**TOPIC #001/2020**

**The General Service Board recommends that the General Service Conference considers changing the Conference Committee system by having three committees instead of the current eleven. The Board makes this recommendation having reviewed the committee system of the Great Britain General Service Conference. Two documents are attached. Document 1 is the proposed new committee system. Document 2 shows how many topics each current Conference Committee has been allocated in the last five years.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

There is an imbalance of topics allocated, with some committees regularly having no or few topics, with others being overloaded.

The current committee system only allows for committees to meet for a maximum of two hours (some 1 hour 50 minutes). During that time they have to review their Composition, Scope & Procedure document, review their Action List and make recommendations on topics allocated to them, and also elect a Chairperson and Alternate for the following year.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Having three committees would spread the workload more evenly, with each of these committees having at least 3.5 hours to complete their business.

It would allow time for committees to thoroughly review their Composition, Scope & Procedure documents, paying particular attention to their Scope.

Each committee would consist of at least 7 Area Delegates, 2 Trustees & 1 staff member. World Service Delegates would both be allocated to the most appropriate committee.

There would be time available on the agenda for any topics allocated directly to the full Conference rather than committees.

There would be time available for committees for any unfinished business.

It would no longer be necessary for combined sessions of more than one committee to be organised.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

The Conference would operate more efficiently.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

No cost.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Discussed at February 2020 General Service Board meeting.

**TOPIC #002/2020**

**To update the online group registration on the National Website to include notes about accessibility for those with special needs.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. In 2020, the WSO has published videos of AA content in ASL (American Sign Language) - I was inspired to think about how we in Australia can ensure meetings are accessible to all by mentioning what may be available.
2. For example, groups can advise of whether there is the ability to communicate in Auslan at the meeting, or if there is a Braille copy of the Big Book, or even if meetings have wheelchair accessibility

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. Include an additional free text section or tickable list of options on the online group registration form
2. A tickable list may allow members or newcomers to filter search options to a specific criteria

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1. AA is open to ALL regardless of race, sex, gender, sexual orientation, cultural identifications, and accessibilities.
2. Those with special needs can often be forgotten in our communities and silenced (intentionally or unintentionally). This would be a simple way of ensuring they can feel safe and heard in a meeting.
3. A study conducted in Victoria by Roberts and Mugavin (2007) concluded that while patterns of substance use (alcohol and drugs) among the deaf community was unclear, it was similar to that of which affected the hearing population. Participants of the study expressed frustration that many services did not take into account the needs of deaf people to Carry the Message.
4. In some instances, alcoholism can exacerbate, and even have a correlation with the development of, disabilities. Data of this is widely accessible via the internet.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

It is anticipated a small cost would be required to add this additional information onto the existing section of the National Website.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

This has not been consulted widely with groups, districts or Areas.

It is known in AA that there can be no directive to tell groups how to run their meetings and by no means is this to be a directive. It would be a prompt to allow members when registering to think about the Still Suffering Alcoholic with Special Needs when they register their group with the National Website.

Some venues or groups may not have accessible options available - that is okay and sometimes out of a group's control. Something like this however would allow for a newcomer or member to know they can safely access a meeting ahead of time.

It would be of the perogative of Districts, Areas and CSOs to allow for the same on their individual websites.

**TOPIC #003/2020**

**1.Amend the topic form to include a reference to checking your topic against past/recent topics to ensure that an idea or issue has not been previously dealt with by Conference. This may provide information that explains why your topic was rejected previously, or help focus thinking oon providing new information or arguments.**

**2. The Conference agenda committee should be allowed to decide on minor amendments such as this without the need for it to potentially take up time in the conference schedule**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. Topics often recur with the same outcome at conference

2. The Agenda committee have to review and check which takes time – that time should be spent by the author

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. A line referring Topic contributors to previous conference reports and their online location would be enough.

2. Agenda Committee can make minor amendments to the Topic Form if it will ease the process

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1. The agenda committee can save time, using their resources to work on more pressing topics

2. The author will gain a bit more insight into the Conference process from reading previous reports

3. The author can then communicate about their issue from a more informed position when they go back to the fellowship around them

4. More understanding and informed discussion of issues within the fellowship may allow problems to be solved at a local level before they need to be sent to conference (think dogs in meetings).

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

$0 to type a line of text.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

No, it is such a straightforward point.

**TOPIC #004/2020**

**That conference look at developing a “CHAT NOW” feature on the aa.org.au website, which would allow a newcomer to “talk” (typing questions in real time to a live person / volunteer AA member, on a national roster)**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. This feature has been successfully developed and is already in use in the UK ([www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)) where it is reported to be getting excellent results

2. A large majority of websites today use such a feature and it is vital that Alcoholic Anonymous remains current in it’s use of online technology

3. It will create the potential to reach more sick and suffering alcoholics through one to one live “chat” (typing), and will appeal to young people in particular

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. Employ a website developer to build a function into the existing aa.org.au website to allow this feature to operate

2. Create a position for National Chat Now Coordinator to organise a roster system to man the incoming “chats”

3. Liaise with and replicate the same model which is already successfully in use in the UK

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1. The still suffering alcoholic who ventures onto the aa.org.au website will be able to ask questions of a recovered alcoholic in real time

2. The ‘seed of AA’ can be planted in a way that will particularly appeal to younger generations who are already comfortable communicating online

3. Establishing this feature now will pave the way for future members of alcoholics anonymous who are growing up in the digital age

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Unknown. Conference would need to research.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Area PICPC Committee, with the encouragement of the National PICPC coordinator are in support of this topic

**TOPIC #005/2020**

**AA Australia is currently suffering financial hardship. One means of minimising AA’s cost of doing business is to reduce its outgoing expenses, some of which relate to the realisation of previously agreed to conference advisory actions. For example, new posters, visual design, copywriting of new AA publications, website improvements, video production, etc, incur costs. The development and availability of a ‘needed skills’ register would enable members, under our legacy of service, to use their skills to do work that AA would otherwise need to pay for. There is much evidence throughout the fellowship of members willing to use their skills for AA when there is a clear, identified need. A centralised register would make the process national and efficient and inform members when and where skills are specifically needed.**

**Service keeps us sober. Why can’t it also assist in ensuring and maintaining AA Australia’s solvency?**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. Recent Board/GSO correspondence clearly suggests that AA Australia is in quite a dire financial situation. It therefore has less money to spend on turning current unrealised advisory actions that require funds and project management into fully realised outcomes.

2. The Board have a plan on a page. Action is required to turn ideas into products and services that benefit the still-suffering alcoholic.

3. We have a service structure that indicates individual members and AA groups are ‘at the top’. One obvious reason for this is our ability to make real AA’s Primary Purpose. Why not allow for this in regards to currently-slated, yet-to-be-initiated AA Australia projects and initiatives that have stemmed from previous conferences?

4. Until Advisory Actions become completed outcomes, they benefit neither the fellowship, nor the still-suffering alcoholic.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

I suggest that Areas, Districts, Intergroups and AA Groups participate in creating a national, easy-to-update register of AA members who are willing to volunteer time and skills to assist the Board in project managing outstanding and yet-to-be-completed Advisory Actions.

The process could be as simple as members nominating skills and time availability to their Area Delegate, and this information being forwarded to the GSO/GSB and relevant conference committees. Alternatively, a more automated, online system of registration could be created, utilising such existing websites as the member’s section of aa.org.au, or aaservice.org.au.

To assist, the GSB could release to the wider fellowship a list of all outstanding Advisory Actions with each quarterly board report, matched with the specialist skills or time required to make them a reality.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

Every Advisory Action benefits the still-suffering alcoholic and/or the fellowship in some way, otherwise it would not exist. However, unrealised Advisory Actions in themselves benefit no-one. On the contrary. If they remain unrealised for long enough, those members who originally took the time to submit them may become disillusioned with the conference process and perhaps not participate so passionately in it moving forward. Rather than all involved giving up or becoming despondent or frustrated, I would rather see us take a positive and spiritual course of action, which I am initiating by submitting this topic. What better way to express the legacies of unity and service than for members to assist in realising the hopes and aspirations of previous conference outcomes.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Forget costs. This topic is focused solely on savings; literally reducing the outgoing costs of AA Australia, thus allowing it to grow away from the prospect if insolvency, and towards some level of financial security.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

No, as this topic was formulated from an idea that became clear the day after our Area Assembly to discuss topics. It has, however, been reviewed by our Area Delegate, who has expressed support for it.

**TOPIC #006/2020**

**Creation of 2 additional radio community service announcements (CSAs) to supplement our existing CSAs. One targeted at Indigenous Australians, another at the LGBTI+ community.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1.The use of radio CSAs is perfect for spreading the message of AA across vast areas of Australia. As part of their charters to operate, all radio networks are required to provide a certain number of free time slots to not-for-profit organisations — which AA is.

2. In 2018/2019 Area D. Southern Region managed to get our current CSAs on 26 stations. However, there is a need for diversity in our AA radio CSAs so we can target different areas of the community.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1.Create one CSA aimed at indigenous Australians and another for the LGBTI+ community.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1.Radio covers large areas of Australia - especially remote regions, reaching suffering alcoholics who might otherwise fail to hear our message.

2.CSAs are spoken word so alcoholics with literacy issues can hear our details.

3. There are many indigenous radio stations across Australia we could target (<https://firstnationsmedia.org.au/our-industry/radio-services>). During the Area D radio campaign we played on an indigenous station so we know they are open to running them.

4. We currently have 25+ meetings aimed at LGBTI+ members. A CSAs highlighting AA inclusivity, could carry the message to suffering LGBTI+ alcoholics fearful of judgement in our rooms.

5. There are LGBTI+ radio stations such as Joy FM (they ran our CSAs for 13 months, twice a day from Dec 2018) and LGBTI+ radio segments across various networks. We could approach radio networks year round but especially around the time of the Mardi Gras (Sydney), Midsummer (Melbourne).

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Members could voice the CSAs to keep costs down. Total costs — approx. $1500. A sound studio — approx. $200 an hour (Melbourne.) Sound mixing/exports to broadcast standard — approx. $1000. However as we are a not-for-profit we should be able to get discounts on these figures.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

This topic was taken to 7th June 2020 Southern Region, Area D Assembly and after minor word changing (which has been included) was endorsed by the Assembly.

**TOPIC 007/2020**

**To make a series of engaging videos aimed at Professionals within the health, prisons and Armed Forces sectors.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. We currently only have 4 videos on our web site aa.org.au which are very dated and they are American based. We have no Australian video content on the Australian website.

2. People are used to getting content quickly. Video is a powerful way to attract and educate. It can be an easily digestible way to deliver information and more convenient than a wall of text.

3. Generally people can digest information that they see and hear faster than they can if they just read the information.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. To create a series of videos similar to those on <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Professionals/Videos-for-Professionals>which can be aimed at Professionals looking to use AA as a resource and including a generic Public Information video. These could be filmed and edited at the same time to minimise the overall costs of the videos and to give them a uniform look.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1. Can be accessed from anywhere across Australia making it usable in remote areas.

2. Great for engaging with Professionals (doctors etc) as members can link to and share the content when emailing them. Providing a quick Information portal for time-poor Professionals. Making our information more accessible and more likely to be referred to patients.

3. Versatile media - Can be also be used at presentations such as rotary, schools, nursing colleges etc

4. Can be used across Area, District and Group websites allowing a constant and professional look to our material.

5. Good for people with literacy issues.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Costs will be dependent on the number of videos we wish to commission. However, as we are a not-for-profit organisation we would be given discounts, For a budget of $5000- $7000 we should be able to produce 2 to 4 three minute videos. (Costing based on professional knowledge.)

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

This topic was taken to 7th June 2020 Southern Region, Area D Assembly and after minor word changing (which has been included) was endorsed by the Assembly.

**TOPIC #007/2020**

**To make a series of engaging videos aimed at Professionals within the health, prisons and Armed Forces sectors.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. We currently only have 4 videos on our web site aa.org.au which are very dated and they are American based. We have no Australian video content on the Australian website.

2. People are used to getting content quickly. Video is a powerful way to attract and educate. It can be an easily digestible way to deliver information and more convenient than a wall of text.

3. Generally people can digest information that they see and hear faster than they can if they just read the information.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. To create a series of videos similar to those on <https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Professionals/Videos-for-Professionals>which can be aimed at Professionals looking to use AA as a resource and including a generic Public Information video. These could be filmed and edited at the same time to minimise the overall costs of the videos and to give them a uniform look.

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4. Can be used across Area, District and Group websites allowing a constant and professional look to our material.

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**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Costs will be dependent on the number of videos we wish to commission. However, as we are a not-for-profit organisation we would be given discounts, For a budget of $5000- $7000 we should be able to produce 2 to 4 three minute videos. (Costing based on professional knowledge.)

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

This topic was taken to 7th June 2020 Southern Region, Area D Assembly and after minor word changing (which has been included) was endorsed by the Assembly.

**TOPIC #008/2020**

**Amend the Group Handbook to add that all groups, Districts and Areas be transparent with members who donate to their group, District or Area about how funds are distributed at Group, District or Area. This is so members can make an informed choice when making their contribution.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. I have been approached by a number of members who are ‘in good faith contributing to the hat’ and who believed the contribution was to be distributed according to the 60/30/10 Plan or agreed percentage distribution of that Plan.

2. They are concerned that decisions in applying the ‘Power of the Purse’ are not in the Spirit of the Fellowship.

3. These members wish to be informed about the use of their contributions so they can make informed decisions regarding their contribution.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. The Topic, if affirmed by Conference to be added to the Group Handbook.

2. Delegates to carry the affirmed Topic to their Areas, Districts and Groups.

3. Motions which involve Voting on the ‘Power of the Purse’ to be distributed to all members in the group, District or Area with notice of time and place at which the vote is to take place.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1. Alcoholics Anonymous distributes the ‘Hat’ contributions as suggested therefore being able to carry the message in a more efficient and effective manner.

2. Transparency as requested by many.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

The cost of updating the Group Handbook could be completed in conjunction with other alterations or edits.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Supported by Home Group. Had discussions with Members in Service at District and Area levels who provided feedback. Lack of time to present to District or Area.

**TOPIC #009/2020**

**Some virtual meetings will continue after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. These meetings will not necessarily be associated with AA meetings that are also held in a physical location and the groups that run them are likely to be made up of members from diverse physical locations. As such, they will not be located in a physical AA Area or Region. Creation of a virtual Area/Region would enable such groups to participate in the structure of AA by electing GSR’s, running virtual Assemblies and electing a Delegate to the General Service Conference. The existing process for requesting creation of a new Area (AA Service Manual pp.53-54) cannot assist in this situation, because it assumes a request from an existing Area which is no longer able to provide adequate service and communication to all the groups that are within its geographical area.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. The necessity of virtual meetings, eg held via Zoom, Skype, etc during the COVID-19 lockdown has created a chance for AA members to experience an alternate access to recovery.

2.This is particularly relevant to members in regional and remote areas, those physically unable to attend face-to-face meetings, members with carer responsibilities (eg small children) or restricted access to transport. Others may just prefer the virtual option.

3. It is likely that some virtual meetings will continue after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and will be run as separate groups consisting of members drawn from diverse geographical locations, across existing Areas. (This is already happening in some virtual meetings where e.g. both city and country members are carrying out service roles).

4 All members have the right and the responsibility to participate in the General Service Structure.

5. These groups will not have a ‘home’ within the existing General Service Structure.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1.Create a cyber or ‘virtual’ Region/Area as part of the General Service Structure that groups operating only in the virtual space can join.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1. Provides opportunity for members who would otherwise be excluded from participation in the General Service Structure

2. Acknowledges the wider options available for participation provided by the virtual space.

3.The move to virtual meetings during COVID-19 restrictions has identified that technology can provide alternative meeting formats that provide valuable additional support in particular, to members who may find it difficult to access physical meetings on a regular basis for a variety of reasons.

4. Enabling those groups and members to be fully active members of AA will benefit both their recovery and the Fellowship as a whole.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Nil

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Process of going through Group, District, Area not applicable which is what this Topic is addressing

**TOPIC #010/2020**

**Taking the advantages and benefits we have seen from the use of online meetings forward, Alcoholicss Anonymous in Australia (or Oceania Region) should scope the possibility of developing and using an AA owned and supported Online Video-Conferencing Platform (Our own Version of Zoom etc.).**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. These platforms have successfully supported the Fellowship to continue meeting when F2F meetings could not happen.

2. Meetings and service entities have been using funds to support this

3. Funds could potentially be used to set up our own platform supported by donations removing the need to subscribe to outside providers

4. Service meetings in particular have been facilitated by online meetings, for example Trustees can attend all Area Assemblies in the region without financial outlay

5. Sharing between AA entities has become much more frequent and useful both Nationally and Internationally

6. Removing barriers to participation in all aspects of AA benefits all of us

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. Alcoholics anonymous should consider developing or purchasing an online meeting platform similar to those used successfully during the recent Covid-19 restrictions (Zoom, Skype, GoToMeetings etc.).

2. AA could include/develop our own online security access/functions to prevent intrusions.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1. Facilitates regular connecting of members who live remotely with limited access to other members

2. Elderly or unwell or physically challenged members can be easily included in meetings

3. Allows guest speakers to participate more economically and in a time efficient manner

4. Service positions may become more attractive given removal of travel time, particularly for members in rural/remote communities, or those with caring duties for family members

5. Service positions may be required to be created to administer such a platform to support its running in the Fellowship

6. Similarly group or Service entities may need an additional commitment to support this once up and running

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Minimal to the Fellowship in terms of scoping or tendering the development to suitable providers. It should also be considered to find out if any members have the requisite skills in this area to either consider doing the work, or certainly advising on the Tender development to ensure we ask the correct questions.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

This has been discussed by the District including in principle support from Area Delegate and Regional Trustee.

**TOPIC #011/2020**

**That a 4-year AA service position of Editor of *AA Around Australia* be created and advertised on aa.org.au.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. The position of Editor of *AA Around Australia* is contemplated in *The Australian* *AA Service Manual*.
2. The quarterly production of *AA Around Australia* is a time consuming task which is currently undertaken by staff of the General Service Office who have numerous other tasks.
3. The General Service Office has a high workload and a small staff.
4. General Service Office staff do not necessarily have the skill set required to produce a national newsletter with high production values.
5. AA in Australia needs a national newsletter which is world standard.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

That a 4-year AA service position of Editor of *AA Around Australia*, be created and advertised on aa.org.au.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1. The topic if accepted will result in the production of *AA Around Australia* by AA members with relevant skills and plenty of time to devote to the task.
2. The topic if accepted will result in the production of *AA Around Australia* to a high production standard.
3. The topic if accepted will divert a large portion of the workload of the General Service Office to the Editor of *AA Around Australia.*
4. The topic if accepted will provide another AA service opportunity for AA members.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Nil. The position of Editor of *AA Around Australia* would be an AA service position, not a paid position.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

No.

**TOPIC #012/2020**

**That conference considers moving *all* of its activities on line for a reasonable period, to be designated by Conference, as an experiment. This would include *The General Service Conference* in November, *Conference Committee* meetings, meetings of the *General Service Board,* and the *Office Management Group.* The Covid crisis has demonstrated just how quickly and efficiently our fellowship can adapt and change to new technology, when the need arises. It may be prudent for the fellowship to take full advantage of this unique period to see if we cannot do things better.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

Advantages:

1. Enable the *GSB,* *Conference Committees* and the *Management Group* to meet more frequently, as required, at little cost or inconvenience.

2. On-line *Conference* and *Board* meetings would cost a fraction of current meetings yet could be attended from anywhere.

3. Encourage more *Areas*. Without hefty levies and finding members free to travel, often vast distances, to attend assemblies and *Conference*, this could help solve our intractable 2/3rd’s majority issue.

4. *GSB* could meet more frequently, without prohibitive cost, rather than the twice yearly marathons demanded of current board members, between conferences.

5. Potential Class A trustees may be more amenable to virtual board meetings, which would be more convenient and time efficient, especially for the people we seek – highly motivated, busy professionals.

6. On-line *Management Grou*p meetings would allow *Conference* to broaden eligibility of *General Service Trustees*, currently selected from a small pool within the Sydney metropolitan area.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. Move the *General Service Conference* structure online

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1. By expanding participation in the General Service Conference, the group conscience of AA in Australia, this initiative could further unify the fellowship and enhance our ability to better carry the message. .

2. By more easily facilitating the creation of new areas, this initiative could aid in addressing the lack of 2/3’s majority representation of groups on the conference floor.

3. It offers the opportunity for the fellowship to divert much needed funds to more immediate and direct efforts to carry the message: Public Service Announcements, literature production and distribution etc

4. Easy on-line access would also help demystify *General Service* and facilitate greater interest and participation.

Note: Should this plan be implemented, the need for **Regional Forums,** as opportunities for the board and staff members to meet and share with the general membership, would be greatly enhanced.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

The financial savings to the fellowship would be substantial. *Conference* costs around *$60,000.00* a year and the two annual board meetings many thousands more.

The time saved by members would also be substantial.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

The topic has been widely circulated for discussion and feedback. There has been enthusiastic support. The home group has given the topic unanimous support. Three districts have also given the topic unanimous support. The topic was also given unanimous and enthusiastic Area support at an extraordinary topic meeting.

**TOPIC #013/2020**

**This submission proposes AA utilise modern technology to streamline the Australian AA Two Arms of Service Structure to minimise duplication of effort and expense, by establishing a national online literature sales and distribution service. This includes the availability of electronic literature where possible.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. The current two-tiered system of literature distribution involves double handing, is expensive and often requires double postage.
2. There is confusion at group level about where to purchase literature, especially as there are many sources within AA and outside.
3. Major changes in technology (web, phone services, video conferencing) in the last 30 years offer low cost alternatives to the distribution of literature and public information, and the holding of meetings.
4. Online shopping has been embraced by the wider Australian community and is a growing market.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. Establish one online national service for distributing of AA conference approved literature directly to groups and the public. Groups have a discount code. Individuals pay retail value. Direct sales to groups would remove duplication*.*
2. This could have a flow-on effect to carrying the message, as financial and other resources currently used for literature sales through 12th Step offices (CSOs/Intergroups) could be diverted to carrying the message to local communities through Public Information strategies etc. see attached additional information).

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

 Our Australian Service Structure needs to ensure its future by utilising new technologies to maximise beneficial outcomes of members’ financial contributions.

1. AA literature would be more accessible to groups and the general public.
2. An increase local public information outreach should reach more problem drinkers and improve their entrance into AA local groups.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**
A Joomla E-Shop website set-up with 225 products would be approx. $4000 with annual costs approx. $1000 pa.

Overall medium-term costs of a single National Online would be the same or less through:

* increased literature sales
* monies saved from renting facilities diverted to local PI activities or to the GSO.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

This specific topic has not been put to my Group, District or Area. However, our Southern Highlands area has run a “virtual” CSO along with a “district” local public information role since 2008, with local groups’ support. This proposal is based that experience, and more recent experiences brought by COVID-19.

**TOPIC #014/2020**

**That ALL the National Coordinators be invited to submit a plan of action over the next 12 months of how AA’s profile can be raised in institutions, and that the Fellowship be made more aware of the greater need for service in all these 4 areas.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

After several years of carrying the message in corrections I believe that we need to establish a higher presence with the decision makers across Australia.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

A national data base be established by each national coordinator. So when rotation occurs, we do not have to start from scratch again. This has been piecemeal and not handed on to the incoming Coordinator previously and this experience has been lost.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

The fellowship will benefit by knowing what we can and need to do.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Minimal

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Discussed this with 3 past delegates 2 past trustees and 2 different groups.

**TOPIC #015/2020**

**Remove the reference to CSO’s from the AA Guidelines and call them local service offices directly responsible to their local groups.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1.Tradition 6 advises we should not have any affiliation with outside enterprises,etc. The closest fellowship to AA is Al Anon and they are not affiliated with our service structure. So why should the CSO’s seem to be affiliated with AA by being in our Guidelines?

2.This confuses the fellowship by the references and the meanings of different words across different countries. E.G in the USA Central means local.

In Australia it appears to mean State service offices which has the potential to give us 6 services structures instead of 1.

We need to reduce the confusion in our fellowship structure as much as possible

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

That the removal of the CSO guidelines to be replaced by Local Service Offices.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

The fellowship benefits by having a clearer understanding our general (national) service structure.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Miimal

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

We have asked the group and it was suggested at a recent district workshop

**TOPIC #016/2020**

**That the Guidelines on National Conventions be sent to a working committee to better reflect the single purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

Over the last 10 years, opening meetings and closing meetings seem to have been more about the family disease and not the solution of AA for the alcoholic who still suffers. It should only be the fellowship of AA on display. No other fellowships to be involved. See Guidelines on cooperation with Al Anon. It is either an AA event of an Al Anon event. It cannot be both.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Change the Guidelines to affect and reflect the will of the Conference. i.e. the fellowship

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

The alcoholic will benefit by having a single message delivered on how to stay sober and the fellowship will benefit by sticking to its singleness of purpose at all events.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Minimal

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Have discussed this with numerous groups at numerous conventions over the past years.

**TOPIC #017/2020**

**That each area delegate be asked to do an audit of all groups and meetings in their area to see where new districts and potential new areas could be set up in each Region.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

This could be carried out to see what new areas could be established and whether inoperative areas could be restarted. E.G area A southern region. This could be done with the cooperation of the Regional Trustee, the area registrar and the delegate.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

When this is completed it would help Conference in how to achieve a 2/3 delegates at Conference in the future

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

.It would benefit the fellowship in communication it would also enable the current and future World Service Delegates to be able to give an accurate country report at their meeting in World Service and AOSM

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Very minimal

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Have spoken to 4 past delegates and 2 past regional Trustees and they believe this is long overdue.

**TOPIC #018/2020**

**That the Service Manual be changed to suggest that the outgoing Area Delegates be given the responsibility to be the AAAA rep for that Area**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

In the USA the outgoing Area Delegates are the Grapevine representative.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

That each area Assembly where the new delegate is elected the past one be offered the AAAA representative position

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

The Fellowship would benefit by continuing to have the experience of the previous delegate within the general service structure. This would also assist the work of the Area Registrar and free the current delegate to communicate more with their DCM’s and GSR’s. And he would also be available to help in new incoming delegate.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Minimal

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

They said go ahead.

**TOPIC #019/2020**

**That Conference approve the Special Edition ‘A Vision for You’ Souvenir Book to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the birth of AA in Australia.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1.2020 is the 75th anniversary of AA in Australia

2.A commemorative book has been compiled by the Toowoomba HPC

3.This book has already been substantially edited for AA purposes

4.The book has had copyright permission (some still pending) and copyright advice

5.It is a worthy tribute to the fellowship

6.The book will already have been printed for the Toowoomba convention (but will not have been conference approved)

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. The book ought to become Conference approved literature and capable of being sold

2. Whilst it is different to One to Another, in that it is more pictorial (as opposed to a series of letters predominantly), and it is autonomous, it is also a celebration of AA Australia’s 75 years.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1.This book includes a pictorial history of how AA came about in the USA and how it started in Australia and how it has developed.

2.It will be of interest to all members of the fellowship and those working in the field of alcoholism.

3.The book would be available for sale in time for the 2021 National Convention in Adelaide.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Quotes have been obtained on various quantities. Paperback 500- $7,539 ($15.07/book). 1000-$11, 539 ($11.54/book).

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

This topic has been endorsed by the Toowoomba Host Planning Committee.

**TOPIC #020/2020**

**That the Finance Committee research and develop a plan which provides a contingency fund for emergency situations such as COVID-19.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. The General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous New York made a decision to draw down on a Reserve Fund which was established specifically for emergency or disaster situations which affect the flow of income and contributions.

2. This means Alcoholics Anonymous is self-supporting in line with Tradition Seven, removing the need to accept outside contributions.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. An equal response in Australia by the GSB of Australia to match the General Service Office of AA New York’s response would require such funds to be available for future emergencies.

2. The General Service Office of AA New York also made a decision to lay off or place on temporary furloughs staff in roles which could no longer be covered by income and 7th Tradition contributions. A similar response in Australia by the GSB would have helped us to continue our tradition of being fully self-supporting while holding the roles filled by paid workers until the economic crisis begins to pass.

3. The Finance Committee could possibly formulate a plan to build such a fund through additional requests to AA members, fundraising initiatives, a nominated percentage of annual profit or a bequest fund for AA members who leave money to the GSB in their will.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1. The GSB would be setting an example to the rest of AA in Australia of both adherence to Tradition 7 and also remaining anonymous at the public level of Federal Government. If we tilt our hat inwards and support ourselves as an organisation, we don’t become part of finance discussions or public record as an organisation who took from the National Purse.

2. Increased communication from the Board can only result in each individual member becoming more aware of our responsibility to AA as a whole. If the Group really is the voice of Alcoholics Anonymous, a plan which increases 2-way communication and knowledge and experience of AA Tradition can only be beneficial.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Unknown

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Yes, Area ratified the topic.

**TOPIC #021/2020**

**Request that the webmaster and/or responsible committee, source and implement a live chat function on aa.org.au**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. This was one of few suggestions which came from the 2019 PI&CPC Forum. Most current AA members are familiar with very basic computer skills, are interested in new and innovative ways to carry the message to newcomers and reported numbers of 12-Step calls coming through our 1300 number are very low.

2. This is a feature of www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk which has reportedly been seeing excellent results.

3. Many young people are comfortable and adept at instant communication and chat. This is a common feature on most contemporary websites where communication is required.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. Create an additional Service Position – possibly “Live Chat Coordinator” to implement and maintain a working roster of volunteers.

2. Source and install a Live Chat feature onto the current aa.org.au website.

3. Source those members who installed and operate the UK system and enlist their experience.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1. Anyone who enters the website will be offered instant contact with a recovered alcoholic.

2. Young people will be communicating in a format with which they are comfortable.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

The most highly recommended Live Chat starts at $19 per month per account/user. Most, if not all, offer free trial periods. A thorough cost analysis would be required.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Yes, Area supports the topic unanimously.

**TOPIC #022/2020**

**This topic proposes that AA Australia, together with the National and Area PI Committees, develop a series of videos, similar to the UK** [**https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Professionals/Videos-for-Professionals**](https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Professionals/Videos-for-Professionals)**, targeting the professional community including health, employment, correction services and armed forces. These videos should incorporate current evidence supporting the efficacy of AA in helping alcoholics to recover 1 and use recovery language relevant to the respective professions rather than the unique recovery language of AA. Subject matter experts who are friends of AA should be involved in the production of these videos**

**An audit into AA communications[[1]](#footnote-1)2 suggested that professionals are keen for information to address alcoholism but that AA resources designed for the Professional Community do not speak in a language relevant to the respective professions; are not delivered across platforms that professionals use; and that those within the Conference structure are not necessarily trained (or armed with tools)  to forge cooperative relationships with the Professional Community. This is negatively impacting A.A.’s relevance and its effectiveness in reaching the still-suffering alcoholic**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

# Anecdotal evidence suggests that AA in Australia has lost its referral base through courts, hospitals, rehabilitation and treatment facilities and human resource departments. In 2016, the Medical Journal of Australia[[2]](#endnote-1)3 reported that less than half of those seeking treatment for alcohol and other drugs are able to access appropriate treatment and recommend resourcing effective referral and treatment pathways. Yet the recently launched Drug and Alcohol Court in the ACT, does not appear to identify AA as an option for preventing recidivism from alcohol related crime.

CPC Coordinators in Australia have extremely limited resources to facilitate their CPC work. Pi/CPC resources available on the AA Service Website are very limited, difficult to locate, do not represent AA nationally and lack professionalism (Attachments 1-3). The most recent CPC publication for Professionals on aa.org.au is dated 2018. See <http://www.aaservice.org.au/membersonly/category/story-type/service-material/>

AA conference approved PI/CPC publications are generic and representative of the US and UK experiences.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. Develop digital resources that provide information for the professional communities explaining what A.A. is—the How,  What, and Why— using language relevant to the target audience; AA’s efficacy as a strategy for treatment and harm minimisation; and consistent, easy to access contact information
2. These videos should be available on the General Service Office (GSO) and AA Service websites for use by Area CPC Coordinators and Groups to help carry the message of AA to the still suffering alcoholic through hospitals, treatment facilities, courts and employment services.
3. Post digital resources on the National AA Website under the Health Professionals and Media tab for access by professionals
4. Retitle Health Professionals and Media tab to Information for Media, Health Professionals, Employers, Corrections and Armed Forces

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

“Our Twelfth Step — carrying the message — is … our principal aim and the … reason for our existence … A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society for alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven’t been given the truth may die.” (The A.A. Service Manual, “A.A.’s Legacy of Service,” page S1)

“Cooperating with nonalcoholic professionals is an effective way to carry the message to the sick alcoholic. Such people often meet the alcoholic in places where A.A. is not present. Through professionals, alcoholics may be reached who might otherwise never find the program, or they may be reached sooner with the help of informed non-A.A.s.”

(Cooperation with the Professional Community WORKBOOK 2018, p.6)

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Video production costs vary according to quality and production requirements. Production costs for 5 minutes range from $5000-$10,000. Costs could be reduced should AA members volunteer services to perform aspects of production including filming, lighting. Paid professionals should ideally be engaged for assistance with scripting, storyboard, direction and editing

<https://price.advids.co/how-much-does-a-business-video-production-cost-in-australia/>

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Topic presented to Area Assembly in May 2020. Topic supported unanimously

**TOPIC #023**

**Separate attachment.**

**Proposal to split Area C, Eastern Region.**

**TOPIC #024/2020**

**For all monies received from the Australian Government for the JobKeeper payment be returned.**

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

1. Receipt of this money for the JobKeeper payment is a perceived breach of Tradition 7.

2. The letter to the GSB from Southern Region Area D dated 14/06/2020 clearly outlines all of Saturday Night Living Sober's concerns. Please refer to this letter as the background for this topic. Referenced letter is attached.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. To return the money to the Australian Government received from the JobKeeper payment.

2. If unable to return monies, donate equivalent value to alcohol related services.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

1. A breach of any tradition or concept and the underlying intent of those principles could seriously damage the AA Fellowship. Consequences and fallout, such as those in the Southern Region in recent years, are not good for the unity of the fellowship. This perceived breach has the capability of de-unifying the AA fellowship nationally, as acceptance of outside funds has done in the Southern Region. AA is based on an equilateral triangle of Recovery, Service AND UNITY. *"For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come".*

2. Both newcomers and old-timers are confused by the appearance of double standards associated with the perceived breach.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

The cost would be the amount received from the Australian Government for the JobKeeper payment and therefore the equivalent amount would need to be returned or donated.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Given the discovery of this issue in June, there has been insufficient time to raise this as a topic of discussion at either a District or Area level. However, Saturday Night Living Sober as a group and many other individual members, both newcomers and old-timers, in the Bendigo District have expressed overwhelming approval to submit this topic/.

1. 1 <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD012880.pub2/full>

2 <http://www.area82aa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/A.A.%20Internal_External%20Communications%20Audit%20Report_ABRIDGED_180821.pdf>

3 Ritter, A. & Stoove, M. Med J Aust 2016; 204 (4): 138. || doi: 10.5694/mja15.01372. Published online: 7 March 2016 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)