



Media Release

Consumer and Business Affairs

Wednesday 15 December 2004

WARNING ON POCKET ROCKETS (Miniature Racing Motor Cycles)

Parents are being advised to think carefully before spending up to a thousand dollars for a 'Pocket Rocket' the newest trend in miniature motorcycles.

Pocket Rockets are about half the physical size of a standard road bike, are powered by 50cc petrol motors and capable of doing more than 70km/h.

A/Commissioner of Consumer Affairs Gary Clements said "These machines can not be used on any public road or footpath, regardless of what sales representatives may tell consumers, so purchases should be well thought out concerning where the vehicle will be used".

"Pocket Rockets fall within the definition of a motor vehicle but are unable to be licensed due to their inability to comply with Vehicle Standards Regulations and Australian Design Rules, and therefore would be inherently dangerous on the road" he said.

Sellers of pocket motorcycles must hold a motor vehicle dealer's licence and Consumer Affairs is conducting an information and compliance campaign to ensure that sellers are properly licensed.

It is not illegal to purchase a Pocket Rocket in the Northern Territory.

Mr Clements said "As they are not permitted to be used on any road, footpath or bike path in the Northern Territory we will be following up any claims to the contrary.

We are encouraging dealers to properly explain to purchasers where these pocket rockets can legally be used and the need for all normal safety protection wear used by normal motor cyclists.



Media Release

With Christmas coming up Consumer Affairs offices throughout Australia are campaigning nationwide to keep kids safe this Christmas. We will be warning parents that unless they are going to be involved in supervising the use of these miniature motorcycles on private property or at supervised events such as a go-kart venue, we predict they are a tragedy waiting to happen”.

“The message here is be very aware of the dangers that this latest craze represents to your children and ensure they have a safe Christmas.” Mr Clements said.

Media contact : Gary Clements, 8999 7505
