**Shade and Sun Protection Policy Example**

**Rationale**

[*Insert name of local government*] recognises that Australia has amongst the highest rates of skin cancer in the world and that skin cancer is primarily caused by overexposure to solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Temperature does not affect UV radiation levels, and UV can be high enough to cause damage to skin even on cool or cloudy days. This damage to the skin and DNA occurs when the UV Index is 3 and above. [*Insert name of local government*] acknowledges the important role local government can play in providing the community with access to services and facilities that provide protection from UV radiation through the creation of shaded environments and initiatives at [*Insert name of local government*] controlled activities and events.

**Our Commitment**

The [*Insert name of local government*] is committed to reducing employees and community members’ exposure to UV radiation by providing safe and attractive open spaces and facilities for the community. This includes the provision of sustainable, quality shade and sun protection strategies to reduce the risk of skin cancer.

The [*Insert name of local government*] will endeavour to do this by:

**Shade policy**

* This shade policy is aimed at reducing ultraviolet radiation (UVR) overexposure across the community. The [*Insert name of local government*]:
* Acknowledges that UVR (ultraviolet radiation) and heat (infrared radiation) from the sun are separate parts of the electromagnetic spectrum that cause different health effects in people and that the provision of shade to mitigate heat does not necessarily reduce UV exposure effectively.
* Will ensure that protection from UVR remains available during the cooler months when heat (infrared radiation) is lower but UVR remains at damaging levels (which occurs when the UV index is above 3).
* Acknowledges that the provision of shade can fall to many local government departments and ensure that collaboration between departments regarding shade is a priority.
* Conduct shade audits within the local government area to identify the need for shade at public facilities and assess the suitability of existing shade provision.
* Will ensure that the provision of shade will consider both UVR and heat mitigation whenever planning approval is sought and assessed for all new building, structure, or renovation.
* Will ensure that shade is considered when planning all public infrastructure that contributes to active liveable environments.
* Will ensure that developers are advised of the existence of the shade policy and encouraged to conform to the shade policy.
* A combination of good quality natural and build shade should be considered with reference to Cancer Council WA [The Shade Handbook](https://www.cancerwa.asn.au/resources/2020-12-03-THE-SHADE-HANDBOOK-FINAL.pdf).

**Sun protection policy for Local Government sponsored, funded, and organised community events**

This policy is aimed at reducing ultraviolet radiation (UVR) exposure at local events. When conducting City/Town/Shire events, [*Insert name of local government*] will wherever practicable:

* Acknowledge that shade is the one form of sun protection that individuals cannot easily supply themselves. It is incumbent on event organisers to supply it wherever possible.
* Schedule events with the UV Index forecast in mind. UV radiation is damaging to unprotected skin when the UV Index is above 3 and it peaks in the middle of the day. Consider offering shaded/indoor alternatives when there are scheduling constraints.
* Provide shade and when selecting an outdoor venue, will ensure adequate shade is available and make maximum use of existing shade. Where required, provide portable shade structures.
* Provide at no cost SPF 30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen to persons who attend the events.
* Ensure employees role model sun protective behaviour including wearing broad-brimmed hats, sun protective clothing, sunglasses, and sunscreen.
* Encourage volunteers to role model sun protective behaviour including wearing broad-brimmed hats, sun protective clothing, sunglasses, and sunscreen.
* Encourage employees and volunteers to make use of shaded areas when feasible.
* Remind patrons to use sun protection during the event.
* Promote the importance of personal sun protection in pre-event publicity and literature including event flyers, tickets, and programs and announce periodic messages during the event.

**Our Expectations**

*Employees will:*

* Be aware of and comply with the [*Insert name of local government*] outdoor events and sun protection policy.
* Take responsibility for their health by adopting sun safety behaviours and practices.
* Apply SPF30 or higher broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen 20 minutes before going outdoors and reapply at least every 2 hours.
* Act as positive role models for other staff and the community in all aspects of sun protective behaviour.
* Be actively involved in initiatives to protect the local community from over-exposure to UV radiation.
* Help design and regularly update the outdoor events sun protection policy.

*The Community will:*

* Be aware of and comply with the [*Insert name of local government*] outdoor events sun protection policy.
* Act as a positive role model for other community members in all aspects of sun protective behaviour.

**Evaluation**

[*Name of position/committee*] will review the effectiveness of this policy each year.

They will:

1. Review the sun protective behaviours of outdoor event participants and make recommendations for improvement.
2. Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for increases in shade provision.
3. Update and promote SunSmart resources.

The next revision is due \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Associated Documents**

Possible examples:

Urban Forrest

Street Trees

Concerts and Events