

## Questions for primary prevention session

- What are the key priority areas (see list following for recommendations identified)?
- How could different people/groups contribute to achieving these priorities?
- NZ Skin Cancer Primary and Early Detection Strategy 2017-2022 – what is the process for updating the strategy – how does that fit with the Cancer Agency Report?

## Recommendations of skin cancer prevention action identified in key documents

Create healthy outdoor environments that provide protection from excessive UV radiation.<sup>1</sup>

- Require local government to develop and implement comprehensive UV radiation protection policies, including increasing availability of and access to good-quality shade outdoors.<sup>1</sup>
- Sports organisations' health and safety documentation should include sun protection policies that stipulate that clothing and sporting event practices should follow sun protection guidelines.<sup>2</sup>
- Implement comprehensive SunSmart policy in communities.<sup>3</sup>

Create supportive school environments that protect children/young people from excessive UV radiation.<sup>1</sup>

- Implement comprehensive sun protection policies and monitoring in all education settings.<sup>1</sup> / Implement comprehensive SunSmart policy in schools.<sup>3</sup> / All schools and early childhood centres should implement a comprehensive sun protection policy that encompasses the SunSmart Schools guidelines and signals that the intent of the board of trustees is for schools to provide an environment where staff and students can be safe in the sun.<sup>2</sup>
- Implement and enforce a comprehensive sun protection policy assessed as part of the regular Education Review Office cycle.<sup>2</sup>
- The Ministry of Education should follow World Health Organization recommendations for best practice sun protection and require all educational settings, including preschools, primary schools and secondary schools, to follow the recommended guidelines.

Create supportive work environments that protect people from exposure to excessive UV radiation.<sup>1</sup>

- Ensure employers are meeting their legal obligations to protect workers from sun exposure.<sup>1</sup>
- Implement comprehensive SunSmart policy in workplaces.<sup>3</sup>
- All workplaces that employ or contract outdoor works should provide a workplace policy and practical support for sun protection. The addition of UVR to outdoor workplace hazard registers should be required and enforced.<sup>2</sup>

Increase access to affordable, high-quality sunscreen.<sup>1</sup>

- Increase access to affordable sunscreen.<sup>1</sup>
- Regulate sunscreen to ensure all sunscreens meet accepted standards for safety, quality and effectiveness.<sup>1</sup> / Regulate sunscreens as a therapeutic good.<sup>2</sup>
- Investigate ways of reducing the cost of sunscreen, potentially through removal of GST.

Strengthen legislation

- Pass/extend legislation to remove all commercial sunbeds in Aotearoa/ NZ<sup>3</sup> / Extend current legislation to remove solariums from our community.<sup>2</sup>
- Implement comprehensive SunSmart policy in local government.<sup>3</sup>

## Investment

- Provide resources for a comprehensive, coordinated Government-led SunSmart programme, in particular, for the education, occupation and recreation sectors.<sup>3</sup>
- Provide investment in sustained national mass media campaigns to increase and maintain public awareness about skin cancer risk and sun-protective practices.<sup>3</sup> / The Ministry of Health should commit sufficient funding for the effective promotion of sun protection activities by the new public health administration. The \$500,000p.a. is unacceptably low given the estimated cost for treatment is about \$180 million and this disease is largely preventable. If 5% of the total budget for skin cancer treatment were allocated for prevention activities, this would equate to \$9 million annually. .<sup>2</sup>
- Establish centralised and regional funding sources for the provision of more (quality) shade in the places where we live, learn, work and play.<sup>3</sup> / Publicly fund a shade scheme (similar to that in Australia) that allows community groups, schools and other organisations to install appropriate shade. <sup>2</sup>
- Fund the Cancer Society to deliver the SunSmart Schools programme in schools.<sup>2</sup>

## Research

- Prioritise skin cancer prevention research to inform policy and practice specifically relevant to NZ communities.<sup>3</sup>

## Monitoring

- Set national targets for the reduction of morbidity and mortality of skin cancers, and implement the steps necessary to ensure that this is monitored.<sup>2</sup>

## References

1. Te Aho o Te Kahu - Cancer Control Agency. Pūrongo Ārai Mate Pukupukku - Cancer Prevention Report. Wellington: Te Aho o Te Kahu - Cancer Control Agency; 2022. Available from: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/viewer.html?pdfurl=https%3A%2F%2Fhcmsitesstorage.blob.core.windows.net%2Fcca%2Fassets%2FPurongo\_Arai\_Mate\_Pukupuku\_Cancer\_Prevention\_Report\_FINAL\_d37165005d.pdf&clen=2793909.
2. McNoe BM. Prevention is better than cure: We can do better in skin cancer control in New Zealand! New Zealand Medical Journal (Online). 2021;134(1544).
3. Cancer Society of New Zealand. Position Statement on Primary Prevention of Skin Cancer. 2021.