shade provision, and appropriate personal sun protection such as sunscreen, at all council-run outdoor events.

### ***Outdoor workers***

- Develop a council SunSmart outdoor workers policy in line with the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. This would include provision of SunSmart clothing, sunscreen, appropriately placed shade, scheduling of work and a commitment to SunSmart behaviour.
- Work with Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) to encourage employers to undertake appropriate monitoring to safeguard the health of employees exposed to high UVR levels.

### ***Parks and gardens***

- Look for opportunities to provide sufficient natural or man-made shade structures where regular activities take place during times of high UVR levels.
- Conduct shade audits of all parks over time, prioritising those where new facilities or other upgrading is being planned.

### ***Swimming pools, paddling pools and other outdoor facilities***

- Provide shading options, appropriate personal sun protection and information to public.
- Conduct shade audits of all swimming pools and other outdoor facilities over time, prioritising those where new facilities or other upgrading is being planned.

### ***Planning and building approvals***

- Introduce and implement a universal policy requiring all relevant departments and public facilities to include appropriately placed shade, or take advantage of existing shade as an essential component when designing and developing outdoor facilities and settings.
- Ensure shade development is incorporated into all council environmental plans – this includes all council-managed facilities such as housing, parks, playgrounds and street scenes.
- Ensure shade auditing is a requirement of all new external developments which council permits.
- Provide information about planning and designing quality shade, or contact details of shade audit professionals, with planning application kits.
- Outdoor planners to carry out regular shade audits of public places and to keep up-to-date with current shade practices.
- Amend planning guidelines to reflect these changes.

## 2. The public is made aware of the risks of UVR and encouraged to make use of any sun protection measures made available to them. Including:

- community grants to outdoor groups, such as sports bodies, to include provisions about SunSmart behaviour
- information on sun protection practices to be promoted to both employees and community members to raise awareness of the risks of skin cancer
- reminders about the need to limit exposure to the sun, usually between 11am and 4pm, to be placed at swimming pools, and announcements made over public address systems.

## 3. Council use publicity to inform the public of the sun protection provisions and encourage use of these provisions.