

FOREWORD

“Asian Gambling ... Family Losses” describes the impact of gambling within the Vietnamese community on family relationships and harmony.

Much has been said in recent years about the positive economic impact of the growth of the gambling industry on the Victorian community, but not a lot of independent investigation has explored the social impact on the community.

My irregular visits to *Crown Casino* have confronted me with the high percentage of persons of Asian appearance engaged in gambling activities within this entertainment complex. This fact confronts any visitor there at any hour of the day or night.

Contrary to the popular advertising that suggests that *“everyone is a winner at Crown”*, I know that, on the average and over a period of time, everyone is a loser financially. What then are the social and financial impacts of this fact on the families of those standing at the tables?

The Productivity Commission indicated to us that there was little available research material available about the impact of gambling in relation to the Vietnamese community. The absence of this material increased the commitment of our policy and research arm, *The Ignatius Centre*, to investigate the matter.

Diana Tran, herself a representative of the Australian Vietnamese community, acted as the chief researcher for this project. She has spent much of the last six months conducting surveys and individual interviews with those in direct contact with Vietnamese families affected by gambling.

The results of this research investigation *“Asian Gambling ... Family Losses”* is material that the community deserves to know and helps to fill out the full picture of the social impact of the expansion of the gambling industry in Victoria.

I hope that Diana’s work as a social work investigator will act as a voice for some of the most disadvantaged members of our community, family members of Vietnamese people who have problems with gambling.

Father Peter Norden, S.J.

Director
Jesuit Social Services