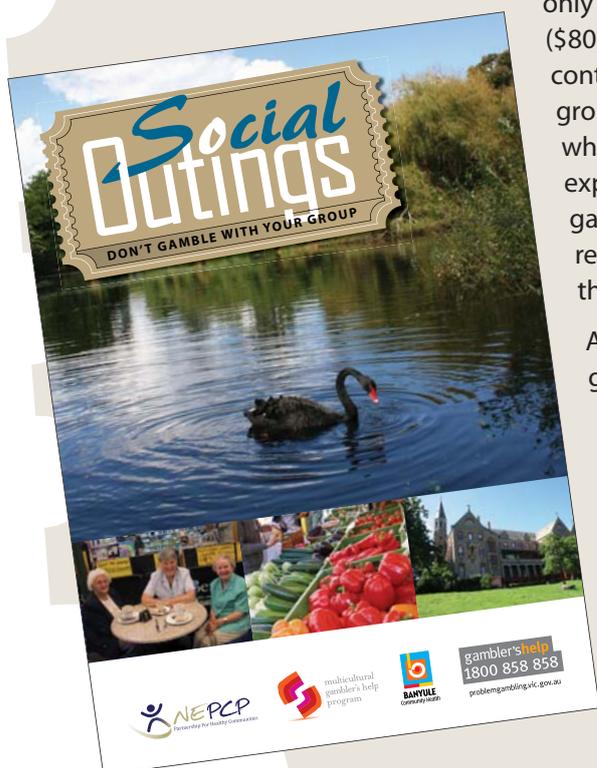




Social Outings: don't gamble with your group

The guide "Social Outings: don't gamble with your group" was developed by a partnership of agencies who were concerned at the financial losses being experienced by groups which were going on outings to gambling venues, particularly the Casino.

You can download the whole guide on-line at www.nepcp.org.au



Since 2009, this partnership has been raising awareness amongst community groups of the potential risks of taking groups to the Casino. They have investigated the actual cost of these outings and documented the harms that occur from them. The partnership found that a number of groups were participating in bus trips to the Casino without fully understanding the costs and potential risks.

Some groups considered that trips to the Casino represented good value. Research undertaken has demonstrated that groups typically spend between \$1,000 and \$3,500 on these trips. Most of the cost is made up of gambling losses. In 200 participants, only one person won any money (\$80). Another had a purse stolen containing \$300. In addition, some group members reported behaviours which indicated that they were exposed to significant risks from gambling such as planning to return to the Casino to win back their losses.

As a result of this work community groups began requesting

information about activities and events that could be offered as an alternative to gaming venues. The guide *Social Outings: Don't gamble with your group* contains all the details needed to plan enjoyable outings that are value for money. We hope this guide will assist your group to choose non gambling outings.

The outings in this Booklet will cost your group less than a day at the Casino! And they do not present the same risks!

Many groups have told us that the biggest obstacle to undertaking non gambling outings is the lack of affordable transport. We suggest that your group considers using public transport to go on group outings. Public transport is relatively cheap, easy to access from most locations and offers the opportunity to have fun as a group whilst avoiding the cost of hiring a large bus. For this reason, the final pages of the Social Outings guide contain maps and other information about taking public transport. All of the outings in the guide can also be accessed using cars or buses if your group prefers.

If you would like speak to a worker about planning non gambling related outings, or finding out where you or someone you know can get help with gambling contact:

Kate Little, Community Education Worker
Banyule Community Health Service
(03) 9450 2080 or kate.little@bchs.org.au

About the Social Outings guide:

The social outings guide has lots of different activities your group can do. The first 12 activities are day trips that you can go on. These outings are presented in 3 categories:

No cost



CERES Environmental park
National Gallery of Victoria
Royal Botanic Gardens
St Kilda Foreshore
Williamstown

Low cost



Abbotsford Convent
Collingwood Children's Farm
Darebin City Lawn Bowls Club
Immigration Museum
Jewish Museum
Melbourne Museum

Medium cost



Heidi Museum of Modern Art
Melbourne Zoo

These costs refer to basic entrance fees or activities. In some cases, additional activities are available at extra cost and this is outlined in the Booklet. Transport and food costs are not included in the costing and will depend on the options that your group selects.

Your group can discuss how much you want to spend and make decisions accordingly. If you want to spend less, take public transport or car pool and have a picnic. If you have more to spend, consider bus hire and maybe try out some of Melbourne's fine restaurants.

As well as these outings, the guide contains lots of local things to do including:

- **Pubs without pokies**
– support a venue that is not subsidising meals with gaming losses from vulnerable people!
- **Guest speakers for your club**
– many organisations have speakers who can talk to your group about important health and community issues
- **Op Shop tours**
– enjoy a great value outing and make you money go further!
- **Parks & Picnic Areas**
– we are lucky to live in Melbourne with such a fabulous variety of outdoor areas, get to know them better
- **Markets**
– Melbourne has some great indoor and outdoor markets
- **Seasonal events and festivals in Melbourne.**

To make it easy to use the guide, some symbols have been used throughout.

This symbol tells you...



...the address



...how much you can expect to pay for the outing



...when the attraction is open



...how to get to the outing



...where you can eat, including picnic locations



...other attractions



...how to get more information

Remember, stay healthy and safe – don't gamble with your group!

