

Minister Gail Gago

Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills
Minister for Science and Information Economy
Minister for the Status of Women
Minister for Business Services and Consumers

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Don't let your choice of Halloween costume come back to haunt you

Fancy dress costumes, novelty glasses and makeup are just some of the items being reviewed as part of a Halloween product safety crackdown by Consumer and Business Services (CBS).

With Halloween fast approaching and stores stocking their shelves with playful items aimed at children, Consumer and Business Services Minister Gail Gago is warning people to be careful when they purchase face paint, nail polish or other novelty cosmetics that will go directly on your skin.

“Halloween is increasing in popularity in Australia as it’s a great chance to dress up and have some fun,” Ms Gago said.

“But you don’t want to end up looking more frightening than you meant to by coming down with a skin rash or worse.

“Product Safety Inspectors from CBS are currently inspecting traders across the state, monitoring hundreds of cosmetic products, novelty glasses and costumes for correct care labelling.”

There is a mandatory information standard for cosmetic labelling. Products such as face paints, Halloween make-up, face crayons and nail polishes must display their ingredients so that a consumer can make an informed choice when making a purchase.

Ms Gago said clearly labelled ingredient information is vital for consumers with known allergies, but can also be very helpful to someone who develops an unexpected reaction to a product.

“Allergic reactions can be very harmful, and sometimes even lead to death,” she said.

“Any consumers experiencing a reaction to any kind of makeup or paint on the skin should contact a doctor immediately, and have with them the packaging that lists the product’s ingredients.”

Costumes for children under the age of three-years-old have also been monitored to ensure they do not contain small parts.

CBS Product Safety Inspectors have also checked a range of novelty sunglasses that do not offer sun protection to ensure they are labelled appropriately.

Ms Gago said when purchasing costumes or accessories such as masks, beards and wigs, look for flame-resistant materials.

“Flame-resistant fabrics will resist burning and should extinguish quickly,” she said.

“Party goers may also be tempted to light candles as part of Halloween decorations.

“Electronic candles are a much safer option. But if you choose to use real candles ensure they are not in the reach of small children and are not left unattended.”

Ms Gago said Product Safety Inspectors have not detected any breaches so far.

If consumers are concerned about a product, or have any questions about product labelling or product safety, contact Consumer and Business Services on 131 882 or visit cbs.sa.gov.au