



# WHO International InterSun Project

## Report on UVR activities in Australia during 2022-2023

### ARPANSA UVR Activities

The Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) is an Australian Government agency that contributes to Australian sun protection standards and works with other organisations, such as the Cancer Councils of Australia, to raise awareness of the dangers of sun exposure. From ARPANSA's perspective, ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from sun exposure in both occupational and recreational settings continues to be the main focus for UVR protection campaigns in Australia.

### Research Activities

#### *Cosmetic Procedures*

Investigating the health impact of non-ionising radiation used in cosmetic procedures is the focus of a PhD which is being supervised by ARPANSA in conjunction with Monash University. The aim of this research is to understand the risk from cosmetic radiation procedures like laser hair removal and intense pulsed light (IPL) skin rejuvenation and provide an evidence base for potential regulation of the industry.

#### *Skin Cancer*

A special issue of Public Health Research & Practice, supported by and developed in partnership with Cancer Council Australia, ARPANSA, the Australasian College of Dermatologists and the Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre was published in 2022 (<https://www.phrp.com.au/issues/march-2022-volume-32-issue-1>). The theme of this issue was "The skin cancer capital of the world: tackling Australia's ongoing public health challenge".

#### *UVR Network*

The ARPANSA UVR monitoring network continues to provide real-time information on the levels of solar UVR to the public (<https://www.arpansa.gov.au/our-services/monitoring/ultraviolet-radiation-monitoring/ultraviolet-radiation-index>). This data is now available for thirteen cities across Australia.

### Policies, Legislation and Standards

#### *AS/NZS 2604:2021 Sunscreen products – evaluation and classification*

The Australian Standard for sunscreens has been recently updated, the seventh edition incorporating amendments was published in 2022 ([https://infostore.saiglobal.com/en-au/standards/as-nzs-2604-2021-117193\\_saig\\_as\\_2972714/](https://infostore.saiglobal.com/en-au/standards/as-nzs-2604-2021-117193_saig_as_2972714/)). This revision completes the transition from local to global test methods (published in ISO standards) for determining broad spectrum, sun protection factor and water resistance.

### ***Shadecloth swingtags***

ARPANSA provides a suite of UVR services such as the UV protection factor (UPF) testing on fabric, sunglasses, and film, as well as assessment of UVR hazards in the workplace and calibration of instruments. In 2023 ARPANSA introduced Ultraviolet Effectiveness (UVE) 95+% swing tags for shadecloth products such as umbrellas, tents, cabanas, shade sails and awnings. The swing tags can only be used by manufacturers under licence for products that have been tested and approved by ARPANSA's NATA-accredited laboratories, and which meet the relevant Australian Standard. ARPANSA's shadecloth tags aim to help people choose products that offer the highest protective rating against solar UVR.

## **Media and Communications**

### ***Global UV app***

The SunSmart Global UV app is a free and innovative solution to bring users daily sun protection information specific to their location. This app is an extension of the phone application designed by Cancer Council Victoria, ARPANSA and the Bureau of Meteorology that now provides users with location specific sun protection information no matter where they are in the world. Supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the app provides clear guidance on when sun protection is required whether you are working, travelling or being active outdoors. The SunSmart Global UV app is free for download through the Apple and Google Play Stores and is available in eight languages including English, Italian, French, Spanish, German, Dutch, Chinese and Russian.

### ***Public Information***

ARPANSA continues to provide information about UVR and sun protection in fact sheets, frequently asked questions, and through the "Talk To A Scientist" program where members of the public can call and speak with an ARPANSA scientist about radiation protection topics. Coinciding with the April 2023 solar eclipse in Western Australia, ARPANSA responded to significant public and media interest in eye safety when viewing a solar eclipse.