

MINISTER ORDERS TRAMPOLINE SAFETY REVIEW

Fair Trading Minister, Virginia Judge has ordered a safety review of backyard trampolines following concerns raised by child safety experts.

Ms Judge said injury statistics show that trampoline injuries, reported at Westmead Children's Hospital alone, have almost doubled over the past four years – from 86 in 2005 to 153 in 2008.

“There are around 16,000 trampoline injuries every year nationwide which is a frightening statistic,” she said.

“No one wants to stop children having fun, but we need to make sure that trampolines are safe.

“A majority of trampoline injuries are sustained by children under six with the most common types being bruises, sprains and strains followed by fractures and lacerations.

“Around 15 per cent of children are admitted to hospital and 11 per cent undergo minor operations.

“While most injuries are the result of falling off the trampoline, 29 per cent of injuries relate to falls on the trampoline itself on areas such as the frame and springs.”

Ms Judge said the voluntary Australian Standard, which was introduced in 2003, requires padding on traditional metal framed trampolines.

“This padding is vital to the safety of trampolines,” she said.

“However, Fair Trading's investigations reveal that padding being sold does not meet the voluntary standard.

“This is why I have ordered a safety to review to see what else can be done to reduce trampoline injuries.

“Fair Trading's investigations suggest net enclosures should be considered as an additional safety requirement.

“While I do not want to preempt the Products Safety Committee's findings, I believe this is an option that merits serious consideration.”

Dr Elizabeth Cotterell, Chair of Kid-safe NSW, has welcomed the safety review into trampolines.

“Kidsafe shares the Minister's concerns that the voluntary Australian Standard is not being met,” she said.

“I am very concerned at the increasing number of trampoline injuries presenting to emergency departments around NSW.

“Our aim is to protect children by minimising the level of risk in the playground so I look forward to hearing the outcomes of the safety inquiry.”

Ms Judge said the inquiry will seek submissions from anyone with a vested interest in the safety of trampolines including health authorities, industry stakeholders, consumer groups, families and consumer protection authorities throughout Australia.

“I want New South Wales mums and dads to feel confident they are buying products that are safe for their children to use,” she said.

“More than 120,000 trampolines are sold annually throughout Australia.

“Trampolines are a very popular Christmas present and a fun way for children to stay active over the summer holidays. “But no parent wants their child to suffer a serious injury while they are playing in the backyard.

“Trampolines come with clear warnings and my message to parents is this – always supervise their use.

“Submissions for the trampoline safety inquiry will close on 13 November. For more details go to www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au”

TRAMPOLINE SAFETY – FAST FACTS

- Trampolines are the second most common cause of playground injury, accounting for 24 per cent of injuries.

- Majority of children injured are aged under 6.

- The most common cause of injury is through falls, the majority resulting in fractures; however, internal organ and spinal injuries have also been reported.

- While most injuries sustained are linked to falls from trampolines, 29 per cent of injuries relate to falls on the trampoline itself on areas such as the frame and springs.

- It is for this reason that the voluntary Australian Standard includes requirements for the frame and spring to be padded and for this padding to comply with certain performance test requirements.

- The number of children who were

treated at Westmead Children's Hospital for trampoline injuries include:

2005 – 86

2006 – 90

2007 – 123

2008 – 153

2009 – 105 (as of 15 October)

SAFETY TIPS

- Allow only one child on the trampoline at a time;

- Don't let children under 6 years of age use the trampoline;

- Remove ladders and chairs so young children can't gain access;

- Always have an adult supervise a child on the trampoline;

- Do not store or place objects beneath the trampoline;

- Never install the trampoline beneath electrical power lines;

- Keep a two metre area around the trampoline free of hard objects; and

- Make sure your trampoline has safety pads and is in good condition – free from holes and broken springs.

THE VOLUNTARY AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

- In 2003, an Australian Standard AS 4989:2003 Trampolines-Safety Aspects was published for the first time.

- The voluntary standard was developed to try and address the number of injuries caused by trampolines.

- This standard has since been reviewed, with the publication of AS4989:2006.

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Who is Nandia

Nandia was born from a nice family. She is Greek with Egyptian roots from Creta and Kasos. Finished high school and secretary College in Greece. She had worked as a personal secretary near a charismatic lady, in a big American Company in Athens.

She speaks Greek, English, Arabic, French, Italian and began to learn Chinese.

She studied Astrology, Astronomy, Clairvoyance, Spirituality.

She realised she had incredible gifts of clairvoyance at a tender age; this happened when she predicted for each member of her family what would come to pass for them.

Nandia, started as well to be counselled by people outside her family beyond her local area and people came from places far wide to be counselled.

Nandia wants to help as she can. She knew that her gifts allow her to bring joy.

Today Nandia welcomed some very close friends only after her health problem from breast cancer four years ago. She is a very optimistic person and enjoys every moment in her life.

She believes to God very much; God gave her all these gifts and was near her during difficult times.

She likes cooking, gardening, reading, dancing; she says that is a medicine for her. Greek music, classic and tenors Zerefou, Pavaroti, Garcias and many others.

She came to Australia from Greece 18 years ago with her beloved one son.

She thanks all fellow travellers who search for meaning, for health, happiness and love.

Θέλει να συγχαρεί την εφημερίδα “Κόσμος” για όλους τους εκλεκτούς συνεργάτες του και για τα επιλεγμένα θέματά τους. Η συμβουλή της Nandias προς όλους είναι:

Remember that silence is some times the best answer!

