

## This year

the ACCC conducted 28 surveys for products subject to safety standards and 41 surveys for banned goods at retail outlets across Australia (an increase from the previous year)

survey and complaint investigations led to the withdrawal from sale and/or recall of 39 different products (also an increase from last year)

7 companies agreed to enforceable undertakings and 1 company was subject to a court-ordered injunction, resulting from product safety investigations

# Working together for safer products

There are around 15 000 types of products available in Australia. Factor in brands and the number rises exponentially. As our economy is increasingly driven by the consumer dollar, and as product differentiation and fashion dictate consumer choice, the risk of unsafe products appearing on the retail shelves multiplies.

The power to ban the sale of unsafe goods and declare national consumer product standards was established in 1977 by amendments to the Trade Practices Act. The ACCC is responsible for ensuring suppliers abide by the product safety laws. This edition of *ACCC update* outlines the ACCC's work in this important area of consumer protection.

Industry is responsible for providing safe products. Whether they are manufacturers, importers or retailers, all suppliers can benefit from supplying safer goods. Not only are they protecting consumers and being good corporate citizens, they are avoiding the heavy costs that can arise by selling unsafe goods. It is important that industry has a philosophy that sees safety considerations as integral to its operations.

As the users of the products, consumers are positioned to have the greatest influence on safety outcomes. They can vote with their wallets whether or not to minimise risk of injury in their selection of products.

Clearly, overall levels of safety can only be improved when all parties involved in the regulation, manufacture, supply and use of products work together to make sure that products are safe and are used safely.