

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2005

### **THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE BUYING A MONKEY BIKE**

The Minister for Consumer Affairs, Hon Karlene Maywald warns consumers to think carefully before spending money on a monkey bike for Christmas.

The monkey bike, sometimes known as a pocket rocket, is a miniature version of a motorcycle. It is about half the size of a standard road bike and, powered by a 50cc petrol motor, is capable of speeds in excess of 70km/h.

“Monkey bikes are expensive items. They cannot be used on any public road or footpath, or in any public place and consumers may spend up to a thousand dollars to purchase a bike that they can only ride on private property.”

The half size motorcycle is classified as a motor vehicle but cannot be licensed because it does not comply with Vehicle Standards Regulations and Australian Design Rules.

In general, motorised vehicles used on roads or in public places, need to be registered by Transport SA and can only be ridden by licensed riders.

Mrs Maywald also said that some traders might not be providing accurate information about the use of the miniature motorcycle.

“Reports have indicated that some traders may be misleading consumers regarding the legal use of these machines and consequently may be in breach of the Fair Trading Act.

Consumers are also warned to check the quality of the miniature bikes.

“Anyone who has already purchased a monkey bike should check the brakes, release of the throttle and the strength of the footrests, and stop using the bike if they find any problem.”

**Consumers who think they have received inaccurate information from traders or are concerned about the quality of a recently purchased monkey bike should contact OCBA on 8204 9777. For more information on the Pocket Rocket or motorised scooters and bicycles contact Transport SA on 131 084 or the South Australian Police -Traffic Information on 8207 6586.**