

MEDIA RELEASE

Acting Commissioner for Consumer Affairs

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BANNING ORDER IN PLACE FOR POISON RISK TOY

The 2007 Toy of the Year – Bindeez – has been banned across the Northern Territory.

The Commissioner of Consumer Affairs Gary Clements confirmed a Territory wide interim banning order amid concerns that children ingesting the tiny bead-like parts risk poisoning.

He said the ban is supported by the Minister for Justice and the Attorney General Syd Stirling.

"The interim banning order means all sales of these items cease immediately and allows us 28 days to make inquiries and arrange for the order to be extended or made permanent," Mr Clements said.

Fair Trading Offices in other states have also placed interim bans on the toy.

In the past week-and-a-half two NSW children, one aged two and one aged 10, became seriously ill after swallowing a number of the beads.

The symptoms of the poisonings have included seizures and fitting. Initial information suggests the small colourful beads once swallowed metabolize and release harmful chemicals into the body.

Consumer Affairs compliance officers have surveyed NT stores and found them on sale in some of the major department stores as well as smaller novelty stores.

Mr Clements said he is happy with local retailers' responses with the toy being immediately removed from their shelves.

"However, any consumer who has bought Bindeez should return them to their place of purchase for a full refund," Commissioner Clements said.

Consumers who are experiencing difficulties in obtaining refunds or find Bindeez on sale in stores should immediately contact Consumer Affairs on 1800 019 319

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