



Duncan Pegg MP

Member for Stretton

Media Release

15/02/17

SunSmart Shade Creation keeps young Queenslanders sun safe

Local not-for-profit organisations and schools can apply to keep kids sun safe, with applications for the 2017 SunSmart Shade Creation Initiative now open.

Member for Stretton said a partnership between Cancer Council Queensland and the Queensland Government, enables not-for-profit organisations catering for children 0-18 years to apply for up to 50 per cent matched funding to purchase a portable or permanent shade structure.

“The Palaszczuk Government has provided \$870,000 of funding over three years to support schools, junior sporting and community clubs, and childcare centres, to adopt sun safe policies and practices” Mr Pegg said.

“Exposure to ultraviolet radiation in childhood increases the risk of skin cancer later in life, so it’s vital that young Queenslanders are taught SunSmart habits from a young age.”

Queensland has the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with almost half of all childhood melanoma cases in Australia diagnosed in Queensland over the past decade.

“More than 3600 Queenslanders are diagnosed with melanoma each year, and it is estimated that over 350,000 non-melanoma skin cancers are treated,” he said.

“That’s why all Queenslanders should use the five sun safety tips – Slip on protective clothing, Slop on SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen, Slap on a broad-brimmed hat, Seek shade and Slide on a pair of sunnies when out and about.”

Cancer Council Queensland spokesperson Katie Clift urged eligible schools, sporting clubs, childcare centres and community groups to apply.

“We’re proud to partner with Queensland Government to help provide shade and improve the sun safety of Queensland kids,” Ms Clift said.

“It’s vital that we do what we can to protect our younger generation from the damaging effects of too much sun to help prevent them from developing health issues in the future, and this funding will go some way towards that cause.”

In 2016, 109 Queensland schools, sporting and community clubs and childcare centres benefited from new shade structures as part of this initiative.

Applications for the 2017 SunSmart Shade Creation Initiative close at 5pm on March 10. To apply, complete the online application form on the [Cancer Council QLD website](#).

Media Contact:

Office of Duncan Pegg MP (07) 3414 3110