

MEDIA RELEASE

Acting Commissioner of Consumer Affairs

30th June 2009

ALICE SPRINGS SHOW BAGS IN SAFE HANDS

Show bags, set to go on sale at this year's Alice Springs 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 for 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.

Last year's inspections resulted in the removal of eight items including

- Dangerous darts and a bow and arrow kit as the tips came off
- Nail polish and tattoos without ingredient labelling
- A toy made of potentially flammable material

"I am pleased with the continued cooperation of the Alice Springs 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