

Tuesday, 24 February 2009

### **DISCOUNT STORE SAFETY BLITZ**

Product safety officers are launching a crackdown on South Australian discount variety stores over the coming weeks ensuring that toys and products don't present safety concerns.

The targeted safety blitz by the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs (OCBA) will remove items deemed potentially unsafe before they can cause harm.

"Everybody loves a bargain, but we need to ensure that low cost alternatives don't come at the expense of consumer safety," says Minister Gago.

"Product safety officers have confiscated various unsafe toys and products from discount variety stores in the past and this blitz will follow up to keep similar hazards out of circulation.

"I also urge South Australians to come forward with any items they fear to be dangerous by reporting them to (OCBA) for follow up investigation."

This includes products with:

- small parts presenting a choking or ingestion hazard, but no labelling alerting to the risk for under 3 year olds;
- unsafe projectiles;
- noise outputs exceeding safe levels;
- unstable construction or folding parts that can trap small fingers;
- ignitable candle decorations.

"OCBA has had great success in the past with its product safety monitoring program, especially in the lead up to Christmas and at the Royal Adelaide Show, ensuring that dozens of unsafe toys and products don't reach consumers," says Minister Gago.

"Unfortunately, new items with similar safety risks continue to be discovered and these checks are necessary to ensure stores don't breach safety standards.

"South Australians deserve to shop with the confidence that items don't pose a threat to their health and that's why product safety officers will be removing items that don't meet safety standards.

"Likewise, retailers need to ensure that the products they stock meet mandatory safety requirements.

"It is a serious offence to manufacture or supply a banned item or an item that does not meet relevant safety standards. This carries a maximum penalty of \$10,000."

OCBA routinely performs monitoring of products on sale around the state to ensure that standards are met and often withdraws products that are substandard, dangerous or improperly labelled.

A list of banned and regulated products is available on OCBA's website at [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au). Product safety concerns can also be raised with OCBA's product safety section on 8152 0732.