

# MUSTERKIDS<sup>®</sup>

## Product Stewardship

Product Stewardship involves shared responsibility for reducing the environmental, health and safety impact of a product throughout its life cycle.

### Products

In Australia, and internationally, product stewardship has been adopted to manage the impacts of different products and materials. Australia has a number of active product stewardship schemes in place for mobile phones, televisions, oil, computers, packaging, chemicals, batteries and paint.

### Types of programs

Product stewardship programs can be regulated or voluntary and can focus on whole life cycle of a product (i.e. from design, manufacture, use and end of life) or target one part of the life cycle such as end of life.

### Government Regulation

In 2011, the Australian Government introduced the Product Stewardship Act 2011 as part of its commitment under the National Waste Policy. The legislation provides the framework to manage national product stewardship schemes for products identified as national priorities. Televisions and computers will be the first to be managed under the national legislation.

### MobileMuster

MobileMuster is the Australian mobile phone industry's official voluntary product stewardship program. The members of MobileMuster support the principles of product stewardship and are committed to continually reducing the environmental impact of telecommunications products throughout their life cycle from design, manufacture, handling to use and disposal by:

- improving the efficiency of resource use in products
- increasing resource recovery
- minimising the generation of waste (including hazardous substances)
- improving the management of post-consumer waste and
- reducing the risks to human health from poor management of products

### Further reading: Australian Government website

[www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/product-stewardship/index.html](http://www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/product-stewardship/index.html)

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