



WA Consumer Product Advocacy Network

Product Safety Report 2016



This report was produced by Kidsafe WA in collaboration with members of the WA Consumer Product Advocacy Network.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Commerce**
Consumer Protection



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

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About the WA Consumer Product Advocacy Network

The WA Consumer Product Advocacy Network (WA CPAN) was established in October 2014 with the support of the Department of Health Western Australia. WA CPAN provides leadership to ensure ongoing and emerging injury issues associated with unsafe products are identified and minimised, with a focus on products used by children. The network consists of representatives from organisations who are involved in the regulation, safe use, injury prevention, treatment and sale of products for use by consumers. These organisations include:

- the Department of Health Western Australia
 - Public Health Division
 - the Princess Margaret Hospital Emergency Department
 - the Western Australian Poison Information Centre
- the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
- the Burns Injury Research Unit - School of Surgery University of Western Australia
- the Department of Commerce – Consumer Protection
- Goodstart Early Learning
- Kidsafe Western Australia

Products identified through the network are prioritised according to the level of injury risk and associated safety concerns. A documented action plan then supports the ability to advocate for change. The network aims to explore solutions for identified unsafe products and to ultimately reduce the number and severity of childhood injuries related to consumer products.

WA CPAN members meet every two months, with approximately six meetings per year. During the past 18 months a number of products were identified, highlighted and discussed due to child injury concerns.

Report Overview

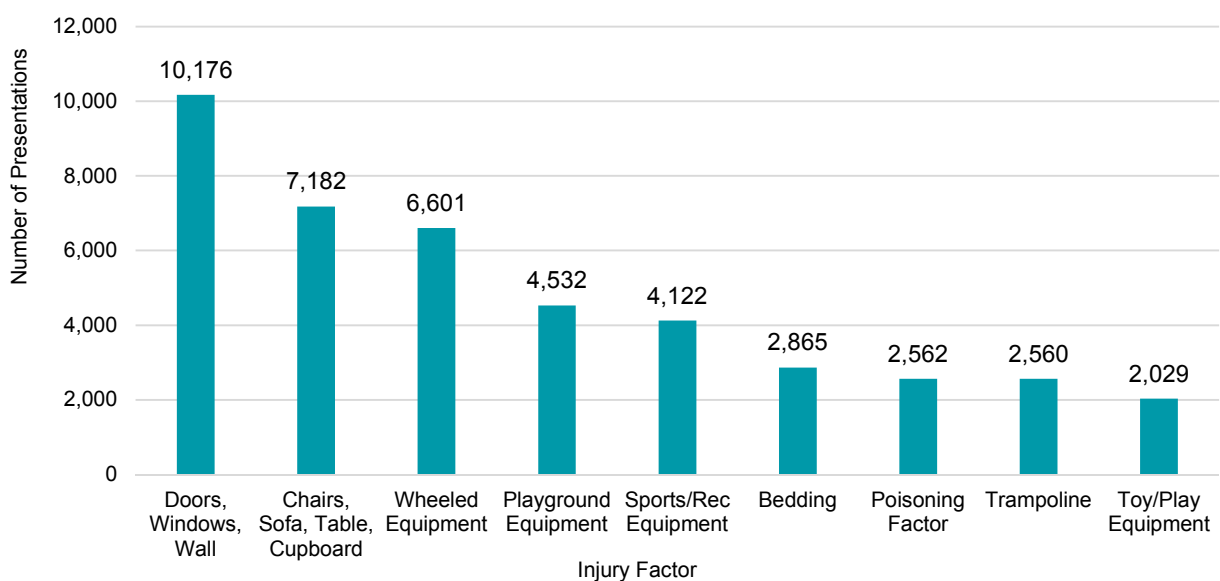
This report outlines the consumer products identified by WA CPAN since the establishment of the group in 2014, and the actions taken to address identified product safety issues.

The data used in this report was provided by the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children (PMH). PMH is the sole tertiary paediatric hospital in Western Australia, acting as a key referral source for childhood injury and disease within the state. The PMH Injury Surveillance System is an electronic database that involves the systematic collection of all emergency department (ED) injury data. Data is collected by a triage nurse who initially assesses the child presenting to the emergency department. All clinical information and basic demographic details are recorded, together with the child's triage code indicating the level of 'emergency' based upon their reason for presentation. Additional injury surveillance data is collected for those children presenting with an injury. This data is then validated by an Injury Surveillance Officer.

Childhood Injuries in Western Australia

On average, each year in Western Australia 27 children aged between zero and 14 years die as a result of injury, with a further 6,841 children hospitalised.¹ Between January 2011 and December 2015 there were over 96,000 injury presentations to the PMH ED, involving children aged between zero and 16 years. Of these presentations approximately 46 percent (n=44,219) involved an injury factor. An injury factor can be a product or a structure that contributed to the cause of injury. The most common injury factors were doors, walls, and windows accounting for 23 percent (n=10,176) of the presentations. This was followed by furniture, including chairs, sofas, tables and cupboards (16.2%, n=7,182) (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Presentations to PMH ED by Injury Factor, January 2011 to December 2015



Every child presenting to the emergency department is assigned a triage code based on the level of urgency (see Table 1). Looking specifically at injuries with an associated injury factor, the majority of the presentations were recorded as being urgent or semi-urgent, accounting for approximately 96 percent of the presentations (n=42,589). In the majority of cases (n=36,008, 81.4%) children were able to depart the emergency department with treatment complete. A further 16.9 percent (n=7,486) of children were admitted to hospital for further treatment, and the remaining children were either transferred to another department/hospital or did not wait for treatment after presenting to the triage desk.

Table 1: Triage Category

Category	Seen within (mins)
(1) Resus	0
(2) Emergency	10
(3) Urgent	30
(4) Semi-Urgent	60
(5) Non-Urgent	120

Consumer Product Safety Issues

As a large proportion of injuries to children involve products, WA CPAN plays an important role in identifying and addressing these safety issues to reduce the injury risk to children in our state. Since the establishment of WA CPAN, several product safety issues have been identified, discussed and acted upon. The strength of this collaboration comes from the varying skill sets, regulatory powers, communication channels, data access and clinical knowledge within the group. These attributes have enabled members of the network to discuss safety issues and take appropriate actions in a timely manner. Actions taken by WA CPAN were usually led by the member who could have the biggest impact. The products which were a major focus during the past year included button batteries, water absorbing polymer balls and quad bikes.

Button Batteries

Button battery ingestions (BBI) continue to pose a risk to children. Two children in Australia have died as a result of button battery injuries, and it is estimated that 20 children a week visit an emergency department as a result of BBI.²

Upon ingestion, the saliva can trigger an electrical current causing a chemical reaction which can result in damage to the oesophagus.³ Patients with a lodged BBI often present with non-specific symptoms such as vomiting, coughing, and abdominal pain⁴, making it difficult to diagnose. Children younger than five years old are at risk due to a narrower oesophagus, tendency to explore and ingest, which is often unwitnessed.⁵ This highlights the importance of disseminating prevention strategies⁴ in order to avoid tragic cases.³ On a national level, discussions are underway to limit the danger of loose batteries through better packaging and more reliable compartment security in products. At a state level, ongoing monitoring of products using these types of batteries continues at the point of sale as issues come to light.

Case Series 2011 - 2016

Between January 2011 and March 2016 there were 122 (71.8%) X-ray confirmed BBI cases to the PMH ED, including 10 (8.3%) lodged BBI cases.

Table 2: Patients details of lodged button battery ingestions

Patient details	Button battery lodged in oesophagus, n=10
Median age, years (IQR)	3.25 (4.56)
Sex, males (% of total)	8 (80%)
Median time lodged, hours (IQR)	5.25 (9.56)
Median length of hospital stay, days (IQR)	1.19 (4.84)
Residency, rural (% of total)	4 (40%)
Ingestion, witnessed (% of total)	2 (20%)
Ethnicity, Aboriginal (% of total)	1 (10%)

Serious injury may result in as little as two hours post ingestion.⁷ Rural patients are especially at risk due to prolonged button battery exposure. The most severe WA case was transferred to PMH from a country hospital and resulted in life-threatening aortic bleeding; fortunately the patient survived.⁸ Another case resulted in a perforated oesophagus and trachea. All remaining cases (n = 8) resulted in mild to severe oesophageal wall burns without major blood vessel or airway involvement.

Figure 2: Button Battery Position in the oesophagus



Presentations to PMH ED

Between January 2011 and December 2015 there were 99 suspected BBI presentations to the PMH ED. The majority of the children presenting (n=75, 75.8%) were able to depart with treatment complete, while 24 children (24.2%) were admitted to hospital for further treatment.

A large proportion of the presentations were children under the age of five years, accounting for approximately 77 percent (n=76) of the presentations. Only three presentations had a recorded button battery source (toy/play equipment), with the remainder unknown.

Actions taken by WA CPAN

Due to the increased number of BBIs it was evident that this was a key issue for the group. Through numerous discussions, collaboration and data analysis, a large number of products containing button batteries were identified. These products may not necessarily be intended for children, however they can still gain access to the batteries. Data analysis highlighted a need for an audit of products containing button batteries; WA CPAN used a multi-pronged approach to advocate for change and raise awareness among parents and carers. During this time the Department of Commerce, Consumer Protection sent a team to conduct safety audits in order to identify and remove unsafe products containing button batteries from retailers.

WA CPAN was also able to identify unsafe products through consumer complaints. This included the rainbow light wand toy (see Figure 3). An email was received from a concerned parent highlighting the dangers of this product (see Appendix One); the light wand was easily broken, potentially exposing children to batteries. Through collaboration between various members of the committee WA CPAN was able to facilitate the removal of the product from Australian retailers within a week. This highlighted the benefit of using the different skill sets of WA CPAN members to facilitate a quick outcome.

Figure 3: Rainbow Light Wand



Members of WA CPAN also collaborated on a number of media initiatives, warning the community about the dangers of BBI and the appropriate treatment (see Table 3 for more details). This was particularly prominent over the Christmas period where many of these products, including musical greeting cards and other cheap novelty items are sold.

WA CPAN also assisted with a Button Battery Awareness campaign run by the Queensland University of Technology. This involved sharing survey links with our networks via email and social media to collect information on parents/carers awareness of the dangers of button batteries (see Table 3 for details).

The committee has recognised the importance of this growing safety issue and will continue to advocate and educate in the coming years. Button batteries will remain on future group agendas.

Water Absorbing Polymer Balls

In 2014, there were two incidents in Australia where children had ingested water absorbing polymer balls.⁹ This product is sold in small bead like form and has the ability to expand up to 400 times its size once in contact with liquid. These are a risk to children as they can cause obstruction of the airways or intestines once ingested.¹⁰ This product was originally marketed as a decoration, however in recent years it has been advertised as a tactile toy for children and marketed into educational settings.¹⁰

Presentations to PMH ED

In the last five years there have been seven presentations to the PMH ED, where children under the age of four years ingested a water absorbing polymer ball. The first of these presentations was in September 2014. Only one child was admitted to hospital, the rest were observed/treated and consequently sent home. In all of these cases there was no information provided about what led up to the event or how the ingestion occurred.

Actions taken by WA CPAN

Water absorbing polymer balls also became a key safety issue for WA CPAN; immediate action was required to avoid future injury. After analysis, it was determined that the safety warnings provided for these products was inadequate, particularly in brands purchased online or overseas (see Figure 4). Some packaging provided minimal warnings including 'Choking Hazard –Small Parts', 'Toy Contains Small Parts' and 'Not for children under 3 years', however not all products had these warnings. As a response, a media strategy was designed to warn the community of the dangers of this type of product and urging businesses to stop selling these products as 'toys'. Members of WA CPAN also shared information via social media channels to ensure the messages were reaching the community. See Table 3 for more details.

Figure 4: Water absorbing polymer balls from a patient presenting to PMH ED



Quad Bikes

The leading cause of serious injury and death on Australian farms are quad bikes.¹¹ In Australia during 2015, there was a total of three quad bike related deaths to children aged between zero and 15 years. Of these incidents one occurred in Western Australia.¹²

Many farming activities such as checking crops, spraying weeds and carrying small loads are done using quad bikes¹³; however, over the years quad bikes have also become increasingly popular for recreational use.¹⁴ Due to the narrow wheel base and high centre of gravity, quad bikes are considered inherently unstable¹⁵, and unfortunately a lot of quad bike injuries are due to the vehicle rolling over and crushing the rider or passenger.¹³ Although a large number of children are using quad bikes, there is mounting evidence that children do not have the capacity to operate these vehicles safely due to their size, strength and cognitive skills.¹⁴

Presentations to PMH ED

Between January 2011 and December 2015, 118 children aged between zero and 15 years presented to the PMH ED with a quad bike injury. The majority of the presentations were triaged as category 3 (urgent) and category 4 (semi-urgent). A few were triaged as category 1 (requiring resuscitation) and category 2 (emergency), with a small fraction of category 5 (non-urgent) cases (see Figure 5).

Approximately half of the quad bike presentations were admitted to hospital for treatment (50.1%, n=65), 44.1 percent (n=52) of the presentations had treatment completed within the ED, and the remaining presentations were discharged to the clinic. Limited information on injury mechanism was provided at the time of triage. Half of the injuries were recorded as a fall off the quad bike (n=62) and the remaining were described as either collisions, rollovers, other or were unknown (see Figure 6).

Figure 5: Triage category of quad bike presentations to PMH ED, January 2011 to December 2015

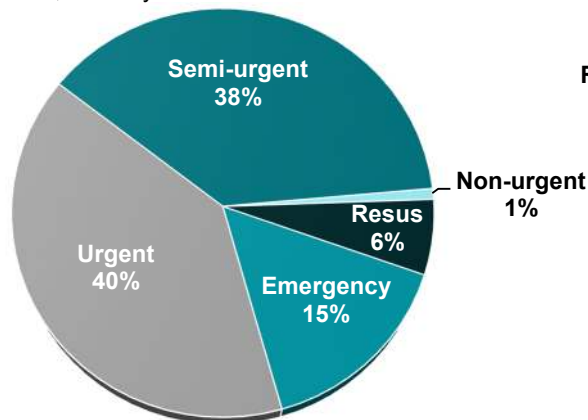
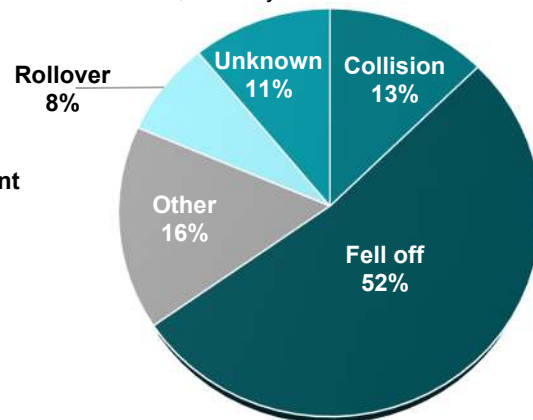


Figure 6: Injury mechanism of quad bike presentations to PMH ED, January 2011 to December 2015



Actions taken by WA CPAN

Several meetings involved discussion around whether children should be using quad bikes, and adequacy of current safety measures. To increase our knowledge in the area, Dr Sue Sharpe from the Peel Health Campus was invited to present her quad bike research conducted at PMH, an audit of quad bike-related presentations to PMH from 2005 to 2015. Although this only covered a small proportion of the quad bike injuries seen in Western Australia, it gave the group insight into injury mechanisms, consumer perception of quad bike safety, and future direction of the industry.

Throughout the year, members of WA CPAN were involved in media campaigns, raising awareness of the dangers of quad bikes to children. A number of the members were also involved in sharing quad bike safety messages through social media platforms. See Table 3 for more details.

Quad bike injuries continue to pose a risk to children in Australia and therefore will remain the area of focus for WA CPAN in the coming years.

Other Consumer Products

During WA CPAN meetings a number of other products were also discussed. See Table 3 for a full list of the consumer products discussed and actions taken by WA CPAN between January 2015 and December 2015.

Table 3: List of consumer products discussed and the actions taken by WA CPAN

Product & Issue	Actions
Bed boxes <i>Is this a safe sleeping option?</i>	The Committee discussed whether this was a safe sleeping option. After some research the group decided that this could be a safer sleeping option. No further action required at this stage.
Button batteries <i>Products containing button batteries are easily accessible by children and can cause severe chemical burns.</i>	- Department of Commerce conducted product safety checks and removed unsafe products from retailers. - Supported Queensland University's research on button battery awareness by sharing surveys with networks - Goodstart - to all families that access Goodstart services nationally (over 70,000) - Kidsafe WA – to over 2,500 families and via social media - Recalls on websites and Facebook pages - Distribution of button battery posters (ongoing) - Media: 'Button battery toy withdrawn from sale by Spotlight (Rainbow Light Wand)' (Department of Commerce) (see Appendix Two) 'Tis the season to be wary with children's toys' (ACCC) (see Appendix Three) - The Weekend West Australian (Kidsafe WA) (see Appendix Four) - ABC Radio (Kidsafe WA) - Channel 9 – (Kidsafe WA) - ABC TV – (Kidsafe WA)
Chemicals <i>Brightly coloured laundry pods, and pharmaceutical products attractive to children.</i>	- Presentation by Peter Wallner, ACCC on 'Regulations of Chemicals in Australia' - Poisoning from Pharmaceuticals Bulletin (Kidsafe WA using PMH Injury Surveillance data) - Today Tonight (Kidsafe WA, PMH ED & Poisons Info) - The West Australian (see Appendix Five)

Child car restraints <i>Recall of Maxi Cosi convertible.</i>	- Recalls on website & Facebook pages (see Appendix Six) - Media: - Today Tonight (Kidsafe WA) - Channel 10 News (Kidsafe WA) 6PR (Kidsafe WA)
Curtain cords <i>Consumer complaint re: long cords in a rental property (see Appendix Seven).</i>	- Department of Commerce contacted property owners to discuss further and provide safety information - ABC Mornings – New Tenancy Agreements (Kidsafe WA & Department of Commerce)
Electric Scooters <i>Some injuries have been noted and there is concern that more of these devices will be on the market in the future.</i>	- Discussed issues such as: - they can get quite fast and may be used on footpaths. There are regulations in place that require licensing over certain speeds. - more kids are using these and bike shops are selling petrol/kerosene conversion packs for bicycles.
Household furniture <i>Toppling furniture.</i>	- Department of Commerce created advice particular to landlords in an online fact sheet about the importance of securing furniture to the wall to reduce the risk of toppling furniture (see Appendix Eight). - Media: 'Commissioner's Blog: Toppling furniture can kill kids – anchor it!' (Department of Commerce) (see Appendix Nine) - Channel 10 – (Kidsafe WA) - Channel 9 – (Kidsafe WA)
Hover boards <i>Batteries overheating.</i>	- Recalls on websites and Facebook pages - PMH ED provided information to the ACCC regarding WA injuries from hover boards. - Media: 'Concern over hoverboard safety and fire risks' (Department of Commerce) (Media release) (see Appendix Ten) 'Hoverboard safety concerns' (ACCC) (Media update) (see Appendix Eleven) - The West Australian - 'Dark side to hoverboard craze' (Consumer Protection WA & Kidsafe WA) (see Appendix Twelve) - ABC Radio (Kidsafe WA & Department of Commerce)

Mermaid tails/Water Safety <i>Drowning hazard.</i>	• Presentation by Rachel Murray, Royal Life Saving Society WA – ‘Keep Watch Program and Toddler Drowning Prevention’ • Goodstart promoted the water safety messages advocated by Rachel Murray from Royal Life Saving Society WA across the 52 services in WA • Media: ◦ ‘Pool safety a hot topic this summer’ (Department of Commerce) (Media release) (see Appendix Thirteen) ◦ Channel 7 – (Kidsafe WA) ◦ Channel 9 – (Kidsafe WA)
Panadol advert – Trampolines <i>Consumer complaint re: two children using the trampoline in advert (see Appendix Fourteen).</i>	• Department of Commerce contacted Panadol’s manufacturer (GlaxoSmithKline) as well as the Advertising Standards Bureau raising the concerns about promoting unsafe practices
Quad bikes <i>Issues around safety measures and whether children should be using these.</i>	• Presentation by Dr Sue Sharpe from Peel Health Campus – ‘Audit of Quad Bike-Related Presentations to PMH from 2005-2015’ • Shared ACCC’s quad bike campaign with networks • WA Childhood Injury Surveillance Report: Farm Injuries (Kidsafe WA using PMH Injury Surveillance data) • Media: ◦ ‘Quad bike deaths prompt warning of dangers’ (Department of Commerce) (Media release)(see Appendix Fifteen)
Water absorbing polymer balls <i>Can expand and obstruct internal organs once ingested.</i>	• Recalls on websites and Facebook pages • Media: ◦ ‘WA: Water absorbing balls and expanding toys raise safety concerns’ (Department of Commerce) (Media release)(see Appendix Sixteen) ◦ ‘ACCC warns of dangers of water expanding balls to kids’ (ACCC) (Media release) (see Appendix Seventeen) ◦ Channel 7 News (Kidsafe WA)

Future Directions

It is important for WA CPAN to continue identifying unsafe products and advocate for change to reduce the number and severity of injuries to children associated with consumer products. In the future WA CPAN will use its network to:

- Identify emerging child product safety issues through data collection and research
- Continue to monitor existing child product safety issues
- Advocate for appropriate product safety measures in children's products
- Raise public awareness of child product safety concerns
- Collaborate to achieve the best outcome for Western Australian children

Limitations

There are some limitations with the data used in this report. Many children requiring hospital treatment are not captured in this report as they do not present to PMH ED. The data used in this report is heavily dependent on the accuracy of the information provided by the adult attending with the child, triage nurses recording the data and the effectiveness of quality validation by the Injury Surveillance Officer.

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Appendices

Appendix One

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 September 2015 8:17 PM
To: wa@kidsafe.com.au
Subject: Unsafe Product Report

Hi,

I purchased this product from the party section of the [REDACTED], 30/09/2015. It is a "Rainbow Light Wand" Brand TNW Australia, Item Number DI012. Upon removing it from the packaging, the plastic outer shell of the wand split in half and the contents spilled onto the floor. The contents of the wand included three small "button" batteries, which were unsecured. Although the packaging contains a warning "Caution small parts...Not suitable for children under 3", I believe the product is a safety risk as it is marketed as a childrens party toy and it fell apart before the parent could inspect the product for safety, the small batteries could fall out of the product without the parent even realising.

[REDACTED]

Appendix Two



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Commerce**
Consumer Protection

Media Statement

Consumer Protection 140 William Street Perth Western Australia 6000

Email: cpmedia@commerce.wa.gov.au

www.commerce.wa.gov.au www.wa.gov.au



8 October 2015

Button battery toy withdrawn from sale by Spotlight (Rainbow Light Wand)

Major national retailer Spotlight has removed a toy powered by button batteries from its shelves after Consumer Protection expressed safety concerns.

Product safety officers at Consumer Protection found the toy, **Rainbow Light Wand**, broke open easily when dropped. This exposed the button batteries in the toy which poses a danger for young children if swallowed.

Acting Commissioner for Consumer Protection Gary Newcombe praised the quick action of Spotlight.

"When our concerns were brought to the retailer's attention, they acted quickly to remove the items from sale which is highly commendable," Mr Newcombe said.

"Our concern is that there may still be many of these toys in the community and we want parents in particular to be aware of the danger as they could result in serious injury, permanent disability or even death.

"We are advised that there will be a recall of this product. In the meantime, we advise parents who may have purchased this toy for their children to discontinue its use and safely dispose of it by wrapping up the batteries and putting them in a bin that cannot be accessed by children.

"Battery-operated toys should have secured covers which prevent a child being able to access the battery.

"Button batteries, especially the larger coin sized ones, if swallowed can get stuck in a child's throat and burn through the oesophagus in as little as two hours. Children under five years old are at the greatest risk.

"In Australia, an estimated 20 children per week present to an emergency department suspected of swallowing a button battery.

"If anyone sees button-battery powered toys without a secure compartment, please report it to Consumer Protection immediately."

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Consumer Protection

Follow these tips to help prevent a child from becoming a statistic:

- Keep loose coin-sized button batteries (new or old), or devices which contain them out of reach of children.
- Check battery compartments on toys are secure and supervise children playing with battery-operated toys.
- Dispose of used batteries immediately – even flat batteries can be dangerous.
- If a child swallows a button battery do not let them eat or drink, do not make them vomit and seek immediate medical attention – a burn can occur in just two hours.
- As well as attending hospital or seeing an emergency doctor, you can speak to The Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 for additional treatment information.

Consumer Protection is encouraging parents and carers of babies and young children to complete a button battery awareness survey run by the Queensland University of Technology:

<https://survey.qut.edu.au/f/184509/3623/>

The purpose of the survey is to understand the level of awareness regarding safety issues relating to button batteries and products that contain them. The survey is open until Friday 16 October and takes 10-15 minutes to complete.

Further information on product safety is available at www.productsafety.gov.au. Report battery-operated toys with unsecured covers, or any product you think might be unsafe, to Consumer Protection by email: consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au or by calling 1300 30 40 54.

END OF RELEASE

Media Contact:

Alan Hynd

6552 9248 or 0429 078 791

alan.hynd@commerce.wa.gov.au

Appendix Three

'Tis the season to be wary with children's toys

This announcement is for:

[ConsumerBusiness](#) / [companyProduct safety](#)

Flashing decorations, jewellery, musical stockings and greeting cards are among the items that made it on to the naughty list during Consumer Protection's annual pre-Christmas product safety inspections.

Commerce Minister Michael Mischin is urging the Western Australian community to check button battery powered products twice because the lithium batteries, which are shiny and might look like sweets to toddlers, could kill or seriously injure a child if they are swallowed.

"In the eyes of a child, something that flashes or makes noises is just a toy, but it may have hidden risks if they are powered by button batteries," Mr Mischin said.

"Consumer Protection recently inspected 105 button battery operated items at 44 different retailers, with 20 found not to be secured appropriately and failed a 'drop test', leaving potentially deadly lithium batteries exposed after the item hit the floor.

"If swallowed, button batteries can become stuck in a child's throat and burn through the oesophagus in under two hours. Tragically, there have been deaths including that of a four-year-old in Queensland in 2013. Children who survive button battery ingestion can require feeding and breathing tubes and repeated surgery.

"I am pleased that when Consumer Protection's concerns about certain button battery powered products were brought to the attention of retailers, store managers acted quickly to remove the items from sale voluntarily.

"An example was the removal of LED Lava Drops from 57 retailers, including all Target stores, after the item failed a 'drop test'. Refunds are being offered to anyone who has purchased one.

"Despite the best efforts of product safety officers in WA, there may be dangerous button battery powered products in the community and we want parents, grandparents and carers to be very aware that if a child accesses these batteries and swallows one, it could result in serious injury, permanent disability or even death."

Safety tips include:

- keeping loose coin-sized button batteries (new or old/flat) and devices which contain them (i.e. electronic and garage door remote controls) out of reach of children
- checking that battery compartments are secure and supervising children playing with battery-operated toys
- disposing of used batteries immediately and safely
- ensuring that if a child swallows a button battery, they do not eat or drink or are made to vomit. Immediate medical attention must be sought as a burn can occur in two hours

Fact File:

In Australia, an estimated 20 children per week present to an emergency department with an injury related to a button battery

For more information,

visit <http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/tag/batterycontrolled>

Consumers with concerns about button battery powered products should report details

to consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au or 1300 30 40 54

Minister's office - 6552 5600

Story of Perth family's experience after a young boy swallowed a button battery can be found [here](#)



Lava lamp withdrawn from sale, by Consumer Protection

Withdrawn from sale

Lava lamp.



Items failed Christmas product safety tests button batteries, by Consumer Protection

Withdrawn from sale

Other Christmas items removed from shelves.

Consumer Protection

Media release

16 Dec 2015

Share this page:

Last modified: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 - 12:22

Appendix Four

The West Australian - December 2015

Battery alert for kids' toys

After making a list of Christmas gifts, ensure you check the batteries twice before giving toys to children, WA's Consumer Protection warns.

Flashing decorations, jewellery, musical stockings and greeting cards were among items that failed a pre-Christmas safety inspection.

Of the 105 button battery-operated items inspected at 44 retailers, 20 were found not to be secured properly and failed a "drop test", leaving potentially deadly lithium batteries exposed after the item hit the floor.

If swallowed, button batteries could become stuck in a child's throat and burn through the oesophagus in less than two hours.

The Weekend West – May 2016

Tiny batteries threat to tots

■ Angela Pownall

An average of 33 children a year are taken to Princess Margaret Hospital's emergency department after swallowing button batteries, an alarming 74 per cent increase on previous years.

Kidsafe WA has warned parents to protect their children from the increasing "little-known danger" around the home, which has killed two Australian children and injured thousands of others.

Kidsafe general manager Jessica McKenna said children's access to increasingly powerful lithium batteries was growing as their use proliferated.

Most injuries were in children aged under five and Ms McKenna said parents often were not aware of items that had button batteries in them.

Doctors at PMH saw 163 children with button battery-related injuries from 2011 to last year, an average of 33 a year.

Previously it had 94 button battery-related presentations between 2009 and 2013, an average of 19 a year.

Appendix Five

The Weekend West
August 29-30, 2015
thevest.com.au
\$2.70
Grosvenor, Shark Bay \$2.80; Pilbara, Kimberley \$3.70 GST INC.

GOLD RUSH
WIN 20K GOLD
WORTH OF
START COLLECTING YOUR ENTRY TOKENS TODAY
SEE PAGE 48 FOR DETAILS
Part 1
Sat 12-20
Sun 11-19
Details P110

KIDS POISONED
Young children exposed to drugs and pills in their homes

EXCLUSIVE
Cathy O'Leary
Medical Editor

Hundreds of WA children suffered potentially lethal poisonings last year from substances including sleeping pills, rat killer, marijuana cookies and body-building pills.

Experts are worried young children are being exposed to a widening range of prescription, over-the-counter and illicit drugs in their homes.

In one case, a 14-month-old toddler was left with serious caustic injury after swallowing button batteries and a two-year-old boy took a potentially fatal dose of his mother's methadone syrup.

Other serious cases involved a two-year-old boy with toxic levels of iron after swallowing his mother's iron tablets and a three-year-old found confused and agitated after taking anti-psychotic medication.

They are some of the 7646 calls made to the WA Poisons Information Centre involving children accidentally swallowing or overdosing on substances, including 15 newborns under five weeks old.

The Weekend West has obtained detailed information showing poisoning scares involving dozens of substances ranging from arsenic and strychnine to herbal tablets and supermarket-bought painkillers.

Not all resulted in significant illness but poisonings ranging from mild to severe were flagged in more than 1400 children.

The centre said that while most cases involved limited exposure such as a child licking a low-toxicity product like a hand cream or nappy paste, many cases involved highly toxic chemicals and potent pharmaceuticals.

Swallowing a few millilitres of liquid or a single tablet was a potentially lethal dose for a toddler.

It included medication such as narcotic analgesics, drugs of

► CONTINUED P4

Children poisoned
FROM P1

abuse, drugs used to treat heart problems and high blood pressure, as well as medications to manage diabetes and serious psychiatric conditions.

More than 780 calls were related to paracetamol products such as Panadol and ibuprofen pills including Nurofen.

Separate figures from Kidsafe WA also reveal more than 500 childhood poisonings were treated at Princess Margaret Hospital's emergency department in 2013-14, with more than half involving pharmaceutical substances, many of them over-the-counter paracetamol.

Kidsafe chief executive Scott Phillips said the cases showed there were risks from everyday household products through to highly potent narcotics.

"Parents still tend to think of poisoning risk coming from bleaches and cleaning products but more and more we're seeing medications implicated," he said.

Parents juggling work and family life had become complacent about keeping medications out of reach of young children.

Many newer homes did not have an out-of-reach medicine cabinet with child-resistant locks.

Mr Phillips said consumer demand for easy-to-swallow pills meant increasingly medications were smaller, sweet-flavoured and looked like lollies, which could confuse children.

He said the agency often used images of pills and lollies mixed up in a pile to show parents how similar they looked.

He urged parents never to refer to medicines or vitamins as lollies when trying to persuade children to take them.

In an emergency, when a child swallows a poison do not try to make them vomit. Phone the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26.

For general information, phone Kidsafe WA on 9340 8509 or the Child Safety Information Line on 1800 802 244.

Similar: Lollies and pills. Picture: Mogens Johansen



Appendix Six

Example website recall on Maxi Cosi Convertible Child Car Restraint



Product Safety Recalls Australia

Recall categories

- Agricultural & veterinary
- Beauty, health
- Cars, boats, bikes
- Electrical
- Fashion & clothing
- Food & groceries
- Gas
- Hobbies, sporting, recreation
- Home & garden
- IT, phones, multimedia
- Industrial, business
- Kids
 - Educational
 - Kids' clothing
 - Kids' equipment
 - Kids' food & drink
 - Kids' furniture
 - Toys

Site features

- For suppliers conducting product safety recalls
- Advanced recall search
- Subscribe to email alerts & RSS
- FAQs
- Hot topics
- Recalls - last 30 days
- Report an Unsafe Product
- Useful Links
- Contact Us

[Login](#)

Home → Recall categories → Kids → Kids' equipment → Dorel Australia Pty Ltd—Maxi-Cosi A4 Euro Convertible Car Seats

Dorel Australia Pty Ltd—Maxi-Cosi A4 Euro Convertible Car Seats

PRA number: 2015/14783
Date published: 25th June 2015





[More images \(1\)](#)

Product information

Product description
Maxi-Cosi A4 Euro Convertible Car Seats (3 Height Marker)

Identifying features
Maxi-Cosi A4 Euro Convertible Car Seats (3 Height Marker)

What are the defects?
In some instances, the fabric around the harness adjuster mechanism may get caught in the mechanism, allowing the shoulder harnesses to loosen without lifting the harness adjuster. In addition, the A4 model does not have the correct certification.

What are the hazards?
If the harness is loosened the child restraint is no longer effective in restraining the child in the event of an accident or sudden braking, increasing the risk of injury to the child.

Traders who sold this product
Baby Bunting, Bubs Baby Shops, My Baby Warehouse, Toys 'R' Us, and Independent Specialty retailers across Australia.

Supplier
Dorel Australia Pty Ltd

What should consumers do?
Consumers need to check their seat to determine if it has 3 height markers on the left hand side of the cover. If your car seat is affected, Dorel will provide customers with a free replacement Maxi-Cosi Convertible Car Seat. For further information on identifying affected car seats please visit www.maxi-cosi.com.au

Contact details: To arrange a replacement car seat please email customerservice@dorel.com.au or call 1300 809 526.

Advertisements and supporting documentation

 [A4 Euro Product Safety Recall.pdf](#) (117.0 KB)



Example Facebook recall on Maxi Cosi Convertible Child Car Restraint



Kidsafe Australia

June 25, 2015 · 🌐

PRODUCT RECALL: Dorel Australia's Maxi-Cosi A2 Euro Convertible Car Seats (with a date of manufacture between 16 September 2014 to 12 March 2015) have been recalled as the inbuilt harness may unintentionally come loose.

If you or someone you know has one of the A2 Euro Convertible Car Seats, please contact Dorel to arrange for a replacement car seat cover to fix the issue. For more info please click on the link below:



Dorel Australia Pty Ltd—Maxi-Cosi A2 Euro Convertible Car Seats

RECALLS.GOV.AU

👍 Like
💬 Comment
➦ Share

👍 2
12 shares

Appendix Seven

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 October 2015 9:58 PM
To: DL-KidSafe <kidsafe@kidsafewa.com.au>
Subject: Rental property with long unsecured blind cords

RE: long unsecured cords of blinds in rental property,

I am in a rental property where there are eight unsecured long cords (for aluminium blinds) and the owners/agents do not want to place hooks to secure these despite 4 months of being at this property. We have sent them several emails highlighting the guidelines in the department of commerce website. They have given me a copy of the certificate of compliance although there are 8 out of 11 blinds unsecured in this property.

I attach the photographs and after issuing a breach notice are awaiting a court hearing on the [REDACTED]. This incident however does highlight the ongoing lack of duty of care towards children in rental properties. We have a 2 and a half year old. Having just moved from [REDACTED] 2015 we found this quite concerning as we are aware of the risk of strangulation with these cords. We will be moving out of the property on the [REDACTED].

I am emailing to bring to your attention that despite this being compulsory, blinds with long unsecured cords are still present in rental properties. Rental agents and landlords are not following the recommendations and are not listening to concerned parents/tenants. Please advise us as to what else we can do and also if there is more your organisation can do to raise awareness of this matter

The property is at [REDACTED].
The agents are [REDACTED] The blinds company is [REDACTED]
Attached are the photographs.

Regards
[REDACTED]

Appendix Eight



Government of Western Australia
Department of Commerce

Obligations of landlords - Corded internal window coverings

*What types of internal window coverings are a safety hazard for children?
Blinds and curtains with loose cords or chains can strangle young children.*

Since the early 1990s, at least 18 children have tragically died in Australia this way. A child can place a loop over their head or get tangled in loose cords or chains when:

- sleeping in a cot or bed where cords or chains are hanging;
- playing near cords or chains; or
- standing on furniture (chair, sofa, bed, table etc.) or climbing using something like an overturned toy box/crate to look out of a window that has blind or curtain cords or chains.

Do landlords have obligations to ensure internal window coverings are safe?

Yes. Under section 42(2)(c) of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987*, the landlord (lessor) is required to ensure that all aspects of the premises comply with laws relating to buildings, health and safety. Product safety laws for internal window coverings have applied in Western Australia since 23 January 2004, so landlords need to ensure that blind/curtain cords and chains supplied after this date meet the national product safety requirements.

If blinds/curtains were bought before January 2004, it is strongly recommended that landlords ensure blind/curtain cords or chains on their rental premises are safe for children. Under common law, a landlord has a duty of care to tenants, as well as anyone the tenant invites into the property, and must ensure the premises are safe to live in. If a child dies or is injured on the rental premises as a result of a blind/curtain cord or chain injury, the landlord may be sued for negligence. Even if the tenants do not have children, a court could consider that it was reasonably foreseeable that the tenants may have children visiting the home from time to time.

How do I know if cords or chains are unsafe?

If a cord or chain for a blind or curtain hangs lower than 1.6m from the floor then it must be secured by a safety device.

Will I have to replace all my curtains and blinds?

No. Product safety laws have required that curtain/ blind suppliers and shops provide window coverings with any necessary safety devices to secure loose cords or chains, installation instructions and a warning label and tag. If your blinds/curtains were supplied from January 2004 onwards then they should meet the product safety and installation standards.

However, if any blinds/curtains bought from January 2004 onwards are unsafe, alert your tenants, advise them to immediately tie the cords or chains out of reach and move away any furniture that children might climb on to reach the cords or chains. As soon as possible contact the supplier and Consumer Protection to discuss. If product safety standards were not met then the suppliers are required to rectify the work at no cost under the Australian Consumer Law (ACL).

What if the blinds/curtains were bought before January 2004?

If blinds/curtains were bought before January 2004, it is strongly recommended that you alert your tenants, advise them to immediately tie any cords or chains so they are out of reach and move away any furniture children might climb on to reach the cords or chains. It is also recommended that you arrange to:

- buy and install cleats or tensioning devices from a hardware store or curtain and blind shop and use at least two screws to fix them in place; or
- cut the cords or chains to prevent them causing a loop if these are not essential to the working of the blind.

How can I make loose cords or chains safe?

You can buy safety devices from hardware stores or curtain and blind shops to secure loose cords and chains.

Department of Commerce
Consumer Protection Division

1300 30 40 54

Gordon Stephenson House Level 2/140 William Street
Perth Western Australia 6000 (hours 8.30am - 5.00pm)
Locked Bag 14 Cloisters Square WA 6850
Administration: 08 6251 1400
Email: consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au
www.commerce.wa.gov.au

If a "cleat" is used (i.e. a device to wind the cord or chain around to keep it out of reach) then it must be secured at least 1.6m from the floor level because children can be capable of unwinding a cord or chain from a cleat. Another option is a tie down or tension device to pull a looped cord or chain tight and secure it to the wall or floor.

The safety device must be firmly secured with at least two screws (not double-sided tape or glue) to prevent a child from being able to remove the cord or chain.

If the cord or chain is not essential to the working of the blind, you may want to consider cutting it to 1.6m above the floor.

Cords or chains that hang 1.6m or more above the floor when fully extended do not need to be secured.

Curtains and blinds without cords or chains do not require safety devices.

Are there any obligations on curtain and blind shops and other commercial suppliers of curtains and blinds to ensure they are safe?

Yes. Product safety laws have applied to suppliers in Western Australia since January 2004. The current Commonwealth product safety standard for suppliers requires that all looped cords or chains must:

- have warning labels attached;
- include installation instructions;
- have safety devices designed to withstand a 7kg force applied for 10 seconds; and
- prevent the possibility of a loop of 22 cm forming at a height less than 1.6m from the ground.

Fines may be issued if blinds are not supplied in accordance with the mandatory standard.

If traders do not supply blinds/curtains which meet the requirements of the product safety standard, they are required to meet their legal obligations under the ACL. Consumer Protection can take complaints about traders who do not follow the product safety standards.

Are there any obligations on commercial installers of curtains and blinds to ensure installation requirements are followed?

Yes. From 1 January 2015, commercial installers in Australia must follow the safe installation instructions

and install blinds so that dangerous loops and loose cords or chains cannot be formed. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is working with businesses and industry groups to help them to understand and comply with the new requirements.

If traders do not follow the mandatory safety standards when installing blinds/curtains, the installer is required to rectify the work at no cost under the ACL. Consumer Protection can take complaints about installers who do not follow the product safety standards. Penalties apply for non-compliance.

What are the obligations of my property manager?

As a matter of best practice when inspecting properties, property managers are advised to check that all internal window coverings in a rental property are as safe as possible for children. Where a hazard exists, the tenants should be advised to secure loose cords or chains so they are out of reach of children and the owner should be advised that a more permanent solution is needed to ensure compliance with the mandatory standards.

What if my tenant asks for permission to install curtains/blinds?

In some circumstances, a tenant may ask for permission to install curtains or blinds in your rental premises. If you provide permission, it is advisable to inform the tenant in writing to install blinds/curtains as required by the national mandatory product safety standards www.productsafety.gov.au. Alternatively, you may wish to specify that only curtains/blind without cords or chains should be installed.

How do I choose safe blinds and curtains?

- All new blinds and curtains available in Australia must now comply with safety standards.

Further information

Further information is available from:

- Department of Commerce website (www.commerce.wa.gov.au/blindcordsafety).
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission product safety website: www.productsafety.gov.au – search for "blinds and curtains".

National Relay Service: 13 36 77
Quality of service feedback line: 1800 30 40 59
Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) 131 450

This publication is available in other formats on request to assist people with special needs.

Regional Offices

Goldfields/Esperance	(08) 9026 3250
Great Southern	(08) 9842 8388
Kimberley	(08) 9191 8400
Mid-West	(08) 9920 9800
Pilbara	(08) 9185 0900
South-West	(08) 9722 2888



Appendix Nine



Department of Commerce
About Translate

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Services

Home → Announcements → Commissioner's Blog: Toppling furniture can kill kids – anchor it!

Commissioner's Blog: Toppling furniture can kill kids – anchor it!

This announcement is for: [Consumer](#) [Landlord / lessor](#) [Home buyer / owner](#)

With Commissioner for Consumer Protection Anne Driscoll...

In the last 15 years at least 14 children under nine years old have died from domestic furniture falling on them in Australia.

Anyone who has been around small children will know that they like to climb on furniture, however if freestanding items such as bookcases, drawers or wardrobes fall, they can trap, crush or suffocate a child underneath. Many items of furniture are now fitted with easy glide drawers for ease of use. These can be deadly if a child stands on the lower drawers because as the piece of furniture starts to tip forward more and more drawers roll out and cause the entire furniture piece to topple over.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) carried out some research in April this year about consumer awareness of furniture stability risks and prevention. Specifically, the research focused on the particular dangers of common furniture in homes with children under the age of five. Among other findings, the research showed that of parents who had experienced a dangerous toppling incident (27%), almost a quarter of those said a child was injured, although the majority of injuries were minor.

Following the study, the ACCC came up with these tips for consumers:

Buy safe

- Purchase low-set furniture or furniture with sturdy, stable and broad bases.
- Look for furniture that comes with safety information and equipment for anchoring it to the walls.
- Test the furniture in the shop – make sure it is stable. For example, pull out the top drawers of a chest of drawers and apply a little pressure to see how stable it is; make sure the drawers do not fall out easily.

Use safe

- Attach, mount, bolt or otherwise secure furniture to walls and floors.
- Do not put heavy items on top shelves of bookcases.
- Place televisions at the back of cabinets or secure them to the wall.
- Discourage small children from climbing on furniture.
- Do not put tempting items such as favourite toys on top of furniture that can encourage children to climb up and reach.
- Do not place unstable furniture near where children play.
- Put locking devices on all drawers to prevent children opening them and using them as steps.

A safety video, produced as part of a campaign by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission called 'Anchor it and Protect a Child' can be viewed at www.productsafety.gov.au or you can find it by searching the title on the internet.

KidSafe WA (www.kidsafewa.com.au) has a great tool on its website called Online Safety Demonstration House to help identify hazards in the home for children, and simple steps you can take to keep kids safe.

Appendix Ten



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Commerce**
Consumer Protection

Media Statement

Consumer Protection 140 William Street Perth Western Australia 6000

Email: cpmedia@commerce.wa.gov.au

www.commerce.wa.gov.au www.wa.gov.au



6 January 2016

Concern over hoverboard safety and fire risks

Consumer Protection has expressed concern about the safety of hoverboards and the fire risks associated with some models.

Hoverboards, also known as self-balancing scooters, gliders or motorboards, are new to the market and were popular Christmas gifts, but caution is being urged when using and charging the device.

Acting Commissioner for Consumer Protection David Hillyard said six models which did not meet Australian electrical safety standards have been recalled.

"We urge owners of hoverboards to check the national recalls website and discontinue use if they have purchased one of the models listed and return them to the retailer or supplier for a refund," Mr Hillyard said.

"A recent house fire in Victoria and other fire incidents overseas has shown that certain models can be extremely dangerous, especially if they are left charging unattended. We recommend that adults supervise the charging and use of the hoverboards at all times and not to leave them charging for longer periods than is recommended by the manufacturer.

"It would also be advisable to charge and store the hoverboards in a safe place preferably away from the main house on concrete or bricks and not near any combustible material.

"As the use of the hoverboard relies on balance, falls are highly likely. Injuries associated with falls are always a concern and we recommend that users wear a safety helmet and other protective clothing such as knee and elbow pads, wrist guards and shoes.

"Considering the electrical safety and general safety concerns of hoverboards, we would urge consumers to think carefully before deciding to purchase this device as its use involves a high degree of risk."



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Commerce**
Consumer Protection

If you have, or are purchasing a hoverboard, ensure that the packaging is marked with the Australian regulatory compliance symbol or RCM – a tick surrounded by a triangle.



The RCM signifies that a supplier has taken the necessary steps to ensure the product complies with electrical safety requirements. Only purchase this type of product from a reputable retailer and be especially cautious if purchasing online.

“Overcharging of any non-compliant devices may cause overheating of the battery and could result in a fire,” the acting Commissioner said.

“Always use the approved battery charger that came with the product. If there are signs of damage near the battery do not charge the unit until the device is inspected by a professional.

“Check the recalls website regularly as models which are found to be non-compliant with safety standards will be recalled.”

In WA authorities have already stated publicly that hoverboards cannot be used on roads and shared paths. The Department of Transport has been quoted in the media as saying that ‘while a self-balancing scooter was technically classified as a motor vehicle under the Road Traffic Act, they did not meet Australian Design Rules standards so could not be licensed. For this reason, these devices are not allowed on roads, pathways or shared-use paths, or other public areas (as per the Road Traffic Code 2000).

Details of the hoverboard models that have been recalled are available at www.recalls.gov.au. Enquiries and reports or any safety issues regarding hoverboards can be made to Consumer Protection at 1300 30 40 54 or consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au.

END OF RELEASE

Media Contact:

Alan Hynd
(08) 6552 9248 or 0429 078 791
alan.hynd@commerce.wa.gov.au

Appendix Eleven




Australian
Competition &
Consumer
Commission

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The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is investigating whether hoverboards will or may cause injury to any person, or a reasonably foreseeable use (including a misuse) of the goods will or may cause injury, following the identification of safety related incidents linked to the goods.

On 12 January 2016 The Minister for Small Business issued a [Safety Warning Notice](#) to the public in relation to hoverboards.

Hoverboards are wheeled ride-on devices with a single axle. They are powered by a rechargeable lithium battery via connection to a mains power supply. These devices are also known as self-balancing scooters, gliders or modboards.

The ACCC has identified two safety concerns with hoverboards: fires that have occurred from the faulty design of some hoverboard chargers and user injuries through falls.

Electrical safety experts advise that fires, as reported, most likely relate to products that would not comply with Australian electrical requirements, or to the use of a charger meant for another device.

Electrical safety hazard advice

- Ensure that the packaging is marked with the Australian regulatory compliance symbol or RCM – a tick surrounded by a triangle. The RCM signifies that a supplier has taken the necessary steps to ensure the product complies with electrical safety requirements
- Approval markings vary between states and territories. They are usually an alphanumeric code, comprising the first letter of the state/territory that issues the approval followed by between one and six digits.
 - The ACCC advises consumers to examine their product for these markings and to contact their supplier to verify if the appliance is approved for use. Consumers can also access the [Australian Certification Public Database](#) to search for approved electrical appliances.
- Overcharging noncompliant devices may cause overheating of the battery and result in a fire
- Always use the approved battery charger that came with the product. If there are signs of damage near the battery do not charge the unit until the device is inspected by a professional
- Hoverboard owners are advised to follow the manufacturer's instructions exactly when using and charging their hoverboard. Adults should supervise the charging of all electrical devices for children.
- Consumers should check the recalls website to see if their product or charger has been recalled.

Fall injury and road usage advice

- Users should ensure they use appropriate safety equipment, including a helmet, knee pads, elbow pads and wrist guards. Always wear shoes when riding a hoverboard
- Riders are strongly advised to check with their local traffic authorities or police before riding a hoverboard in a public place.

Recalls

- [Hunter Sports - Moonwalker Electric Balancing Scooter sold at BIG W](#)
- [eBay Trader 'SelloProducts' - Self-Balancing 2 wheels Electric Scooter](#)
- [Catchoftheday.com.au Pty Ltd - AirWalk Self-Balancing Scooter](#)
- [Techwheel - Techwheel Z-01 \(ChargerOnly\)](#)
- [Scooter Emporium - Self Balancing Scooter with Charger](#)
- [Go Easy Australia - Go Skitz Self Balancing E Board models S01 & S03 \(Charger Only\)](#)
- [Mod Products - Mod Board Model MOD001\(Charger Only\)](#)
- [Jyro Pty Ltd - Jyro Self-Balancing 2 Wheel Electric Scooter](#)
- [Smart Scooter ANZ - Smart Scooter 'Hoverboard'](#)
- [TCB Contracting Pty Ltd - Balancing Scooter 'Hoverboard'](#)
- [Freego Australasia Pty Ltd - Freego Hoverboard W1, W2 and W2SR \(Charger Only\)](#)
- [Smart Wheels Australia Pty Ltd - "Neo" Hoverboard \(Charger and Appliance Connector Only\)](#)
- [Ohmama - Swegway" Hoverboard](#)
- [Crazy Technology Pty Ltd - Smart Electric Self-Balancing Scooter / Hoverboard \(Charger Only\)](#)
- [Austwide Consumer Products - Two Wheel Self Balance Drift Board \("Hoverboard"\)](#)
- [Glideboard - Balance Wheel Electric Scooter \("Hoverboards"\)](#)
- [Awesomewheels Pty Ltd - SEGGI Self-Balancing 2 Wheel Electric Scooter \("Hoverboard"\)](#)
- [Home Garden Sales - Smart Self-Balancing Scooter/Hoverboard Charger](#)
- [Hoverboard Store - 2 Wheel Self-Balancing Scooter/ Hoverboard \(Charger Only\)](#)
- [DayNight Technology Pty Ltd - Self-Balancing Scooter/Hoverboard \(Charger Only\)](#)

Contacts

Questions about the most recent recalls should be directed to the relevant state or territory regulator:

- ACT: [ACT Planning and Land Authority, Construction Services Branch](#)
- NSW: [NSW Fair Trading, Energy and Utilities, Home Building Service](#)
- QLD: [Queensland Treasury, Queensland Government Electrical Safety Office](#)
- SA: [Office of the Technical Regulator, Department of State Development, Energy Markets and Programs](#)
- TAS: [WorkSafe Tasmania](#)
- VIC: [Energy Safe Victoria, Equipment Safety and Energy Efficiency](#)
- WA: [Department of Commerce, EnergySafety Division](#)

Published date:

5 January 2016

Appendix Twelve

Dark side to hoverboard craze

Natalie Richards - The West Australian on January 9, 2016, 12:30 am

WA's peak safety bodies are bracing for a spike in emergency department admissions this summer with the huge popularity of hoverboards.

As Consumer Protection WA, St John Ambulance and the Road Safety Commission add to the chorus of safety messages over Generation-Z's most sought-after Christmas gift, Kidsafe WA fears more children will be injured after falling from the two-wheeled toys.

Chief executive Scott Phillips said the toys – which retail for an average of \$500 – were unstable and posed a high risk of injury to those trying to master the sensitive foot controls and braking.

"Our concern, as with a lot of scooters and skateboards and things, is they're so low to the ground and the braking systems on these things," Mr Phillips said.

"You get on these things and just fall off. Everyone seems to want one but they just look very unstable."

Mr Phillips said he expected falls to account for even more admissions to Princess Margaret Hospital.

Falls already account for about 60 per cent of almost 9000 injuries treated at PMH each year.

Injury Control Council of WA acting chief executive Sam Howkins said the group was "greatly concerned" about the boards and the potential for people to flout laws and use them on the road.

"People often don't listen and I'm expecting that some people might come to us with that sort of road trauma, which I'm not looking forward to," she said.



VIDEO Hoverboard fire destroys family home

In a warning issued this week, Consumer Protection WA said falls were “highly likely” while using the boards and highlighted a string of recalls because of a fire risk when charging some models.

The most serious injuries this summer appear to have been as a result of adults trying to ride the toys.

St John Ambulance took two people to hospital after incidents involving the boards over the festive period.

The patients received lacerations to the head and bruising.

For Alex Osborne and Will Stafford, however, the appeal is obvious as they glide with ease around the garden and house with seemingly solid stability.

Alex’s mother Terryll said she urged her 12-year-old son to wear safety gear while he learnt how to use his Christmas present but he was less keen.

“The boys love it. They haven’t been off them since Christmas,” she said.

“We did initially ask them to wear a helmet and they both agreed initially but once they got them they went, ‘No, we’re too cool for this’.”

Road Safety Commissioner Kim Papalia said hoverboards were considered motor vehicles under WA laws but did not meet road safety standards.

It is illegal to ride hoverboards on WA roads or in public places.

The commission advises users to wear a helmet, elbow and knee pads and tough shoes.

The West Australian

Appendix Thirteen



Department of Commerce

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Pool safety a hot topic this summer

This announcement is for: [Consumer](#) [Youth](#) [Product safety](#)

The latest [annual Royal Life Saving Society drowning report](#) found swimming pool drowning deaths have increased in Western Australia. Consumer Protection joins the campaign to highlight strong summer safety messages that NEED to be heard by the community.

Acting Commissioner for Consumer Protection David Hillyard says while the words 'sun' and 'swimming' go hand in hand, 'supervision' and 'safety' are also a must, especially around home pools.

"Tragically children under five account for the largest number of swimming pool drowning deaths in Australia – 14 children from that age group lost their lives through swimming pool drowning in 2013/14. It means that we adults need to constantly supervise young children in, and around, water," Mr Hillyard said.

"Any pool with water deeper than 30 centimetres (or the length of an average ruler) must be fenced and have a self-closing, self-latching gate. All too often we hear of gates that have been propped open or objects that can be climbed on left near the fence but this needs to stop. It is also important for home owners or occupiers to regularly check that the fence, gate and posts haven't been compromised by sun exposure over time."

Mr Hillyard warns that portable pools with a water depth less than 30 centimetres pose a serious drowning risk even though they do not need to be fenced off.

"A small child can drown in as little as five centimetres of water, within two minutes in total silence. That's shocking to think about but we need to have it at the forefront of our minds this summer to keep kids safe.

"Where there's water and young children together, don't get distracted. Even checking your mobile phone or hanging washing on the line can leave enough time for a tragedy to occur. At family gatherings nominate an adult to supervise the children. That adult needs to accept responsibility to remain vigilant, remain sober and ideally be trained and ready to provide first aid.

"You should also be absolutely sure to completely empty portable pools after use and store them away securely. Leaving them out where they can fill up with rain or sprinkler water could prove to be a fatal mistake. Last year a national standard was introduced requiring mandatory warnings to be included with all portable pools sold in Australia. Any pool that is deeper than 30 centimetres must include advice about pool fencing laws. If we do not read and follow those warnings they will have little effect."

Mr Hillyard added that flotation devices should not be seen as a replacement for adult supervision and that a child's swimming ability should be assessed when selecting aquatic toys.

"Armbands, rubber rings or floating mattresses are made of materials that can perish in the sun or be burst by a sharp object, meaning they can deflate unexpectedly. You also need to read warning labels for information about age or weight restrictions.

"Consumer Protection has particular concerns this year about new water play products targeted at children, including 'mermaid tails'. The 'mermaid tail' binds a child's legs and acts as a 'flipper' so that the child can swim like a fish. These products usually come with an age recommendation of six years plus, advice that the child needs to be a good swimmer, must be supervised and may require a lesson in how to use the tail, along with a warning that the tails are for use in swimming pools of a certain depth and not shallow water.

"Our worry is that in the excitement of Christmas, a child who may be too young or incapable of using a 'mermaid tail' might end up trying one. A video from the United States that went viral on social media showed a little girl getting stuck upside down in her family's backyard pool when using her 'mermaid tail' for the first time, before being rescued by her mother. This could have ended very differently if an adult had not been present."

Consumers who have any safety concerns about portable pools or pool toys for sale in WA can contact Consumer Protection by email consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au or by phone 1300 30 40 54.

Information on portable pool safety is available on the Product Safety Australia website: www.productsafety.gov.au along with information about flotation devices and aquatic toys.

More information about pool fencing laws in WA can be found on the Building Commission website: www.commerce.wa.gov.au/building-commission/swimmingpools.

Further advice on how to prevent drowning is available on the Royal Life Saving Society websites www.royallifesaving.com.au and www.lifesavingwa.com.au.



Lauren Thomas (Perth model) using a mermaid tail, by The Shed Studios. Make-up by Amy Bryce.

Appendix Fourteen

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 16 September 2015 11:09 AM
To: DL-KidSafe <kidsafe@kidsafewa.com.au>; consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au
Subject: Trampoline Safety - Advertisers don't care

Hi there Safety Promoters,

Well, this is disappointing...

A recent advertisement for [REDACTED] featured 2 kids jumping on a trampoline at the same time, which clearly breaches Kidsafe and ACCC safety guidelines listed here:

- <http://www.productsafety.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/971684>
- <http://www.kidsafewa.com.au/LiteratureRetrieve.aspx?ID=29962&A=SearchResult&SearchID=7416485&ObjectID=29962&ObjectType=6>
- <https://www.accc.gov.au/system/files/Trampoline%20safety.pdf>
- <http://www.kidsafewa.com.au/latest-news-1/lets-jump-on-board-trampoline-safety>
- <http://trampolinewa.info/TrampolinesKidSafe.pdf>

So I made a complaint.

This was the response/outcome:

"The Board noted the complainants' concern that the advertisement features two children bouncing on a trampoline which is unsafe and contravenes Prevailing Community Standards on health and safety.

The Board noted the ACCC safety advice **but considered that it is common practice for parents to let more than one child use a trampoline at a time** and in the current scenario the children are well supervised and the kidsafe@kidsafewa.com.au.

The Board determined that the advertisement did not breach Section 2.6 of the Code. Finding that the advertisement **did not breach the Code** on other grounds, the Board **dismissed the complaint.**"

I.e. everyone does it so we feel it's fine.

What are your thoughts on this?

I feel that leaflets are simply not enough, and many parents I know don't even know about the safety guidelines. Perhaps a TV education campaign is in order?

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

Appendix Fifteen



Department of Commerce

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Quad bike deaths prompt warning of dangers

This announcement is for: [Consumer](#) [Product safety](#) [Motor industry](#)

Three quad bike deaths in Western Australia so far this year have prompted a joint warning from Consumer Protection and WorkSafe about the dangers of these off-road vehicles.

Details of this year's fatalities in WA, according to Safe Work Australia, include:

- 6 year old boy died in a rollover on a farming property near Southern Cross on 20 April 2015
- 67 year old man died in a collision while working on a farming property near Bruce Rock on 27 April 2015
- Man in his 40's died in a collision in sand dunes near Lancelin on 3 August 2015

Nationally, there have been 15 deaths from quad bike accidents so far this year. There were 15 deaths in 2014, none in WA. A total of 213 deaths have been reported in Australia between January 2001 and July 2015 during both recreational and work use.

Acting Commissioner for Consumer Protection Gary Newcombe has warned that, with school holidays coming up, parents should be made aware of the dangers of these vehicles, particularly when operated by children and teenagers.

"Quad biking is a popular pastime for West Australians young and old and, while most people think it's just a bit of fun, accidents can have tragic consequences with serious injuries and deaths occurring throughout Australia on a regular basis," Mr Newcombe said.

"Children under the age of 16 are at greatest risk, so the warning we want to drive home is that children must never ride quad bikes intended for adults – either as drivers or passengers. A quad bike ride can quickly turn into a tragedy even for experienced adult riders, but children don't have the physical or cognitive capacity to operate these vehicles safely."

WorkSafe WA Commissioner Lex McCulloch said quad bikes are now the leading cause of fatal accidents on farms in Australia.

"Quad bike-related deaths are associated with a wide range of work activities in agriculture and horticulture," Mr McCulloch said.

"Quad bikes can readily roll over and cause serious injury or death to operators, particularly when used on uneven terrain, at high speed or when carrying heavy or uneven loads. Accidents can also happen when the tyres are under-inflated or inflated unevenly.

"Many of the deaths and injuries are caused by crushing between the quad bike and the ground or other surface, while others occur when operators are flung onto hard surfaces in a crash.

"We urge quad bike operators to educate themselves about the safe operation of these vehicles before using them, and to follow the advice we have issued which is widely available online."

Quad bike owners should follow these key tips:

Prepare safe

- Ensure you are properly trained before you ride a quad bike.
- Maintain the bike so it is in safe condition.
- Read the operator manual and observe the manufacturer's safety warnings and recommendations for use.
- Always tell someone of your expected location before leaving for a quad bike ride.

Wear safe

- Always wear a motor cycle helmet.
- Wear protective clothing and gear such as goggles, long sleeves, long pants, boots and gloves/hand protection.

Ride safe

- Never let children under 16 ride quad bikes that are meant for adults – even as passengers.
- Do not carry any passengers on quad bikes that are meant for one person.
- Quad bikes are not all-terrain vehicles so they cannot go safely on all types of terrain. Avoid riding on rough surfaces or steep slopes.
- Ride on familiar tracks and beware of obstacles.
- Never ride under the influence of alcohol/drugs.
- Ensure children are supervised at all times near any quad bike activity.
- Always carry a mobile phone or radio device so you can contact help in case of an emergency.

Parents and users are urged to access information and view a video on the safe operation of quad bikes at www.productsafety.gov.au and further information is available at www.worksafe.wa.gov.au. Enquiries can be made with Consumer Protection on 1300 30 40 54 or consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au or WorkSafe on 1300 307 877.

END OF RELEASE

Media contact (Consumer Protection or WorkSafe)

Consumer Protection | Media release | 22 Sep 2015

Appendix Sixteen

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 → WA: Water absorbing balls and expanding toys raise safety concerns

WA: Water absorbing balls and expanding toys raise safety concerns



Date: 6th March 2015

Consumer Protection is concerned that water absorbing polymer balls, toys and novelty items are posing a serious risk for young children.

These polymer balls that are sold in small crystal form (about the size of a dress pin head) were originally designed for the florist industry to hold flowers in place and create a colourful addition to the display. Some of these products are now being purchased and sold as a tactile toy for children.

If swallowed, the tiny balls and other items can expand up to four hundred times their original size and have been found for sale in the WA marketplace.

There have been two recent cases in Geraldton and Perth where children attended hospital after swallowing the balls which could potentially obstruct the airways, posing a choking and suffocation hazard, or block the intestines or bowel as they expand.

In the Geraldton case, a two year old boy had ingested up to 12 water absorbing balls and was treated at the local hospital in December 2014 and recovered. In September 2014 a child presented at Princess Margaret Hospital emergency department after swallowing some water absorbing balls, but suffered no adverse symptoms.

In some overseas cases, children have required surgery to have the expanded beads, which don't show up on x-rays, removed. A death of a child in Pakistan has been reported.

Commissioner for Consumer Protection Anne Driscoll is concerned that water expandable beads, toys and other products are available in some Perth stores as well as online.

"There are serious risks with these products and sellers should ensure that they are not sold as toys especially for young children due to the danger they create if swallowed," Ms Driscoll said.

"Parents should also be aware of the risk. The balls can sometimes be colourful and may look like lollies and be very attractive to a young child. If there are any of these water expandable products in the home and are small enough to be swallowed in their original size, they should be kept well away from young children and preferably disposed of immediately.

"We want both retailers and consumers to be aware of the hazards of these products while regulators consider whether further action is necessary."

Further information on product safety is available at www.productsafety.gov.au. Reports of unsafe products being sold should be made to Consumer Protection by email: consumer@commerce.wa.gov.au or by calling 1300 30 40 54.

Contact Details

[Media contact](#) (Consumer Protection)

Appendix Seventeen

ACCC warns of dangers of water expanding balls to kids

6 March 2015

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission is alerting consumers to the dangers of water expanding balls after several children ingested them in Australia and required hospital treatment to have them removed.

Water absorbing polymer balls (also known as water beads) can expand to the size of a golf ball when they come into contact with liquid, up to 400 times their original size. They are commonly used as decorative items in vases and centrepieces.

"The ACCC has recently discovered that water balls are being marketed as sensory learning toys for children and that three Australian children have required medical procedures after swallowing them," ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.



"The products are small and colourful and can be attractive to young children, who naturally place items in their mouths at early stages of their development."

"Once ingested, just one ball can expand inside a child's body and cause intestinal obstruction, vomiting, severe discomfort and dehydration and may need to be surgically removed," Ms Rickard said.

"We urge businesses who are supplying these products as toys to immediately stop. The ACCC will work with industry to address safety concerns."

The ACCC urges consumers to follow these safety steps:

- Stop using expanding water balls as toys or playthings immediately.
- Keep expanding water balls out of reach of children – make sure these products are well out of sight and out of reach of children.
- Keep any items, including decorative pieces like vases that contain expanding water balls well out of reach of children.
- If consumers suspect their child has swallowed these water balls, they should seek medical attention immediately.

More information on product safety issues is available at www.productsafety.gov.au, [@ACCCProdSafety](https://twitter.com/ACCCProdSafety) on Twitter and the [ACCC Product Safety](https://www.facebook.com/ACCCProductSafety) Facebook page.

Release number:

MR 28/15

Media enquiries:

Media team - 1300 138 917

