AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS ON PROTECTION AGAINST SOLAR ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION

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Introduction:
Australia has 4 standards that cover protection against solar ultraviolet radiation (UVR), namely Sunglasses, Sunscreens, Sun Protective Clothing and more recently Shade Cloth. Given the Sun Protective Clothing Standard (AS/NZS 4399) now also covers hats, the 5 main icons used for the slogan "slip, slop, slap, seek and slide" for UV protection are now all represented by a standard. Given the high levels of solar UVR in Australia and a population that is susceptible to sunburn and skin cancer, establishing high quality UV protection standards is essential to support reducing skin cancer rates in Australia. This presentation provides an overview of UV standards and their rationale.

Methods:
While Australian standards are gradually being brought into line with international standards, there are still however differences between them. The Sunglass standard in Australia is mandatory, the only one of its kind in the world. This means that people in Australia can be sure what they purchase will meet the requirements of the standard. While the other standards are not mandatory, claims made regarding compliance are regularly monitored.

Outcomes:
Should Australian consumers wish to utilise sun protection, they can have confidence that the products they purchase will provide the stated protection.

Relevance:
Getting the population to increase their awareness of the hazards and to utilise UV protection more often would be the first step and is the subject of other presentations at this conference, but having quality UV protective items available that people can have confidence in is also important in protecting the population.