



ASSOCIATION OF TOURIST & HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA

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ATHRA ALERT #45 – November 2009 Is Your Railway or Tramway SunSmart?

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. Each year more than 1700 Australians die from this almost entirely preventable disease. Fortunately, being SunSmart is a simple and effective way to reduce your risk of developing skin cancer.¹

National Skin Cancer Action Week runs from November 15th to 21st. This is a good time to ask “Is our operation SunSmart?” The Cancer Council Australia web site (<http://www.cancer.org.au/cancersmartlifestyle/SunSmart.htm>) provides a wide range of useful resources to help you answer that question.

Key Message

UV radiation is a known carcinogen. It is also the major cause of skin cancer in Australia and represents a major hazard to any person who spends some, or all, of their working day outdoors.

Outdoor workers:

- Are exposed to sun for extended periods of time throughout their working life.
- Receive significantly more UV radiation than people who work indoors.
- Have a higher than average risk of developing common skin cancers.

Organisations must ensure their volunteers can work safely and without risk to their health - this includes exposure to UV radiation. In turn, volunteers have a responsibility for their own safety and health and must follow UV protection policies and use any sun protective measures provided.

Recommended Actions:

1. Review or establish your UV protection policy in relation to outdoor work and UV Alerts from the Bureau of Meteorology.
2. Ensure your uniform or dress code is SunSmart.
3. Require SunSmart behaviour from your volunteers and employees.
4. Encourage your visitors to be SunSmart.

¹ Cancer Council Australia web site