**Topics for Conference 2021 – Assessment Chart**

| **Topic** | **Subject** | **Agree** | **Disagree** | **Neutral** | **More info needed** | **Comments** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC: 002/2021** | **That Conference resolve to create a dedicated first response page on aa.org.au for the still suffering alcoholic who has not yet joined our fellowship and invite all AA websites to place links to this page as their website's response to requests for information on help to stop drinking from the still suffering alcoholic.**  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Topic #003/2021** | **Can conference consider that for certain topics which are accepted and become advisory actions we can involve the author(s) in conjunction with relevant Trustee (or delegate) in forming and participating in a working group to actually do the work. This will increase the pool of members who can carry out work under Board Advisory actions, increase involvement in service to the benefit of all of the Fellowship.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #004/2020** | **\*Note: Raised as floor action at Conference 2020.****Advisory Action #034/2020**Conference resolved that the Conference PI&CPC Committee investigate a Chat Now function on our website and provide a report to be sent as an attachment with topics submitted in 2020 which were deferred to Conference 2021. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #005/2021** | **That the General Service Conference (GSC) suggests that the General Service Board (GSB) consider terms of employment and set a policy that any FUTURE General Service Office (GSO) staff appointed, are done so on a reasonable fixed term contract, Maximum 5 yrs. (option of +2 yrs. by negotiation)****This Topic would like to respectfully acknowledge the work renumerated and commitment to AA, of any past/current GSO staff.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **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.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC 007/2020** | **To make a series of engaging videos aimed at Professionals within the health, prisons and Armed Forces sectors.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **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.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #009/2021** | **Gender-inclusive Australian Big Book****It is proposed that the Australian General Service Conference:*** **take all necessary steps to bring out a new edition of the Australian Big Book, with more gender-neutral language, which is inclusive of men, women, non-binary and other gender diverse members.**
* **do so as soon as possible, rather than waiting until there has been time to compile a revised set of personal stories in the second half of the Big Book, after p 164, as it normally would. OR if there is insufficient support for that, bring out an e-book of the gender-inclusive version of the first 164 pages only and no personal stories (like a pocket BB), pending publication of a full hardcopy Third Edition which could include an updated set of personal stories.**
* **seek copyright permission from AA World Services or any other relevant entity, if necessary.**

**Alternatively, if it cannot do so for copyright reasons:*** **bring out a publication that is as close as possible to being a gender-neutral version of the Australian Big Book, without breaking copyright law.**
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| **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.).**  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #011/2020** | **That a 4-year AA service position of Editor of *AA Around Australia* be created and advertised on aa.org.au.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **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.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #014/2021** | **Gender-inclusive global Big Book****It is proposed that the Australian General Service Conference take the following topic to the World Service Conference:****That AA World Services take all necessary steps to bring out a new edition of the standard world-wide ‘Big Book’, with more gender-neutral language, which is inclusive of men, women, non-binary and other gender diverse members.****That AA World Services do so as soon as possible, rather than waiting until there has been time to compile a revised set of personal stories in the second half of the Big Book, after p 164, as it normally would. OR if there is insufficient support for that, bring out an e-book of the gender-inclusive version of the first 164 pages only and no personal stories (like a pocket BB), pending publication of a full hardcopy Fifth Edition which could include an updated set of personal stories.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #015/2021** | **Remove the reference to CSO’s from the AA Guidelines and call them local service offices directly responsible to their local groups** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #017/2021** | **Include the personal story “(16) ACCEPTANCE WAS THE ANSWER” from the Alcoholics Anonymous World Service, Inc.; © 1939, 1955, 1976, 2001 Fourth Edition (“American Big Book”) ‘Alcoholics Anonymous’**, **into the Alcoholics****Anonymous World Service, Inc.; © 1939, 1955, 1976, 2001 Second Australian Edition (“Australian Big Book”).** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #019/2021** | **Due to the continuing digitalisation of our community, we need the AA Service Website to be more user friendly, current and navigable to encourage more engagement from AA members and Service Committees****We propose:** **a. That the current working group expedite the Update of the Service Website** **b. This action be taken by the end of 2021** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #020/2021** | **To remove the pamphlet “A Brief Guide to AA” from all Australian literature sources** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #021/2020** | **Request that the webmaster and/or responsible committee, source and implement a live chat function on aa.org.au** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **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]](#endnote-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** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #023/2021** | **That the fellowship discontinues using gender based titles for it’s meetings ie Men’s Group, Women’s Group , Gay and Lesbian group,** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #024/2021** | **We ask that conference adopt the following three videos (please see links below), as conference approved literature. We also ask that conference consider how best to distribute the videos.****Jack & Sophie’s Story 30 Second Edit –** [**https://vimeo.com/556783986**](https://vimeo.com/556783986)**Jack’s Story –** [**https://vimeo.com/556753757**](https://vimeo.com/556753757)**Sophie’s Story -** [**https://vimeo.com/556757818**](https://vimeo.com/556757818) |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #025/2021** | **That Conference advise the General Service Board to explore options for coordinating the use of Digital Media (eg Facebook, Instagram and Google Adwords) as a method of PI, on a National scale, as a means to attract newcomers.**  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #026/2021** | **The wording on the auto-generated email response regarding group requests for Public Liability insurance be changed to*****Our group conscience has agreed to donate % of our surplus funds to the General Service Office of AA or local AA Central Service Office to defray the cost of public liability insurance and the other services it provides*** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #012/21** | **To update the Australian AA Group Handbook to include an extra section on how an online AA group may function.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #016/20**  | **That the Guidelines on National Conventions be sent to a working committee to better reflect the single purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous** |  |  |  |  |  |

1. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)