

MEDIA RELEASE

Acting Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

20th July 2008

DARWIN SHOW BAGS IN SAFE HANDS

Show bags, set to go on sale at this year's Royal Darwin Show, will be inspected by Consumer Affairs staff this week. Those stall holders trying to sell dangerous toys will soon have the offending items removed.

Acting Commissioner of Consumer Affairs Gary Clements said "Consumers can feel confident that Inspectors will check show bags for potential choking hazards, projectile toys, banned products and the ingredients of cosmetic products".

"Officers will also be randomly inspecting stall holders selling toys and products, especially those that are marketed at younger children."

"Any potentially dangerous or easily ingested toys will be removed from sale", Mr Clements said.

"Show bags need to be correctly labelled with age suitability to assist parents to choose appropriate show bags according to the age and developmental level of the child. I urge parents to check the bags contents, and note the recommended ages for toys and other products."

These inspections are carried out prior to the bags going on sale, minimising the risks to the hundreds of young consumers who buy these very popular items.

"It is essential that these inspections are carried out each year. As well as reassuring parents about the products their children are buying - it also sends a strong message to those breaching product safety laws," Mr Clements added.

Inspections at this year's Alice Springs Show resulted in removal of:

- The expanding dinosaur egg toy which is banned in the NT. Sold at the Stall Mall stand.
- A toggle on a drawstring hat as it was a choking hazard. Part of the Sesame Street show bag.
- A skateboard key ring as the wheels and axle came off, making it a choking hazard. Included in the SpongeBob SquarePants and Scooby Doo bags.

Staff also requested labels be included to warn consumers of:

- Keys to a chest which were a choking hazard, in the SpongeBob SquarePants and Scooby Doo bags.
- Ingredients of temporary tattoos sold at the Jillikins stall.

“I am pleased with the continued cooperation of the Royal Darwin Show Society with this annual inspection to ensure show bags are safe for Territory children”, Mr Clements said.

A list of banned and dangerous goods can be found on the Consumer Affairs website (www.consumeraffairs.nt.gov.au)

Concerned Territorians are urged to report any unsafe toys, or other products to Consumer Affairs on 1800 019 319 or email consumer@nt.gov.au