

Specification for the purchase of sun-smart clothing

Schools officers, unit support officers, boat officers and agricultural assistants are required to perform a range of duties outdoors to manage school facilities and grounds or prepare equipment, resources or facilities for school curriculum activities.

For outdoor workers, the workplace is a major source of exposure to ultraviolet radiation, placing them at possible risk of skin cancer. The department is committed to providing a healthy and safe work environment for everyone at school. Sun-smart clothing is to be provided by the workplace for **schools officers, unit officers, boat officers** and **agricultural assistants** as part of this commitment to creating healthy and safe work environments. It is also important that school employees model safe behaviour to support the sun safety strategy for students.

How is the clothing to be purchased?

Schools are required to budget for the purchase and ongoing replacement of sun-smart clothing and the provision of sun-smart clothing for employees appointed to these roles.

Prior to purchasing PPE for employees, supervisors are to consult with the employee to ensure the correct type of PPE is sourced and meets the individual's needs. The selected PPE is to:

- manage the identified risks and comply with any relevant Australian Standards
- be comfortable for the user - consider the size, fit, compatibility and weight of the PPE and the physical characteristics of the user. Proper fit, comfort and ease of use are major factors in ensuring consistent and ongoing use of PPE. PPE is rarely 'one size fits all' so consideration of variations of brand and style will suit different individuals and provide the most comfortable fit
- consider the competitive cost of the item. Cheap or budget PPE may be non-compliant with required standards, may not be offered in the appropriate sizes or be adjustable to the correct fit, potentially rendering the PPE so uncomfortable that it is not worn at all.

The sun-smart clothing can be procured by:

- purchasing products that meet the specifications on the following pages from Queensland Government Standing Offer Arrangement [GGG 0077-21](#). See your school's purchasing officer to assist with the supply of sun-smart clothing through this arrangement; or
- if there is [genuine urgency](#) (DoE staff access only) – by purchasing products that meet the specifications from a local supplier.

What will be provided?

The [Department of Education Certified Agreement 2022](#) and the supporting Exchange of Letter provide for the issuing and ongoing replacement of appropriate PPE. The department (via each workplace) will provide five (5) sets of clothing for full time employees in the specified employee groups listed above:

- long-sleeved collared shirts (5)
- long pants/trousers (5)

- broad brimmed hat (1)
- safety sunglasses (1 pair)
- sunscreen

Part time, temporary and casual employees are to receive their PPE as a percentage of the full time equivalent e.g., if you work 3 days a week; the entitlement is three (3) long-sleeved collared shirts and three (3) long pants/trousers etc.

Replacement of sun-smart clothing

Sun safe clothing is to be replaced on the basis of reasonable wear and tear or once it has reached a condition where the sun safety features have been impaired and not able to provide the necessary level of protection.

Sun-smart shirts – minimum specification

All sun-smart clothing purchased must comply with the following specification:

- Shirts must be long sleeved and collared.
- The shirts must be comprised of fabric rated UPF 50+.
- Lightweight, cool fabrics may be preferred.
- The colour is optional.



Pictures of shirts are for illustration purposes only. Styles and colours will vary.

Sun-smart pants/trousers – minimum specification

All sun-smart pants/trousers purchased must comply with the following specification:

- Pants/trousers must be full length.
- The pants/trousers must be comprised of fabric rated UPF 50+.
- Lightweight, cool fabrics may be preferred.
- The colour is optional.



Pictures of pants/trousers are for illustration purposes only. Styles and colours will vary.

Sun-smart hats – minimum specification

- All hats must have a minimum brim size of 7.5 cm.
- Colour and style is optional.
- Hat designs are now available that accommodate ear muffs.

Note: caps and visors do not provide adequate protection from ultraviolet radiation and should not be purchased for schools officers, unit support officers, boat officers or agricultural assistants.



Pictures of hats are for illustration purposes only. Styles and colours will vary.

Safety sunglasses – minimum specification

- All safety sunglasses shall comply with Australian Standard [AS/NZ 1336:1997 Recommended practices for occupational eye protection](#).
 - safety sunglasses as recommended in AS/NS 1336 should also be worn covering prescription eyewear.
- Wrap around style glasses are preferred. Darker lenses provide greater protection against glare from reflective surfaces.
- Colour and style is optional.



Pictures of hats are for illustration purposes only. Styles and colours will vary.

Sunscreen – minimum specification

- All sunscreen purchased is to be broad spectrum, water resistant and rated SPF 50.
- Pump packs may allow for easier use.



Pictures of sunscreen dispensers are for illustration purposes only.

More information

- Health & Safety for [Schools Officers Folder](#) which includes
 - Selection of PPE – fact sheets
 - PPE register
- [Equipment and machinery resources](#)
- Contact [Regional Senior Health and Safety Consultants](#) for health and safety enquiries