



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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DR PETER TOYNE MLA Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

TOYS AND PRODUCTS BEING CHECKED FOR SAFETY

Minister for Justice and Attorney-General Dr Peter Toyne today announced the commencement of the annual pre-christmas toy and product safety surveys being conducted by the Consumer Affairs Product Safety officer.

Toys and products are checked for general safety and to ensure they meet any relevant Australian or Mandatory Standards.

Mr Toyne said "Christmas should be a joyous and fun time for children, and the annual toy safety surveys helps to ensure that unsafe products are not available for sale".

"This years surveys will be looking at traditional Christmas products and specifically targeting Christmas Lights, toys for children under 3, dolls, games, and projectiles."

He said "A stark reminder for all parents and carers to be cautious when buying toys for children, was the recent tragic event in NSW where a six year old child died after firing a dart gun into his mouth. It lodged in his throat and blocked his air passages causing asphyxiation. The Pull Back Action Target Game has been withdrawn from sale and recalled by the distributor."

"Inspections carried out in Darwin today found a wooden 'Learn the Alphabet' toy for sale which comprises small parts, however, there was no age suitability labelling as is required by the Australian/New Zealand Standard for "Safety of Toys".

The product safety officer advised the store to remove the product from sale until correct age suitability labelling is affixed " he said.

Some Christmas lights on sale in stores around Darwin did not have the required Approval Number showing that they meet the necessary requirements of the Australian Standard."

Mr Toyne reminds consumers to only purchase Christmas Lights that have an approval number printed on either the packaging or the product itself.

Surveys will continue over the next 5 weeks.

Dr Toyne said consumers are urged to report any products they believe may be unsafe to Consumer Affairs on telephone 89991999 7 days a week.