



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2009/SOM2/SCSC/WKSP3/003

Australia: Product Safety System Review

Submitted by: Australia



**APEC Regulator Dialogue on Toy Safety
Singapore
1-2 August 2009**



Australia: Product Safety System Review

Steve Hutchison
Director Standards and Harmonisation
Product Safety Compliance
Product Safety Branch
Australian Competition & Consumer
Commission

APEC TOY SAFETY INITIATIVE
REGULATOR TO REGULATOR DIALOGUE

1

Product Safety System Review

- March 2005: Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs requested the Australian Productivity Commission to undertake a research study examining the impacts of options for reforming Australia's general consumer product safety system.
- Report released in January 2006
- PC also produced a report on the Consumer Policy Framework, released in April 2008

APEC TOY SAFETY INITIATIVE
REGULATOR TO REGULATOR DIALOGUE

2

Review - Outcomes

- Fragmented approach to regulation across Australia
- High public awareness of 'dramatic' safety issues,
- High level, bipartisan national and international Government interest in product safety, including toys
- Expectation of Government action on safety issues (balanced by Government general intentions to minimise regulation)
- Criticism when Governments perceived as 'slow' on safety issues and when powers used 'inappropriately'
- High Level agreement to reform agenda (23 May)

Toy Safety in Australia

- National Toy Summit - September 2008
- All nine Australian Governments have adopted mandatory safety standards for toys based on AS/NZS ISO 8124
- Agreement on a National Toy Safety Strategy

National Toy Strategy

Objectives

- **Objective 1:**
Australia will have in place toy standards that are harmonised with international standards to the greatest extent possible.
- **Objective 2:**
Only toys that meet Australian standards are supplied to or acquired by retailers.
- **Objective 3:**
Australian suppliers are aware of how to ensure that toys are compliant.
- **Objective 4:**
Regulators take consistent compliance and enforcement action in relation to mandatory toy standards.
- **Objective 5:**
Toy purchasers, parents and children's carers are informed about toy safety principles.