Be safe when fishing

Put safety first when you go fishing.

Fishing is a fun activity that everyone can join in with. Victoria's lakes, rivers and oceans are beautiful, but there is also a risk of drowning.

BEFORE YOU GO FISHING

- **Check the weather**

  Visit the Bureau of Meteorology at **www.bom.gov.au** to check the local weather. Also check for any warnings, wave heights and wind direction to make sure the area you are fishing in is safe. If the conditions are bad, don't go fishing or choose a safer fishing spot.

- **Fish with a friend**

  Always fish with another person.

- **Tell someone your plans**

  Give a family member or friend who is NOT fishing with you:
  - The name of the place where you are going to go fishing.
  - The time you expect to get home after fishing.
  - Your mobile number.
  - The names and mobile numbers of the other people who are fishing with you.

  This way someone can get help if you don't return home on time.

USE THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

- **Wear a lifejacket**

  Water and weather conditions can change quickly causing accidents, so even if you are a strong swimmer, you should wear one. **Lifejackets save lives**.

- **Carry safety equipment**

  This should include a mobile phone, first aid kit and a rope attached to something that floats.

- **Wear appropriate clothing**

  Always wear non slip shoes and never wear waders. Dress properly for the weather conditions and take a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, extra drinking water and a rain coat with you on every fishing adventure.

BE SAFE AROUND THE WATER

- **Continue to check the weather**

  Only fish when the water is calm. If the weather or water conditions get worse, move to a safer fishing spot or go home and fish on another day.

- **Fish from a safe place**

  It is best to fish from a jetty, pier, fishing platform or a flat grassed area. These places are safer than steep river banks and rocks.

- **Fish with a friend**

  Stay close to the person you are fishing with. Make sure you can always see each other and do not get separated. Staying together means you can help each other if something goes wrong.

- **If someone falls into the water**
  - Tell the person the stay calm and roll onto their back.
  - Throw them something that floats, like a bucket or esky, with a rope tied to it so you can pull them to safety.
  - Call or phone for help.
  - **DO NOT** enter the water yourself unless you are a trained lifesaver.

Victorian Fisheries AUTHORITY