



MEDIA RELEASE

23 May 2002

RICHARD O'SULLIVAN Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

SKIMMER BOX SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Territory pool and spa owners are being targeted in an NT-wide safety campaign co-ordinated by Consumer Affairs.

Commissioner Richard O'Sullivan said a recent incident where a young girl suffered serious injuries when she sat on a "potty seat" skimmer box had prompted the safety campaign.

"The potty seat style skimmer box has been banned for sale or supply since 1985," he said.

"Importantly, the potty-style can easily be modified which prevents children actually sitting on the filter inlet and consequently, being injured through suction.

"Our campaign is two-fold: to educate pool and spa owners, particularly those with older models; and to advise how these filter systems can be modified to prevent a possible tragedy."

The Commissioner said a media campaign would promote the need for residents to conduct their own "backyard safety audit".

"If in doubt, Consumer Affairs is on hand to assist with enquiries and, in some cases, on-site visits."

Consumer Affairs staff are currently conducting a safety audit of skimmer boxes in all Territory hotels and motels to remove this type of risk to patrons.

The Commissioner said an average modification costs around \$150.

"That's cheap when it could be your child's life at risk."

Consumer Affairs, Product Safety Officer, Helen Savvas can be contacted on (08) 8999 5022. Mrs Savvas can also supply digital photographs of modified and pre modified skimmer boxes as shown below.

