



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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DR PETER TOYNE MLA Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

WARNING ON POTENTIALLY LETHAL WATER YO-YO BALL

Justice Minister Dr Peter Toyne today issued a warning for all parents across the Territory to return brightly coloured soft rubber yo-yo balls capable of strangulation to the point of sale for a full refund.

The Yo Yo Ball is a squeezable soft plastic ball, usually filled with liquid. The ball is attached to an elastic cord that can stretch to many times its original length. At the end of the cord is an elastic ring which is placed on the finger.

The product can be used like a traditional yo-yo, or swung around the head like a lasso, and potentially can wrap around a child's neck causing strangulation.

The product is known under various names including "Yo-Yo Water Ball", "Yo-Yo Sports Ball", "Yo-Yo Meteoric Ball", "Yo-Yo Smile Water Ball", "Kids'r'Cool Yo-Yo Ball", "Wonderful Squeezing Liquid Yo-Yo Ball." They usually sell for between \$2 and \$5.

Dr Toyne said Consumer Affairs officers have carried out inspections in Territory stores and so far have only found one store that has sold the yo-yos. The toy has now been recalled and stocks taken off the shelves.

"We do know a number of these unsafe yo-yo balls were sold and are in circulation, and I urge parents who think they may have purchased a yo-yo ball to return it for a full refund.

"There have been cases interstate where children have been injured by these yo-yo balls and they do have the potential to cause great harm.

"We are very concerned that the labelling on these products states they are suitable for children 3 years of age and older, and encourage parents to take care when choosing toys for their children," Dr Toyne said.

For further information contact Consumer Affairs on 8999 1999.

For images of the yo-yo balls visit

<http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/consumerhelp/buyingproductsservicescars/yoyoballinterimban.html>