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### **TREADMILL SAFETY WARNING STEPPED UP FOR WINTER**

South Australians are being reminded about the dangers of treadmills as cooler days set in, prompting people to opt for indoor exercise.

Consumer Affairs Minister, Gail Gago, said despite frequent warnings about the machines, reports of children being injured by treadmills continue.

“Injuries can occur when children touch or climb onto an operating treadmill, resulting in friction burns or more serious cuts and abrasions to arms and fingers. Product safety officers from consumer affairs will be reinforcing the safety message over the next few weeks by visiting traders to ensure that all treadmills on sale carry prominent safety warnings,” Ms Gago said.

An 11 year-old boy recently required hospital treatment for serious friction burns he sustained after being trapped between an operating treadmill and a wall.

“It is absolutely vital that people be aware of the dangers treadmills pose to children and the need for parents to be keep them away from all fitness machinery.”

“For peace of mind consider putting the treadmill in a separate room, unplug the power cord when not in use and ensure children cannot get close to the treadmill when it’s operating,” Ms Gago said.

To ensure as many people as possible get the safety message loud and clear, product safety officers are educating community groups including parents/mothers groups and libraries.

A risk assessment of treadmill safety in South Australia was carried out in July 2008 in response to calls relating to children’s injuries and OCBA issued a public warning highlighting the potential risks.

New national safety regulations under the Trade Practices Act apply to all treadmills supplied in Australia from 1 December 2009. The regulation requires traders to ensure that treadmills carry a prominent warning sign as follows:

*“WARNING: keep young children away from this machine at all times. Contact with the moving surface may result in severe friction burns.”*

For more information contact OCBA on (08) 8152 0732 or download the Treadmill Safety Alert brochure from the new Product Safety Australia website [www.productsafety.gov.au](http://www.productsafety.gov.au).