

## Q & A: Contamination of Bindeez Beads

### What is the problem with Bindeez Beads?

It appears that a toxic chemical has been used in these beads in place of one that is safe. When swallowed this chemical is changed to GHB in the body.

### What is GHB?

GHB (gamma hydroxy butyrate) is a potent sedative and anaesthetic.

### What are the signs that a child is affected by GHB?

The signs will vary according to the number of beads swallowed.

The child mildly affected may be slightly drowsy or disinhibited. With higher doses children may develop nausea and vomiting, dizziness, slurred speech, become very sleepy or have an epileptic fit.

All symptoms should resolve over several hours. No long-term effects are expected.

### What should I do if my child is showing affects of GHB?

For children that are mildly affected visit your GP or local hospital. If the more severe signs develop immediately call an ambulance for emergency medical.

Do not administer emetics to your child or try to force them to vomit.

### What if a child has been playing with Bindeez Beads?

Parents should remove the beads from children and place them out of reach. Children who haven't swallowed any beads and who are not showing signs of drowsiness or nausea are unlikely to be affected. These children can be watched at home – if no symptoms develop within one hour it is unlikely that they have been affected.

Just touching the beads or the mosaic is not thought to cause any health effects.

### What should you do with Bindeez Beads?

For now keep them out of the reach of children. The Office of Fair Trading will provide further information about the disposal or return of the product once the details are finalised.

For further information please contact the **Poisons Information Centre on 131 126** or your local public health unit:

Camperdown	02 9515 9420	Penrith	02 4734 2022	Broken Hill	08 8080 1499	Newcastle	02 4924 6477
Gosford	02 4349 4845	Randwick	02 9382 8333	Dubbo	02 6841 5569	Port Macquarie	02 6588 2750
Hornsby	02 9477 9400	Albury	02 6080 8900	Goulburn	02 4824 1837	Tamworth	02 6767 8630
Parramatta	02 9840 3603	Bathurst	02 6339 5601	Lismore	02 6620 7500	Wollongong	02 4221 6700

**For emergency medical assistance call 000**