

CANDLES, WICKS CONTAINING LEAD, BAN ON IMPORTATION, PRODUCTION AND SALE

1431. Mr B.K. Masters to the Minister for Health

- (1) Is lead a component of candle-wicks sold in Western Australia?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that the USA is about to ban the import, production and sale of candles with wicks containing lead due to concerns about children inhaling lead-bearing smoke or fumes from such candles when they are alight or recently extinguished?
- (3) Does the Western Australian government have the power to ban the import, production and/or sale of candles containing wicks which include lead?

Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:

1. Candle wicks containing lead should not be available in Western Australia. Candles with wicks containing more than 0.06% lead have been banned permanently by the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act 1974, Consumer protection Notice No. 7 of 2002.
2. Yes. Australia has also banned such candles.
3. Not applicable, as the Commonwealth has legislation to control the sale of candle wicks containing lead.