

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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NATIONWIDE RECALL ON ANOTHER DEFECTIVE BABY PRODUCT

A cot that can endanger toddlers has been recalled by the supplier following concerns by product safety regulators about poor construction and product failure.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gail Gago says it follows reports of vertical filler bars on the drop side detaching, allowing a child to roll or fall out of the cot.

IGC Dorel advised the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) that it will be issuing the nationwide recall of the Mothers Choice Kensington cot to replace any faulty drop side and it has made production changes to ensure the problems do not re-occur.

The company says the chinese made cot was sold between 2007 and 2008 at Kmart, but is not a current line.

Minister Gago says “This is the latest in a string of voluntary recalls affecting baby products in recent weeks and it is worrying given that a cot is supposed to be one of the safest items in which to keep our precious little ones.”

“Five baby product recalls indicates that suppliers and distributors need to be looking closely at the products they are selling to make sure they are fit for sale.”

Inspection of a consumers’ Kensington cot by OCBA Product Safety officers indicated inconsistent manufacturing methods. The filler bars were of different sizes, inadequate glue had been applied or in many cases the bars were not glued in place at all.

OCBA determined that the failures were unlikely to be detected as part of Australian Standards tests and were most likely a combination of poor quality construction and the amount of use the cot receives over time.

Minister Gago says that cots should be expected to have a reasonably long life due to the amount of use they are subjected to.

“Consumers can reasonably expect cots to be durable and sturdily constructed. They’ll be used regularly and should be manufactured to cope with such frequent use without problems,” Minister Gago said.

Fair trading agencies across Australia have seen an increase in reports about drop sides of wooden cots that break or fall apart during regular use.

OCBA together with other agencies including the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is working on ensuring this type of quality problem does not occur again in the future.

The ACCC and OCBA are encouraging consumers to contact them if they have had any problems with the failure of a cot drop side in order to determine how widespread the problem is.

To find out more about cot standards or to report a problem with a cot, consumers can contact the ACCC by ringing 1300 302 502. For product recall information consumers can visit www.recalls.gov.au or contact OCBA's Product Safety Branch on 8152 0732, or visit the website at www.ocba.sa.gov.au.