

Media Release

Contact: **Immacolata Bollella**
Phone: 8204 9512
0417 815 800



Education and Information Services

Level 1 Chesser House
91-97 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 1719
Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone (08) 8204 9516
Facsimile (08) 8204 9509
www.ocba.sa.gov.au

16 February 2005

Parent warning - Toys exceeding sound limit

Imagine giving a child a toy that gives out sound as loud as an electrical power tool.

The Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) is warning parents that the sounds produced by some toys may damage children's hearing. OCBA tested noise-producing toys and found 4 mobile phone toys and an electric organ that exceeded the allowable limit of 85 decibels. All have been recalled.

The Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mark Bodycoat, explained that parents need to be concerned about noise producing toys and in particular toys that will be used very close to the ear.

"Product Safety Officers have found 4 different mobile phone toys and a children's toy organ to be very loud and they have been recalled because they exceeded the allowable limit."

One of the mobile phone toys, when tested in an "against the ear" position, gave a reading of 106 decibels, equivalent to the decibels recorded for an electrical power tool. The organ produced 103 decibels at a distance of 250mm.

All 4 toy phones were all available from Cunninghams Warehouse, while the Xin Anda Electronic Organ was available in Foodland stores. Ninety organs were sold through Foodland retail outlets in South Australia.

After one mobile phone toy was brought to the attention of OCBA by a concerned parent, OCBA tested a variety and found 4 failed to meet Australian Toy Standards. These tests were brought to the attention of Cunninghams Warehouse, who were concerned about the risk to children and agreed to recall the mobile phone models.

The parents of the child who received the organ as a Christmas gift became concerned with the noise levels and consulted OCBA. The toy was tested by simulating a child sitting on a floor and playing with it. The noise level was equivalent to a power saw.

"The mobile phone toys and organ have been removed from sale. But I still urge parents to remain vigilant. Check toys carefully. Look closely at the recommended ages for the products and toys, and make your own assessment of the noise they make. If you have doubts, contact OCBA's Product Safety Section."

Parents are urged to return these toys to the stores where they purchased them. They should receive a full refund.

OCBA regularly monitors products that are available for sale across the State. Random samples are checked to ensure that they comply with safety standards. A list of banned and dangerous goods can be found on the OCBA website (www.ocba.sa.gov.au). Consumers are encouraged to visit the website to check that particular products are safe, or telephone 8152 0732 if they have any concerns.



Government
of South Australia