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# KERRY SHINE MP

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## Grant boosts sun safety for Toowoomba North kids

The Queensland Government is providing \$5,282 to Toowoomba Early Childhood Development Program, Holy Name Primary School and Highfields State School to keep kids in the Toowoomba North community sun-safe.

Presented by the Queensland Government and Cancer Council Queensland, the recipients will use the funds to purchase fixed and portable shade structures to increase sun protection for the children.

Local Member for Toowoomba North Kerry Shine said he is pleased to see so many Toowoomba kids benefitting from the State-wide initiative.

"The Bligh Government is committed to giving people the tools they need to stay healthy in their local communities.

"The SunSmart Grant Scheme is about providing with our local Toowoomba North community with the resources to improve the health of their children by initiating local sun protection solutions for local needs," he said.

The Queensland Government and Cancer Council Queensland are raising awareness of skin cancer prevention and the importance of sun protection not only during summer, but all year long.

Australian teenagers have the highest incidence of malignant melanoma in the world. It is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in 15 to 44 year-olds.

"Research has found that the amount of sun exposure received during childhood contributes significantly to skin cancer risk later in life.

"The aim of the SunSmart Grants Scheme is to reduce childhood sun exposure and ultimately reduce rates of skin cancer in the future," he said.

177 successful recipients, which included schools, early childhood centres and community groups, received the SunSmart grant in celebration of the National Skin Cancer Action Week.

SunSmart Co-ordinator at Cancer Council Queensland Rachel Adams said the SunSmart Grants Scheme has assisted many organisations who have limited funds, to increase sun safety behaviour among children.

"The SunSmart Grants Scheme supports Queensland organisations whose key focus is children aged 12 years and younger," she said.

"It will help them enhance sun protection for the children in their care, develop a SunSmart Policy and promote sun safe behaviour.

"This Scheme ensures access to sun protection is available within the community and will contribute to the prevention of skin cancer, which is a significant health risk in Queensland."

For information about the SunSmart Grants Scheme, please visit [www.cancerqld.org.au](http://www.cancerqld.org.au) or call the Cancer Council Helpline on 13 11 20.

- Toowoomba Early Childhood Development Program received a \$1,811 grant for a fixed shade structure.
- Holy Name Primary School received a \$2,500 grant for a fixed shade structure.
- Highfields State School received a \$307 grant for four portable shade structures.

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