



Safety Soapbox

FEATURE

SUNSMART LAUNCHES NATIONAL SUN SAFETY TRAINING PACKAGE



20 November 2007 – It was a hot day at the South Melbourne construction site where Melbourne's new convention centre is taking shape. Construction worker Andrew Butterworth looked into the TV cameras and reminded everyone of the danger. "That great big nuclear reactor in the sky is a wonderful thing, but it can kill you stone dead!"



Andrew Butterworth (below) was lucky to survive a deadly melanoma on his shoulder. He told his story at the launch of SunSmart's national



training resource package for outdoor workers on working safety in the sun.

The launch was held during National Skin Cancer Action Week when the Cancer Council's SunSmart program reminds workers and the community around Australia about the hazards of sun exposure as summer approaches.

The launch was hosted by Multiplex. The company is a member of the Victorian Construction Safety Alliance (VCSA) which is the OHS forum for major project builders. Other VCSA member companies attended the launch. Also attending were representatives of WorkSafe Victoria. Between 2003 and 2006 WorkSafe conducted a sun protection campaign, in partnership with SunSmart, to raise awareness of the issue in the construction industry, leading to enforcement in the final phase. Victorian construction workplaces are now expected to control risk of UV exposure as a matter of course.



ABOVE: The media gets the message from Cancer Council Australia's Professor Ian Olver and skin cancer victim Andrew Butterfield. BELOW: Dave Waterfield shares the Australand UV experience.

1.2 million workers at risk

The package, which includes an online course for the first time, was launched

by The Cancer Council Australia CEO, Professor Ian Olver. Prof Olver told the audience that an estimated 1.2 million Australian workers face an increased risk of developing skin cancer. "UV radiation is a known carcinogen," he said.

"We need workers and employers to understand that the sun is potentially as deadly as toxic chemicals and heavy machinery. Outdoor workers have died from skin cancer caused by their sun exposure and no-one should have to risk their life for work."

Prof Olver said the hazard is known and the controls obvious.

Also speaking at the event was Dave Waterfield, the health and safety officer at Australand's commercial arm. He shared his company's experience of being one of the forerunners in developing a sun safety program for its employees and contractors. Program initiatives include a site policy, provision of protective clothing, training across sites using SunSmart's workplace educators, and site audits.

Online course part of the package

The interactive course in the SunSmart resource package suits employee induction, refresher training and professional development for health and safety personal.



The online course covers:

- UV radiation – why is it harmful and when is it strong enough to damage?
- Skin cancer – who is at risk?
- Simple steps to protect your skin outdoors.
- Looking out for skin cancer and how to check your skin.

Information on the course can be found at:
<http://www.sunsmartelearning.com.au/>

The leaflet on the online course is shown below.

Further information on working safety in the sun

SunSmart's website:
<http://www.sunsmart.com.au/>

The sun protection safety topic webpage on WorkSafe Victoria's website:
<http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/>



ABOVE: The Cancer Council Australia's Professor Ian Olver launched the training package. BELOW: SunSmart Program Manager, Kylie Strong, at the launch with Greg Muller, from iCourses, the training company which developed the online course. BOTTOM: WorkSafe's Phil Court, left, with Multiplex OHS Manager, Paul Breslin.

'Working safely in the sun'
An online training course for outdoor workers

SunSmart, the skin cancer prevention program of The Cancer Council Australia, and iCourses, online safety training specialists, are pleased to announce 'Working safely in the sun' a flexible training option for learning about the hazards of sun exposure in the workplace.

Working safely in the staff induction, refreshers and development for H&S professionals

The course allows for delivery in small groups or individually in the workplace and at a time convenient for you.

The course covers:

- 'UV' radiation – when is it strong enough to damage your skin?
- Skin cancer – who is at risk?
- Five simple steps to protect your skin outdoors
- Looking out for skin cancer

Make a start and register for the course. Go to [sunsmartelearning.com.au](http://www.sunsmartelearning.com.au/) for further information. Resources available on the website or visit the Cancer Council for more information.

'Working outdoors - a skin cancer risk'
A 1-hour face-to-face education session for employees

Do you educate and train your outdoor workers about the hazards of sun exposure in the workplace?

'Working Outdoors – a skin cancer risk' provides information and training on working safely in the sun.

Delivered at your work location by trained SunSmart educators, the session covers:

- Sun exposure – a workplace hazard
- Skin damage, skin cancer and other sun-related injuries
- UV radiation – what you need to know to work safely in the sun

'Reducing UV exposure risks for outdoor workers'
An in-service session for health and safety professionals

Are you a health and safety professional or practitioner with responsibilities for outdoor workers?

Do you belong to a network or safety group of H&S practitioners?

This face-to-face, in-service session for groups of health and safety personnel explores the relationship between exposure to ultraviolet or 'UV' radiation and skin cancer. It provides information to understand and confidently address sun protection in the workplace.

H&S networks, safety groups and management teams are invited to have SunSmart present this professional development session free of charge at a meeting, event or forum.

For more information or to obtain a booking form, please contact the SunSmart Workplace Program at The Cancer Council Victoria on 3635 5145.

Alternatively you can visit the SunSmart website at www.sunsmart.org.au/workplace/education_programs or email sunsmart@canccouncil.org.au



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