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promoting the value of play

SHADE AND SUN PROTECTION

The provision of shade in outdoor playspaces is an important issue to be considered by playground managers today.

The best form of shade is natural shade, however it is recognized that this is not possible, practical or affordable in many settings.

There are a number of suppliers of shade in Australia today, and in seeking appropriate shade, Play Australia members are encouraged to apply all of the normal processes used when committing to any major item of expenditure. Check financial performance, quality, adherence to Building practice etc.

It is strongly recommended that contact be made with the Cancer Council in each State and Territory to receive the latest advice.

Telephone 03 9635 5000 Website www.cancervic.org.au

Key issues

- ◆ Shade poles are not play equipment. They don't have a fall zone. The only thing to watch for is that they don't, by being too close to a fence, provide a "ladder" for the escapologists. For that reason it is recommended that they be either less than 100mm or more than 1000mm.;
- ◆ Poles supporting shade cloth do not need to be in the softfall area;
- ◆ The distance of poles from any item, of play equipment above 500mm must be in accord with the fall zone requirements of AS4685;
- ◆ Poles can be placed right next to the external edge of the play structure, ensuring that the poles are jammed tight next to the structure to ensure that no finger entrapment is possible;
- ◆ Steps should be taken to reduce the potential for children or young people to climb poles of shade structures; and
- ◆ Rubber coverings on poles are sometimes used. Materials are available from outlets like Clark Rubber.

Barbara Champion
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