



Australian Government



Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission



Government
of South Australia
Office of Consumer
and Business Affairs

Media Release

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SAFETY WARNING: NEVER SWING ON THE RING

“Don’t swing on the basketball ring” is the message for young aspiring basketballers.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and the South Australian Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) today announced a safety education campaign warning consumers to use products correctly and to read warning labels.

Assistant Director for the ACCC (SA), Max Slee, said, “Basketball rings installed on brick walls or on fences can be fatal. Home exteriors may not be able to support the player’s weight, making hanging or swinging on the ring extremely dangerous.”

“Kids see professional players swing on the ring and are tempted to do the same. However, they don’t realise basketball rings and backboards used at sporting venues are properly installed to withstand that level of play.”

The campaign coincides with a new national mandatory standard* requiring all basketball rings and backboards to carry a safety warning. A brochure has been developed to inform consumers of the new standard and also provides some tips for installation and checking the condition of the installation. Ideally, a basketball ring and backboard should be fixed to a ‘hot dip’ galvanised steel post rather than an exterior wall.

OCBA is currently monitoring a range of products for sale in the lead up to Christmas to ensure that they comply with safety standards, and urges parents to be sensible when it comes to selecting gifts for their children.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat said “Choose products that are suitable for your children. Read the instructions for assembly and instructions for use, and make sure your kids use products correctly.”

“Many of the injuries that occur each year could easily be prevented if consumers use common sense and observe safety warnings attached to products,” said Mr Bodycoat.

For further information about basketball safety visit www.accc.gov.au or phone 1300 302 502. General product safety advice is also available from both agencies. Contact the ACCC, or OCBA on 8152 0732 or visit www.ocba.sa.gov.au

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BACKGROUND

*A mandatory safety standard for basketball rings and backboards was introduced by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer on 10 October 2005. The standard requires that a warning notice and symbol accompany a basketball ring and backboard at the time of sale. In addition, a label must be permanently fixed to the backboard; warning that swinging on the ring may cause serious injury or death.