

**Outrage on graffiti toys  
Kids schooled in vandalism  
By PETER ROLFE**

CHILDREN as young as seven are being taught graffiti vandalism techniques through a new range of toys.

Graffiti opponents have called for an Australia-wide ban on Urban Colourz, toys inspired by street graffiti, for fear they glorify a criminal act.

The State Government is investigating if sale of the toys breaches new laws that outlaw promotion of illegal street art.

The toys teach children how to create graffiti "tags" of the sort illegally scrawled on Victorian walls and buildings.

A range of products are available under the Urban Colourz brand name including: A BATTERY-powered airbrush that sprays paint.

MULTI-coloured pens shaped like spray paint cans.

BOOKS filled with graffiti tags, drawings and pictures.

STENCILS of graffiti motifs to colour in and copy.

TEMPORARY tattoos and graffiti stickers.

Residents Against Graffiti Everywhere (RAGE) president Steve Beardon says the toys glorify a crime that costs Victorian tax payers millions of dollars each year.

"They should be banned," he said. "This is telling kids that graffiti is OK, that it's not illegal."

The toys, created by acclaimed graffiti artist "Breze" and produced by French toy manufacturer Beka Corp, were on sale last week at major shops such as Kmart for less than \$30.

The colourful packaging boasts children can be "like a real urban artist", create their own graffiti art ID and their "own urban style art".