

# News Release

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**Hon Gail Gago**

Minister for State/Local Government

Relations

Minister for the Status of Women

Minister for Consumer Affairs

Minister Government Enterprises

Minister Ast Minister for Transport, Infrastructure & Energy

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## **SAFETY CHECKS ON BABY AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS**

The safety of baby and children's products will be closely scrutinised as consumer authorities turn their monitoring focus to youngster's equipment this month.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago says product safety inspectors from the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) will be checking that products meet stringent safety regulations.

Results will feed into a national monitoring program to be completed later this year involving product safety agencies throughout Australia.

"Children's nightwear, household cots, baby bath aids, child restraints and hot water bottles will be of particular interest to make sure that they meet the rigorous standards designed to keep our little ones safe," says Minister Gago.

Children's nightwear must meet strict labelling standards indicating that the garments meet flammability requirements. Household cots need to be solidly constructed free of loose bars and components, while child restraints are also strictly regulated to ensure the infant is safely secured.

Checks to ensure the standards set for hot water bottles are also timely during winter to reduce the incidence of burns.

Product safety officers will be inspecting retail outlets and their suppliers and where breaches are suspected they will conduct follow up testing. Potential offences will be thoroughly investigated and repeat offenders prosecuted.

Traders caught supplying products that don't meet safety requirements risk a maximum penalty of \$10,000 under the *Trade Standards Act 1979*.

To report concerns about unsafe baby products consumers can contact OCBA's product safety section on 8152 0732, or 131 882 for country callers. A list of banned and regulated products can be found on OCBA's website at [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au)