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STATE GOVERNMENT BANS 'GREAT BALLS OF FIRE'

A ball designed to be 'set on fire' and then kicked around has been banned in South Australia. The 'Fire Footbag' is made from fire resistant material that is meant to be soaked in flammable liquid and ignited.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine, said "The Fire Footbag essentially becomes a flaming missile which presents extreme safety risks for people who could quite easily be burned by the footbag once its been set alight."

"Making such a dangerous item available to children or anyone else is absurd and unacceptable."

"Unfortunately there has been an incident reported in Western Australia, where a teenage boy received burns to his hands from attempting to use the product. The Fire Footbag clearly presents significant health and safety risks," Ms Rankine said.

Minister Rankine decided to impose the ban immediately after learning the Commonwealth had identified the fire footbag as a dangerous toy, although there have been no complaints or enquiries from people about this product to South Australia's consumer affairs branch.

"I have moved quickly to issue a ban on the item here in South Australia to ensure that the product is not sold or dumped in stores here."

The ban prevents the sale of Fire Footbags to the general public, but makes provisions for the sale to professional entertainers with appropriate training.

"If anyone comes across the Fire Footbag in South Australia they should report it immediately to the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs," Ms Rankine said.

For further information about the banned Fire Footbag contact OCBA's Product Safety Section on 8152 0732.