



SAFETY ALERT Child Care Activities and Sun Safety #1/2018

In the interest of continuing to manage health and safety, the following information is communicated to inform and enable current systems and processes to be reviewed to prevent a similar incident occurring in your area(s) of responsibility.

Recently at one of our Child Care Centres a young child incurred burns (blisters) to their feet following exposure to the very high temperatures contained within the artificial grass and/or vinyl covered mats which had been exposed to direct sunlight.

The incident was duly notified to the Regulator and a Non-Compliance Notice was issued to the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.) under National Law S167 Offence relating to the protection of children from harm and hazards.

The Non-Compliance Notice was promptly remedied by the area responsible.

It is requested that all relevant areas:

- Review currency and completeness of the Service's Child Safe Environment Policy;
- Review currency of the Service's Sun Safety Policy and Procedures e.g.
 - Ensure outdoor surfaces and equipment are monitored for heat exposure and direct sun on a regular basis e.g. Temperature and Shade Monitoring Record, Use of Laser Thermometers;
 - Provide adequate shade – (shade options can include a combination of portable, natural and built shade);
 - Structure times for outdoor activities in accordance with UV exposure, temperature and shade availability;
- Review adequacy of Inspection Checklists, supervision activities and staff training;
- Consider sun safety and temperature exposures/impacts when purchasing and designing outdoor areas;
- Ensure the documented policy and procedures are enacted and remain current.

¹*(Reg 12-Any incident involving serious injury or trauma to a child occurring while that child is being educated and cared for by an education and care service which a reasonable person would consider required urgent medical attention from a registered medical practitioner; or for which the child attended, or ought reasonably to have attended, a hospital)*

Please share with relevant parties not identified in this correspondence and contact me should you require clarification or assistance.

Regards

Christine Przibilla

Qld Synod Work Health and Safety Manager