

Friday 17th August 2007

“BLING, BLING” REMOVED FROM SHOW BAGS

Two potentially dangerous show bag items have been earmarked for immediate removal, following the most recent annual bag inspection.

Product safety officers have analysed hundreds of toys and novelty items contained in 292 show bags on sale at next month's Royal Adelaide Show.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Jennifer Rankine, said, “These annual inspections prove essential in helping to ensure that South Australian children won't encounter any dangerous or potentially harmful toys when they delve into their show bags.

I was pleased to see that, out of all the items tested, only two were found to be potentially hazardous to children. That's the lowest number of unsafe goods detected for many years,” Ms Rankine said.

Two pieces of toy jewellery were removed from the show bags because they were made with a lead compound. The two items removed included:

- **A necklace with a charm in the shape of a gun toy, called the “Mafia Bling” found in the Mega Mafia show bag**
- **A necklace with a charm in the shape of the thong beach shoe, called the “Pipeline thong” found in the Pipeline Girls show bag.**

“The concerns with these novelty items are that they are marketed towards children who could very easily chew or suck on the charms and chains. Children should not be exposed to toys or novelty items containing traces of lead due to the risk of poisoning,” Ms Rankine said.

Show bag suppliers have been directed by Consumer Affairs officials to remove the necklaces from bags, with the relevant companies agreeing to take them out before the show gets underway on the 7th September 2007.

Ms Rankine said it's encouraging to see that the majority of show bag suppliers seemed to understand the level of responsibility required and the need to uphold strict safety standards.

“Annual show bag inspections by Consumer Affairs have sent a strong message to traders that they have an ongoing obligation to provide products that are safe,” Ms Rankine said.

Consumer Affairs officers will also inspect toys offered as prizes in Sideshow Alley and will continue to monitor them throughout the show to ensure South Australians are protected.

“While potentially hazardous necklaces have been removed from sale, I would urge parents to remain vigilant and double check display boards, looking closely at the recommended ages for show bags and individual items.

Even a product that has passed safety tests could pose a risk of injury if it is not used appropriately,” Ms Rankine said.

A list of banned and dangerous goods can be found on the Consumer Affairs website (www.ocba.sa.gov.au). People are encouraged to visit the website to check that particular products are safe, or telephone 8152 0732 if they have any concerns.

Media can arrange a viewing of the items that have been removed by phoning 0438 777 454