

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Despite being an almost entirely preventable disease, it continues to affect at least one in every two Australians during their lifetime. Of all new cancers diagnosed in Australia each year, 80% are skin cancers.

Employees who work outdoors for all or part of the day, have a higher than average risk of skin cancer. All skin types can be damaged by exposure to ultraviolet radiation in sunlight (solar UVR). Damage is permanent and irreversible and increases with each exposure.

We have an obligation to provide a working environment that is safe and without risks to health. This obligation includes taking proper steps to reduce the know health risks associated with exposure to solar UVR for outdoor workers.

Aims

This policy aims to provide ongoing organisational support to reduce employee exposure to solar UVR by implementing appropriate sun protection control measures.

Commitment

We recognise that a combination of sun protection control measures, personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothing, provides the best protection to employees from exposure to solar UVR. Management will:

- Re-schedule outdoor work tasks to occur when levels of solar UVR are strongest, such as the middle part of the day
- Encourage employees to rotate between indoor/shaded and outdoor tasks to avoid exposing any one individual to solar UVR for long periods of time
- Ensure use of appropriate PPE in line with SunSmart guidelines including:
 - Sun protective work clothing
 - Sun protective hats
 - Sunglasses
 - Sunscreen
- Ensure policy is included in induction for new employees will:
- Cooperate with all measures introduced by management to minimise the risks associated with exposure to solar UVR
- Comply with instructions and advice in regard to the use of sun protection control measures
- Be responsible for their own sun protection practices at work