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Call for UV meters in all high schools

Cathy O'Leary

Cancer experts want the next State Government to spend \$3 million to install ultraviolet meters in all WA high schools and provide more recreational shade.

The Cancer Council WA believes meters that show real-time UV levels can help staff and students plan outside activities and use appropriate sun protection. It is one of many anti-cancer measures the council will reveal today.

It is seeking \$750,000 a year for four years to fund the UV meters and offer incentives to local government to build more shade in parks, pools and other recreation areas.

Some schools such as Peter Carnley Anglican Community School in Kwinana have funded their own meters but CCWA chief executive Susan Rooney said not all schools could afford one.

"This is a very tangible way to educate students about UV, because many think if it's a bit cooler or overcast there are no risks, but UV has nothing to do with temperature," she said.

Bruce Armstrong, adjunct professor at the University of WA's school of population health, said children were at school during peak UV times and meters could help instil a strong sun protection culture.



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Peter Carnley Anglican Community School students Joy Pangan, Brianna Garstone, Darcy Perkins and Bryce Morton in front of their school's UV meter. Picture: Daniel Wilkins