



Sun Protection Policy

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Introduction

New Zealand has high levels of ultraviolet radiation throughout the year, particularly during the day between September and April each year. This results in New Zealand having one of the world's highest rates of skin cancer.

Protecting staff, contractors and the community from the harmful effects of the sun at council facilities and events is an important part of Manawatū District Council's (MDC) health and safety responsibilities. Sun protection for staff and contractors is covered in MDC's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy. The Sun Protection Policy outlines our responsibilities to members of the community who use outdoor council facilities (such as parks and playgrounds) and who attend outdoor council-organised events.

MDC will consider guidance from the Cancer Society on 'sunsmart' behaviours and good practice.

Aim

MDC helps the public to protect themselves from sun-related harm when using outdoor council facilities and when attending council-organised events.

Policy Objectives

To provide adequate shade at:

- council-owned parks, playgrounds and facilities
- at sporting and recreation facilities
- within Feilding town centre
- at council-organised events.

To promote sun protection practices (to be 'sunsmart') to the community.

Policy Guidelines and Actions

To help protect the community from the harmful effects of sun, MDC will:

- Undertake shade audits every five years, incorporating findings from those audits into forward planning to ensure the provision of constructed shade, based on identified priorities and within available budget.
- Include natural and constructed shade when necessary when upgrading sports and recreation facilities. Shade trees will be established in recreational use areas over time, especially in children's play areas.
- Incorporate shade trees and structures into the design of the town centre refresh.
- Plant trees or build appropriate shade structures over specific use areas in reserves that are adjacent to beaches and rivers.
- All council-organised events will encourage the SunSmart message as a fundamental part of event planning and MDC will provide sunscreen and temporary shade.