**[date]**

Dear **[name of local MP, Principal, key stakeholder]**

**RE: Increasing shade at [insert location/school name].**

I am writing to you about the importance of more shade in our school.

[Introduce the proposed shade project. You may want to include a short personal story about the area, and how it is used/not used by children].

**The need for shade**

* Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia
* 2 in 3 people who have grown up in Australia will be diagnosed with skin cancer.
* UV exposure during the first 18 years of life is the most critical risk factor for developing skin cancer.
* Children are at school during peak UV periods of the day.

Shade is one of the most effective ways of protecting children and young people from the harmful effects of UV. It reduces UV exposure by up to 75%.

**The benefits of shade**
Shade also has many other benefits. Our proposed shade project will also: *[delete any benefits that are not relevant to your project]*

* Reduce the temperature of the playground/outdoor facilities
* Improve the visual amenity of [xxx location]
* Help protect local communities from climate change impacts
* Save on energy costs by reducing the need for air conditioning
* Encourage children to participate in outdoor activities thereby improving their health and wellbeing
* Encourage children to be in nature, thereby reducing stress, promoting relaxation, improving mood and stimulating creativity and imagination.

**How you can help**

You can help us get shade in [location] by: [include information about what you would like them to do, for example:

* providing funds to support the implementation of shade
* providing a letter of support for the shade project
* sharing information about our shade project with others
* signing our shade petition.

I await your response with anticipation.

Kind regards,

[your name]

[contact details]