

MEDIA RELEASE

Acting Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

2 March 2009

PARENTS WARNED OF BLIND CORD DANGER

The supply of window blinds without appropriate warning tags and safety devices has been banned throughout the Northern Territory.

The move follows interstate bans or restrictions on the cords which have led to the deaths of at least 10 Australian children since 2000 as a result of accidental strangulation in blind or curtain cords.

In South Australia, a 13 month old was strangled by a blind cord hanging above his cot. A subsequent coronial inquest recommended that a mandatory safety standard be implemented.

“This ban is on future sales and supplies of these cords,” Acting Commissioner of Consumer Affairs, Gary Clements said. “But I urge all consumers to be mindful of the potential dangers involved with unsafe blind and curtain cords which are already in their homes and businesses.

“Keep cots, high chairs and other baby furniture away from blind cords. Any blind or curtain cords that have a looped device pose a safety hazard to children.

“If you already have blinds or curtains, ensure that the cords are fastened tightly to walls and at least 1600mm above the floor.”

Mr Clements said Consumer Affairs staff will be liaising with blind and curtain suppliers to educate them on the new ban and ensure that the new standard is adhered to.

Further information on the ban is available at www.consumeraffairs.nt.gov.au

A Fact Sheet of frequently asked questions is located at:
http://www.nt.gov.au/justice/consaffairs/documents/Blind_Cord_2009_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Anyone who has concerns about blind cord safety should contact Consumer Affairs on 1800 019 319.

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