



Hon. George Souris M.P
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing
Minister for the Arts

MEDIA RELEASE

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REMEMBER YOUR LIMITS ON MELBOURNE CUP DAY

Punters should ensure they finish Melbourne Cup day a winner by drinking and gambling responsibly, Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality, Racing and the Arts, George Souris, said today.

Mr Souris said Melbourne Cup day is one of the biggest sporting and social events of the year and a great opportunity to enjoy the State's quality pubs, clubs, restaurants, function centres and race tracks.

"Dressing up and enjoying a drink and a flutter on Melbourne Cup day is a great Australian tradition," Mr Souris said.

"While it is one of our biggest social events, the Melbourne Cup also provides a major economic boost for our State's hospitality industry. I encourage everybody to go out and enjoy this world-class racing spectacular with family, friends and work colleagues at your favourite venue.

"People deserve to have a good time today but they must do so responsibly.

"Nobody wants to see Melbourne Cup celebrations marred by alcohol-related problems so please drink sensibly so everybody has a great day.

"It is against the law for a licensed venue to have intoxicated patrons on their premises. If you are asked to leave by a staff member you must comply or you risk a \$550 on-the-spot fine from police.

"Patrons must play their part in helping licensees and their staffs to comply with responsible service of alcohol laws and ensure their venues are safe and enjoyable for everybody."

Mr Souris said punters should also make sure the day doesn't leave a hole in your pocket.

"Year after year we see just how hard it can be to pick the winner of the Melbourne Cup so please don't bet what you can't afford to lose and don't chase losses," he said.

"We can all enjoy a punt on the race that stops the nation but knowing your limits will ensure it does not leave you with a gambling hangover."

Anyone experiencing gambling problems can contact the *Gambling Help* line 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week on 1800 858 858 or visit www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au.

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