



Australian Government



Australian  
**Small Business and  
Family Enterprise**  
Ombudsman

22 June 2022

Director  
Toppling Furniture Safety Review  
Consumer Product Safety Division  
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission  
GPO BOX 3131  
CANBERRA, ACT, 2601

*via email: [topplingfurniture@acc.gov.au](mailto:topplingfurniture@acc.gov.au)*

Dear Sir/Madam

**Toppling furniture – Consultation Regulation Impact Statement**

We support the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) Toppling Furniture Consultation and proposed introduction of a comprehensive safety standard to protect children, and welcome the opportunity to contribute to the consultation.

Our consultations with stakeholders have reaffirmed ASBFEO's perspective of safety being the paramount consideration in assessing the regulation of furniture. Therefore we support the ACCC's preliminary view that Option 5(b) is the most appropriate formalised safety standard, including;

- A combination of general and point-of-sale education, both for online and in-store transactions;
- Warning labelling and the provision of anchoring/locking devices; and
- Appropriate and proportionate stability testing standards.

Where possible international and Australian safety standards should be right sized and synchronised to achieve comprehensive international best practice consumer protection, whilst limiting confusing, impractical, and unnecessary red tape. The ACCC should consult with small batch and bespoke furniture manufacturers to develop efficient and effective inhouse testing standards, that mitigate disproportionate compliance costs and are commercially viable.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Mr. Dave Meakin on 02 5114 6106 or at [david.meakin@asbfeo.gov.au](mailto:david.meakin@asbfeo.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

**The Hon. Bruce Billson**  
Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman

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