



#PlayToday

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promoting the value of play

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM HOT PLAY EQUIPMENT

There are increasing reports of injuries being caused by burning from hot surfaces from around the country. The manufacturers have thought about this issue for a very long time. eg The materials used in slides is now quite different from 20 years ago. But the facts are that we live in a very hot climate but we have seen on social media some awful images of children having been burnt from being placed on hot play equipment, generally having been lifted onto the equipment by an adult carer, and so this is of significant concern.

At this stage our best suggestion is to do some promotion re the importance of adults taking appropriate care of children, particularly young ones whilst outside.

We understand that beach sand is hot in summer, and so we teach kids to cover their feet, similarly re bitumen, concrete etc. so the message to teach adults is to understand that the environment in Australia can be extremely hot, and that kids need to be taught from the earliest of ages, by their carers and parents how to behave when interacting with the environment.

We understand that some adults always prefer to blame someone other than themselves when young children are injured, but Local Government is not responsible for the supervision of children in parks and playgrounds and fortunately our Playground Standard makes this very clear, but sadly it continues to be a problem. The reference to supervision is in AS4685-2014 Play Equipment and Surfacing Part 1 Scope Section 1