



#PlayToday

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promoting the value of play

TREES IN PLAYSPACES

The provision of shade in outdoor playspaces is an important issue to be considered by playground managers today.

The best form of shade is natural shade, and trees play an extremely important role in the provision of shade in open space, and playspaces in particular. Trees also play a vital role in the design and provision of play opportunities in open spaces designed for children.

The Australian Standards Committee on Playgrounds Safety, CS-05, on which Play Australia is represented, strongly supports the inclusion of trees in playspaces, and encourages such use by all managers of playspaces.

If trees play a key shade and/or recreation role in the playspace, it is important that they be considered part of the risk management process in ensuring duty of care for the users, as with all other items of equipment, and infrastructure present.

It is recommended that if there is any doubt as to the stability and/or safety of a tree in a playspace, that an arborist be consulted, and requested to provide an opinion, as to the suitability and/or safety of the tree.

There is no relevant Australian Standard on the use of trees in playspaces, and the advice given above is in line with a proper risk management process. That is, the environment be assessed for inappropriate risk, and a plan be put in place to eliminate or reduce the risk.

Given the importance of trees to the environment and in children's play environments, Play Australia strongly supports the use of trees in playspace design and implementation. There is no evidence that trees cause any danger to people as long as they are appropriately managed.