

MEDIA RELEASE

Acting Commissioner for Consumer Affairs

2nd April 2008

Child injured by banned potty seat skimmer box

Acting Commissioner of Consumer Affairs, Gary Clements, is again warning Territorians about the dangers of potty-style pool filter boxes, after a 6 year old child recently sustained serious injuries while swimming in a backyard pool in Darwin.

This older style filter box (pictured below) was originally banned from sale in 1985 due to the high risk of injury posed to children. Children are able to sit on the filter inlet if it does not have a protective lid; the suction caused by this action has been known to result in severe internal injuries including disembowelment.

Consumer Affairs officers have repeatedly undertaken extensive inspections of swimming pools that are open to the public since the ban was introduced, to ensure any necessary modification work had been carried out on unsafe filter boxes. However, residents in private dwellings must take responsibility for ensuring their backyard pool is safe.

“Territorians must check whether their pool skimmer box/filter inlet is safe, and should arrange for immediate modifications to be made to ‘potty seat’ filters” says Mr Clements.

Modifications involve fixing a permanent protective lid to the filter inlet (pictured below).

Manufacturers of fibreglass pools are able to carry out the required modifications for approximately \$300.

NOTE: The mother of the child is willing to speak on this issue, please contact Mr Clements for contact details.



With protective lid



Without protective lid

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