



# MEDIA RELEASE

## DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Small Business, Independent Contractors and the Service Economy  
Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs  
Minister Assisting the Finance Minister on Deregulation

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23 December 2009

### Novelty toy-like lighters to come off the shelves

Minister for Competition Policy and Consumer Affairs, Dr Craig Emerson today announced a ban on toy-like novelty cigarette lighters.

The national interim ban will come into effect in early January 2010 and will replace a Victorian Government interim ban that expires on 26 February 2010.

The ACCC will consult with stakeholders in the new year before providing further advice on whether or not a permanent ban is warranted.

“These novelty lighters come in the shape of cartoon characters, animals, cars or aeroplanes and look like toys,” Dr Emerson said.

“Under current safety laws all novelty lighters with an import value of \$5 and under must have child resistant mechanisms and warning labels.

“But there have been reports of consumers thinking these lighter are toys and mistakenly buying them for children,” Dr Emerson said.

The ban follows concerns raised by the Victorian Consumer Affairs Minister Tony Robinson, health, fire safety, and injury prevention organisations and consumers that children would find the lighters attractive and want to play with them.

“It is not acceptable for children to have access to any products that can cause fires that have potential to seriously injure or kill people and destroy property.

“And even with toy-like novelty lighters off the shelves, parents and carers should remember to always place any cigarette lighter out of reach of children. “

Dr Emerson also announced a review of the existing requirements for disposable cigarette lighters and cheap refillable lighters.

The review to be conducted by the ACCC will focus on a number of enforcement and compliance issues surrounding the supply and sale of lighters.

**Media contact: Chris Ward 0418 424 654**