

Tuesday 6th November 2007

POPULAR BEADS DECLARED “DANGEROUS”

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine, has signed a dangerous goods declaration in relation to the popular craft toy “Bindeez”, following the interstate hospitalisation of two children who reportedly swallowed a large quantity of beads.

“This is a widely available and extremely popular toy among children of all ages, and in light of disturbing media reports coming out of New South Wales, I want to act swiftly to ensure the safety of South Australian children.

News reports today, suggest the colourful beads release a compound closely resembling the illegal drug GHB, otherwise known as fantasy, and when swallowed can cause seizures and fitting.

“South Australian parents, grandparents and guardians should check whether they have “Bindeez” beads around the home as a matter of priority and remove it from their children’s reach.

With Christmas just around the corner it is highly probable people may also have these items as stocking fillers,” Ms Rankine said.

Staff from Consumer Affairs are in the process of contacting SA retailers who may stock the product, instructing them to withdraw it from sale immediately.

Meanwhile Minister Rankine will today sign a dangerous goods declaration to be gazetted as a matter of priority ahead of further testing of the product interstate.

“Once again this situation highlights the lack of vigilance shown by the Federal Government in employing their powers to stop potentially dangerous products from entering Australia.

I recently wrote to Parliamentary Secretary Chris Pearce requesting that he expand the national banning of lead in children’s toys to include other heavy metals and chemicals, but it appears to have fallen on deaf ears.”

However, our priority right now is to remove this potentially dangerous toy from little fingers and to do everything in our power to prevent a tragic accident from happening here in South Australia,” Ms Rankine said