KIDS SAFETY AT CHRISTMAS

A campaign has been launched to promote kids and toy safety this Christmas.

Minister for Justice Dr Peter Toyne today launched the ‘Keeping Kids Safe This Christmas’ campaign at Parliament House.

“Christmas should be a joyous and fun time for children – and as parents we have to make sure it stays that way by being vigilant when we buy presents,” Dr Toyne said.

“As gift givers to take a little extra time in choosing the right gift for the age of the child and adhere to the recommendations on the packaging.

“Consumer Affairs is constantly checking stores for any dangerous products and have no hesitation in removing incorrectly labelled toys from shelves.

“It has also released some easy tips for what we should be looking out for:

- Toys with removable small parts should be kept away from babies and small children. The rule of thumb is that if it fits into a 35mm film container, then it is not suitable for children under 3 years.
- Many accidents happen when young children get hold of older kid’s toys, so parents should try to find a designated place for the older kids to play, safely
- Guns capable of firing projectiles such as pens, ball bearings and sticks should be avoided; some of these guns are banned in the NT.
- Target Games with projectiles where the plastic arrows are less than 35mm in length are also banned as they have caused serious choking injuries and a recorded death when the small arrow caught in a child’s throat

Twenty-one toy products have been removed from shops shelves this year, most recently the ‘Candy Baby Powder’.

This included an easily removable candy teat which could cause a choking hazard to a child under 3 years.

Anyone with concerns about the safety of a product being sold should contact Consumer Affairs on 1800 019 319

The campaign will continue with displays at Palmerston and Casuarina shopping centres throughout December.

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CANDY BABY POWDER
Removed from Territory store shelves
Potential choking hazard

TARGET GAMES
Banned –
Plastic projectiles are less than 35mm
Choking hazard

A young boy interstate died after firing a suction dart into his mouth while in the back of his parent’s car.
He choked to death

GUN
Banned –
Capable of firing missiles such as pens, pins or ball bearings at high power.
Potential to maim a child for life