

# Media Release



**Government of South Australia**

Office of Consumer and  
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## **Consumers urged to check curtain and blind cords in the home**

Consumers are urged to check that looped blind and curtain cords are well out of reach of young children following the report this week of the death of a child in Geelong involving a blind cord.

“I am saddened to hear about this tragedy in Victoria. It’s a heartbreaking reminder of the hazards that blind and curtain cords can pose to young children” Acting Commissioner for Consumer Affairs Anne Gale said.

“I’m asking South Australian consumers to do a safety check of their homes and fix any looped blind and curtain cords that are within the reach of young children and do not have safety devices fitted.”

In January this year, a ban was announced on the supply of new curtains and blinds with looped cords unless they met the new safety requirements. The ban was brought in following a Coronial Inquiry into a South Australian toddler who died after becoming entangled in the loop of a blind cord while in his cot.

A public warning was issued notifying consumers of the ban and the safety regulations for all new curtains and blinds.

However, older curtains and blinds in homes continue to present a risk to young children and the hazard is not always obvious to parents, carers and grandparents.

### **Safety tips for fixing existing blinds and curtains in the home**

- Eliminate the loop by cutting it and installing end tassels (suitable for small track products).
- Fasten looped cords tightly against walls using a cord tensioning device or cord pulley. You can also install a two pronged cleat to tie down cords as long as the user always remembers to use it.
- Keep the end of loose looped cords well out of reach of young children.
- Remove climbing hazards. Ensure furniture, including cots, beds and high chairs, are placed well away from looped curtain or blind cords.

The items mentioned above to fix the cords are cheap and readily available from hardware or blind and curtain stores.

At least 11 Australian children have been accidentally strangled by blind or curtain cords since 2000 and 180 in the U.S. since 1991.

More information about blind and curtain safety is available from the Product Safety section of the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs by phoning (08) 8152 0732 or visiting Products Safety on the OCBA website [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au)