

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

**Division/Agency:** Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

**Question No:** 41

**Topic:** Button Batteries

**Reference:** Written

**Senator:** Ketter, Chris

**Question:**

1. I refer to answers to questions taken on notice from 2016 Supplementary Estimates (ref SQ16-001087) and 2017 Additional Estimates (ref SQ17-000127) relating to button batteries. Please update the Committee on recalls published in 2017 to date that cite button battery hazards.
2. In relation to the 'market surveillance' the ACCC has committed to undertake in relation to the National Strategy for improving the safety of button batteries, have you now collated the results of the surveillance conducted by the ACCC in November 2016 and State and Territory Fair Trading agencies between September 2016 and January 2017? Can you provide the Committee with details of this surveillance and the outcomes of your analysis?
3. In relation to the 'business education' the ACCC has committed to undertake in relation to the National Strategy for improving the safety of button batteries, has the ACCC:
  - a. Published additional guidance for small business, and if so, can a copy be provided to the Committee?
  - b. Identified target market segments and suitable media for advertising or outreach by the ACCC?
  - c. Describe the precise nature of actual business education conducted by the ACCC in relation to button batteries, and the costs thereof.

**Answer:**

1. Six (6) voluntary recalls for consumer products that cite button battery hazards have been published in 2017 to date (30 June 2017):

<b>Recall number</b>	<b>Date published</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Product</b>
PRA2017/15900	9 February 2017	Wens Bros Trading Pty Ltd	3 soft toy dolls
PRA2017/15922	28 February 2017	Target Australia Pty Ltd	Young Ones My First Torch
PRA2017/16070	19 May 2017	Ace of Hearts	LED Fidget Spinner
PRA2017/16110	5 June 2017	Wens Bros Trading Pty Ltd	14 assorted children's toys
PRA2017/16130	21 June 2017	AG Co-op	Chibitronics Chibi Lights Starter Pack & Chibitronics Intro Pack
PRA2017/16146	21 June 2017	Elka Australia	Flashing spiders

2. Collation of the market surveillance of consumer products containing button batteries undertaken by the ACCC and the State and Territory Regulators is underway. State regulators advise their surveillance is complete and results are currently being collated. Early indications are that many consumer products containing button batteries may still be being supplied without a warning and/or poisons information.
3. In relation to business education the ACCC:
  - a. Published the voluntary Industry Code on the Product Safety Australia website (<https://www.productsafety.gov.au/publication/industry-code-for-consumer-goods-that-contain-button-batteries> ) and pending industry's review of the Code (currently underway) will adapt the revised version to a fact sheet in multiple languages for small business use.
  - b. Has identified that small businesses engaged in import and supply of discount variety products and promotional advertising merchandise are important audiences for ACCC outreach.
  - c. Has presented to industry associations, assisted industry in the preparation of the voluntary Industry Code and assisted businesses conducting voluntary recalls. The costs of such assistance are met through ACCC operational funding and have not been quantified.