



### **Rationale**

South Australia has a hot (air temperature) and dry (humidity) climate that can impact upon a person's functioning when exposed to these elements over time. Hot weather is particularly evident from September to April, when Ultraviolet Radiation is also at a peak.

### **Aims**

The aims of the Wattle Park Kindergarten's hot weather policy are to promote among children, staff and parents:

- positive attitudes towards keeping safe in hot weather.
- lifestyle practices which can help reduce dehydration, heat stroke, sun burn and other heat related ailments.
- personal responsibility for and decision making about keeping comfortable in the heat
- awareness of the need for environmental changes in our centre to reduce the level of heat exposure when the temperature is above 30 degrees Celsius.

### **Implementation**

This policy is for implementation throughout the year.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that all members of our early childhood service are protected from heat related ailments. It is an expectation that all staff, students and parents of Wattle Park Kindergarten will use the following heat protection strategies:

1. Take care to protect the skin in line with the site's 'skin protection policy'. During hot weather other considerations are also necessary;
  - 1.1 Parents are encouraged to make sure their child is dressed in light layers that they can easily remove if they are feeling hot.
2. Care will be taken to make sure all those accessing the Wattle Park Kindergarten are well hydrated on hot days and food is kept safe.
  - 2.1 All children will need to bring a water bottle to access water throughout the day. Water bottles and cups will be accessible to children throughout the day.
  - 2.2 Regular reminders to 'have a drink' will be given to children on days the temperature is expected to peak above 30 degrees.
  - 2.3 Parents are encouraged to provide a frozen water bottle or cold pack in their child's lunch bag / box.
  - 2.4 Lunch bags / boxes will be stored inside the kindergarten which is air conditioned on hot days.
3. Use the shade of trees, pergolas, umbrellas and tents whenever outdoors.
  - 3.1 Outside activities will be set up in the shade on days the temperature is expected to exceed 30 degrees.



- 3.2 Children will be actively discouraged from spending time in unshaded areas on days the temperature is expected to peak on or above 30 degrees.
  - 3.3 The kindergarten routine will be rearranged on days the temperature is expected to peak on or above 36 degrees to include outside play first thing in the morning
  - 3.4 All children will be kept indoors after 10am (or when temperature has peaked at 36 degrees if this information is available) on days the temperature is expected to peak above 36 degrees.
  - 3.5 The kindergarten will remain open for service on days the temperature is expected to peak above 36 degrees. The kindergarten is serviced by an evaporative air cooler. The staff will respect the wishes of a parent who wants to collect their child early on hot days due to their own families hot weather management.
  - 3.6 In the event of a blackout and/or breakdown of the kindergarten's air cooling system every effort will be made to contact each child's family / guardian to collect them at their earliest convenience.
  - 3.7 The outside teacher may use their discretion to implement 3.3 and/or 3.4 on days the temperature is not expected to peak at stated temperatures if they are uncomfortable in the heat and notice children are showing signs of heat stress e.g. red cheeks.
4. Reinforcing behaviours related to keeping healthy in hot weather will be adopted across the site.
    - 4.1 Staff will be encouraged to role model appropriate strategies in all service activities.
    - 4.2 Keeping safe in the heat will be included in appropriate curriculum experiences.

For more information

National Quality Standard [2.3 Regulation 168 \(2\) \(a\) \(ii\) Related Key Regulations: 114](#)