



## **PUBLIC WARNING NOTICE**



I, David Joyner, Acting Director of Consumer Affairs Victoria, issue this public warning under section 228 of the *Australian Consumer Law and Fair Trading Act 2012* in respect of light up shoe charms and accessories containing button batteries, sold at various pop-up stores in shopping centres including Melbourne Central, Chirnside Park and Northland.

These shoe charms and accessories are designed to clip into the holes or laces of shoes and are especially popular with children.

Light up shoe charms and accessories recently seized by Consumer Affairs Victoria do not comply with the mandatory information or safety standards for products containing button batteries. These products do not include the required warning information about the dangers of button batteries and some of the button batteries are easily accessible to children.

There is a risk of choking or serious injury if young children gain access to the button batteries and swallow or place them inside their body.

I have decided to issue this public warning because consumers may be unaware that these products contain button batteries.

Given the risks posed by button batteries, I urge consumers to exercise caution, particularly when children and other vulnerable people who have access to these products. Anyone with concerns about the safety of products should contact Consumer Affairs Victoria on 1300 55 81 81.

Parents or carers who suspect their child or someone in their care has swallowed or inserted a button battery should urgently call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 for expert advice.

If they are struggling to breathe or in distress call 000 immediately.

Dated: 23 August 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DJ', written in a cursive style.

David Joyner

Acting Director, Consumer Affairs Victoria