



## MAXIMISING COMPLIANCE TO SUN SAFETY STRATEGIES IN THE WORKPLACE

With more than 34,000 skin cancers each year attributed to occupational sun exposure, we ask Skin Cancer Screening Specialist and Sun Safety Advocate, Karen Ong (BN CN) from Spotscreen, what is the best way to maximise staff sun safety compliance?

**W**hy is it important for mining companies to focus on sun safety strategies?

Mining staff, like any outdoor worker, are at a very high risk of skin cancer. Skin cancers can be aggressive and deadly, which can not only have a devastating impact for the person affected, but also their family, friends, co-workers and the company. So the cost of not focussing on sun safety in terms of increased injuries and liability payouts can potentially be severe.

What differences do you see between mining and other industries when it comes to sun damage?

After a recent skin cancer screening of over 1,000 mining based workers, Spotscreen identified that up to 40% of those workers required a referral for having at least one lesion suspicious of being skin cancer. That is double our average referral rate for other industries! We also found that approximately 10% of staff

reported not wearing PPE and 44% of staff had a lesion they were concerned with, but had not yet visited a GP about. This emphasises the need for ongoing sun safety education for mining workers and also demonstrates the need to ensure skin cancer screening remains easily accessible to all workers.

What advice do you have to maximise sun safety compliance in the workplace?

Many organisations don't provide adequate education regarding: solar radiation safety, the different types of skin cancer to watch for, or self-examination techniques. Don't hold back on this aspect of OHS as it is lifesaving.

Onsite skin checks are an invaluable tool because they identify solar radiation damage and other injuries in addition to early skin



cancers. Skin checks also provide the perfect opportunity to educate workers on how much solar radiation their skin is being exposed to daily. This is something both meaningful and tangible to workers.

When I'm examining skin I'm able to use specialised equipment to not only examine suspected skin cancers, but to demonstrate the extent of solar injury accumulated in their skin. Workers are often shocked by seeing this and we find they are more likely to be compliant with PPE and skin cancer self-monitoring following their screening.

It's important to maintain the right consistent message to staff and contractors, which is why Spotscreen provide convenient onsite skin cancer screening and sun safety training services to assist workplaces in this area.



For more information on Spotscreen's onsite services call 1300 305 230 or visit [www.spotscreen.net.au](http://www.spotscreen.net.au).

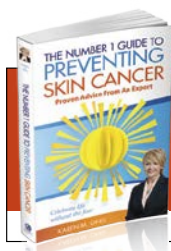
## ONSITE SKIN CANCER SCREENING FOR AUSTRALIANS MOST AT RISK.

Onsite Skin Checks | Sun Safety Training | Mining Specialists

Australian mining workers are at a very high risk of occupational skin cancer. Spotscreen specialise in onsite skin cancer screening programs that help save lives and protect your workers from future injuries.



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