ST HELENS PARK KINDERGARTEN

HOT WEATHER POLICY

This policy is to ensure that the requirements of the National Quality Standards are met:

2.3.2 Reasonable steps are taken to identify and manage risks, and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and hazards

- The service will provide a comfortable and safe environment for children
- Heating and cooling equipment provided to maintain a comfortable temperature for children
- Sun protection/advice from the Cancer Council.

The policy will recognise that children are at greater risk of suffering from heat illness than adults. A child’s ability to respond to environmental heat and acclimatise to heat is due to physiological differences.

“Children sweat less and get less evaporative cooling than adults. In warm and hot weather they have greater difficulty getting rid of heat; they look flushed, and feel hotter and more stressed than adults”


The kindergarten will provide the following:

- **Shade** Activities conducted in periods of hot weather are to be undertaken in shaded areas.
- **Drinks** Children are to be frequently offered water or fluids. Drinking water is to be accessible to children at all times.
- **Clothing** Parents are to be encouraged to dress children in clothing that minimises heat gain, in layers that can be easily removed during activity and of a type that is sunsafe

Refer www.arpansa.gov.au/radiationprotection/factsheets/is_UVProtection.cfm

- **Lunch** Parents are to be encouraged to pack food in insulated containers with a freezer brick or frozen water. Sites are to provide a cool place to store food.

In the event of power failure (no airconditioning for more than 60 minutes) children will remain indoors and parents contacted for early collection where the recorded temperature is over 36°C for extended time periods. Staff will remain on site. Children who cannot be collected will participate in appropriate quiet activities until carers can arrive.