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# Social Outings Service – Guidelines for Referring Agencies

The Social Outings Service is delivered by Age Concern Canterbury and provides regular outings for people over 65 who typically live in their own homes and would like more company. The aim is to decrease levels of social isolation and loneliness and increase social participation for older people living in our communities. Clients need to be able to transfer independently on and off our mini bus.

We currently have several outings services available:

***Host Outings:*** Host Outings are fortnightly outings to a host’s home or a community group for morning or afternoon tea. Transport is provided. A Donation (suggested donation $5) can be made to the driver/assistant, but this is not compulsory. The morning or afternoon tea is provided by the host. Available in Christchurch only.

***Café Outings:*** Café outings are fortnightly outings to different cafes for morning or afternoon tea. Transport is provided or the client can drive to meet the group. Clients pay for their own food and drink at the café and can make a gold coin donation to the driver/assistant. Available in Christchurch only.

***Kaiapoi Social Group:*** Thisis a monthly outing to a local café for morning tea. Transport is provided or the client can drive to meet the group. Clients pay for their own food and drink at the café and can make a gold coin donation to the driver/assistant. The outings are available in Kaiapoi only.

***Rangiora Social Group:*** Thisis a monthly outing to a local café for morning tea. Transport is provided or the client can drive to meet the group. Clients pay for their own food and drink at the café and can make a gold coin donation to the driver/assistant. The outings are available in Rangiora only.

***Men’s Group North and Men’s Group South:*** Thisis a monthly outing to a local Working Men’s Club, RSA or café for afternoon tea. Transport is provided or the client can drive to meet the group. Clients pay for their own food and drink at the venue and can make a gold coin donation to the driver/assistant. The outings are available in ChCh South and ChCh North only.

***Note:*** We are currently working on setting up a Rolleston Social Group and a Sumner/Redcliffs Social Group.

**Who is the Social Outings Service for?**

The Social Outings Service is for people over 65, who typically no longer drive, are at risk of social isolation due to having no or few regular social interations and who are able to contribute to forming new social connections.

Health professionals, family or friends can refer an older person. Just be sure to ask their permission first please.

***Clients with complex needs such as dementia and / or other mental health issues, or extreme frailty may not be suitable for this service and will be considered on a case by case basis taking into consideration the above criteria and volunteer/client safety. Please complete the referral form, so we can obtain a full picture of the client’s status.***

***Please be aware when making a referral that volunteers do not receive specialised training in such areas as mental health, substance addiction or Alzheimer's and dementia etc. In these circumstances, for the benefit of your client, you may wish to refer to other agencies.***

**The Volunteer Drivers and Assistants do not:**

Manage the older person’s financial affairs or handle money

Organise recreational pursuits or outings for clients - the Social Connection Advisors organise the outings

Undertake domestic housework, grocery shopping, taking clients to appointments

Take over the role of family, formal or informal carer, housekeeper, nurse, social worker or visitors

*The Social Outings Service manages a waiting list* and some clients may have to wait for entry to a group or be waitlisted for some outings where a group is at capacity.

Please call Katie or Debiie if you have any queries with a referral. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Katie Faithful** Phone: 331 7801 or email **kfaithful@ageconcerncan.org.nz**

**Debbie Garraway** Phone:331 7814 or email **dgarraway@ageconcerncan.org.nz**

**Referral form available on our website – www.ageconcerncan.org.nz**

[**https://ageconcerncan.org.nz/make-a-referral/social-outing-service-referral-form/**](https://ageconcerncan.org.nz/make-a-referral/social-outing-service-referral-form/)