

Media Release

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Don't wait until it's too late - secure your furniture

Parents and carers are the target of a new national campaign launched today to ensure they are aware of the best ways to protect their children from toppling furniture and TVs.

South Australia's Consumer and Business Services and other consumer affairs agencies across the country are working together to raise awareness and provide advice to consumers on the steps they can take to prevent unstable furniture from toppling over and crushing a child.

Tragically, up to two children die and hundreds are seriously injured every year from furniture or TVs toppling over.

Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Dini Soulio, said accidents can happen in the blink of an eye. Making sure your home is safe for children could prevent a serious accident.

"Don't wait until it's too late," he said.

"Free standing furniture, like drawers and wardrobes are low enough for children to climb.

"Parents and carers should use furniture straps, angle braces or anchor devices to secure unstable furniture to prevent accidents.

"These devices are easy to install. They can be purchased from your local hardware store or furniture supplier or may be supplied with furniture or appliances at the time of purchase.

"Child-resistant locks for drawers are also useful to stop small children from using drawers to climb up."

A Best Practice Guide has just been released by the National Retailers Association aimed at the suppliers of furniture and televisions with recommendations on how to affix their products to anchor devices, provide appropriate consumer information and display warnings relating to potential hazards.

Commissioner Soulio said the safety of our children is paramount so we need all parents to be aware of the risks.

"Even if you are renting a home, consumers should talk to their landlord or agent to get permission to install a furniture strap, angle brace or anchor to the wall.

"Explain why you want to install the device and assure them that if any damage is caused by the installation, you will repair it when the tenancy ends. But just remember to get the landlord or agent's approval in writing."

Watch the safety video at the [CBS YouTube channel](#) to find out how you can keep your children safe. For more information, including safety tips and how to make an alteration is available on the [CBS website](#) or the ACCC [product safety website](#).