

Monday 17th September 2007

CRYING OVER CRAZY CONTACTS

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine, has issued a public warning about cosmetic contact lenses, some of which were available at last week's Royal Adelaide Show.

"These coloured designer lenses seem to be popular with teenagers and young adults. It's important to remember that they are not novelty toys or prescription lenses and can cause irritation and damage to the eyes," Ms Rankine said.

Product safety officers from Consumer Affairs, will be today be visiting other outlets in Adelaide, understood to be selling the novelty lenses and warning them about the impending legislation and suggesting they be removed from sale immediately.

This warning comes as the Health Minister, John Hill also put out a warning on these cosmetic lenses. The State Government has introduced legislation, which will stop these lenses from being sold to people without a prescription from an optometrist or medical practitioner.

"This issue is one which we have taken very seriously and we encourage parents and young people to think carefully before purchasing these cosmetic contact lenses."

They visually may look effective, BUT do not provide any benefit because they do not improve your vision and should be properly fitted," Ms Rankine said

The Optometry Practice Bill 2006, which comes into force on 22nd October, would mean cosmetic contact lenses would only be available by prescription from an optometrist or medical practitioner. This means they will be regulated meaning they will only be available by prescription and must be properly fitted and checked to ensure there are no problems and that they are being inserted properly.

Section 91A of the *Fair Trading Act 1987*, contains a provision for a public statement warning people about matters that may adversely affect their interests if they purchase a particular good or service.