

Dear Mr Couani,

I am writing concerning the current St Pius X uniform and in particular, the absence of a broad brimmed hat. My sons in year five and nine have extremely fair skin and given the now well known statistics on sun cancer in Australia, I believe a broad brimmed hat (please see suggested further below) should be incorporated as a standard part of the college uniform.

Aside from looking smart, a broad brimmed hat will better assist protecting students from the damaging effects of the sun later in life. Unfortunately, I have had first hand experience with melanoma, so know all too well the consequences of not mitigating sun exposure from an early age. I know students currently wear a cap - however caps offer minimal protection against the sun (no ear, neck or side of face protection)

The below for information is directly from the Cancer Council of Australia's website

<https://wiki.cancer.org.au/skincancerstats/Settings: Children and adolescents; Early childhood education and care, and schools>

- *Childhood and adolescence are critical periods during which exposure to UV radiation is more likely to contribute to skin cancer in later life, representing 33% of the lifetime melanoma risk up to 60 years of age.*
- ***It has been estimated that 50% of total UV exposure up to age 60 occurs before age 20;***
- *the dermis is thinner in children, with skin thickness gradually increasing from birth to adulthood.*
- *Skin thickness of the face, limbs, and trunk of children aged two-13 years is significantly thinner compared with young adults, 25-40 years.*
- *A Queensland study found UV exposure during the first 18 years of a person's life was the most critical risk factor for skin cancer, and also caused skin damage and premature ageing.*

My sons apply sun screen every day before school, but a broad brimmed hat for students would go a long way to assist minimising the risk of developing skin cancer.

I would appreciate your consideration of the above and I am of course happy to discuss further.

Knowing what we know now about skin cancer, I believe our generation owes a better duty of care for our kids, to ensure they don't pay an unnecessary and avoidable price in later life.

Further to the above, I discovered the attached guide to updating school uniform requirements to support sun smart hat use - which may be of interest.

<https://www.cancercouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/15.Updating-uniform-requirements-FINAL.pdf>

In addition, for information, I note Ambrose Treacy College in QLD has adopted the optional broad brimmed hat for sports.

<https://theschoollocker.com.au/college-hat>