



MEDIA RELEASE


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Be Safe | Be Smart | Be Standard

Dr Bronwyn Evans, CEO of Standards Australia shares some simple tips for the holiday season.

“The December/January period is a great time in Australia. It’s also a time to take extra care and be extra safe.” Bronwyn’s very simple message this year: “Be safe, be smart, be standard”

Bronwyn’s top tips for the holiday season are straightforward and reinforce common sense.

1. **Slip, slop, slap, seek, slide:** Use a Broad Spectrum SPF 50+ sunscreen certified to AS/NZS 2604 at least 20 minutes before sun exposure and reapply at least every 2 hours. Slide on a pair of sunglasses that meet AS/NZS 1067 as a defence against eye damage.
2. **Watch out for Christmas lights:** Faulty lights that don’t meet minimum standards pose the risk of fires and electric shock. Look for the Regulatory Compliance Mark  (or for older models an approval mark such as Q1234, V1234 or NSW1234) to ensure compliance with Australian Standards and regulations. Also, avoid the “piggy-backing” of power boards, always follow safety instructions and turn the lights off before bed.
3. **Give the gift of safety:** Australia has a robust set of standards for the safety of toys to protect children from small parts, heavy metals and other hazards. Only buy toys from reputable retailers and follow the age grading recommendations and warnings provided. Many resources are available online including practical tips about toy safety on the ACCC’s product safety web page.
4. **Keep button batteries away from children:** Button batteries are common in electrical equipment and can cause serious injury or death in as little as 2 hours if ingested. Discard used button batteries immediately, keep new and used button batteries out of reach of children and go to an emergency service immediately if it is suspected that a button battery has been swallowed. Check any items that might be used by children or be attractive to children to ensure that the battery compartment is secured in a way that a child couldn’t easily open it.
5. **Don’t burn your sausages or yourself:** Barbeques are part of Australian life. Always check for leaking gas at the cylinder connection and at the hose connection to the BBQ with soapy water. Bubbles will form if gas is escaping. When in doubt, turn off the gas and contact a licensed gasfitter. Also check the condition of the hose to make sure it has not degraded due to weathering. Finally, check the test date stamped on the gas cylinder. A gas cylinder may be used if it is more than 10 years old however it cannot be refilled with gas.

Dr Evans is available for comment through December.

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