



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

POLICIES and OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES MANUAL

Updated – 29-Jan-05

S7. SUNSMART AWARENESS POLICY.

Introduction.

The Scout Association of Australia, Western Australian Branch (“the Association”) is committed to a better way of life for its members. In meeting its commitment to a healthy way of life, the Association has developed and adopted the following Sunsmart Awareness Policy for the education and protection of its members.

The Association is cognisant by virtue of the types of activities it provides and endorses that its members and supporters are often exposed to the damaging rays of the sun. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world, with deaths exceeding 1000 people each year and two in every three develop some form of skin cancer. The Association wishes for its members to adopt the following practices.

Considerations

Should members or supporters of the Association venture into the outdoors then the following guidelines should be adopted.

- During the summer hours of **Eleven (11) O’Clock** and **Three (3) O’Clock** the sun’s damaging rays ultra violet [UV] rays are considered as being at their most dangerous to the skin. Therefore for the purpose of planning, where activities, especially those involving youth members, are to be held outdoors, serious considerations should be given to scheduling the activity outside those hours with an Ultra Violet Radiation [UVR] rating.
- **Outdoor Activities;** it is considered appropriate that Broad Brimmed Hats should be worn where possible to protect the face and the neck from the UV rays when participating in these activities. The Association has the Johnson hat as a more formal wearing head covering with two recommended styles of hat for activities (they being a Cricketers style hat or the bucket style hat), however, in the absence of a broad brimmed hat then the “Legionnaires” style hat should be considered as a first alternative with the “baseball cap” a second option. Clothing which provides for UVR protection, be it by manufacturing qualities or by the length of the sleeve, trouser, or other covering features should be encouraged to be worn outside during risk periods. Lightweight cotton or poly/cotton garments like t-shirts provide minimal protection especially when wet.
- It should be considered that those persons organising events, that will place members of the Association in damaging rays of the sun, shall take steps to ensure that there is adequate shade or provision for shelters to be erected to provide the same. Furthermore, that broad spectrum sun screen of at least 15+ is made available and its use **strongly encouraged**.
- A **Broad Spectrum Sun Screen;** with an SPF of at least a rating of 15+, should be readily applied in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations to all exposed skin prior to and during exposure to the sun.

Endorsement

- Retail centres of the Association shall be encouraged to stock suitable products for the specific task of risk minimisation in relation to UVR protection, including head gear, clothing and sun screen.

- These guidelines do not replace any obligations that the Association has in relation to workplace agreements and those standards established for employees faced with work in the outdoors and as such should complement any of those conditions.
- The Association expects that all Leaders of the movement will apply these considerations to their planning and actively endorse the role of SunSmart practices by continuing to lead by example.
- Remembering that prevention is going to be the key to a healthy lifestyle and a long and happy Scouting future, the adoption of the SunSmart policy is in accordance with the direction of the Branch Management Committee of the Association

Authority:

S:\Office\General Manager\Branch Risk Register\Policies and Operational Procedures Manual\S2 Sunsmart Awareness Policy 29 Jan 05.doc