



# **63rd AUSTRALIAN GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

ZOOM MEETING  
FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> - SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2021

Conference Theme:

**HOW SERVICE  
STRENGTHENS RECOVERY**

**SECTION 1**

**INFORMATION**

**CONFERENCE THEME: HOW SERVICE STRENGTHENS RECOVERY**

---

**AGENDA**

By Zoom

Note:

A social break out room will be set up for Conference members to use during breaks.

A break-out room will be set up for Conference delegates to ask questions post Conference each day.

If it is necessary for a committee to meet during Conference to discuss suggested changes to recommendations, etc. a break out room can be set up.

**All times are in Eastern Daylight Saving Time. Conference members in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory should check their local times.**

| <b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup><br/>November</b> |   | <b>CHAIR</b> |
|--|---|--------------|
| 10.00am – 11.00am                          | Orientation (Lachlan B)   | Andy P       |
| 11.00am – 11.30am                          | Roll Call (Andy P)  |              |
| 11.30am – 11.45am                          | Chairman's Opening Address + Declaration of Unity (Andy P)  |              |
| 11.45am – 12.00pm                          | Presentation on Conference theme (Lee S)  |              |
| 12.00pm – 1.00pm                           | Presentation of Financial Reports + questions and answers (Fabian Ianniello)  |              |
| 1.00pm – 2.00pm                            | Break   |              |
| 2.00p – 2.30pm                             | Trustees' Treatment Facilities & Accessibility Report (Stephen R)<br><br>Report back and voting on recommendations from Treatment Facilities & Accessibility Committee (Damien G) | Cheryn P     |
| 2.30pm – 3.00pm                            | Trustees' Correctional Facilities Report (Judy W)<br><br>Report back and voting on recommendations from Correctional Facilities Committee (Adrian H)                              |              |
| 3.00pm – 3.30pm                            | Trustees' Remote Communities Report (Paul J)<br><br>Report back and voting on recommendations from Remote Communities Committee (Carolyn G)                                       |              |
| 3.30pm – 4.30pm                            | World Service Delegates Report – Questions & Answers (Brian S & Greg B)   |              |

|  |   |           |
|--|---|-----------|
| <b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup><br/>November</b> |   |           |
| 9.30am – 9.45am                              | Preview days events (Chair)   | Stephen R |
| 9.45am – 10.00am                             | Reading of Administrative Procedures (Clare S)  |           |
| 10.00a – 11.00am                             | Trustees' Finance Committee Report (Cheryn P)<br><br>Report back and Voting on recommendations from Finance Committee (Bonnie I)                    |           |
| 11.00am – 12.00pm                            | Trustees' International Committee Report (Narelle Buchanan)<br><br>Report back and Voting on recommendations from International Committee (Cliff P) |           |
| 12.00pm – 1.30pm -                           | Report back and Voting on recommendations from Report Charter & Service Manual Committee (Brian D)  |           |
| 1.30pm – 2.30pm                              | Break   |           |
| 2.30pm – 4.00pm                              | Trustees' PI&CPC Committee Report (Andy P)<br><br>Report back and Voting on recommendations from PI&CPC Committee (Damien G)                        | Lachlan B |
| 4.00pm – 5.00pm                              | Report back and Voting on recommendations from Policies & Admissions Committee (Lee S)  |           |
| 5.00pm – 6.30pm                              | Trustees' Literature Committee Report (Paul J)<br><br>Report back and Voting on recommendations from Literature Committee (Damien G)                |           |
| 6.30pm – 8.30pm                              | Carry over time for committees (if necessary)   |           |

|  |   |         |
|--|---|---------|
| <b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup><br/>November</b> |   |         |
| 9.30am – 9.45am                            | Preview of days events (Andy P)   |         |
| 9.45am – 10.30am                           | Trustees' Nominating Committee Report (Andy P)<br><br>Report back and Voting on recommendations from Conference Committee on Trustees (Brian D)               | Judy W  |
| 10.30am – 11.30am                          | Trustees' General Service Conference Committee Report (Lachlan B)<br><br>Report back and Voting on recommendations from Conference Agenda Committee (Clare S) |         |
| 11.30am – 12.00pm                          | Voting on Conference Theme 2022   |         |
| 12.00pm – 12.15pm                          | Bids for combined National Treatment Facilities & Accessibility, Correctional Facilities & PI&CPC Forum 2023  |         |
| 12.15pm – 12.30pm                          | Report on National Convention 2021 Melbourne (Geoff S)<br>Bids for National Convention 2024   |         |
| 12.30pm - 1.00pm                           | Bids for 2022 Regional Forums   |         |
| 1.00pm – 1.30pm                            | Election of World Service Delegate  |         |
| 1.30pm – 2.30pm                            | Break   |         |
| 2.30pm – 3.00pm                            | Floor Actions   | Andy P  |
| 3.00pm – 4.00pm                            | Ask It Basket   |         |
| 4.00pm – 4.30pm                            | Farewells   |         |
| 4.30pm – 4.45pm                            | Chairman's Closing Address  |         |
| 4.45pm – 5.30pm                            | Delegates Post Conference Meeting   | Clare S |
|  | General Service Board meeting (ID TBA)  | Andy P  |

## A MESSAGE FROM BILL W

Bill gave this talk in 1954 in front of a group of A.A.s in Fort Worth, Texas. He spoke at length about A.A. history, and specifically, of the development of the Third Legacy:

(A 4 minute recording of Bill delivering the following message was then played):

... So there was a long discussion, in which I had a sad falling out with a good many of my friends, some of whom had been trustees, and it was quite a bitter and harrowing chapter in our affairs, which none of you know about.

This struggle, to see whether this movement would always be headed by a self-perpetuating hierarchy of oldtimers, or whether these affairs, so vital to the welfare of A.A. all over the world, should be turned over to you.

And finally, after six years of hassling about it, I finally got the consent of the Board of Trustees to come out to you, and tell you this story and to say:

Here is a means, which in an experimental form, we have put in a pamphlet marked 'The Third Legacy.'

Here is a means by which you can get some delegates and state committeemen and send folks up to New York, to take charge and to take over what is now your business.

And so why don't you come up there and look this deal over, and the trustees will agree to make themselves responsible to you instead of to nobody.

And you look it over and see what you think about it, and if at the end of four years you like the way that it's temporarily laid out, then we'll drive a plug in this thing, then we oldtimers up there, including yours truly, will say, "Look folks, these vital services are yours, to have and to hold."

This Conference of delegates shall hereafter be the custodians and the guardians of our Traditions. This is yours. This is the remainder of your Third Legacy. Will you accept it?

So, since 1951 we have been holding these yearly Conferences, to see whether this movement was interested enough, was responsible enough, felt those services were worthwhile enough, to maintain so long as God will need this society.

And I think it's the conclusion of every delegate who has been there that yes, we should take these things over.

So, in 1955 we purpose to hold an International Convention, at which time, on behalf of the oldtimers, and of Smithy and me, we shall say to you, here is the remainder of your Third Legacy.

This Conference shall become our successor.

To you we hand the last torch. Carry on. Face your destiny with surety and courage, and God love you.

## WHY DO WE NEED A GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE?

The late Bernard B. Smith, non-alcoholic, then Chairman of the North American Board of Trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting in New York:

*“We may not need a General Service Conference to insure our own recovery. We do need it to insure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to insure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined to alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in AA that rebirth which brought us back to life.*

*We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must insure can never invade AA. We need it to insure AA against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect AA against disintegration while preventing over integration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.*

*We need it to insure that changes within AA come only as a response to the needs and the wants of AA, and not of any few. We need it to insure that the doors of the halls of AA never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to insure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is”.*

## DECLARATION OF UNITY

This we owe to AA's future

To place our common welfare first;  
To keep our fellowship united.  
For on AA unity depends our lives  
And the lives of those to come.

**ROLL CALL**  
**AREA DELEGATES**  
**TO THE 62nd AUSTRALIAN GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2021**

|   | AREA | PANEL NUMBER | YEAR |
|---|------|--------------|------|
| <b>CENTRAL REGION</b>                           |      |              |      |
| Jack S  | A    | 61           | 2019 |
| Carol R (Attended as Alternate Delegate 2020)   | B    | 62           | 2020 |
| <b>NORTH EASTERN REGION</b>                     |      |              |      |
| Raylene J                                       | A    | 62           | 2020 |
| Cliff P   | B    | 62           | 2020 |
| Bonnie I  | C    | 61           | 2019 |
| <b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>                          |      |              |      |
| Lisa R  | D    | 63           | 2021 |
| Justin D(Alternate)                             | F    | 63           | 2021 |
| <b>EASTERN REGION</b>                           |      |              |      |
| Mick B  | A    | 63           | 2021 |
| Guy L   | B    | 63           | 2021 |
| Adrian H  | C    | 61           | 2019 |
| Rangi P   | D    | 62           | 2020 |
| Lee S (attended as Alternate Delegate 2020)     | E    | 62           | 2020 |
| Tristram E                                      | G    | 63           | 2021 |
| Damien G (Attended as Alternate Delegate 2020)) | H    | 62           | 2020 |
| John S  | I    | 63           | 2021 |
| <b>NORTHERN REGION</b>                          |      |              |      |
| Carolyn G                                       | A    | 61           | 2019 |
| <b>WESTERN REGION</b>                           |      |              |      |
| Brian Dobbie                                    | A    | 61           | 2019 |
| Clare S   | B    | 61           | 2019 |



**GENERAL SERVICE BOARD  
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA**

|                                 |                    |               |      |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|------|
| <b>CLASS A TRUSTEES</b>         |                    |               |      |
| Narelle Buchanan                |                    |               | 2020 |
| <b>GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES</b> |                    |               |      |
| Lachlan B                       |                    |               | 2018 |
| Cheryn P                        |                    |               | 2020 |
| <b>REGIONAL TRUSTEES</b>        |                    |               |      |
| Stephen R                       |                    | North Eastern | 2019 |
| Andy P                          | Charperson         | Central       | 2018 |
| Judy W                          | Deputy Chairperson | Eastern       | 2019 |
| Paul J                          |                    | Western       | 2018 |
| Jane M                          |                    | Northern      | 2021 |
| Geoff S                         |                    | Southern      | 2021 |

**OTHER VOTING MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE**

|           |                                |      |
|-----------|--------------------------------|------|
| Brian S   | World Service Meeting Delegate | 2018 |
| Greg B    | World Service Meeting Delegate | 2020 |
| Valerie M | General Service Office Manager | 1996 |

**NON-VOTING**

|                  |                        |      |
|------------------|------------------------|------|
| Vanda Rounsefell | Trustee Emeritus       | 2010 |
| Chris S          | General Service Office | 2011 |
| Patrick S        | General Service Office | 2021 |

| <b>eCOMMITTEE</b>  | <b>POSITION</b>                          | <b>REGION</b> | <b>AREA</b> | <b>YEAR</b> |
|--|--|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>POLICIES &amp; ADMISSIONS</b>   |  |               |             |             |
| Lee S(Acting Chair)  | Delegate                                 | ER            | E           | 2ND         |
| Justin D   | Alternate Delegate                       | SR            | F           | 1ST         |
| Lisa R   | Delegate                                 | SR            | D           | 1ST         |
| Cliff P  | Delegate                                 | NER           | B           | 2ND         |
| Clare S  | Delegate                                 | WR            | B           | 3RD         |
| Carolyn G  | Delegate                                 | NR            | A           | 3RD         |
| Brian S  | World Service Delegate                   |               |             |             |
| Geoff S  | Southern Regional Trustee                |               |             |             |
| Valerie M  | Co-ordinator                             |               |             |             |
| <b>Non-voting observers</b>  |  |               |             |             |
| Judy W   | Eastern Regional Trustee                 |               |             |             |
|  |  |               |             |             |
| <b>PUBLIC INFORMATION &amp; CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY</b> |  |               |             |             |
| Damien G (Chair)   | Delegate                                 | ER            | H           | 2ND         |
| Mick B   | Delegate                                 | ER            | A           | 1ST         |
| Adrian H   | Delegate                                 | ER            | C           | 3RD         |
| Rangi P  | Delegate                                 | ER            | D           | 2ND         |
| Raylene J  | Delegate                                 | ER            | A           | 2ND         |
| Jack S   | Delegate                                 | CR            | A           | 3RD         |
| Andy P   | Chair, Trustees PI&CPC Committee         |               |             |             |
| Greg B   | World Service Delegate                   |               |             |             |
| Chris S  | Co-ordinator                             |               |             |             |
| <b>Non-voting observers</b>  |  |               |             |             |
| Geoff S  | Incoming Chair Trustees PI&CPC Committee |               |             |             |
|  |  |               |             |             |
| <b>FINANCE</b>   |  |               |             |             |
| Bonnie I (Chair)   | Delegate                                 | NER           | C           | 3RD         |
| Guy L  | Delegate                                 | ER            | B           | 1ST         |
| Tristram E   | Delegate                                 | ER            | G           | 1ST         |
| Carol R  | Delegate                                 | CR            | B           | 2ND         |
| Brian D  | Delegate                                 | WR            | A           | 3RD         |
| John S   | Delegate                                 | ER            | I           | 1ST         |
| Cheryn P   | Chair, Trustees' Finance Committee       |               |             |             |
| Patrick S  | Co-ordinator                             |               |             |             |
| <b>Non-voting observers</b>  |  |               |             |             |
| Lachlan B  | General Service Trustee                  |               |             |             |
|  |  |               |             |             |

| <b>COMMITTEE</b>                        | <b>POSITION</b>                                       | <b>REGION</b> | <b>AREA</b> | <b>YEAR</b> |
|---|---|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>REMOTE COMMUNITIES</b>               |   |               |             |             |
| Carolyn G (Acting Chair)                | Delegate  | NR            | A           | 3RD         |
| Jack S                                  | Delegate  | CR            | A           | 3RD         |
| Guy L                                   | Delegate  | ER            | B           | 1ST         |
| Adrian H                                | Delegate  | ER            | C           | 3RD         |
| Lee S                                   | Delegate  | ER            | E           | 2ND         |
| Clare S                                 | Delegate  | WR            | B           | 3RD         |
| Brian S                                 | World Service Delegate                                |               |             |             |
| Paul J                                  | Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee                 |               |             |             |
| Chris S                                 | Co-ordinator  |               |             |             |
| <b>Non-voting observers</b>             |   |               |             |             |
| Jane M                                  | Incoming Chair Trustees' Remote Communities Committee |               |             |             |
| Narelle Buchanan                        | Class A Trustee                                       |               |             |             |
| <b>LITERATURE</b>                       |   |               |             |             |
| Damien G (Acting Chair)                 | Delegate  | ER            | H           | 2ND         |
| Justin D                                | Delegate  | SR            | F           | 1ST         |
| Lisa R                                  | Delegate  | SR            | D           | 1ST         |
| Raylene J                               | Delegate  | NER           | A           | 2ND         |
| Carol R                                 | Delegate  | CR            | B           | 2ND         |
| Tristram E                              | Delegate  | ER            | G           | 1ST         |
| John S                                  | Delegate  | ER            | I           | 1ST         |
| Paul J                                  | Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee                 |               |             |             |
| Greg B                                  | World Service Delegate                                |               |             |             |
| Patrick S                               | Co-ordinator  |               |             |             |
| <b>Non-voting observers</b>             |   |               |             |             |
| Judy W                                  | Incoming Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee        |               |             |             |
| <b>CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES</b> |   |               |             |             |
| Brian D (Chair)                         | Delegate  | WR            | A           | 3RD         |
| Mick B                                  | Delegate  | ER            | A           | 1ST         |
| Rangi P                                 | Delegate  | ER            | D           | 2ND         |
| Cliff P                                 | Delegate  | NER           | B           | 2ND         |
| Bonnie I                                | Delegate  | NER           | C           | 3RD         |
| Andy P                                  | Chair, Trustees' Nominating Committee                 |               |             |             |
| Valerie M                               | Co-ordinator  |               |             |             |
| <b>Non-voting observers</b>             |   |               |             |             |

|   |   |               |             |             |
|---|---|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Geoff S   | Southern Regional Trustee                                       |               |             |             |
| <b>COMMITTEE</b>                                | <b>POSITION</b>   | <b>REGION</b> | <b>AREA</b> | <b>YEAR</b> |
| <b>REPORT CHARTER &amp; SERVICE MANUAL</b>      |   |               |             |             |
| Brian D (Chair)                                 | Delegate  | WR            | A           | 3RD         |
| Mick B  | Delegate  | ER            | A           | 1ST         |
| Guy L   | Delegate  | ER            | B           | 1ST         |
| Bonnie I  | Delegate  | NER           | C           | 3RD         |
| Carol R   | Delegate  | CR            | B           | 2ND         |
| Damien G  | Delegate  | ER            | H           | 2ND         |
| Paul J  | Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee                           |               |             |             |
| Chris S   | Co-ordinator  |               |             |             |
| <b>Non-voting observers</b>                     |   |               |             |             |
| Vanda Rounsefell                                | Trustee Emeritus  |               |             |             |
|   |   |               |             |             |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL</b>                            |   |               |             |             |
| Cliff P (Acting Chair)                          | Delegate  | NER           | B           | 2ND         |
| Jack S  | Delegate  | CR            | A           | 3RD         |
| Rangi P   | Delegate  | ER            | D           | 2ND         |
| Tristram E                                      | Delegate  | ER            | G           | 1ST         |
| Lisa R  | Delegate  | SR            | D           | 1ST         |
| Narelle Buchanan                                | Chair, Trustees' International Committee                        |               |             |             |
| Brian S   | World Service Delegate  |               |             |             |
| Greg Byrne                                      | World Service Delegate  |               |             |             |
| Valerie M                                       | Co-ordinator  |               |             |             |
|   |   |               |             |             |
| <b>TREATMENT FACILITIES &amp; ACCESSIBILITY</b> |   |               |             |             |
| Damien G (Acting Chair)                         | Delegate  | ER            | H           | 2ND         |
| Jack S  | Delegate  | CR            | A           | 3RD         |
| Mick B  | Delegate  | ER            | A           | 1ST         |
| Guy L   | Delegate  | ER            | B           | 1ST         |
| Lee Sarich                                      | Delegate  | ER            | E           | 2ND         |
| Justin D  | Alternate Delegate  | SR            | F           | 1ST         |
| John Starr                                      | Delegate  | ER            | I           | 1ST         |
| Stephen R                                       | Chair, Trustees; Treatment Facilities & Accessibility Committee |               |             |             |
| Patrick S                                       | Co-ordinator  |               |             |             |
| <b>Non-voting observers</b>                     |   |               |             |             |
| Jane M  | Northern Regional Trustee                                       |               |             |             |
|   |   |               |             |             |

| <b>COMMITTEE</b>               | <b>POSITION</b>                                    | <b>REGION</b> | <b>AREA</b> | <b>YEAR</b> |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES</b> |  |               |             |             |
| Adrian H (Chair)               | Delegate   | ER            | C           | 3RD         |
| Rangi P                        | Delegate   | ER            | D           | 2ND         |
| Tristram E                     | Delegate   | ER            | G           | 1ST         |
| Lisa R                         | Delegate   | SR            | D           | 1ST         |
| Cliff P                        | Delegate   | NER           | B           | 2ND         |
| Brian D                        | Delegate   | WR            | A           | 3RD         |
| Judy W                         | Chair, Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee |               |             |             |
| Chris S                        | Co-ordinator                                       |               |             |             |
|                                |  |               |             |             |
| <b>AGENDA</b>                  |  |               |             |             |
| Clare S (Chair)                | Delegate   | WR            | B           | 3RD         |
| Lee S                          | Delegate   | ER            | E           | 2ND         |
| Lisa R                         | Delegate   | SR            | D           | 1ST         |
| Raylene J                      | Delegate   | NER           | A           | 2ND         |
| Carol R                        | Delegate   | CR            | B           | 2ND         |
| Guy L                          | Delegate   | ER            | B           | 1ST         |
| Carolyn G                      | Delegate   | NR            | A           | 3RD         |
| Lachlan B                      | Chair, Trustees' GS Conference Committee           |               |             |             |
| Valerie M                      | Co-ordinator                                       |               |             |             |
| <b>Non-voting observers</b>    |  |               |             |             |
| Cheryn P                       | General Service Trustee                            |               |             |             |

## THE TWELVE TRADITIONS (The Long Form)

*Our A.A. experience has taught us that:*

**One** – Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

**Two** – For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

**Three** – Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

**Four** – With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

**Five** – Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* – that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

**Six** – Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. – and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

**Seven** – The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

**Eight** – Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.

**Nine** – Each A.A. group needs the least possible organisation. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York<sup>\*</sup>. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine<sup>\*\*\*</sup>. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

**Ten** – No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues – particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.

**Eleven** – Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

**Twelve** – And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

**Reprinted with permission AAWS Inc.**

\* Sydney

\*\* Australian National Magazine AntennA and Newsletter AA Around Australia

## THE TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE

### **CONCEPT I**

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

### **CONCEPT II**

When, in 1955, the AA groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference - excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter - the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

### **CONCEPT III**

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relationship between the groups, the Conference, the AA General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision".

### **CONCEPT IV**

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation", taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

### **CONCEPT V**

Throughout our world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

### **CONCEPT VI**

On behalf of AA as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognises that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### **CONCEPT VII**

The Conference recognises that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the AA purse for its final effectiveness.



### **CONCEPT VIII**

The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (1) With respect to the larger matters of over-all policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.

### **CONCEPT IX**

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of AA must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholic Anonymous.

### **CONCEPT X**

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority - the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and Bylaws.

### **CONCEPT XI**

While the trustees hold final responsibility for AA's world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

### **CONCEPT XII**

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others: that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that through the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

**Reprinted with permission AAWS Inc.**

## THE TWELVE STEPS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

**Reprinted with permission AAWS Inc.**

## GENERAL SERVICE BOAR RESOLUTIONS 2021

The Board resolved that the word Chairperson or Chair should be used instead of Chairman in all documents.

The Board resolved that the draft Correctional Facilities guideline #22 be forwarded to Conference 2021 for approval.

The Board resolved that information regarding personal anonymity and giving medical advice should be added to the new Trustee information pack.

The Board resolved that Jane M be appointed as Northern Regional Trustee for a four year period, effective 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The Board resolved that Geoff S be appointed as Southern Regional Trustee for a four year period effective

The Board resolved that staff job descriptions prepared by Cheryn P should be distributed to all Board members.

The Board resolved that a sub-committee of young people should be set up to advice on developing strategies for encouraging young people into AA and particularly into AA Service.

The Board resolved that Judy W would prepare an archives policy, outlining what should be kept and what should not.

The Board resolved that a feedback sheet should be prepared for members attending 'Meet the Board' sessions.

The Board resolved there should be more regular 'Meet the Board' Zoom sessions. The next one would be held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Trustees sharing their stories would be included and the theme of the meeting would be 'We Are Not a Glum Lot'. Dr. Vanda Rounsefell would give a presentation on giving medical advice.

The Board resolved that other entities would not be permitted to use the domain name aa.org.au as the General Service Board had no control over their activities.

The Board resolved that a 'Call to Action re finances; letter should be ready for distribution to members by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

The Board resolved that Richmond CSO be given full benefits as given to other CSOs, including the 23.5% discount on literature purchases and be reinstated on the national website.

The Board resolved that the Central Service Office guidelines be revised.

The Board resolved that it should be reported back to Conference that accessibility to meetings would only be published if written confirmation was received from the landlord that the premises fits all criteria.

The Board resolved that the cost of \$10,000 for Online Consulting to set up a Buddy Press Website for the Service Website be approved.

The Board resolved that Lachlan B be given approval to set up a Technology & Social Media Service Team.

The Board resolved to elect Geoff S as Chair of the Trustees PI&CPC Committee for a two year period, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

The Board resolved that the recommendation by the Conference Finance Committee that a skills register be developed and members asked to put their names forward to be included on it.

The Board resolved to elect Judy W as Chair of the Trustees' Literature Committee for a two year period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

The Board resolved to elect Cheryn P as Chair of the Trustees' General Service Conference Committee for a two year period, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

The Board resolved Lachlan B's term as General Service Trustee be extended by a period of one year and that Conference be requested to ratify this decision by a disapproval vote.

The Board resolved that Remote Communities be included in any future combined National Combined Forums.

The Board resolved that Jane M be elected as Chair of the Trustees' Remote Communities Committee for a two year period, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

## **How Service Strengthens Recovery.**

Hi my name is Lee and I'm an alcoholic. I'm a 'good' alcoholic. I have a home group (Curl Curl Breakfast Group), a sponsor, I work the steps and I do service. So when I get asked to prepare something on the topic 'How Service Strengthens Recovery' I feel an obligation to 'sell service'. I want to get carried away being a 'good alcoholic' and start talking about all the benefits of service, and why you should do it. But I'm a smart alcoholic too, and I know alcoholics don't like being told what to do so instead of trying to tell you why you should do it, I'll just present myself as a shining beacon of hope and miraculous transformation, attributable to the wonderful benefits of service and hope you get the hint. From not being able to go a day without a drink to enjoying the life I do now may well be a miraculous transformation, and I may indeed also inspire hope that it be possible for others, but I am also still thoroughly human.

And I wonder if framing this year's theme as How Service Strengthens Recovery might set us up for getting the cart before the horse. Straight away I think what's in it for me, how does me doing service benefit me? How does it strengthen my recovery? It does benefit me, and it benefits me a lot. But I think I'm in error when I'm looking at how service benefits me. And I think we're in error when we try to promote service by looking at how it strengthens our recovery. I'm not sure that's what this theme was intending to do, perhaps it's just my cynicism and absolute abhorrence of being manipulated, even if it's for my own good, that makes me see it this way. But our service efforts are aimed at others, and I think we do it best, when we are totally focused on those we are trying to reach, unconcerned with what's in it for us, with what we might lose, or what we might gain.

Often what is in it for us, and what is in it for me, is inconvenience, irritation, frustration and fatigue. You might experience some of that this weekend. If there is a way that service strengthens recovery, it's in the many opportunities provided to me, again and again and again, and again to practice the principles of our recovery program, in order to be able to be of effective service. You might experience some of that this weekend too!

I heard someone say recently 'Make sure your recovery is not service based but that your service is recovery based.' I like it when I hear things I agree with and I agree with that. It's a fine distinction. I think it draws attention to what drives our service efforts, and how easy it is to get off track when our service efforts are not well grounded in solid and ever developing personal recovery. Often I get better at the things I practice and service gives me opportunities to practice patience while listening to people I don't like talk about things I don't agree with. I get better at allowing others the gift of the last word. I get to practice disagreeing agreeably, and gracefully accepting when things don't go my way. I get to experience selflessness when accepting ideas and decisions I think are wrong, and courage when it is my voice that speaks out lone and unpopular.

It's possible I will leave this weekend with a new enthusiasm for AA and a deeper understanding of the way AA works to support its groups to carry their message to the alcoholic who still suffers. It's possible I will develop a deeper appreciation for my fellow travellers who work with me towards these ends. It's likely I will have been intolerant, impatient, rude and critical and that I'll have a few more resentments to add to my list. It's also likely that I will have benefited from the grace of my fellow travellers as they extend to me the gifts of their strengthened recovery forged by the fires of service. I thank you for this, and for the immense privilege of trudging the road of happy destiny together.

Lee S Area E Eastern Region Delegate

## **SECTION 2**

### **OUTCOME OF TOPICS**

| TOPIC NO. | TOPIC  | OUTCOME OF TOPIC  |
|-----------|--|---|
| 1/20      | 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. | Advisory Action #001/2021<br><br>Voted on but not Advisory Action |
| 2/21      | That Conference resolve to create a dedicated first response page on <a href="http://aa.org.au">aa.org.au</a> 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.  | Advisory Action #002/2021   |
| 3/21      | 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.   | Advisory Action #003/2021<br><br>Advisory Action #003/2021-A      |
| 4/20      | That conference look at developing a "CHAT NOW" feature on the <a href="http://aa.org.au">aa.org.au</a> website, which would allow a newcomer to "talk" (typing questions in real time to a live person / volunteer AA member, on a national roster)   | Advisory Action #004/2021   |

|      |  |                                  |
|------|--|----------------------------------|
| 5/21 | <p>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)</p> <p>This Topic would like to respectfully acknowledge the work remunerated and commitment to AA, of any past/current GSO staff.</p>   | Voted on but not Advisory Action |
| 6/20 | <p>Creation of 2 additional radio community service announcements (CSAs) to supplement our existing CSAs. One targeted at Indigenous Australians, another at the LGBTI+ community.</p>   | Advisory Action #006/2021        |
| 7/20 | <p>To make a series of engaging videos aimed at Professionals within the health, prisons and Armed Forces sectors.</p>   | Advisory Action #007/2021        |
| 8/20 | <p>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.</p>   | Advisory Action #008/2021        |
| 9/21 | <p>Gender-inclusive <u>Australian</u> Big Book</p> <p>It is proposed that the Australian General Service Conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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. <u>OR</u> if there is insufficient support for that, bring out an e-book of the gender-inclusive version of the</li> </ul> | Voted on but not Advisory Action |



|       |  |                                  |
|-------|--|----------------------------------|
|       | <p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• seek copyright permission from AA World Services or any other relevant entity, if necessary.</li> </ul> <p>Alternatively, if it cannot do so for copyright reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> |                                  |
| 10/20 | Taking the advantages and benefits we have seen from the use of online meetings forward, Alcoholics 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.).   | Voted on but not Advisory Action |
| 11/20 | That a 4-year AA service position of Editor <i>AA Around Australia</i> be created advertised on aa.org.au.   | Voted on but not Advisory Action |
| 12/21 | To update the Australian AA Group Handbook to include an extra section on how an online AA group may function.   | Advisory Action #012'2021        |
| 13/20 | 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.  | Voted on but not Advisory Action |

|       |  |                                  |
|-------|--|----------------------------------|
| 14/21 | <p>Gender-inclusive <u>global</u> Big Book</p> <p>It is proposed that the Australian General Service Conference take the following topic to the World Service Conference:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That AA World Services take all necessary steps to bring out a new edition of the standard <u>world-wide</u> 'Big Book', with more gender-neutral language, which is inclusive of men, women, non-binary and other gender diverse members.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">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. <u>OR</u> 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.</p> | Voted on but not Advisory Action |
| 15/20 | Remove the reference to CSO's from the AA Guidelines and call them local service offices directly responsible to their local groups.   | Advisory Action 015/2021         |
| 16/20 | That the Guidelines on National Conventions be sent to a working committee to better reflect the single purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous  | Voted on but not Advisory Action |
| 17/21 | 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").  | Voted on but not Advisory Action |

|       |  |                                  |
|-------|--|----------------------------------|
| 18/20 | 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  | Voted on but not Advisory Action |
| 19/21 | 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<br>We propose:<br><br>a. That the current working group expedite the Update of the Service Website<br><br>b. This action be taken by the end of 2021   | Advisory Action 019/2021         |
| 20/21 | To remove the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to AA" from all Australian literature sources  | Voted on but not Advisory Action |
| 21/20 | Request that the webmaster and/or responsible committee, source and implement a live chat function on aa.org.au  | Refer to outcome of Topic 004    |
| 22/20 | This topic proposes that AA Australia, together with the National and Area PI Committees, develop a series of videos, similar to the UK <a href="https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Professionals/Videos-for-Professionals">https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Professionals/Videos-for-Professionals</a> , 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 <sup>1</sup> 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<br><br>An audit into AA communications <sup>2</sup> suggested that professionals are keen for information to address alcoholism but | Refer to outcome of Topic 007    |

|       |  |  |
|-------|--|--|
|       | 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                         |  |
| 23/21 | That the fellowship discontinues using gender based titles for it's meetings ie Men's Group, Women's Group , Gay and Lesbian group,  | Advisory Action #023/2021<br>Voted on but not Advisory Action  |
| 24/21 | 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.<br><br>Jack & Sophie's Story 30 Second Edit – <a href="https://vimeo.com/556783986">https://vimeo.com/556783986</a><br>Jack's Story – <a href="https://vimeo.com/556753757">https://vimeo.com/556753757</a><br>Sophie's Story - <a href="https://vimeo.com/556757818">https://vimeo.com/556757818</a> | Voted on but not Advisory Action.<br>Advisory Action #024/2021 |
| 25/21 | 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.   | Advisory Action #025/2021                                      |
| 26/21 | The wording on the auto-generated email response regarding group requests for Public Liability insurance be changed to<br><i>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</i>   | Voted on but not Advisory Action                               |

## **SECTION 3**

# **CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS 2021**

**GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2021  
ADVISORY ACTIONS**

The group conscience of the Fellowship of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS in Australia was expressed in the following Advisory Actions to the General Service Board, based upon the recommendations from the Conference Committees, as indicated in the headings. The background to these Advisory Actions and the submissions from the Groups, individual members or from the General Service Board in the form of Topics which led to them were presented in full detail to all Areas prior to Conference.

---

**CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE**

Advisory Action #15/2021

Conference resolved that the proposal to remove reference to CSO's from the AA Guidelines and call them local service offices directly responsible to their local groups be referred back to the Report Charter & Service Manual Committee for voting on at the 2022 General Service Conference so that further information regarding references to local service offices in the Australian AA Service Manual could be considered.

Voting: For: 22; Against: 8; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

---

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES**

Advisory Action #27/2021

Conference resolved that Brian Ferguson should be elected as World Service Delegate for a four year term commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

Voting: by Third Legacy Procedure.  
Carried

Advisory Action #28/2021

Conference resolved to ratify the appointment of Geoff Smith by the General Service Board as Southern Regional Trustee for a four year period, commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021.

Voting: No disapproval  
Carried

Advisory Action #29/2021

Conference resolved to ratify the appointment of Jane Mapiva-Rodden as Northern Regional Trustee for a four year period, effective 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Voting: no disapproval  
Carried

Advisory Action #30/2021

Conference resolved to ratify the General Service Board's decision to extend the term of General Service Trustee Lachlan Botticchio for a one year period.

Voting: no disapproval  
Carried

Advisory Action #31/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Committee on Trustees recommendation that the General Service Board elects Grant Tucker as Central Regional Trustee for a four year period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

## CONFERENCE TREATMENT FACILITIES & ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

### Advisory Action #32/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Treatment Facilities & Accessibility Committee's floor action; recommendation that the General Service Board be requested to take the steps necessary to produce an Auslan translation of Chapter 5 of the Big Book as soon as possible. There are currently no Auslan AA resources available for deaf alcoholics in Australia and a need has been expressed.

Voting: For: 23; Against: 5; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Advisory Action #33/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee's recommendation that the Audited Accounts Year Ended 30 June 2021 be accepted.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

### Advisory Action #34/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee's recommendation that the Budget July 2021 to June 2022 be accepted.

For: 24; Against: 6; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

### Advisory Action #002/2021

Conference resolved that the proposal to create a dedicated first response page on the national website be accepted.

Voting: For: 26; Against: 3; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

### Advisory Action #004/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference PI&CPC Committee's recommendation that a Chat Now feature on the national website be developed.

For: 26; Against: 2; Absentions: 0  
Carried

### Advisory Action #006/2021

Conference resolved to accept the proposal that radio community service announcements targeting indigenous and LGBTI+ communities be accepted.

Voting: For: 16; Against: 12; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

### Advisory Action #007/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference PI&CPC Committee's recommendation that the proposal to produce a series of engaging videos aimed at professionals with the health, prisons and armed forces sectors be accepted.

Voting: For: 24; Against: 4; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

**Advisory Action #019/2021**

Conference resolved that the current working group should expedite the update of the service website by the end of 2021 and noted that a new Technology & Social Media Service Team had been set up and that work on updating the Service Website was in progress.

Voting: For: 22; Against: 6; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

**Advisory Action #024/2021**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference PI&CPC Committee's recommendation that any future videos submitted for Conference approval should have paid actors or non AA members.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

**Advisory Action #025/2021**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference PI&CPC Committee's recommendation that the General Service Board explore options for co-ordinating the use of digital media as a method of PI on a national scale.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 3; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

**Advisory Action #**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference PI&CPC Committee's recommendation that the videos on the National Website be replaced with the Australian cinema CSA's

Voting: For: 27; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

**Advisory Action #35/2021**

Conference resolved that, as there was no minority voice regarding the mail poll vote conducted earlier in the year, the edited public service videos referred to in Advisory Action #037/2019 should be accepted.

Voting (mail poll): For: 16; Against: 5; Did not vote: 7  
Carried

|   |
|---|
| <b>CONFERENCE POLICIES &amp; ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE</b> |
|---|

**Advisory Action #003/2021**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee's recommendation that the author/s of topics be invited, in conjunction with relevant Trustee or Delegate to form and participate in a working group to carry out any tasks required resulting from a Conference Advisory Action.

Voting: For: 27; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

**Advisory Action #003/2021-A**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee's recommendation that the Conference Topic form be changed as follows:  
A check box added to indicate if the author/s of topics wish to participate in any working party formed as a result of the topic.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0  
Carried



Advisory Action #023/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee's recommendation that, as Topic 023 (which proposed discontinuing the use of gender based titles for AA meetings) has raised issues of concern regarding the Fellowship's understanding of specialised groups/meetings and the need to remain inclusive as per our literature recommends to Conference remain inclusive as per our literature, ideas to provide clarification to the Fellowship be explored. These may include pamphlets, articles in The Mixer, AA Around Australia and other publications, websites, etc.

Extract from AA Group Handbook:

*Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Some AAs come together as specialised AA groups – for men, women, young people, doctors, gays and others. If the members are all alcoholics and they open the door to all alcoholics who need help, regardless of profession, gender or other distinction, and meet all the other aspects defining an AA group, they may call themselves an AA group.*

Voting: For: 27; Against: 3; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

Advisory Action #036/2021

Conference resolved, following a mail poll vote, to accept the Guideline for creating a virtual Area (resulting from Advisory Action #009/2020).

Voting: For: 26; Against: 3; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

|  |
|--|
| <b>CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE</b> |
|--|

Advisory Action #008/2021

Conference resolved to accept the amended Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that a short paragraph encouraging groups to inform members as to how their contributions are distributed be included in the AA Group Handbook.

Voting: For: 18; Against: 12; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

Advisory Action #012/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that the Australian AA Group Handbook be updated to include an extra section on how an online group may function.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 4; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| <b>CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE</b> |
|------------------------------------|

Advisory Action #001/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the proposal to reduce the number of Conference Committees is returned to the General Service Board to come up with alternative proposals, taking into consideration suggestions from Conference.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 4; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

Advisory Action #037/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the 2022 General Service Conference be held from Thursday 3rd- Sunday 6th November 2022 and that Conference Committee meetings be held on Zoom in October 2022

Voting: For: 21; Against: 6; Abstentions: 2  
Carried

Advisory Action #038/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the committee meets by teleconference on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 11.30am EST to formulate Conference agendas.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

Advisory Action #039/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the committee meets by teleconference on Saturday 19th August 2022 at 11.30am EST to allocate topics to Conference Committees.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

Advisory Action #040/2021

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 4pm be the deadline for receipt of Conference topics.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

Advisory Action #041/2021

Conference resolved that the theme for the General Service Conference 2022 would be 'Recovery + Unity + Service = A Formula That Works'.

Voting: by simple majority  
Carried

|             |
|-------------|
| <b>BIDS</b> |
|-------------|

Advisory Action #042/2021

Conference resolved to accept the bid for Area B Eastern Region to host the 2023 National Combined PI&CPC and T&CF Forum.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

Advisory Action #043/2021

Conference resolved to accept the bid for Area B Eastern Region to host the 2024 National Convention.

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

Advisory Action #044/2021

Conference resolved to accept the following bids to host Regional Forums:

Area B Eastern Region  
Area B North Eastern Region  
Area B Central Region

Voting: by a show of hands  
Carried

## FLOOR ACTIONS

Advisory Action #045/2021

Conference resolved to accept the following Floor Action:

That the Australian General Service Conference request the Australian GSB to bring the sentence: ***New volunteer corporate directors will ask why any paid woman staff member should also be a director and thereby have a vote as good as their own (Concept IV ,Section 12, pg 26)*** to the attention of the US/Canada GSB, for potential consideration for removal from the Service Manual and other AA conference approved literature, in the same spirit with which the two paragraphs started with “Women workers” was removed from Concept XI.

Voting: For: 23; Against: 4; Abstentions: 1

Carried

**SECTION 4**

**VOTED ON**

**BUT NOT ADVISORY ACTIONS**

CONFERENCE TOPICS 2021 VOTED ON, BUT NOT RESULTING IN ADVISORY  
ACTIONS (VOTING ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS)

CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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***

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee's recommendation that the proposal to change the wording on the auto-generated email response to group requests for Public Liability Insurance to include donations to Central Service Offices be rejected as these offices are not involved in the Public Liability Insurance Policy.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

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.**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference International Committee's recommendation that the proposal to submit a topic to the \*World Service Conference regarding changing language in the Big Book be rejected. This topic is already being discussed by the US/Canada General Service Conference. **Other countries are not permitted to submit topics to this Conference.**

Voting: For: 29; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

**TOPIC 016/2021**

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

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee's recommendation that the proposal to send Guidelines on National Conventions to a working committee to better reflect the single purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous be rejected.

Voting: For: 23; Against: 7; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

**TOPIC 018/2021**

**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**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee's recommendation that the proposal 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 be rejected.

For: 24; Against: 5; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

CONFERENCE PI&CPC COMMITTEE

**TOPIC #010/2020 –**

**Taking the advantages and benefits we have seen from the use of online meetings forward, Alcoholics 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.).**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference PI&CPC Committee's recommendation that the proposal to develop and use an AA owned and supported online video conferencing platform be rejected.

Voting: For; 28; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

**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>**

**Jack's Story – <https://vimeo.com/556753757>**

**Sophie's Story - <https://vimeo.com/556757818>**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference PI&CPC Committee's recommendation that the three videos submitted be rejected due to issues about the shirt "choosing death since 1984" referencing euthanasia, and the Jack character has since left AA.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

CONFERENCE POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

**TOPIC #023/2021**

**That the fellowship discontinues using gender based titles for its meetings ie Men's Group, Women's Group , Gay and Lesbian group,**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee's recommendation that this topic be rejected as gender based meetings do not contravene any AA Traditions as stated in our literature.

For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

**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.**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that this proposal be rejected, as the planned US "Plain Language" version of the Big Book will be gender neutral, pending the decision of the US Conference in 2022.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0

**TOPIC #011/2020**

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

Conference resolved that this proposal be rejected.

For: 0; Against: 30; Abstentions: 0

**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.**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that the proposal to establish a national online sales and distribution service be rejected as the Central Service Offices take their directions from the Groups and not Conference.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0;; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

**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").**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that the proposal to include the personal story 'Acceptance was the Answer' in the second edition of the Australian be rejected as this story is already contained in the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition US Big Book.

For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

**TOPIC #020/2021**

**To remove the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to AA" from all Australian literature sources**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation to Conference that the proposal to remove the pamphlet 'A Brief Guide to AA' from all Australian literature sources be rejected as it was seen as a punitive action against a General Service Board Decision.

Voting: For: 29; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES |
|----------------------------------|

**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 remunerated and commitment to AA, of any past/current GSO staff.**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Committee on Trustees recommendation that the proposal that the General Service Board sets a policy of fixed term contracts for future GSO staff be rejected. for the following reasons:

These are not service positions. GSO staff are employed as the special workers referred to in Tradition 8. Staff are employed under standard employment conditions.



It is stated in the background to the topic that the spirit of the topic is supported by Concept XI. This concept states: *"In the World Service Office, we have found it impractical and unfair to set any fixed term of employment:."*

*The General Service Board is the employer and is responsible for employment terms and conditions. When vacancies occur, all options and relevant factors are considered.*

*GSO New York has a large number of staff members, who rotate their positions on a two yearly basis. They are not on fixed term contracts and many are long term employees. AA Australia has only three employees and rotation of duties is not practical. All staff have knowledge of procedures etc. so that when a staff member is absent for leave or illness, all duties continue.*

Voting: For: 16; Against: 12; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

## CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

### 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.**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the proposal to reduce the number of Conference Committees be rejected as it doesn't provide an adequate solution to the problems identified in the Topic. The committee felt that the change from eleven committees to three is too drastic without further consideration and the workload objective may not be achieved as there could still be an imbalance of topics.

Voting: For: 17; Against: 12; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

## FLOOR ACTIONS

Conference resolved to reject the following floor action:

That Conference rescind Advisory Action #018/2017

Conference resolved to rescind Advisory Action#020/2014: *that Regional PI&CPC, Treatment and Correctional Facilities Co-ordinators be appointed to assist with the work of the National Co-ordinators.*

Those currently holding Regional Co-ordinator positions should complete their terms.

Our National Co-ordinators (Treatment, Correctional, PI&CPC and Remote Communities) have a huge job with currently very little or no back up.

It is suggested that all Areas assist in finding interested members to act as Regional Co-ordinators to provide back up for our National Co-ordinators.

Voting: For: 11; No: 16; Abstentions: 1  
Not carried

## **SECTION 5**

**FLOOR ACTIONS NOT VOTED ON**

## FLOOR ACTIONS NOT VOTED ON

**The following topics were raised as Floor Actions but the Conference voted not to entertain them.**

The G.S. Board of AA Australia is to request the Accounting Firm Graeme Kay C.A. to provide a full report detailing the background concerning the lodgement of our Taxation Returns for the years ending 2020 & 2021 in respect to lodgement of Business Job Keeper claims made for payment to help them pay their employees for monies paid & received under an Australian Government initiative relating to the Covid-19 Stimulus entitled to Job Keeper payments

It is suggested the Accountant be requested to make enquiries on our behalf concerning the possibility of returning monies received under this Wages Assistance Scheme mainly relating to a payment of \$18,000 received in 2020 from the ATO and a further payment received in 2021 for \$40,500 from the ATO in 2021, in total \$58,500 which was paid to the G.S. Board of AA Australia

We request the A.A. Board provide a full written explanation of the facts relating to this matter for the Delegates & A.A. Members can be fully informed in making a decision and a final determination in this matter

Voting to entertain: For: 12; Against: 16; Abstentions: 0  
Not entertained

To rescind the decision made relating to topic #24/2021 and the committee's recommendation that any future videos submitted to Conference for approval use paid actors or non-AA members.

The decision contravenes the Conference's purpose to serve not govern. We should never undertake acts of government. It seems that this decision is such an act.

It is suggested that the GSB develop a policy addressing the recommendation to use only non-AA members or actors when creating video content.

It is recommended that a guideline be created to suggest that when creating video content for PI&CPC, actors or non-AA members are used to avoid issues of public anonymity.

It is also suggested that our singleness of purpose and avoiding controversy or affiliation is considered when creating such materials.

Voting: For: 12; Against: 15; Abstentions: 1  
Not entertained

To rescind the decision made relating to topic #24/2021 and the committee's recommendation that any future videos submitted to Conference for approval use paid actors or non-AA members.

The decision contravenes the Conference's purpose to serve not govern. We should never undertake acts of government. It seems that this decision is such an act.

It is suggested that the GSB develop a policy addressing the recommendation to use only non-AA members or actors when creating video content.

It is recommended that a guideline be created to suggest that when creating video content for PI&CPC, actors or non-AA members are used to avoid issues of public anonymity.

It is also suggested that our singleness of purpose and avoiding controversy or affiliation is considered when creating such materials.

Voting: For: 12; Against: 15; Abstentions: 1  
Not entertained.

## **SECTION 6**

### **ASK IT BASKET**

### Ask it basket

1. Is it possible for the Management Committee to present an amended budget or project plan (budget) inclusive of the Action items directed to the board? It is understood that this may take a couple of months to prepare.

The Management Group will consider this.

2. Is it prudent or in the AA spirit to include/assume a profit/surplus of AA Convention funds in the budget? Does this not apply pressure on the Convention Hosts to be more than self-supporting?

The Management Group will consider this.

3. Given the increasing rental costs of office space etc. and the experience gained from managing staff offsite over the past 18 months or so would the Board consider looking at alternatives that sit outside the box when it comes to leasing office premises. eg: storage unit

The Management Group will consider this.

4. When preparing the Conference report for the fellowship, could a page up front containing a glossary of terms be considered. Here is a link to the one used in the US/Canada conference report. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mO\\_F2o8UtljAGQYIWBRPHqKTSDeCsS71/vi?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mO_F2o8UtljAGQYIWBRPHqKTSDeCsS71/vi?usp=sharing)

Draft will be prepared for consideration at next year's Report Charter & Service Manual Committee meeting.

5. Could the Conference Agenda committee please consider rewording all future Conference documents to read Conference Meeting, not Conference, to better reflect the spirit of our Concepts and Charter that Conference is an entity, not an event.

Suggestion will be passed on to the Conference Agenda Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

6. I am concerned about prudent reserve goals and the language of *at least 12-16 months*. AA's aim is to be 'corporately poor'. US/Canada decided on a goal of 9-12 months, with a maximum of 12 months. Could you please explain the rationale for 12-16 months in a bit more detail please?

This was a decision made by the 2020 General Service Conference. Following discussion, it was considered that the previous 6-12 months was not adequate, based on experience with the pandemic consequences.

7. Why, when discussion is called for in opposition to a committee's recommendation, are members permitted to jump in and add support to the recommendation

It is the responsibility of all Conference members to be familiar with Conference Administrative Procedures and Conference Etiquette.

8. Given the strong opinions and reactions of the fellowship when the changes to the Preamble were announced can the Conference take this opportunity to discuss and get a sense of the fellowships feedback and position regarding changes to the Big Book. This is to provide opportunity for the Conference and Board to understand and have an informed group Conscience when providing leadership to the fellowship when navigating change. Noting that the AA Service structure has no say in the North American Conference

If there are any changes to copyrighted literature, the Australian Fellowship must incorporate these changes when reproducing copyrighted literature.

9. Given the lack of General Service Trustees which necessitated Lachlan staying on for another year and given that the GSO has been closed during most of covid, is it possible to have as a topic for conference next year that the eligibility for General Service trustees be widened to beyond Sydney.

Any member is free to submit a Conference Topic.

10. How is it that 2 countries, (North America and Canada) are the only 2 countries' out of approx 190 that can change our literature. How can we address this iniquity?

AA World Services Inc and Grapevine Inc. are the holders of copyright on all Conference approved material.

11. A finance question. what does the term 'contributions' include? And does it include literature sales?

Contributions are the voluntary monetary contributions made by members. This does not include literature sales.

12. Why don't we have the full budget presented post conference, as opposed to before? We could have a snapshot of the finances presented at conference, and a full budget after.

This will be considered by the Management Group.

## **SECTION 7**

# **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**



# REPORT

## CONFERENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Meeting held by Zoom  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm

---

### ROLL CALL

|                                    |  |     |   |     |
|------------------------------------|--|-----|---|-----|
| Adrian H (Chair)                   | Delegate   | ER  | C | 3RD |
| Rangi P                            | Delegate   | ER  | D | 2ND |
| Tristram E                         | Delegate   | ER  | G | 1ST |
| Lisa R                             | Delegate   | SR  | D | 1ST |
| Cliff P                            | Delegate   | NER | B | 2ND |
| Brian D                            | Delegate   | WR  | A | 3RD |
| Judy W                             | Chair, Trustees'<br>Correctional Facilities<br>Committee |     |   |     |
| Chris S                            | Co-ordinator   |     |   |     |
| <b><i>Non-voting observers</i></b> |  |     |   |     |
| Jane M                             | Northern Regional Trustee                                |     |   |     |

**APOLOGIES** Rangi P, Jane M

### **REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT**

The document was reviewed and the following changes were made:  
Procedure, Section G to read Committee Coordinator instead of Conference typist

### **REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2016-2020)**

The Action List was reviewed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**REVIEW 2021 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
CONFERENCE**

**NO TOPICS WERE ALLOCATED TO THIS COMMITTEE**

---

### **ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

Tristram E was elected Chairperson  
Lisa R was elected Alternate Chairperson

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Meeting held by Zoom

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 11.30am (Sydney time)

---

### ROLL CALL

|                                    |   |     |   |     |
|------------------------------------|---|-----|---|-----|
| Clare S (Chair)                    | Delegate                                    | WR  | B | 3RD |
| Lee S                              | Delegate                                    | ER  | E | 2ND |
| Lisa R                             | Delegate                                    | SR  | D | 1ST |
| Raylene J                          | Delegate                                    | NER | A | 2ND |
| Carol R                            | Delegate                                    | CR  | B | 2ND |
| Guy L                              | Delegate                                    | ER  | B | 1ST |
| Carolyn G                          | Delegate                                    | NR  | A | 3RD |
| Lachlan B                          | Chair, Trustees' GS<br>Conference Committee |     |   |     |
| Valerie M                          | Co-ordinator                                |     |   |     |
| <b><i>Non-voting observers</i></b> |   |     |   |     |
| Cheryn P                           | General Service Trustee                     |     |   |     |

### APOLOGIES

Carolyn G

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The Composition, Scope & Procedure document was reviewed and no changes were made.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2016-2020)

The Action List was reviewed and progress noted.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### REVIEW 2021 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE

##### 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.

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Meeting held by Zoom

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 11.30am (Sydney time)

---

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference the proposal to reduce the number of Conference Committees be rejected as it doesn't provide an adequate solution to the problems identified in the Topic. The committee felt that the change from eleven committees to three is too drastic without further consideration and the workload objective may not be achieved as there could still be an imbalance of topics.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to reduce the number of Conference Committees is returned to the General Service Board to come up with alternative proposals, taking into consideration suggestions from Conference.

### DATE – CONFERENCE 2022

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the 2022 General Service Conference be held from Thursday 3rd- Sunday 6th November 2022

### DATES FOR AGENDA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2022 & DEADLINE FOR CONFERENCE TOPICS 2022

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the committee meets by teleconference on Saturday 17th June 2022 at 11.30am EST to formulate Conference agendas.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the committee meets by teleconference on Saturday 19th August 2022 at 11.30am EST to allocate topics to Conference Committees.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 4pm be the recommended deadline for receipt of Conference topics.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THEME OF GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2022

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the theme for the 2022 General Service Conference be chosen from the following options:

1. This We Owe to AAs Future
2. Service + Unity + Recovery = A Formula That Works
3. What Shape is Your Triangle?

### ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

Lee S was elected Chairperson  
Raylene J was elected Alternate Chairperson

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

Meeting held by Zoom  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm

### ROLL CALL

|                                    |                                       |     |   |     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| Brian D (Chair)                    | Delegate                              | WR  | A | 3RD |
| Mick B                             | Delegate                              | ER  | A | 1ST |
| Rangi P                            | Delegate                              | ER  | D | 2ND |
| Cliff P                            | Delegate                              | NER | B | 2ND |
| Bonnie I                           | Delegate                              | NER | C | 3RD |
| Andy P                             | Chair, Trustees' Nominating Committee |     |   |     |
| Valerie M                          | Co-ordinator                          |     |   |     |
| <b><i>Non-voting observers</i></b> |                                       |     |   |     |
| Geoff S                            | Southern Regional Trustee             |     |   |     |

### APOLOGIES

Bonnie I

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The Composition, Scope & Procedure document was reviewed and no changes were made.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2016-2020)

### NEW BUSINESS

#### REVIEW 2021 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE

#### 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 remunerated and commitment to AA, of any past/current GSO staff.

The Conference Committee of Trustees recommends to Conference that the proposal that the General Service Board sets a policy of fixed term contracts for future GSO staff be rejected. for the following reasons:

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

Meeting held by Zoom  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm

---

These are not service positions. GSO staff are employed as the special workers referred to in Tradition 8. Staff are employed under standard employment conditions.

It is stated in the background to the topic that the spirit of the topic is supported by Concept XI. This concept states: "*In the World Service Office, we have found it impractical and unfair to set any fixed term of employment.*"

*The General Service Board is the employer and is responsible for employment terms and conditions. When vacancies occur, all options and relevant factors are considered.*

*GSO New York has a large number of staff members, who rotate their positions on a two yearly basis. They are not on fixed term contracts and many are long term employees. AA Australia has only three employees and rotation of duties is not practical. All staff have knowledge of procedures etc. so that when a staff member is absent for leave or illness, all duties continue.*

---

### **REVIEW WORLD SERVICE DELEGATE NOMINATIONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO CONFERENCE**

***The Conference Committee on Trustees recommends to Conference that a Third Legacy Procedure vote take place to elect a candidate for the position of World Service Delegate from the following candidates:***

- 1. Brett F***
- 2. Wayne P***
- 3. John B***
- 4. Brian F***

### **RECOMMEND RATIFICATION OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS**

The Conference Committee on Trustees recommends to Conference that the appointment of Geoff S by the General Service Board as Southern Regional Trustee for a four year period, commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 be referred to Conference for disapproval, if any.

The Conference Committee on Trustees recommends to Conference that the appointment of Jane M as Northern Regional Trustee for a four year period, effective 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 referred to Conference for disapproval, if any.

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

**Meeting held by Zoom  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm**

---

### **RECOMMEND RATIFICATION OF TRUSTEE EXTENSION OF TERM**

The General Service Board advises that, as there had been no applicants for the position, Lachlan B's term as General Service Trustee was extended for a period of one year. The General Service Board requests that the committee recommends to Conference that this be ratified by Conference.

The Conference Committee on Trustees recommends to Conference that the extension of term of General Service Trustee Lachlan B be referred to Conference for disapproval, if any.

### **RECOMMEND APPOINTMENT OF CENTRAL REGIONAL TRUSTEE**

The Conference Committee on Trustees recommends to Conference that the General Service Board elects Grant T as Central Regional Trustee for a four year period commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

### **FOR INFORMATION –**

#### **Completion of term 31 December 2022:**

Eastern Regional Trustee: Judy W  
North Eastern Regional Trustee: Stephen R

The Board is still seeking 3 Class A Trustees.

#### **Completion of term 31 December 2023**

World Service Delegate: Greg B

### **ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

Rangi P was elected Chairperson  
Mick B was elected Alternate Chairperson

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting held by Zoom  
Friday 8th October 2021 7pm

---

### ROLL CALL

|                                    |                                    |     |   |     |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| Bonnie I (Chair)                   | Delegate                           | NER | C | 3RD |
| Guy L                              | Delegate                           | ER  | B | 1ST |
| Tristram E                         | Delegate                           | ER  | G | 1ST |
| Carol R                            | Delegate                           | CR  | B | 2ND |
| Brian D                            | Delegate                           | WR  | A | 3RD |
| John S                             | Delegate                           | ER  | I | 1ST |
| Cheryn P                           | Chair, Trustees' Finance Committee |     |   |     |
| Patrick S                          | Co-ordinator                       |     |   |     |
| <b><i>Non-voting observers</i></b> |                                    |     |   |     |
| Lachlan B                          | General Service Trustee            |     |   |     |

### APOLOGIES

Brian D

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The Composition, Scope & Procedure document was reviewed and no changes were made.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2016-2020)

The Action List was reviewed.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### REVIEW 2021 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE

##### 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*

The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to change the wording on the auto-generated email response to group requests for Public Liability Insurance to include donations to Central Service Offices be rejected as these offices are not involved in the Public Liability Insurance Policy.

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting held by Zoom  
Friday 8th October 2021 7pm

---

### **REVIEW AUDITED ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021**

The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that the Audited Accounts Year Ended 30 June 2021 be accepted.

### **REVIEW BUDGET JULY 2021 – JUNE 2022**

The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that the Budget July 2021 to June 2022 be accepted.

### **ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

Carol R was elected Chairperson

Tristram E was elected Alternate Chairperson



# REPORT

## CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting held  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm

---

### ROLL CALL

|                |   |     |   |     |
|----------------|---|-----|---|-----|
| Jack S (Chair) | Delegate                                    | CR  | A | 3RD |
| Rangi P        | Delegate                                    | ER  | D | 2ND |
| Tristram E     | Delegate                                    | ER  | G | 1ST |
| Lisa R         | Delegate                                    | SR  | D | 1ST |
| Cliff P        | Delegate                                    | NER | B | 2ND |
| Narelle B      | Chair, Trustees'<br>International Committee |     |   |     |
| Brian S        | World Service Delegate                      |     |   |     |
| Greg B         | World Service Delegate                      |     |   |     |
| Valerie M      | Co-ordinator                                |     |   |     |

### APOLOGIES

Nil

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The Composition, Scope & Procedure document was reviewed and no changes were made.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2016-2020)

The Action List was reviewed and progress noted.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### REVIEW 2021 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE

##### 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

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

**Zoom Meeting held  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm**

---

**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.**

The Conference International Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to submit a topic to the \*World Service Conference regarding changing language in the Big Book be rejected. This topic is already being discussed by the US/Canada General Service Conference. Other countries are not permitted to submit topics to this Conference.

\*Note: There is no entity named the World Service Conference. There is a World Service Meeting, which meets every two years and is attended by delegates elected by various countries. This meeting is not a decision making body.

---

### **ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

Cliff P was elected as Chairperson  
Rangi P was elected as Alternate Chairperson

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Meeting held by Zoom  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 7pm

### ROLL CALL

|                                    |  |     |   |     |
|------------------------------------|--|-----|---|-----|
| Damien G(Acting Chair)             | Delegate                                       | ER  | H | 2ND |
| Justin D                           | Delegate                                       | SR  | F | 1ST |
| Lisa R                             | Delegate                                       | SR  | D | 1ST |
| Raylene J                          | Delegate                                       | NER | A | 2ND |
| Carol R                            | Delegate                                       | CR  | B | 2ND |
| Tristram E                         | Delegate                                       | ER  | G | 1ST |
| John S                             | Delegate                                       | ER  | I | 1ST |
| Paul J                             | Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee          |     |   |     |
| Greg B                             | World Service Delegate                         |     |   |     |
| Patrick S                          | Co-ordinator                                   |     |   |     |
| <b><i>Non-voting observers</i></b> |  |     |   |     |
| Judy W                             | Incoming Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee |     |   |     |

**APOLOGIES:** None

### **REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT**

The Composition, Scope and Procedure document was reviewed and the following changes were made:

Procedure: Change "Chairman" to "Chairperson" throughout the document.

### **REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2016-2020)**

The Action List was reviewed. The committee wanted to know when the next reprint of the AA Group Handbook was expected.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **REVIEW 2021 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

#### **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.

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Meeting held by Zoom

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 7pm

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.

The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to add wording to the Group Handbook that all Groups, Districts and Areas be transparent by advising how funds are distributed be rejected as it goes against Group Autonomy.

---

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.

The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to produce a gender neutral version of the Australian Big Book be rejected as the planned US "Plain Language" version of the Big Book will be gender neutral, pending the decision of the US Conference in 2022.

---

TOPIC #011/2020

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

---

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

**Meeting held by Zoom  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 7pm**

The Conference Literature Committee made no recommendation on the proposal to create a four year service position of Editor of AA Around Australia Conference and referred this topic to the Conference floor for decision.

---

### **TOPIC #012/21**

**To update the Australian AA Group Handbook to include an extra section on how an online AA group may function.**

The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the Australian AA Group Handbook be updated to include an extra section on how an online group may function.

---

### **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.**

The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to establish a national online sales and distribution service be rejected as the Central Service Offices take their directions from the Groups and not Conference.

---

### **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”).**

The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to include the personal story ‘Acceptance was the Answer’ in the second edition of the Australian be rejected as this story is already contained in the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition US Big Book.

---

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Meeting held by Zoom  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 7pm

TOPIC #020/2021

To remove the pamphlet “A Brief Guide to AA” from all Australian literature sources

The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to remove the pamphlet ‘A Brief Guide to AA’ from all Australian literature sources be rejected as it was seen as a punitive action against a General Service Board Decision.

---

### ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

Raylene J was elected Chairperson

Tristram E was elected Alternate Chairperson

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE POLICIES AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting held Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 7pm

---

### ROLL CALL

Acting Chairperson: Lee S, Delegate, Area E Eastern Region  
Carolyn G, Delegate, Area A, Northern Region  
Clare S, Delegate, Area B, Western Region  
Cliff P, Delegate, Area B, North Eastern Region  
Lisa R, Delegate, Area D, Southern Region  
Justin D, Delegate, Area F, Southern Region  
Brian S (World Service Delegate)  
Geoff S (Southern Regional Trustee)  
Valerie M (Co-ordinator)

Non-voting observers: Judy W

### APOLOGIES

Nil

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The document was reviewed and the following changes were made:

#### Composition:

Replace 'The Chairperson of the Trustees' Nominating Committee' with 'A Trustee of the General Service Board'.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2016-2020)

The Action List was reviewed and progress noted.

#### **Advisory Action #009/2020**

Conference resolved that the creation of a virtual Area be included as part of the review of the General Service Structure by the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee. All Conference members are requested to advise of any concerns so they can be addressed in a guideline for creating a virtual Area. A draft of this guideline will be circulated to Conference members for input, following which a mail poll will be conducted for approval of the guideline prior to Conference next year.

A mail poll of all Conference members was conducted with the following results:

Voting: For: 18; Against: 7; Abstentions: 1; Did not vote: 3  
Recommendation defeated as 3/4 vote in favour required to be accepted.

The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends to Conference that the Minority Voice be heard at Conference, i.e. one of the 18 who voted in favour of accepting the guideline (attached).

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE POLICIES AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting held Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 7pm

---

### **Make recommendation to Conference on Working Party A proposal**

Advisory Action #001/2019

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommendation that Conference undertakes a review of its current voting structure, having regard to the Right of Participation, to identify options for change that would enable Area Delegates to constitute more than two-thirds of the voting members at the Australian General Service Conference.

The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends that Conference accepts the working party's progress report on Advisory Action #001/2019 (attached).

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **REVIEW 2021 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

##### **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.**

The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends to Conference that the author/s of topics be invited, in conjunction with relevant Trustee or Delegate to form and participate in a working group to carry out any tasks required resulting from a Conference Advisory Action.

The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends to Conference that the Conference Topic form be changed as follows:  
A check box added to indicate if the author/s of topics wish to participate in any working party formed as a result of the topic.

---



# REPORT

## CONFERENCE POLICIES AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting held Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 7pm

---

### TOPIC #023/2021

**That the fellowship discontinues using gender based titles for its meetings ie Men's Group, Women's Group , Gay and Lesbian group,**

The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected as gender based meetings do not contravene any AA Traditions as stated in our literature.

The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee acknowledges that this topic has raised issues of concern regarding the Fellowship's understanding of specialised groups/meetings and the need to remain inclusive as per our literature recommends to Conference remain inclusive as per our literature:

Extract from AA Group Handbook:

*Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation. Some AAs come together as specialised AA groups – for men, women, young people, doctors, gays and others. If the members are all alcoholics and they open the door to all alcoholics who need help, regardless of profession, gender or other distinction, and meet all the other aspects defining an AA group, they may call themselves an AA group.*

We therefore recommend exploring ideas to provide clarification to the Fellowship. These may include pamphlets, articles in The Mixer, AA Around Australia and other publications, websites, etc.

---

### ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

Lisa R was elected as Chairperson  
Lee S was elected as Alternate Chairperson

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER AND SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting held  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 at 10.30am

---

### ROLL CALL

|                                    |                                       |     |   |     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|---|-----|
| Brian D (Chair)                    | Delegate                              | WR  | A | 3RD |
| Mick B                             | Delegate                              | ER  | A | 1ST |
| Guy L                              | Delegate                              | ER  | B | 1ST |
| Bonnie I                           | Delegate                              | NER | C | 3RD |
| Carol R                            | Delegate                              | CR  | B | 2ND |
| Damien G                           | Delegate                              | ER  | H | 2ND |
| Paul J                             | Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee |     |   |     |
| Chris S                            | Co-ordinator                          |     |   |     |
| <b><i>Non-voting observers</i></b> |                                       |     |   |     |
| Vanda Rounsefell                   | Trustee Emeritus                      |     |   |     |

**APOLOGIES** None

### **REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT**

The document was reviewed, and no changes were made.

### **REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2016-2020)**

The Action List was reviewed. 028/2018 marked as completed

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **REVIEW 2021 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

##### **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.

The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual recommends to Conference that the reference to CSO's from the AA Guidelines and call them local service offices directly responsible to their local groups be rejected.

It was felt that it's best to keep things the way they are.

---

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER AND SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting held  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 at 10.30am

---

### TOPIC #016/2020 – ASSIGNED TO CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

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

The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual recommends to Conference that the Guidelines on National Conventions be sent to a working committee to better reflect the single purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous be rejected.

It was felt that having AI-Anon at some AA events didn't mean affiliation

---

### TOPIC #018/2020 – ASSIGNED TO CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

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

The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual recommends to Conference 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 be rejected.

It was felt that the entire fellowship is responsible for submitting content for AA Around Australia.

---

### REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION ON NEW CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES GUIDELINE SUBMITTED BY TRUSTEES' CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

The Guideline is under review

### REPORT ON CHANGES TO CORE DOCUMENTS DURING THE YEAR (DIG REPORT)

All core documents had been updated.

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER AND SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting held  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 at 10.30am

---

### REVIEW OF CHANGES TO 12 CONCEPTS

It was brought to the committee's attention that the US/Canada General Service Conference have removed the following two paragraphs from Concept XI.

*Women workers present still another problem. Our Headquarters is pretty much a man's world. Some men are apt to feel, unconsciously, that they are women's superiors, thus producing a reflex reaction in the gals. Then, too, some of us – of both sexes – have been emotionally damaged in the Area of man-woman partners. We have turned them into our "moms" and "pops," and then we have deeply resented that situation. Perhaps maladjustment has taken still other turns which leave us with a hangover of hostility that we are apt to project into any man-woman relatedness that we undertake.*

*It is possible for these forces to defeat the good working partnerships we would like to have. But if we are fully aware of these tendencies, they can be the more easily overcome, and forgiven. We can be aware also that any sound working relation between adult men and women must be in the character of a partnership, a non-competitive one in which each partner complements the other. It is not a question of superiority or inferiority at all. Men, for example, because they are men, are apt to be better at business. But suppose we replaced our six women staff members with six men? In these positions, could the men possibly relate themselves so uniquely and so effectively to our Fellowship as the women? Of course not. The women can handle this assignment far better, just because they are women.*

The committee notifies Conference, that in line with copyright and licencing commitments, these paragraphs will be removed in the next reprint and on the Service Website.

### ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

Guy L was elected Chairperson.  
Damien G was elected Alternate Chairperson

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Meeting held by Zoom  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm

### ROLL CALL

|                                    |   |    |   |     |
|------------------------------------|---|----|---|-----|
| Carolyn G(Acting Chair)            | Delegate  | NR | A | 3RD |
| Jack S                             | Delegate  | CR | A | 3RD |
| Guy L                              | Delegate  | ER | B | 1ST |
| Adrian H                           | Delegate  | ER | C | 3RD |
| Lee S                              | Delegate  | ER | E | 2ND |
| Clare S                            | Delegate  | WR | B | 3RD |
| Brian S                            | World Service Delegate                                |    |   |     |
| Paul J                             | Chair Trustees Remote Communities Committee           |    |   |     |
| Chris S                            | Co-ordinator  |    |   |     |
| <b><i>Non-voting observers</i></b> |   |    |   |     |
| Jane M                             | Incoming Chair Trustees' Remote Communities Committee |    |   |     |
| Narelle B                          | Class A Trustee                                       |    |   |     |

**APOLOGIES** Lee S

### **REVIEW/ ACCEPT COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT**

The document was reviewed and the following changes were made:  
Scope. Change geography to geographic (location)

### **REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2016-2020)**

The Action List was reviewed. 016/2019 In progress  
008/2019 Completed

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **REVIEW 2021 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

NO TOPICS WERE ALLOCATED TO THIS COMMITTEE

### **REVIEW SERVICE WEBSITE REMOTE COMMUNITIES PAGE**

There is no Remote Communities Page

### **ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson will be elected at a later date.  
Guy L was elected Alternate Chairperson

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE TREATMENT FACILITIES & ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting held on  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm

---

### ROLL CALL

|                                    |   |    |   |     |
|------------------------------------|---|----|---|-----|
| Damien G (Acting Chair)            | Delegate  | ER | H | 2ND |
| Jack S                             | Delegate  | CR | A | 3RD |
| Mick B                             | Delegate  | ER | A | 1ST |
| Guy L                              | Delegate  | ER | B | 1ST |
| Lee S                              | Delegate  | ER | E | 2ND |
| Justin D                           | Delegate  | SR | F | 1ST |
| John S                             | Delegate  | ER | I | 1ST |
| Stephen R                          | Chair, Trustees; Treatment<br>Facilities & Accessibility<br>Committee |    |   |     |
| Patrick S                          | Co-ordinator  |    |   |     |
| <b><i>Non-voting observers</i></b> |   |    |   |     |
| Jane M                             | Northern Regional Trustee   |    |   |     |

### APOLOGIES

Guy L, John S

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The Composition, Scope & Procedure document was reviewed and the following changes were made.

The words "Special Needs" to be replaced with "Accessibility" in the entire document.

Composition:

That the sentence "Each delegate member has a vote, including any World Service delegate if present at the Committee meeting." be removed entirely.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2016-2020)

The Action List was reviewed.

The Committee noted that it has not had an advisory action to deal with since 2018.

### NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW 2021 CONFERENCE TOPICS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
CONFERENCE

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE TREATMENT FACILITIES & ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Zoom Meeting held on  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm

---

NO TOPICS WERE ALLOCATED TO THIS COMMITTEE

The Committee will be formulating a Floor Action in order to:

- a) Seek permission to translate the Big Book into AUSLAN
- b) Seek clarification on who should pay for the translation

### ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

Justin D was elected Chairperson

Damien G was elected Alternate Chairperson

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

### Meetings held by Zoom

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. Meeting ID 833 6646 0092

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. Meeting ID 831 6638 8066

---

### ROLL CALL

|                            |  |    |   |     |
|----------------------------|--|----|---|-----|
| Damien G (Chair)           | Delegate                                   | ER | H | 2ND |
| Mick B                     | Delegate                                   | ER | A | 1ST |
| Adrian H                   | Delegate                                   | ER | C | 3RD |
| Rangi P                    | Delegate                                   | ER | D | 2ND |
| Raylene J                  | Delegate                                   | ER | A | 2ND |
| Jack S                     | Delegate                                   | CR | A | 3RD |
| Andy P                     | Chair, Trustees PI&CPC Committee           |    |   |     |
| Greg B                     | World Service Delegate                     |    |   |     |
| Chris S                    | Co-ordinator                               |    |   |     |
| <b>Non-voting members:</b> |  |    |   |     |
| Geoff S                    | Incoming Chair, Trustees' PI&CPC Committee |    |   |     |

**APOLOGIES** Jack S(Additional meeting).

### **REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT**

The document was reviewed and no changes were made.

### **REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2016-2020)**

The Action List was reviewed.

#### **Proposal: That the following be sent to all Conference members following this meeting:**

You were recently asked to vote on the amended public information videos. The results of the voting are:

For: 16; Against: 5; Did not vote: 7

As it is too difficult to try to hear the minority voice via email , those who voted against will have the opportunity to voice their concerns to the full Conference, following which a final vote will be taken.

If you have not already done so, please view these videos prior to Conference.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1puCkjGXTeJJ8uH-zTWutU\\_V7qrsINGPY](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1puCkjGXTeJJ8uH-zTWutU_V7qrsINGPY)



# REPORT

## CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

### Meetings held by Zoom

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. Meeting ID 833 6646 0092

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. Meeting ID 831 6638 8066

---

The Conference PI&CPC Committee agreed that the proposed information regarding the public information videos be distributed to all Conference members following this meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### REVIEW 2021 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE

**TOPIC: 002/2021** That Conference resolve to create a dedicated first response page on [aa.org.au](http://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.

The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to create a dedicated first response page on the national website be rejected, as the current home page is sufficient and other AA website are autonomous.

#### **TOPIC #004/2020 – ASSIGNED TO CONFERENCE PI&CPC COMMITTEE**

**\*Note: Raised as floor action at Conference 2020. (REFER ATTACHMENT)**

##### **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.

That conference look at developing a “CHAT NOW” feature on the [aa.org.au](http://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)

The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that a Chat Now feature on the national website be developed.

---

#### **TOPIC #006/2020 – ASSIGNED TO CONFERENCE PI&CPC COMMITTEE**

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

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

### Meetings held by Zoom

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. Meeting ID 833 6646 0092

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. Meeting ID 831 6638 8066

---

The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to produce radio community service announcements targeting indigenous and LGBTI+ communities be rejected.

The Committee recommends that radio community service announcements be made to supplement our existing CSA's focusing on inclusivity in AA.

---

### TOPIC 007/2020 – ASSIGNED TO CONFERENCE PI&CPC COMMITTEE

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

The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to produce a series of engaging videos aimed at professionals with the health, prisons and armed forces sectors be accepted. It was noted that Area A Eastern Region has already set aside \$3000 for this project.

---

### TOPIC #010/2020 – ASSIGNED TO CONFERENCE PI&CPC COMMITTEE

Taking the advantages and benefits we have seen from the use of online meetings forward, Alcoholics 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.).

The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to develop and use an AA owned and supported online video conferencing platform be rejected. There is no need to re-invent the wheel, and there are already many platforms that provide this kind of service.

---

### 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

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

### Meetings held by Zoom

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. Meeting ID 833 6646 0092

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. Meeting ID 831 6638 8066

---

The Conference PI&CPC Committee supported the proposal that the current working group expedite the update of the service website by the end of 2021 and noted that a new Technology & Social Media Service Team had been set up and that work on updating the Service Website was in progress.

---

### TOPIC #021/2020 – ASSIGNED TO CONFERENCE PI&CPC COMMITTEE

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

The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be accepted – refer recommendation on topic 004/2020.

---

### 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>, 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 <sup>1</sup> 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<sup>2</sup> 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

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

### Meetings held by Zoom

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. Meeting ID 833 6646 0092

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. Meeting ID 831 6638 8066

---

The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be accepted refer recommendation on Topic 007/2020

---

### 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>

Jack's Story – <https://vimeo.com/556753757>

Sophie's Story - <https://vimeo.com/556757818>

The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to adopt the three videos submitted be rejected due to issues about the shirt "choosing death since 1984" referencing euthanasia, and the Jack character has since left AA.

The committee recommends that any future videos submitted for Conference approval should have paid actors or non AA members.

---

### 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.

The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that the proposal to request that the General Service Board explore options for co-ordinating the use of digital media as a method of PI on a national scale be accepted.

---

### REVIEW NATIONAL WEBSITE

The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that the videos on the National Website be replaced with the Australian cinema CSA's

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Meetings held by Zoom

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. Meeting ID 833 6646 0092

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7pm. Meeting ID 831 6638 8066

---

### REVIEW SERVICE WEBSITE

The Conference PI&CPC Committee is very happy that significant changes will be made on the Service Website

### ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

Mick B was elected as Chairperson

Raylene J was elected as Alternate Chairperson.

---

# **SECTION 8**

## **AUDITED REPORT**

**1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2020 – 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021**

**+**

## **BUDGET**

**1<sup>st</sup> JULY 2021 – 30 JUNE 2022**

**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN: 77 001 417 125**

**Financial Report  
For the year ended  
30 June 2021**

**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia**  
**ABN 77 001 417 125**  
**Table of Contents**

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Directors Report .....                   | 1 - 3   |
| Auditor's independence declaration ..... | 4       |
| Financial Report                         |         |
| Statement of comprehensive income .....  | 5       |
| Statement of financial position .....    | 6       |
| Statement of changes in equity .....     | 7       |
| Statement of cash flows .....            | 8       |
| Notes to the financial statements .....  | 9 - 15  |
| Directors' declaration .....             | 16      |
| Independent auditors report .....        | 17 - 18 |
| Disclaimer .....                         | 19      |
| Additional information .....             | 20 - 21 |



**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia**  
**ABN 77 001 417 125**  
**Directors' Report**

The Directors present their report together with the financial report of General Services Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia for the year ended 30 June 2021 and auditor's report thereon. This financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australia Accounting Standards.

**Directors Names**

The names of the Directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Lachlan Botticchio

Paul Jones

Andrew Poad

Judy Woolstencroft

Stephen Roche

Narelle Buchanan

Cheryn Porter

Geoffrey Smith      Appointed 22 April 2021

Jane Mapiva        Appointed 22 January 2021

Ruby Jones         Resigned 30 November 2020

Penelope Campbell Resigned 21 February 2021

The Directors have been in office since the start of the year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

**Company Objectives**

To serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in its primary purpose of helping alcoholics to achieve sobriety and to act as the legal entity of the spiritual Fellowship

Full objectives are described in the company's Memorandum of Association contained in the Australian Alcoholics Anonymous Service Manual.

**Company Performance**

The company incurred a surplus for the year of \$368,165. (2020 surplus \$93,275)

Progress reports and Financial reports are provided to the Annual General Service Conference, which is attended by all Directors of the Company. A monthly Management Group meeting, consisting of all National Office staff members and two General Service Trustees is held. These meetings review the monthly accounts, progress of the current National Convention, and progress of tasks assigned to the Board by Conference.

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
 ABN 77 001 417 125  
 Directors' Report

**Information on directors**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Ruby Jones</b><br>Special responsibilities         | Class A Trustee                              |
| <b>Paul Jones</b><br>Special responsibilities         | Western Regional Trustee                     |
| <b>Penelope Campbell</b><br>Special responsibilities  | Southern Regional Trustee                    |
| <b>Lachlan Botticchio</b><br>Special responsibilities | General Service Trustee                      |
| <b>Andrew Poad</b><br>Special responsibilities        | Central Regional Trustee and Chairman        |
| <b>Judy Woolstencroft</b><br>Special responsibilities | Eastern Regional Trustee and Deputy Chairman |
| <b>Stephen Roche</b><br>Special responsibilities      | North Eastern Regional Trustee               |
| <b>Narelle Buchanan</b><br>Special responsibilities   | Class A Trustee                              |
| <b>Cheryn Porter</b><br>Special responsibilities      | General Service Trustee                      |
| <b>Geoffrey Smith</b><br>Special responsibilities     | Southern Regional Trustee                    |
| <b>Jane Mapiva</b><br>Special responsibilities        | Northern Regional Trustee                    |

**Directors' meetings**

The number of Directors' meetings attended by each of the Directors of the company during the year were:

Ruby Jones  
 Lachlan Botticchio  
 Paul Jones  
 Penelope Campbell  
 Andrew Poad  
 Judy Woolstencroft  
 Stephen Roche  
 Narelle Buchanan  
 Cheryn Porter  
 Geoffrey Smith  
 Jane Mapiva

| Director meetings |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Eligible</i>   | <i>Attended</i> |
| 1                 | 1               |
| 2                 | 2               |
| 2                 | 2               |
| 2                 | 1               |
| 2                 | 2               |
| 2                 | 2               |
| 2                 | 2               |
| 2                 | 1               |
| 2                 | 2               |
| 0                 | 0               |
| 1                 | 1               |

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN 77 001 417 125  
Directors' Report

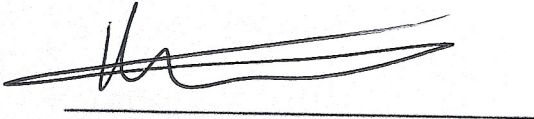
**Members guarantee**

The company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute to a maximum of \$50 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the company. At 30 June 2021 the number of members were 9. The combination total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up if \$450

**Auditor's independence declaration**

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration under section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit for the financial year is provided with this report.

Signed on behalf of the board of Directors



Director



Director

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021

# Graeme Kay CA

Registered Company Auditor

---

## GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

ABN 77 001 417 125

### AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

TO THE DIRECTORS OF

## GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the period ended 30 June 2021 there have been:

- i. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.
- ii. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia.

Graeme Kay  
GRAEME KAY CA  
Registered Company Auditor

Signature:.....Graeme Kay.....

Dated:.....12 October 2021.....

Page 4

ABN 91 852 121 401 – 77/192 Vimiera Road, MARSFIELD NSW 2122 – Mob: 0409 066 515

Email: [graemekayauditor@outlook.com](mailto:graemekayauditor@outlook.com)

Limited Liability by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia**  
**ABN 77 001 417 125**  
**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

|   | Notes | 2021<br>\$            | 2020<br>\$           |
|---|-------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Income</b>   |       |                       |                      |
| Sales Revenue   | 2     | 273,291               | 272,623              |
| Other Revenue   | 2     | 613,478               | 459,079              |
|   | 2     | <u>886,769</u>        | <u>731,702</u>       |
| <b>Less Expenses</b>  |       |                       |                      |
| Changes in inventories of finished goods and work in progress | 3     | 25,472                | (35,816)             |
| Cost of Goods Sold  | 3     | (162,734)             | (117,866)            |
| Depreciation / Amortisation                                   | 3     | (33,056)              | (32,402)             |
| Employee benefits expense                                     |       | (276,028)             | (287,672)            |
| Rent expenses   |       | (5,873)               | (3,949)              |
| Doubtful Debts  |       | 9,193                 | (4,650)              |
| Insurance expenses  |       | (18,597)              | (16,083)             |
| Telephone expenses  |       | (4,924)               | (5,578)              |
| Postage   |       | -                     | (2,618)              |
| Public information expenses                                   |       | (10,852)              | (10,583)             |
| Conference / Seminar costs                                    |       | 5,320                 | (65,314)             |
| Travelling expenses   |       | (370)                 | (22,065)             |
| World service levy  |       | (1,424)               | (1,506)              |
| Other expenses  |       | (44,731)              | (32,325)             |
|   |       | <u>(518,604)</u>      | <u>(638,427)</u>     |
| <b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>                                    |       | 368,165               | 93,275               |
| Other comprehensive income for the year                       |       | -                     | -                    |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>                |       | <u><b>368,165</b></u> | <u><b>93,275</b></u> |

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
 ABN 77 001 417 125  
 Statement of Financial Position  
 as at 30 June 2021

|                                      | Notes | 2021<br>\$       | 2020<br>\$     |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                        |       |                  |                |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                |       |                  |                |
| Cash and cash equivalents            | 5     | 712,819          | 368,196        |
| Receivables                          | 6     | 19,564           | 22,985         |
| Inventories                          | 7     | 175,747          | 150,275        |
| Other financial assets               | 8     | 96,581           | 96,243         |
| Other assets                         | 10    | 6,737            | 6,665          |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>          |       | <u>1,011,448</u> | <u>644,364</u> |
| <b>Non-Current Assets</b>            |       |                  |                |
| Receivables                          | 6     | 10,000           | 10,000         |
| Property, plant and equipment        | 9     | 42,260           | 75,316         |
| <b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>      |       | <u>52,260</u>    | <u>85,316</u>  |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                  |       | <u>1,063,708</u> | <u>729,680</u> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                   |       |                  |                |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>           |       |                  |                |
| Trade and other payables             | 11    | 58,927           | 50,308         |
| Provisions                           | 12    | 21,589           | 10,725         |
| Lease                                | 11    | 34,261           | 34,261         |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>     |       | <u>114,777</u>   | <u>95,294</u>  |
| <b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>       |       |                  |                |
| Provisions                           | 12    | 54,837           | 75,400         |
| Lease                                | 11    | 8,000            | 41,055         |
| <b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b> |       | <u>62,836</u>    | <u>116,455</u> |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>             |       | <u>177,613</u>   | <u>211,749</u> |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                    |       | <u>886,096</u>   | <u>517,931</u> |
| <b>Equity</b>                        |       |                  |                |
| Retained earnings                    | 13    | 886,096          | 517,931        |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                  |       | <u>886,096</u>   | <u>517,931</u> |

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN 77 001 417 125  
Statement of Changes in Equity  
for the year ended 30 June 2021

|                                       | 2021           | 2020           |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                       | \$             | \$             |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                   |                |                |
| Balance at the beginning of the year  | 517,931        | 424,657        |
| Movement in equity from:              |                |                |
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year      | 368,165        | 93,275         |
| <b>Balance at the end of the year</b> | <u>886,096</u> | <u>517,931</u> |

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
 ABN 77 001 417 125  
 Statement of Cash Flows  
 for the year ended 30 June 2021

|   | Notes | 2021<br>\$ | 2020<br>\$ |
|---|-------|------------|------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>                       |       |            |            |
| Receipts from customers   |       | 898,630    | 726,727    |
| Payments to suppliers and employees                               |       | (554,421)  | (602,946)  |
| Interest received   |       | 753        | 1,250      |
| <b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>                  | 14    | 344,962    | 125,031    |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                       |       |            |            |
| Receipt from (Payments for) investments                           |       | (338)      | (1,054)    |
| <b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>        |       | (338)      | (1,054)    |
| <b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>                       |       | 344,624    | 123,977    |
| Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year  |       | 368,196    | 244,219    |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b> | 5     | 712,820    | 368,196    |



**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia**  
**ABN 77 001 417 125**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2021**

The financial statements cover General Services Board of Alcoholics Australia as an individual entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. General Services Board of Alcoholics Australia is a company limited by guarantee.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on September 2021 by the directors of the entity.

**NOTE 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(a) Basis of Preparation**

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standard Board. The entity is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

**(b) Revenue**

Revenue from sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have passed to the buyer and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably. Risks and rewards of ownership are considered passed to the buyer at the time of delivery of the goods to the customer.

Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established. Dividends received from associates and joint venture entities are accounted for in accordance with the equity method of accounting.

Interest revenue is recognised when it becomes receivable on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rate applicable to the financial asset.

Donations and other revenue is recognised when the right to receive the revenue has been established.

All revenue is measured net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

As of 1st July 2019, Revenue is recognised as per AASB 15 "Revenue from Contracts with Customers" if applicable

**(c) Income tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

**(d) Inventories**

Inventories held for sale are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

**NOTE 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(e) Financial instruments**

*Classification*

The company classifies its financial assets in the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments, and available-for-sale financial assets. The classification depends on the nature of the item and the purpose for which the instruments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its financial instruments at initial recognition.

*Held-to-maturity investments*

Held-to-maturity are non-derivative financial assets that have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments, and the company intends to hold the investments to maturity. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

*Loans and receivables*

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Loans and receivables are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

*Financial liabilities*

Financial liabilities include trade payables, other creditors and loans from third parties including inter-company balances and loans from or other amounts due to Director-related entities.

Non-derivative financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

Financial liabilities are classified as current liabilities unless the group has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period.

**(f) Property, plant and equipment**

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

*Plant and equipment*

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

*Depreciation*

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

| <b>Class of fixed asset</b>              | <b>Depreciation rates</b> | <b>Depreciation Basis</b> |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Leasehold improvements at cost           | 20%                       | Straight line             |
| Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost | 8% - 25%                  | Straight line             |

**NOTE 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(g) Impairment of non-financial assets**

Assets are assessed for impairment whenever events or circumstances arise that indicate the asset may be impaired. An impairment loss is recognised when the carrying amount of an asset exceeds the asset's recoverable amount. Impairment losses in respect of individual assets are recognised immediately in profit or loss unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount such as property, plant and equipment, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with the applicable Standard.

The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal.

**(h) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefit will result and that outflow can be measured reliably.

**(i) Leases**

The Entity has adopted AASB16: *Leases* retrospectively with the cumulative effect of initially applying AASB16 recognised at 1 July 2019. In accordance with AASB16 the comparative for the 2019 reporting period have not been restated.

The Entity has recognised a lease liability and right-of-use asset for all leases (with the exception of short term and low value leases) recognised as operating leases under AASB117: *Leases* where the Entity is the lessee.

The lease liabilities are measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments. The entity's incremental borrowing rate as at 1 July 2019 was used to discount the lease payments.

The right of use assets for equipment was measured at its carrying amount as if AASB16: *Leases* has been applied since the commencement date, but discounted using the Entity's incremental borrowing rate per lease term on 1 July 2019

The right of use assets for the remaining leases was measured and recognised in the statement of financial position as at 1 July 2019 by taking into consideration the lease liability, prepaid and accrued lease payments previously recognised as at 1 July 2019 (that are related to the lease)

The following practical expedients have been used by the Entity in applying AASB16 for the first time:

- for a portfolio of leases that have reasonably similar characteristics, a single discount rate has been applied;
- leases that have a remaining lease term of less than 12 months as at 1 July 2019 have been accounted for in the same way as short-term leases;
- the use of hindsight to determine lease terms on contracts that have options to extend or terminate;
- applying AASB16 to leases previously identified as leases under AASB117: *Lease and Interpretation 4: Determining whether an arrangement contains a lease* without reassessing whether they are, or contain, a lease at the date on initial application;
- *not applying AASB16 Leases* previously not identified as containing a lease under AASB117 and Interpretation 4

**NOTE 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(j) Employment benefits**

*(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations*

Liabilities arising in respect of salaries and wages, annual leave, accumulated sick leave and any other employee benefit (other than termination benefits) expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the annual reporting period are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave and accumulated sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables in the statement of financial position.

*(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations*

The provision for other long-term employee benefits, including obligations for long service leave and annual leave, which are not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period, are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of the services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future salary and wage levels, duration of service and employee turnover, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on high quality corporate bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in the profit or loss in the periods in which the change occurs.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the entity does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur. All other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as non-current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

**(k) Borrowing costs**

Borrowing costs including interest expense calculated using the effective interest method, finance charges in respect of finance leases, and exchange differences arising from foreign currency borrowings to the extent that they are regarded as an adjustment to interest cost.

Borrowing costs are expenses as incurred.

**(l) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and purchased assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

**(m) Comparatives**

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

**(n) Event occurring after the reporting date**

The corona virus outbreak in early 2020 has the potential to impact future services for the entity's customer base. The extent of the impact was unable to be quantified as at the date the financial report was authorised for issue.

Except for the above, no other matters or circumstances has arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the entity, the result of those operations or the state of affairs of the entity in future financial years.

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia

ABN 77 001 417 125

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

**NOTE 2: REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME**

|   | 2021           | 2020           |
|---|----------------|----------------|
|   | \$             | \$             |
| Sales revenue                               |                |                |
| - Sale of goods                             |                |                |
| Total revenue from operating activities     | <u>273,291</u> | <u>272,623</u> |
|   | <u>273,291</u> | <u>272,623</u> |
| Other Revenue                               |                |                |
| - Interest income                           | 753            | 1,250          |
| - Donations and grants                      | 472,444        | 328,051        |
| - Conventions                               | 74,224         | -              |
| - COVID19 Stimulus                          | 75,498         | 42,110         |
| - Other revenue                             | (9,440)        | 87,668         |
| Total revenue from non-operating activities | <u>613,478</u> | <u>459,079</u> |
|   | <u>613,478</u> | <u>459,079</u> |
| Total revenue and other income              | <u>886,769</u> | <u>731,702</u> |

**NOTE 3: OPERATING SURPLUS**

|                                     |         |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Surplus / (deficit) for the year    |         |         |
| - Cost of Sales                     | 137,262 | 153,682 |
| - Depreciation / Lease Amortisation | 33,056  | 32,402  |
| - Bad Debts Written off             | -       | -       |
| - Doubtful Debts                    | (9,193) | 4,650   |
| - Audit Fee - Audit Services        | 12,331  | 12,315  |

**NOTE 4: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION**

|  |                |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Compensation received by key management personnel of the company |                |                |
| - short-term employee benefits                                   | 95,327         | 96,640         |
| - Post-employment benefits                                       | 8,378          | 8,532          |
|  | <u>103,705</u> | <u>105,172</u> |

**NOTE 5: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

|                          |                |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cash at bank and on hand | 712,819        | 368,196        |
|                          | <u>712,819</u> | <u>368,196</u> |

**NOTE 6: RECEIVABLES**

**CURRENT**

|                 |               |               |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Trade Debtors   | 21,420        | 34,034        |
| Impairment Loss | (1,856)       | (11,049)      |
|                 | <u>19,564</u> | <u>22,985</u> |

Other Debtors and deposits

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| -             | -             |
| <u>19,564</u> | <u>22,985</u> |

**NON CURRENT**

Amount receivable from:

|                                 |               |               |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| - other related body corporates | 10,000        | 10,000        |
|                                 | <u>10,000</u> | <u>10,000</u> |
|                                 | <u>29,564</u> | <u>32,985</u> |

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia

ABN 77 001 417 125

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

**NOTE 7: INVENTORIES**

|                          | 2021           | 2020           |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                          | \$             | \$             |
| CURRENT                  |                |                |
| <i>At Cost</i>           |                |                |
| Finished goods - at cost | 184,997        | 158,184        |
| Provision for impairment | (9,250)        | (7,909)        |
|                          | <u>175,747</u> | <u>150,275</u> |

**NOTE 8: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS**

|  |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| CURRENT                                  |               |               |
| <i>Held to maturity financial assets</i> |               |               |
| Term Deposit                             | 96,581        | 96,243        |
|  | <u>96,581</u> | <u>96,243</u> |

The term deposit has an interest rate of 0.10% p.a and a maturity date of 12th September 2021

**NOTE 9: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

|   |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Leasehold improvements</b>                   |               |               |
| <i>At cost</i>                                  | 23,026        | 23,026        |
| Less: accumulated depreciation                  | (23,026)      | (23,026)      |
|   | <u>-</u>      | <u>-</u>      |
| <b>Plant and equipment</b>                      |               |               |
| <i>Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost</i> | 12,553        | 12,553        |
| Less: accumulated depreciation                  | (12,553)      | (12,553)      |
|   | <u>-</u>      | <u>-</u>      |
| <b>Lease</b>                                    |               |               |
| <i>Right of Use Asset</i>                       | 171,303       | 171,303       |
| Less: accumulated amortisation                  | (129,043)     | (95,987)      |
|   | <u>42,260</u> | <u>75,316</u> |
| <b>Total Property, plant and equipment</b>      | <u>42,260</u> | <u>75,316</u> |

**(a) Reconciliations**

|   |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Leasehold improvements</i>           |               |               |
| Opening carrying amount                 | -             | -             |
| Less: amortisation expense              | -             | -             |
| Closing carrying amount                 | <u>-</u>      | <u>-</u>      |
| <i>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</i> |               |               |
| Opening carrying amount                 | -             | -             |
| Less: disposal                          | -             | -             |
| Less: depreciation expense              | -             | -             |
| Closing carrying amount                 | <u>-</u>      | <u>-</u>      |
| <i>Leases</i>                           |               |               |
| Opening carrying amount                 | 75,316        | -             |
| Add: New Leases                         | -             | 171,303       |
| Less: disposal                          | -             | -             |
| Less: amortisation expense              | (33,056)      | (95,987)      |
| Closing carrying amount                 | <u>42,260</u> | <u>75,316</u> |

**NOTE 10: OTHER ASSETS**

|             |              |              |
|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| CURRENT     |              |              |
| Prepayments | 6,737        | 6,665        |
|             | <u>6,737</u> | <u>6,665</u> |

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia

ABN 77 001 417 125

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2021

**NOTE 11: PAYABLES**

|                               | 2021               | 2020               |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                               | \$                 | \$                 |
| <b>CURRENT</b>                |                    |                    |
| <i>Unsecured liabilities</i>  |                    |                    |
| Trade Creditors               |                    |                    |
| Sundry creditors and accruals | 20,790             | 1,134              |
| Lease Liability               | 38,137             | 49,174             |
|                               | <u>34,261</u>      | <u>34,261</u>      |
| <b>NON CURRENT</b>            | <u>93,187</u>      | <u>84,569</u>      |
| Lease Liability               | <u>8,000</u>       | <u>41,055</u>      |
| <br>Total Payables            | <br><u>101,187</u> | <br><u>125,624</u> |

**NOTE 12: PROVISIONS**

|   |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <b>CURRENT</b>                            |               |               |
| Employee benefits                         | (a) 21,589    | 10,725        |
|   | <u>21,589</u> | <u>10,725</u> |
| <b>NON CURRENT</b>                        |               |               |
| Employee benefits                         | (a) 54,837    | 75,400        |
|   | <u>54,837</u> | <u>75,400</u> |
| (a) Aggregate employee benefits liability | <u>76,426</u> | <u>86,125</u> |

**NOTE 13: RETAINED SURPLUS**

|                                       |                |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Retained Surplus at beginning of year | 517,931        | 424,657        |
| Surplus / (deficit)                   | <u>368,165</u> | <u>93,275</u>  |
|                                       | <u>886,096</u> | <u>517,931</u> |

**NOTE 14: CASH FLOW INFORMATION**

**Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities with profit after income tax**

|  |                |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Profit after income tax  | 368,165        | 93,275         |
| Non-cash flows in profit   |                |                |
| - bad and doubtful debts   | (9,193)        | 4,650          |
| Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries |                |                |
| - (increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables   | 12,614         | 13,241         |
| - (increase) / decrease in other assets  | (72)           | (1,699)        |
| - (increase) / decrease in inventories   | (25,472)       | 43,726         |
| - (increase) / decrease in Right of Use Asset  | 33,056         | (75,316)       |
| - increase / (decrease) in Lease Liabilities   | (33,056)       | 75,316         |
| - increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables  | 10,132         | (43,973)       |
| - increase / (decrease) in tax liabilities   | (1,513)        | 3,600          |
| - increase / (decrease) in provision   | <u>(9,699)</u> | <u>12,211</u>  |
| Net cash provided by operating activities  | <u>344,962</u> | <u>125,031</u> |

**NOTE 15: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

(a) Apart from the loans to regions, there were no related party transactions during the year

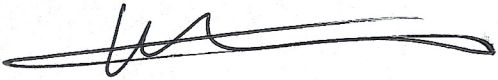
(b) No Directors received remuneration during the year

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN 77 001 417 125  
Directors' Declaration

The Directors of the company declare that:

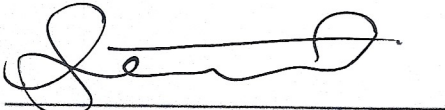
- (a) the financial statements and notes of the company are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*; and
  - (i) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
  - (ii) comply with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act*
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



---

Director



---

Director

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2021



# Graeme Kay CA

Registered Company Auditor

---

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

ABN 77 001 417 125

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

## Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

### Opinion

I have audited the financial report of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors declaration.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, including

- i. Giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- ii. Complying with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

### Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described as in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the audit or independence requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Page 17

ABN 91 852 121 401 – 77/192 Vimiera Road, MARSFIELD NSW 2122 – Mob: 0409 066 515

Email: [graemekayauditor@outlook.com](mailto:graemekayauditor@outlook.com)

Limited Liability by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

# Graeme Kay CA

Registered Company Auditor

---

## Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

**GRAEME KAY**  
Registered Company Auditor

Signature:.....*Graeme Kay*.....

Dated:.....*13 October 2021*.....

# Graeme Kay CA

Registered Company Auditor

## DISCLAIMER

### TO THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

I have compiled the accompanying additional financial information of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2021, as presented on pages 20-21. The additional information has been prepared to satisfy the information with the Accounting Policies adopted in the preparation of the annual financial statements of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia for the year ended 30 June 2021 as described in Note 1 to those financial statements.

#### The Responsibility of the Directors

The Directors of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia are solely responsible for the form and content of the additional information, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile it and for the determination that the basis of accounting used for its preparation is appropriate to meet their needs and appropriate for the purpose that the additional information was prepared.

#### My responsibility

On the basis of information provided to me by management, I have compiled the accompanying additional information in accordance with the basis of accounting described above and APES 315 Compilation of Financial Information.

I have applied my expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile the additional information in accordance with the basis of accounting described above. I have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants.

#### Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, I am not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to me by management to compile the additional information of the appropriateness of the basis of accounting used for its preparation. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on the additional information.

The additional information was compiled exclusively for the benefit of the management and the Directors of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia. The additional information may not be suitable for other purposes. I do not accept responsibility for the contents of the additional information.

GRAEME KAY  
Registered Company Auditor

Signature:..... *Graeme Kay* .....

Dated:..... *13 October 2021* .....

Page 19

ABN 91 852 121 401 – 77/192 Vimiera Road, MARSFIELD NSW 2122 – Mob: 0409 066 515

Email: [graemekaya@outlook.com](mailto:graemekaya@outlook.com)

Limited Liability by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN 77 001 417 125

Additional Information  
for the year ended 30 June 2021

Private information for the Directors  
On the 2021 Financial Statements

|  | 2021                  | 2020                 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|
|  | \$                    | \$                   |
| <b>Income</b>                                  |                       |                      |
| Sale of Goods                                  | 273,291               | 272,623              |
| <b>Less Cost of goods sold</b>                 |                       |                      |
| Opening Inventory                              | 150,276               | 194,001              |
| Purchases / Materials used                     | 162,733               | 109,957              |
|  | <u>313,009</u>        | <u>303,958</u>       |
| Less closing inventory                         | 175,747               | 150,276              |
| <b>Total cost of goods sold</b>                | <u>137,262</u>        | <u>153,682</u>       |
| <b>Gross profit</b>                            | <u>136,029</u>        | <u>118,941</u>       |
| <b>Other operating income</b>                  |                       |                      |
| Interest Income                                | 753                   | 1,250                |
| Conference levies                              | (9,440)               | 57,498               |
| Convention                                     | 74,224                | -                    |
| Donations                                      | 472,444               | 328,051              |
| COVID 19 Government Stimulus                   | 75,498                | 42,110               |
| Sundry Income                                  | -                     | 30,170               |
| <b>Total other operating income</b>            | <u>613,478</u>        | <u>459,079</u>       |
| <b>Contribution Margin</b>                     | <u>749,507</u>        | <u>578,020</u>       |
| <b>Less Expenses</b>                           |                       |                      |
| Audit and accountancy                          | (24,278)              | (21,593)             |
| Bank charges                                   | (3,285)               | (877)                |
| Computer support                               | (266)                 | (40)                 |
| Conference / Seminar costs                     | 5,320                 | (65,314)             |
| Depreciation and amortisation                  | (33,056)              | (32,402)             |
| Doubtful Debts                                 | 9,193                 | (4,650)              |
| Electricity and gas                            | (4,756)               | (3,307)              |
| Foreign Currency Gains / (Losses)              | (664)                 | 6,967                |
| Holiday pay                                    | (10,864)              | (4,804)              |
| Insurance expenses                             | (18,596)              | (16,083)             |
| Interest Expenses                              | (1,204)               | (1,858)              |
| Legal and trademark expenses                   | (364)                 | (1,866)              |
| Long service leave                             | 20,563                | (7,407)              |
| Office expenses                                | (6,885)               | (4,380)              |
| Postage and freight                            | -                     | (2,618)              |
| Production costs                               | -                     | (3,212)              |
| Public information expenses                    | (10,852)              | (10,583)             |
| Rent expenses                                  | (5,873)               | (3,949)              |
| Repairs and maintenance                        | -                     | (247)                |
| Salaries and wages                             | (264,885)             | (253,066)            |
| Superannuation                                 | (20,843)              | (22,395)             |
| Telephone                                      | (4,924)               | (5,578)              |
| Travelling expenses                            | (370)                 | (22,065)             |
| Website Development                            | (3,028)               | (1,912)              |
| World service levy                             | (1,424)               | (1,506)              |
|  | <u>(381,342)</u>      | <u>(484,745)</u>     |
| <b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>                     | <u>368,165</u>        | <u>93,275</u>        |
| Other comprehensive income for the year        | -                     | -                    |
| <b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b> | <u><u>368,165</u></u> | <u><u>93,275</u></u> |

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN 77 001 417 125

Additional Information  
for the year ended 30 June 2021

Private information for the Directors  
On the 2021 Financial Statements

|   | 2021           | 2020           |
|---|----------------|----------------|
|   | \$             | \$             |
| <b>NOTE 11: Sundry creditors and accruals</b> |                |                |
| Collection due to others                      | 22,743         | 33,221         |
| GST Payable                                   | (2,099)        | (1,179)        |
| PAYG withholding tax                          | 4,851          | 5,444          |
| Superannuation payable                        | 1,642          | 1,688          |
| Provision for audit                           | 11,000         | 10,000         |
| Lease Liability - Current                     | 34,261         | 34,261         |
| Lease Liability - Non Current                 | 8,000          | 41,055         |
| Trade Creditors                               | <u>20,790</u>  | <u>1,134</u>   |
|   | <u>101,187</u> | <u>125,624</u> |
| <br><b>NOTE 12: Provisions</b>                |                |                |
| Current employee benefits                     |                |                |
| Annual leave                                  | <u>21,589</u>  | <u>10,725</u>  |
|   | <u>21,589</u>  | <u>10,725</u>  |
| Non-current employee benefits                 |                |                |
| Long service leave                            | <u>54,837</u>  | <u>75,400</u>  |
|   | <u>54,837</u>  | <u>75,400</u>  |

# INCOME STATEMENT

Budget FY2022 vs Actual FY2021

|                                     | Budget FY2022    | Actual FY2021    | Variance<br>favourable / (unfavourable) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---|
| <b>Literature Sales</b>             |                  |                  |   |
| Literature Sales                    | 288,418          | 273,291          | 15,127                                  |
| <i>Less Cost of Goods Sold</i>      | <i>(148,043)</i> | <i>(137,262)</i> | <i>(10,780)</i>                         |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>                 | <b>140,376</b>   | <b>136,029</b>   | <b>4,347</b>                            |
| Gross Profit Margin                 | 49%              | 50%              |   |
| <b>Add Other Income</b>             |                  |                  |   |
| Interest Income                     | 750              | 753              | (3)                                     |
| Conference Levies                   | 9,000            | (9,440)          | 18,440                                  |
| Conventions                         | 5,000            | 74,224           | (69,224)                                |
| Donations                           | 486,617          | 472,444          | 14,173                                  |
| COVID19 Stimulus                    | -                | 75,498           | (75,498)                                |
| <b>Total Other Operating Income</b> | <b>501,367</b>   | <b>613,478</b>   | <b>(112,111)</b>                        |
| <b>Contribution Margin</b>          | <b>641,742</b>   | <b>749,507</b>   | <b>(107,764)</b>                        |
| <b>Less: Other Expenses</b>         |                  |                  |   |
| Audit & Accountancy                 | (25,310)         | (24,278)         | (1,032)                                 |
| Bank Charges                        | (3,500)          | (3,285)          | (215)                                   |
| Computer Support                    | (2,000)          | (266)            | (1,734)                                 |
| Conference / Seminar Costs          | (6,000)          | 5,320            | (11,320)                                |
| Doubtful Debts                      | (5,000)          | 9,193            | (14,193)                                |
| Electricity & Gas                   | (5,232)          | (4,756)          | (476)                                   |
| FX Gains / (Losses)                 | -                | (664)            | 664                                     |
| Insurance                           | (20,290)         | (18,596)         | (1,694)                                 |
| Legal & Trademark                   | (2,776)          | (364)            | (2,412)                                 |

|  |           |                  |                  |                  |
|--|-----------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Office Expenses                        |           | (7,229)          | (6,885)          | (344)            |
| Public Information                     |           | (9,800)          | (10,852)         | 1,052            |
| <i>Rent</i>                            | (37,200)  |                  |                  | (31,327)         |
| <i>Depreciation &amp; Amortisation</i> | -         |                  |                  | 33,056           |
| <i>Interest Expense</i>                | -         |                  |                  | 1,204            |
| Net Rent                               |           | (37,200)         | (40,133)         | 2,933            |
| R&M                                    |           | (500)            | -                | (500)            |
| <i>Salaries and Wages</i>              | (240,541) |                  |                  | 24,344           |
| <i>Superannuation Expenses</i>         | (22,520)  |                  |                  | (1,677)          |
| <i>Holiday Pay</i>                     | (18,503)  |                  |                  | (7,639)          |
| <i>Long Service Leave</i>              | (3,020)   |                  |                  | (23,584)         |
| Total Payroll Costs                    |           | (284,584)        | (276,028)        | (8,556)          |
| Telephone                              |           | (5,417)          | (4,924)          | (492)            |
| Travel                                 |           | (750)            | (370)            | (380)            |
| Website                                |           | (3,330)          | (3,028)          | (302)            |
| World Service Levy                     |           | (2,000)          | (1,424)          | (576)            |
| <b>Total Other Expenses</b>            |           | <b>(420,918)</b> | <b>(381,342)</b> | <b>(39,576)</b>  |
| <b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>             |           | <b>220,825</b>   | <b>368,165</b>   | <b>(147,340)</b> |

# **SECTION 9**

# **REPORTS**



## EASTERN REGION

**Area A**

Hello all, my name is Mick and I am an alcoholic, and my home group is the Friday morning group in Pottsville, NSW. I was elected Delegate of Area A, Eastern Region in February 2021 and am looking forward to attending my first General Service Conference this year. I feel privileged to have been delegated the authority by the members and groups of this large Area to serve and to continue to 'carry the baton' by those who served so well in this role previously.

Area A currently has the positions of T&CF, PI&CPC and Area Archivist vacant, while positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Area Registrar, Delegate and Alternate Delegate are filled. Our Area registrar informed me that Area A normally has 121 active meetings, however during the latest Covid lockdowns the number of meetings declined. At time of writing (15<sup>th</sup> Sept) the breakdown of meetings in Area A is as follows: 67 physical meetings, 7 hybrid (combination of both zoom and face to face), 25 online and 22 temporarily closed. These figures are fairly fluid due to the current pandemic and we have had difficulty getting information on meeting numbers from a couple of Districts that don't have a formal District structure in place. Area A is geographically a large area, covering almost a third of NSW, predominantly the north-eastern section of the state from Forster in the south to Tweed Heads in the north and as far west as Lightning Ridge in the northwest. We hold four Area Assemblies per year and obviously with an Area this size, participation at face-to-face Assemblies is always going to be a challenge for GSR's. Regular communication with groups and Districts via the GSR's and DCM's plays a vital role in keeping people informed.

**Area A Districts update**

Area A currently has five fully functioning Districts; Byron, Hastings/Port Macquarie, New England, Banana Coast and Northern Rivers Central. A sixth District is functioning but is still trying to fill the role of DCM (Manning Great Lakes) while one District is in recess (North west) and another (Clarence) hasn't been operational for some time. Reading previous Delegate reports for Area A over the last six years, the number of listed Districts has oscillated between 8 and 9. Due to the current pandemic there has been a decline in Public Information and CPC activities in most Districts and a cancellation of events and Rallies, however it was heartening to see that even in times of lockdown that Districts are still able to function and carry the message effectively.

The DCM's have agreed to participate in regular informal catch ups with myself and the Alternate Delegate (via zoom) to primarily stay in touch and encourage each other with ideas and assist each other where needed. We had our first one-hour session online on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and will hold our second on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October. It provides a useful snapshot of District activity between Assemblies, which are only held quarterly and an opportunity to support and encourage each other during an historic time of uncharted territory for AA worldwide. For example, the Byron District DCM shared how that District had 10 meetings go online during the latest NSW lockdown and another 10 groups suspended their meeting (neither met online or face to face).

The idea for these DCM catch ups came from the same type of informal meetings that the Eastern Region Delegates enjoy once a month facilitated by the ER Trustee (Judy W). I personally have found these online gatherings really helpful as a first year Delegate. It's been a good way for me to meet and get to know the other Delegates within Eastern Region and to learn more; usually at these gatherings the Trustee invites someone to share on a particular topic for 20 minutes or so.

**The online transition**

It has been over 18 months since Covid influenced our members to seek alternative ways of sharing and carrying the message, as well as continuing in various service roles. It has been a powerful experience watching the groups within Area A (and worldwide) adapt and transition between face to face and online meetings and flow between the two while living during these interesting times! One of the benefits of online platforms has been the ability to keep functioning at group, District and Area levels and to watch new people get sober in the online AA world. Some groups are holding online workshops and sponsorship is still being delivered – in many cases online also.

Our previous two Area Assemblies in 2021 (Feb and May) were conducted online and our pre-conference Assembly (Sept 25<sup>th</sup>) will also be conducted online where the groups will bring forth their views on the 26 Topics for Conference this year. There is no doubt that GSR participation is enhanced with the ability of

members in such a large geographic Area to attend Area Assemblies online. There is probably a trade-off however between the magic of being physically with your fellow alcoholics in the spirit of service and the ease of attending events online and having greater participation. It is something we have discussed briefly when deciding on the format and location of our Area Assemblies. Up until now we have been forced to meet online but there may be a permanent place for a mix of online and face to face Assemblies moving forward. The group conscience will no doubt come up with a solution that fits. We are hoping to hold our post-conference Assembly in December in Armidale as a face-to-face event.

### **Area Inventory**

Area A was also able to host its Area inventory online in March 2021. This was facilitated by a member from outside the Area and provided the opportunity for Area A to look at what it is doing well and possible areas to improve. One of the outcomes of the inventory was to highlight the need for 'safety in AA', particularly for women. We decided to have two guest speakers present on this topic at our May 2021 Assembly. The speakers did an excellent job of covering a range of 'safety in AA' issues that covered predatory behaviour in a number of areas including sexual and financial predators as well as the issue around people advising on medications in AA. One of the speakers referred to the pamphlet "What is AA" and both shared a mix of personal experience and sound information in dealing with a sensitive but very valid topic. Both agreed that good sponsorship played a vital role in limiting this type of behaviour within AA. The workshop was well received by members, as evident by the questions and interest shown from those who attended the Assembly. The Area is financially responsible, making decisions at Assemblies on how best to utilise members money. For example, Area A was fully supportive of financially assisting District PI&CPC and T&CF representatives to attend the National PI&CPC and T&CF Forum in Brisbane this year, which has been postponed till early 2022 (The Area doesn't currently have a PI/CPC or T&CF rep so we deemed it prudent to offer the financial assistance to District reps to attend). Area also decided at our May 2021 Assembly to send some excess funds to GSO.

### **Eastern Regional Forum**

The Eastern Regional Forum was originally going to be held at Forster/Tuncurry in October but due to Covid has now transitioned to an online event. Thank you to the previous Area Committee and Delegate for putting in a bid to host this. It is finally coming to fruition and will be held on Saturday and Sunday 16-17 October 2021. The agenda for the Forum is relevant in a time when enthusiasm for service and participation in carrying the message is vital. Topics to be covered include a 'GSR School', a workshop on Public Information and innovative ways to carry the message, a session on the AA District and also a presentation on Leadership in AA. The Forum will commence on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> at 12pm via Zoom (I'd provide the Zoom details here but it will be long over by the time you read this).

### **Topics for Conference: 2021**

It has been wonderful to witness the groups within Area A discuss the 26 Topics for Conference and engage in having their voice heard regarding the ideas and suggestions our wider fellowship put forward via the Topics. Our pre-conference Assembly is being held on the 25<sup>th</sup> September to discuss and get a sense of Area A's view on each of the Topics. I personally am aware of one of the Topics that was put forward by a group within Area A and it was a positive experience to witness the origin of the Topic and watch the process unfold as it was endorsed by a local group, then discussed at District and finally taken to the Area where further discussion took place. Finally, it was endorsed by Area and then accepted as a Topic at this years Conference. It's nice to know an idea can start with a member or a small group anywhere in Australia and ultimately be considered by the entire Australian fellowship.

### **Other news**

Some groups within Area A have been keen to get involved in the 'Just Connect' Initiative, supporting carrying the message online into prisons. A presentation on this was given by a member at one of our Delegate meetings and the information was then shared with the groups within Area A. This is a wonderful opportunity for members wanting to be involved in assisting in T&CF work to do so remotely via the use of technology.

Our next face to face AA rally in Area A is scheduled to be the Grafton Rally on November 20. The Lightning Ridge Rally (far northwest of Area A) was still able to go ahead this year in June – a wonderful weekend for those wanting to experience the beautiful cold nights and sunny days of outback NSW in winter.

I look forward to attending my first Conference in November and once again thank the members of Area A for their support and trust.

Yours in Service,

## Area B



My name is Guy L, I am an alcoholic. This is my first year as the Area B (ER) Delegate, and my first National Conference, I look back on the time I have been involved and it has been a steep learning curve! I am of course supported by a highly supportive Area B Committee, where I have been given the opportunity to learn, to grow and to really get stuck into the service opportunity represented by the position as the Area B Delegate.

I have broken the report up into the area of service, from reports from the Area B Committee Members, who have worked diligently in support of the Area B communities in general, and AA as a whole.

I must pass on my thanks to the committee who have supported myself, and the Area B regions with skill, compassion, support and real grit this year (and last), especially with the changes that have resulted for the COVID-19 pandemic. We have I believe kept up the traditions to the fullest extent possible and continued to support the alcoholic who still suffers in our area.

That has not always been easy, we have had to make decisions and work with the group conscience of the Area and each group to ensure that we were being driven by the members of AA. Which I believe to a large extent we have been able to do.

I have broken this report into our sub-committees areas of responsibility, to ensure that all aspect of the area are represented. In general the Area B committee have been able to support a number of assemblies this year, both in person and virtually, which has enabled us to continue to deliver in Area B works in support of the AA community generally.

### **Area B Committee**

The Area B Committee serves to protect the autonomy and privilege of all AA Groups in Area B Eastern Region (ER) and ensure that we carry the message of recovery to suffering alcoholics. Various service sub-committees are created to help us carry the message of recovery. For example, a Public Information (PI) campaign may result in an increase in newcomers making calls to the 24- Hour AA Diverta Help Line. The Correctional Facilities sub-committee ensures the hand of AA reaches alcoholics in prisons.

### **Central Service Office**

Area B has a Central Service Offices (CSO) in Canberra and the Southern Highlands. While the function of CSO and Area are very different, the Area Committee works closely with the CSO Committees. Each year an Area Committee office holder volunteers to act in the role of a CSO Liaison. They liaise with CSO Committee members and attend the CSO Committee meetings to help maintain effective communication and coordination between the entities.

The Canberra CSO holds an annual CSO Council Assembly to report to the fellowship on its status and viability. Group GSRs are welcome to attend this meeting.

### **Area B Committee Members & Contacts**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Chairperson .....                        | <a href="mailto:chair.areab@aacanberra.org">chair.areab@aacanberra.org</a>                             |
| Secretary.....                           | <a href="mailto:secretary.areab@aacanberra.org">secretary.areab@aacanberra.org</a>                     |
| Delegate.....                            | <a href="mailto:delegate.areab@aacanberra.org">delegate.areab@aacanberra.org</a>                       |
| Alt Delegate .....                       | <a href="mailto:altdelegate.areab@aacanberra.org">altdelegate.areab@aacanberra.org</a>                 |
| Treasurer .....                          | <a href="mailto:treasurer.areab@aacanberra.org">treasurer.areab@aacanberra.org</a>                     |
| Correctional Facilities Coordinator..... | <a href="mailto:cft@aacanberra.org">cft@aacanberra.org</a>   |
| PI/CPC Coordinator .....                 | <a href="mailto:pi.areab@aacanberra.org">pi.areab@aacanberra.org</a>                                   |
| TF and Special Needs Coordinator .....   | <a href="mailto:treatmentfacilities.areab@aacanberra.org">treatmentfacilities.areab@aacanberra.org</a> |
| Registrar .....                          | <a href="mailto:registrar.areab@aacanberra.org">registrar.areab@aacanberra.org</a>                     |
| B-line Editor .....                      | <a href="mailto:bline.areab@aacanberra.org">bline.areab@aacanberra.org</a>                             |

## Area B (ER) Delegate Pre-Conference

### Report 🗺️ Area B Eastern Region



Area B, Eastern Region is a geographic area that includes the ACT and NSW. The Area extends from Tumut to Mittagong, back down to Braidwood and along the far south coast from Batemans Bay to the Victorian border (see box in the figure below).

#### 🗺️ Area B (ER) region

As well as being listed on the AA Australia website [www.aa.org.au](http://www.aa.org.au), meetings of AA Groups in Area B are published in the Canberra & Region Meetings List published on the Canberra CSO website [www.aacanberra.org](http://www.aacanberra.org) and the Southern Highlands CSO Website [www.aash.org.au](http://www.aash.org.au)



#### 🗺️ Area B Communication

The B-Line Newsletter, GSRs and Area B Google Group are our primary means of communicating with members in Area B.

The B-Line is published monthly on the Canberra website and distributed by email to interested members. GSRs are automatically added to the Area B Google Group.

#### 🗺️ Area Assemblies & Committee Meetings

The Area B Committee meets each month. Four of these meetings are Area Assembly meetings. GSRs are the heart and soul of our Assemblies.

#### 🗺️ Committee Meetings

Committee meetings are typically held on the second Saturday of the month from 2:00 - 4:00pm. The dates are emailed out to the Area B Google Group for GSRs. They are also posted on the [aacanberra.org](http://aacanberra.org) website under the Area B tab and published in the B-Line Newsletter. GSRs are welcome to attend Committee meetings if they wish. Some GSRs attend Committee meetings to get better acquainted with the Committee processes and service activities. There are often opportunities for service on sub-committees engaged in carrying the message within prisons (CFT) and treatment facilities (TF&SN), to the public and the professional community (PI&CPC) or to arrange special events such as Founders Day. The Sub-committee Coordinators are elected members of the Area Committee. Special events Sub-committees or working groups report to Area on their progress but don't have elected positions on the Area B Committee as such.

#### 🗺️ Area B ER current has a number of vacancies

- Alt Secretary: Vacant
- Treatment Facilities and Special Needs Coordinator: Vacant
- CSO Liaison: Vacant

#### 🗺️ Area Assembly Meetings

Area Assemblies are the Group Conscience of the Area. As the spokesperson for their Group, there is no Assembly without the GSRs!

There are four Assembly meetings during the year:

- February Assembly
- May Assembly
- October Assembly
- December Assembly

The agenda for each Assembly Meeting covers the main purpose of the Assembly (e.g. election) and also standard business, including reports from Area Committee Members and GSRs.

## Area B (ER) Delegate Pre-Conference

### Report Central Service Office (CSO)



CSOs perform different service roles to the Area. The CSOs assist local Groups in carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The CSO may have a physical or virtual office staffed by local volunteer AA members who provide the following services:

#### **AA Enquiries and 12 Step Calls**

The CSO is listed in the local telephone directory and accepts enquires from those seeking help. AA members answer the phones and provide information about local meetings or arrange for a call back from a member on the local "Twelfth Step List".

The CSO is often contacted by outside agencies and/or members of the public for AA information or asking for assistance with a client or clients of their organisation. These requests are referred to the relevant Coordinator e.g. PI/CPC Chair, Correctional Facilities Chair or the Treatment Facilities Chair.

#### **Diverta**

After hours and on weekends and public holidays, the AA phone number is diverted to a member who answers calls from people trying to contact AA, enabling us to meet our commitment to the

*A.A. Declaration: "When anyone, reaches out for help I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible".*

#### **Beginner's & Detox Meetings**

While Area has a Coordinator to help facilitate AA resources at Treatment Facilities throughout the region, the Canberra CSO coordinates the roster of members that attend meetings and information sessions held in the Withdrawal Unit (Detox), located at the Canberra Hospital. Canberra CSO also coordinates local Groups to run the weekly Beginner's Meeting to help introduce Detox patients and newcomers to AA.

#### **Literature**

CSOs supplies AA Conference Approved Literature to local members and Groups at the same price as the General Service Office. Local make a small profit to help offset the costs of rent, phone and internet services. Purchasing literature through the locally, helps support the CSO. Purchasing AA literature elsewhere does not.

#### **Website**

Both CSOs pay for internet services to maintain their own websites ([www.aacanberra.org](http://www.aacanberra.org); <https://www.aash.org.au>) facilitate communication with the local fellowship.

#### **Area B Business Meeting**

The business meeting will follow the items listed on the agenda. The Area Committee considers items put to it and decides if the matter is best discussed at an Area Assembly, Committee meeting, Group Conscience or CSO meeting.

The Chair will then ask the Area whether it wants to **entertain** the motion. Usually a simple majority (51%) is sufficient for the proposal to be put onto the Agenda for the next Assembly, in New Business. In the spirit of Tradition 2 the voices of all present deserve to be equally and respectfully heard. We do this because we are forming the Group Conscience of the Area, and to ensure that God may express him/herself through our Assembly. To do this, we follow meeting procedures built through AA experience and guided by our 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts for World Service.

#### **Questions we ask - How well are we doing it?**

1. Are Assemblies attractive and meaningful to Groups?
2. Do new General Service Representatives stick with us?
3. Are our discussions constructive or confrontational?
4. Do our trusted servants lead or dominate?

## Area B (ER) Delegate Pre-Conference Report



5. Does everyone get a chance to contribute ideas, opinions and criticisms?
6. Is Area focused on talk or action?
7. Do we follow up our decisions?
8. Could we conduct our business more effectively by some other means?

### **Area B Elections**

The GSR serves for two years and is elected at a Group Conscience meeting, which may be held specially for that purpose if the Group prefers. To emphasise the need for care in selecting the GSR and the importance of the GSR's work in the District and Area, it may be helpful to borrow one (or more) of GSO's videos, and/or invite a seasoned District Committee Member to lead a special question-and-answer session. An informed Group will enjoy a well-planned special meeting - it will emphasise the meaning of the hand of AA reaching out to bring the Group closer to the Fellowship as a whole. There should be written nominations from the floor, then written ballots. A simple majority is usually sufficient for election; however, if there is likely to be a close vote, the Group should agree beforehand to have a second ballot with only the high-scoring candidates in the running. If two candidates then tie, or the second vote is not a 2/3 majority, the two names are placed in the hat and one is drawn.

### **CTF coordinator**

Thank you to Area B for its allocation of funds last year to the CFT. We have prepared and printed a number of Bridging The Gap pamphlets and cards, after sharing these at the National Correctional Facilities in August.

- We have also prepared and printed an information pamphlet to be distributed at meetings, sharing the benefits of service within correctional facilities.
- We held a Bridging the Gap Subcommittee meeting.
- There are a few initiatives we are working on:
  - Preparation for a meeting with the case managers for parolees;
  - Working more closely with CSO regarding ex-detainees who reach out to CSO
  - How we can better assist parolees access meetings while on parole.
- We have a follow-up meeting in a month, after progressing the work further. We will then report back to the CFT Committee and Area B as appropriate.
- In the meantime, attendance at AMC meetings have been low for the past two months. Numbers are generally low at the AMC which could be a contributing factors. We will continue to attend meetings and not doubt the tide will turn.

### **Zoom Coordinator**

We have been able move many of our meetings to zoom as has the remainder of the fellowship. And many of our current zoom meetings are moving to face to face. Statistics as per below.



Vacant positions

## **Vacant Committee Positions**

**Chairperson.** The Chair convenes the Assemblies and Committee meetings. Chairing the meetings is where the great value of the Chair resides. In consultation with the Committee, the Chair drafts meeting Agendas for the Secretary to distribute to all Groups and Committee members via the mailing lists.

Therefore, the Chairperson needs to be conversant with the progress of all Action items from previous minutes to be carried out and ensure that they have been marked as completed or finalised when appropriate.

**Secretary.** The Secretary's role is to take the Assemblies and Committee meeting minutes, send draft Committee and Assembly minutes to Committee members for confirmation. The Area B Secretary maintains a record and file of Assembly meeting minutes (Including reports and agendas), Committee meeting minutes (Including reports and agendas).

**Treasurer.** The Treasurer should also be monitoring and reporting to Area on the status of outgoing payments like funds donated for particular purposes (Such as PI Literature or Literature for the Area's Correctional Facilities).

**B-Line Editor.** The B-Line Editor collects items of interest (such as local member stories), information on new meetings and/or closing meetings, local to Area B events, Area B Group events and events not local to Area B (But of interest to it's fellowship). The newsletter is published at the beginning of each month by email and the CSO website.

**Correctional Facilities Team Co-ordinator.** The Correctional Facilities Coordinator and/or Sub-Committee Chair (CFC Chair) keeps the Area B Committee and Fellowship informed on Correctional Facilities service work being carried out throughout Area B by individual Groups, Districts and the CFC Area B Sub- committee.

**Treatment Facilities Co-ordinator.** The Area B Treatment Facilities and Special Needs Coordinator and/or Sub-Committee Chair (TF Coordinator) keeps the Area B Committee and Fellowship informed on Treatment Facilities and Special Needs service work being carried out throughout Area B by individual Groups, Districts and the TF Area B Sub-committee.

**Zoom Administrator.** Join a dynamic team and enhance your sobriety as the new zoom administrator. Commitment is about 2 hours per month plus committee meetings. You will need a credit card to pay the annual subscription about \$460 per year for which you will be reimbursed. You will also to manage the Area B permissions to the group files and folders on the Google drive. You will also need to write a brief monthly report on the attendance of zoom meetings. Training provided for all of the above. **See page 6 for further information.**

**Communications Co-ordinator.** The Communications Coordinator has a diverse role as the central point of information on AA in Area B, particularly external agencies. This includes project management of our online presence, the dissemination of information via the internet, distribution lists and co-ordination of communication initiatives.

**CSO Liaison.** The Area B CSO Liaison Office holder is the conduit of communication between Area B and the Canberra CSO. Therefore the Area B CSO Liaison Office holder needs to attend both Area B Committee and Assembly meetings and CSO Office Committee meetings and CSO Council Assemblies.

**Snapshot of Area B voting at Topics for Conference**  
From page 4

| TOPIC No.   | TOPIC SUBJECT   | AGREE                   | DISAGR | NEUTRA | MORE | ABSTAI |
|---|---|-------------------------|--------|--------|------|--------|
| <b>CONFERENCE POLICIES &amp; ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE</b>                                   |   |                         |        |        |      |        |
| 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.  | 14                      |        | 1      |      | 1      |
| 023/2021  | That the fellowship discontinues using gender-based titles for its meetings i.e., Men's Group, Women's Group, Gay and Lesbian group,  | 2                       | 17     |        |      |        |
| <b>CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER &amp; SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE</b>                         |   |                         |        |        |      |        |
| 015/2020  | Remove the reference to CSO's from the AA Guidelines and call them local service offices directly responsible to their local groups.  | 8                       | 3      |        |      | 3      |
| 016/2020  | That the Guidelines on National Conventions be sent to a working committee to better reflect the single purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous   | 17                      |        | 1      |      |        |
| 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   | 14                      |        | 1      |      | 2      |
| <b>CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE</b>   |   |                         |        |        |      |        |
| 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:<br>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. | 2                       | 10     |        |      | 3      |
| <b>CONFERENCE TREATMENT FACILITIES &amp; ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE</b>                    |   | NO<br>CONFERENCE TOPICS |        |        |      |        |
| <b>CONFERENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE</b>                                     |   | NO<br>CONFERENCE TOPICS |        |        |      |        |
| <b>CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION &amp; CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY</b> |   |                         |        |        |      |        |
| 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.  | 17                      |        |        |      | 1      |
| 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.  | 6                       | 4      |        | 6    | 3      |
| 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.   | 13                      | 1      |        |      | 1      |
| 007/2020  | To make a series of engaging videos aimed at Professionals within the health, prisons and Armed Forces sectors.   | 16                      | 1      |        |      | 1      |



|                                     |  |    |    |  |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|----|----|--|---|---|
| <b>010/2020</b>                     | Taking the advantages and benefits we have seen from the use of online meetings forward; Alcoholics 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.).   | 5  | 10 |  |   | 3 |
| <b>019/2021</b>                     | 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  | 19 |    |  |   |   |
| <b>021/2020</b>                     | Request that the webmaster and/or responsible committee, source and implement a live chat function on aa.org.au  | 6  | 3  |  | 5 | 4 |
| <b>022/2020</b>                     | This topic proposes that AA Australia, together with the National and Area PI Committees, develop a series of videos, similar to the UK <a href="https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Professionals/Videos-for-Professionals">https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Professionals/Videos-for-Professionals</a> , 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. | 17 | 1  |  |   |   |
| <b>024/2021</b>                     | 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.   | 15 |    |  |   | 3 |
| <b>025/2021</b>                     | That Conference advise the General Service Board to explore options for coordinating the use of Digital Media (e.g., Facebook, Instagram and Google AdWords) as a method of PI, on a National scale, as a means to attract newcomers.  | 3  | 5  |  | 6 | 1 |
| <b>CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE</b> |  |    |    |  |   |   |

| TOPIC No.                                      | TOPIC SUBJECT   | AGREE                           | DISAGR | NEUTRA | MORE | ABSTAI |
|--|---|---------------------------------|--------|--------|------|--------|
| 026/2021                                       | The wording on the auto-generated email response regarding group requests for Public Liability insurance be changed to:<br>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  | 2                               | 13     |        | 1    |        |
| <b>CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE</b> |   | <b>NO<br/>CONFERENCE TOPICS</b> |        |        |      |        |
| <b>CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE</b>         |   |                                 |        |        |      |        |
| 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.   | 10                              | 5      |        |      |        |
| 009/2021                                       | Gender-inclusive Australian Big Book. It is proposed that the Australian General Service Conference:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>seek copyright permission from AA World Services or any other relevant entity, if necessary.</li> </ul> <p>Alternatively, if it cannot do so for copyright reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> |                                 | 15     |        |      | 1      |
| 011/2020                                       | That a 4-year AA service position of Editor of AA Around Australia be created and advertised on aa.org.au.  | 6                               | 9      |        | 1    |        |
| 012/2021                                       | To update the Australian AA Group Handbook to include an extra section on how an online AA group may function.  | 16                              |        |        |      |        |
| 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.<br>This includes the availability of electronic literature where possible.  | 4                               | 10     |        |      | 1      |
| 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  | 8                               | 6      |        | 1    |        |

|   |  |            |            |          |           |           |
|---|--|------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
|   | ("Australian Big Book").   |            |            |          |           |           |
| <b>020/2021</b>                         | To remove the pamphlet "A Brief Guide to AA" from all Australian literature sources  |            | <b>14</b>  |          |           |           |
| <b>CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES</b> |  |            |            |          |           |           |
| <b>005/2021</b>                         | 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 remunerated and commitment to AA, of any past/current GSO staff.  | <b>12</b>  | <b>2</b>   |          |           |           |
| <b>CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE</b>      |  |            |            |          |           |           |
| <b>001/2020</b>                         | 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. | <b>5</b>   |            |          | <b>8</b>  |           |
| <b>Sum</b>                              |  | <b>237</b> | <b>129</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>28</b> |

---

**Area C**  
Report not received by deadline.

---

**Area D**

Greetings all,  
My name is Rangimarie P and I'm an alcoholic and my Home Group is the "Caringbah Unity Group" in Sydney, NSW. Our Group temporarily hosts four meetings a week on Zoom only. Typically we host 1 zoom only meeting and three hybrid meetings, as follows, a hybrid BB Study Meeting, a hybrid Steps and Traditions Meeting, a Zoom only Beginners Meeting and a hybrid ABSI meeting. I mention my Home Group in any report to the General Service Conference as this is where my journey in Service journey found its beginnings and continues to be the mainstay in the legacy of Service, I currently hold our group's PI position as well other various roles when required in the spirit of rotation.

Other service privileges include Area D roles T & CF coordinator, PI & CPC, Chairperson and currently serving my second term as Area D delegate.

This years conference committee's were changed to balance that of various experiences, so I will be attending the following conference committees

PI/CPC - 9 Topics  
Trustees - 1 Topic

International - 1 Topic  
Correctional Facilities - 0 Topics

Eastern Region Area D is a geographic area which stretches from Camden in Sydney's west, as far north as Horsely Park and Smithfield, through suburbs that include Croydon, Ashfield and Summer Hill and east to Kurnell and Bundeena and then south through the Illawarra and as far south as Berrara in the Shoalhaven.

Area D each week hosts over 100 meetings p/w and growing, as the current restrictions continue many groups continue to adapt like the rest of the affected fellowship hosting meetings. There is good news where isolated members worldwide have joined local groups via zoom enjoying the connection within our Recovery, Unity and Service legacies.

Despite the majority of our members looking forward to returning to our home group venues, the fellowship continues to thrive through our primary purpose based in love and service.

Area D convenes four Area Assemblies annually, currently we have moved to Zoom on a permanent basis which has greatly provided easier access for isolated members to attend. We have enjoyed the attendance of more isolated groups GSR who bring with them more good news that A.A. is reaching alcoholics in their local communities.

Sharing Sessions and Workshops are included in Assemblies where possible. We recently enjoyed a presentation about the just connect corrections initiative which has found a good response from Area and has been a welcoming support for the Nowra members who are in liaisons with South Coast Corrections facility with great results in establishing A.A. participation within their services.

The Macarthur District continues to be represented by their District Committee Member alongside a steady GSR attendance. Their inspirational service to their district includes radio announcements amongst their ongoing PI CPC through their local website and phone service etc. Macarthur district continues inspire the members of our area attending groups.

We enjoy active groups of different sizes and far reaches of Area D yet all encompass the A.A. Spirit towards our primary purpose who share common enthusiasm witnessing recovering newcomers and those that don't as well as the obvious sometimes concern with the current isolation and restrictions we all endure.

Another group also has a local website made available in a rural town where enquiries for contact can be made at their leisure, where they may also browse through valuable A.A. info. Others are attempting to be very active in PI as best they can in today's times. A group from as far south as Batemans bay has brought news of a possible district being formed so members with experience in this have been found valuable.

Particular groups have found an explosion in membership during the online access age due to easier access to the fellowship they crave.

Some groups continue to share tradition 7 contributions of vital importance via online services so they may find their way to A.A. intended purposes and offices.

Between Area Assemblies much of our communication continues to happen through WhatsApp which has made it easy to communicate amongst groups GSR's. Members can be invited into the group where new GSR's are sent a welcome pack that contains some valuable info for new role.

Emphasis to on the importance of staying informed of current AA service opportunities, upcoming events and matters affecting AA as a whole. Flyers, reports and both Area agendas and minutes are posted.

This is my 2nd year General Service Conference Report and I would like to thank all members who currently serve on the Area D Committee. We currently have all service positions filled with a new T & CF and Area making a decision to split registrar into four areas has made a small but effective difference.

We met recently to discuss this years topics for conference and I hope to carry the groups conscience into October and September's committees and conference.

#### T&CF

With many facilities in treatment closing their doors for now we have seen many institutions attend meeting via zoom, some members doing great service facilitating Zoom H&I which is also great work. The South Coast Correctional Gaol has shown interest in AA participation and registration forms are being moved out amongst the fellowship with the support of Just Connect.

#### PI/CPC

Macarthur Districts community service radio announcements on C91.3fm, 2 weeks per month 41- 42 free required to pay 5 - 6 announcements only as community service announcement.

Attended National sub committee for PI/CPC a platform to share PI info ie school presentation tools, scripts on delivery to professionals etc

Area G invite afforded an insight into each other's good works connecting valuable ideas to particular sectors.

Findings of group local PI has been

#### EVENTS

With many events being cancelled this year

A group in Area D held its annual ANZAA even online. It has been a joy to attend so many such events world wide as online access has made this possible.

Yours in Service Rangimarie P  
Eastern Region Area D Delegate

---

---

## Area E

**Report not received by deadline.**

---

---

## Area G

Eastern Region Area G is well supported by in-area groups both across all sub-committees and financially. A brief overview of activities taking place in area follows:

### **PI & CPC**

Multiple Facebook campaigns:

- The most recent targeted 16 + age category & cost \$147 and had a reach of 17,968. Of those, 1,198 engaged with the post by either clicking through to the website, liking, sharing, or commenting.
- The purpose of the advertising has been to drive traffic to the Australian AA website where meeting lists and more information can be accessed.
- Ads have been sent from a ghost account managed by the PI committee so comments and messages can be moderated while maintaining personal anonymity.
- Costs have been capped per day to control the spend. Billing occurs at the end of the campaign cycle – outlay has varied from \$50 - \$150 per campaign.

General Practice Conference & Exhibition:

- Coordinated the AA presence and attended the annual GPCE conference which was well attended and had lots of engagement with doctors.
- For the first time this year, we fielded two AA speakers at the event which was great exposure

Other:

- Literature drops to doctors' surgeries in the local prior to the second lockdown.
- Investigating running radio announcements.
- Initiating a process for carrying the AA message to secondary schools
- Investigating running a series of radio announcements.

For details or further information please contact Area G to be put in contact with the current the chair of the Area PI & CPC sub-committee, [areagaasydney@gmail.com](mailto:areagaasydney@gmail.com)

### **Treatment**

H&I meetings in in-area treatment facilities are generally organised and supported by local groups. Most facilities pivoted to on-line meetings during the first lockdown period. In-person meetings were becoming possible prior to the second lockdown and have again reverted to on-line.

Two facilities were physically displaced in 2020 due to Covid19 priorities, one of which has not yet been re-instated. One facility was briefly repurposed as a Covid19 isolation ward this year.

Centrally, Area makes literature available to coordinators of the above H&I rosters plus facilitates literature drops to other detox units and rehabs in Area.

For details or further information please contact Area G to be put in contact with the current the chair of the Area Treatment sub-committee, areagaasydney@gmail.com  
**LGBTQI+ District** - <https://www.gayaa.org.au/>

Some recent highlights

- Facebook campaign targeting the still suffering LGBTQI alcoholic with a male and female version of the ad.
  - The female ad reached 6330 people and had 105 link clicks (\$90 spend)
  - The male ad reached 6636 people and had 104 link clicks (\$90 spend)
- Website traffic increased by 28% in June this year

For details or further information please contact Area G to be put in contact with the current the chair of the LGBTQI PI committee, areagaasydney@gmail.com

### **Corrections**

Area hosted the 2020 Corrections & Treatment forum

### **Long Bay Correctional Complex**

Existing face to face meeting in Metropolitan Special Programs Centre 1 (MSPC) on hold due to COVID19.

Introduction of two new face to face meetings in MSPC 1& 2 on hold due to COVID19. Meetings in MSPC1, 2 & 3 will move on-line.

Literature donation accepted by MSPC1

### **Forensic Hospital**

Forensic hospital meeting continued into its second year and member's attending gained approval from FH staff team to sponsor clients – currently running on-line.

Literature donation accepted Forensics Hospital

### **General**

Grapevine magazines now being distributed through prison libraries across NSW via Brush Farm

Australian Big Books to be distributed through the same network

Setting up pen pals and sponsorship of inmates.

Increased efforts to recruit members to attend prison meetings.

For details or further information please contact Area G to be put in contact with the current the chair of the Area Corrections sub-committee, areagaasydney@gmail.com

### **Sydney City CSO**

Address: Offices 1&2, Kings Cross Parking Station,  
9a Elizabeth Bay Rd.

Elizabeth Bay, NSW, 2011

Email: [sydneycitycso@bigpond.com](mailto:sydneycitycso@bigpond.com)

Phone: 02 9389 6333 (office)

02 9387 7788 (24 hour help-line)

Hours: Monday - Friday - 9:30am-5:30pm

Saturday - 10am-2pm

Sunday - closed

Services: AA Literature sales on-site and via post

24-hour phone service  
 12<sup>th</sup> step roster  
 Support for Area G sub-committee activities (PI, Treatment, Corrective Services, LGBT)  
 Cooperation and Support for partner CSOs around Australia

Volunteers: Office Monday through Friday: 8 F/T and 3 P/T volunteers sharing shifts

Office Saturdays: Coverage shared by 4 local AA groups  
 24-hour help-line: Approx. 30 volunteers support and manage the service

Note: 12<sup>th</sup> step roster: Around 10 volunteers currently  
 COVID operations are reduced to 4 shifts p/w in person to manage postal order and limited office visits and all other services managed from home via daily phone diversions.

Finances: During COVID restrictions, sales were reduced (-52%) but this shortfall was offset by increased group contributions (+12%) resulting in a minimal COVID income impact (-4%).

On average about 20 AA groups in Area G make regular financial contributions.

Allocation of surplus funds is managed at Area Assembly. Each operating subcommittee has access to a literature reserve set at \$1,000-2,000 to enable timely access to literature between Assemblies. These reserves are periodically reviewed.

Operations: The integration of Area and CSO, initiated as a trial 3-4 years ago, has proven successful. CSO has cooperated with other Areas to assist in their understanding of this integration and with their subsequent implementation.

## Area H

Hello fellow Conference members, my name is Damien G and I am an alcoholic. I am a member of the Blaxland Primary Purpose Group in the Blue Mountains of NSW. I am the current Area Delegate, panel 62 (2020 Alt. Delegate) for Area H. Our Area covers much of Western Sydney and The Blue Mountains and we host up to 90 meetings a week. Whilst many meetings had returned to face-to-face or hybrid post 2020 lockdown and the easing of restrictions, we have found ourselves totally online again in 2021, except for a few meetings which have continued to operate in-person contrary to Health Department recommendations and legislative requirements.

Since our initial switch to Zoom in early 2020, Area H have continued to meet quarterly online and the participation levels have continued to increase. From an average of 6-8 groups and 12-14 members attending pre-Covid, our quarterly Committee Meetings now boast a healthy 22-24 members present from 8-10 groups. Area H has also created a Steering Committee which meets monthly to help streamline our quarterly meetings and to discuss how best we can move forward as an Area and carry the message most effectively to the alcoholic who still suffers. Some of the initiatives driven by the Steering Committee include: The creation of an updated Area Charter and it's subsequent



ratification, the re-introduction of workshops prior to our formal quarterly meeting, a more definitive and plain English description of all Area positions, the introduction of a GSR welcome pack, a reorganisation of the quarterly meeting to emphasize the importance of the GSR and their contribution to the General Service Structure and an initiative to bring CSO within reach of the Area Committee via a CSO Coordinator to increase communication and harmony of services in the Area. The Steering Committee comprises of:

Area Delegate – Damien G, Area Chair – Warren C, Area Secretary – Lauren H, Area Treasurer – Ross S, Area Registrar – Vacant, Alt Delegate - Vacant

The remainder of the Area office holders are:

Area Corrections Coordinator – Trent K, Area PI&CPC Coordinator – Cherrie G, Area H&I Coordinator – Darren F, CSO Coordinator – vacant but currently represented by 3 CSO Committee members at Area Committee Meetings.

Since last year's report, we have been able to effectively fill 3 of the 4 previously vacant positions whilst also rolling in a new Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Area H continues to be fully self-supporting through the voluntary contributions of its own Members and Groups. The Steering Committee has voted to suspend wholesale spending and/or contributions to the GSB until we finalise a transition from chequebook banking to online banking. We are also awaiting a definitive picture of the true financial state of our CSO and exploring the possibility of sharing Treasury and management positions in the future if it becomes apparent that this would be mutually beneficial and improve the carrying of the AA message in our Area.

Our GSR's and interested observers plan to meet on September 25 for an extraordinary meeting to discuss the many Topics to be covered at Conference 2021. This will be facilitated by myself and the Area Secretary and we expect a healthy attendance and some spirited participation which has been the breath of fresh air for our previous few Quarterly Meetings and monthly Steering Committee. It is with anticipation and slight trepidation that I approach Conference 2021. I have been asked to chair 3 Committee's, two of which are tasked with discussing 17 of the 26 Topics to be taken to the Group Conscience of AA in Australia. I am both proud and humbled to be granted the opportunity to serve the Fellowship without which I would be a sad epitaph on a cheap headstone. Area H has entrusted me with this role and I pray I can do them all justice by participating humbly yet full-heartedly in this year's Conference.

Yours in Service,

Damien G, Panel 62, ER, Area H, Delegate.

---

---

### **Area I**

My name is John S and I am an alcoholic. I am a member of the Sunday Terrigal Beach Speakers Group. I am a 1<sup>st</sup> year Delegate for the new Eastern Region Area i which formally split from Area C in February 2021. This was approved by a Conference Mail Poll. We were advised of that decision on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Our Area i encompasses both the former Gosford & Wyong Councils areas now called the Central Coast Council. Our Area i is bounded by the Hawkesbury River (south adjoins Area E) the Watagan Mountains in the west up to the south end of Lake Macquarie in the north and the Pacific Ocean to the east. The Council has suburbs which surround the Brisbane Waters in the south up to Tuggerah, Budgewoi and Lake Munmorah to the north which joins onto Area C.

We held our 1<sup>st</sup> Area Assembly on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at Gosford. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Committee members elected were Ash J Chairman, John S Delegate, Gary S Alt. Delegate, Nicole K Treasurer, Elaine S Secretary. We agreed to elect a Registrar at our next meeting, Christina S is acting in that position at present. Our (4) DCMs elected were District (1) Northlakes Dave C. District (2) Wyong Mick P. District (3) Gosford Teri Anne G. District (4) Peninsula John K. We plan to hold Quarterly Area Assembly meetings

### **Vote on Conference Topics**

We have submitted our vote & comments on deferred Topics for this year's General Service Conference to be held in November 2021.

- 1). Guidelines for Creation of a Virtual Area
- 2). Public Service Announcement Videos

### **Central Coast Service Office**

This office is located in Gosford which is open from 10am to 4pm Mon to Fri. We have a (24) hours manned phone answering service for enquiries. Zoom meetings are listed & available on their website. We have appointed a member from our Area i who is to attend their quarterly CSO meetings

### **OASM Asia Oceanic Service Meeting**

Two of our members John S & Gary S attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Virtual OASM Service meeting held in Hyderabad India on the 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021 as observers. Now we know the purpose for the annual Brown Paper Bag Appeal for donations to support Service Work in these countries

### **Eastern Regional Forum 2021.**

The format has been approved & Flyers printed. This event will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021 & can be viewed on Zoom. A wide range of Topics of interest on Service & Structure have been included. A monthly Delegates meeting is held on a Monday, this commenced in April 2021. We would like to thank our ER Trustee Judy W for arranging & chairing these meetings. A wide range of Speakers provided much needed information on Conference Procedures and Public Service ideas in carrying the AA Message

### **NEWYPAA**

Funds left over from the last NEWYPAA Convention previously held in Newcastle have been transferred to a new Central Coast NEWYPAA Account for future Young People's Conventions. Due to Covid-19 restrictions no date has been set down for 2021/2022 at this time for a Convention. A Committee has been formed. \* A Big Book Study meeting was recently held on the AA (12) steps. This was recorded & is now available on Podcast for Young People to view.

## **PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORTS**

### **Courts & Domestic Violence Offices**

\*At Wyong, Gosford & Woy Woy Courts we have regular contact with the Court Registrar, Office staff & Domestic Violence Officers so we are kept informed as to any changes to Court procedures that affects matters relating to Hearings, Sentencing & Appeals. AA members are available on request to talk to persons with a drinking

problem. AA literature is left at the counter & in the display stands which are located within the Court area

\*We attend quarterly Court User meetings with the presiding Magistrates, Registrar, Court staff and all agencies that work within the Court system ie Legal Aid, Salvation Army, Domestic Violence, Aboriginal Legal Aid, Corrections officers etc, being present This gives us the opportunity to meet and provide AA literature & update them on AA Programs & meetings that AA has available

### **Community Corrections**

Their Offices are located at both Tuggerah & Gosford. We provide AA literature at both the Court & their offices which can be passed on to their clients. We initiated an AA Meeting card to be used as proof of attendance. This is signed off by the Group Secretary. This can be used to assist Corrections in the preparation of a pre sentence report for the Magistrate to consider in Court sentencing.

\*We have had discussions with both Corrections Office Managers to hold a monthly (1) hour AA information meeting for their clients who have been sentenced and who are currently on parole. These persons are required to attend alcohol related courses etc. This was to have commenced (12) months ago but due to Covid-19 this has been delayed

### **Gaols**

We have two facilities located at Kariong. The Juvenile Minimum Security Gaol accommodates approx (90) inmates under the age of (18) years. These numbers have been reduced in size over recent years. Access was denied after the Smart Program was introduced. We had been visiting there for over (17) years. \*Secondly the other facility was previously a Maximum Security Juvenile Unit. This was transferred to Western Sydney a few years ago. This Unit has now been changed to a Minimum Security Adult Unit which accommodates (104) inmates. Due to Covid-19 meeting access ceased in February 2020. \*We have recently been contacted in regards to the proposed Just Connect Initiative. Our Registration Forms have been submitted. We await further outcomes on this matter

### **Police Stations**

We attend Tuggerah Area Command located at Wyong, Toukley & The Entrance Police Stations. Gosford Area Command, Terrigal & Woy Woy Police Stations. AA literature is placed in the office display stands & also left at the holding cells for Corrections Officers to pass on. Previously we met & held PI talks with the Area Commanders, Police Officers & Staff

### **Attorney General & Justice Dept**

AA Literature is left in both the Wyong & Gosford Offices and Court display stands

### **Hospitals, Institutions & Treatment Facilities**

AA literature is displayed at Nth Wyong, Gosford & Woy Woy Public Hospitals, Brisbane Waters Clinic (Woy Woy). These stands are refilled every 6-8 weeks

\* (1) hour AA Information meetings are held each week at Nth Wyong Hospital Public Hospital Detox & Brisbane Waters Private Hospital Clinic. We have recently agreed to provide AA Information Packs at Brisbane Waters Clinic These are to be handed to new clients who present with an alcohol problem on admission. Due to the staff roster changes they were unaware of what AA services we provide. This has been resolved. Ash J & Nicole K look after the AA member's rosters to attend each facility.

\* AA Meetings are held at The Glen Men's Unit located at Chittaway on Wednesday & Sunday. \* A Women's Unit is to be opened in 2022.

**NB:** All facilities require access approval to attend these AA meetings.

### **Medical Centres**

We place AA literature in Medical Centres display stands across the Central Coast in the Northlakes, Wyong, Gosford & Peninsula Districts. Access has been difficult during the Covid-19 pandemic. We are optimistic that all the Health outlets will be able to return to normal in 2022. There is nothing better to visit doctor's surgeries to see our AA literature displayed. We now have a new University Training College located at Gosford Public Hospital for medical students.

### **Schools**

On the Central Coast we have (24) Public & Private High Schools plus (3) Secondary Public High Schools

\*We contact the (27) Schools each year & remind the School Year (11) Coordinators that our AA presentation talks are available to their students. We focus mainly on Year (11)

\*Our AA talks vary from (40) to (60) minutes depending on the time that is available. The student numbers that attend varies from (60) to (240).

\*We spoke at (8) schools during the past (12) months. These numbers have decreased due to Covid-19

\*All schools have been provided with AA Big Books for their libraries, with each student handed a copy of the 'Message to Teenagers' pamphlet plus literature PI packs for the teachers.

\*We mention that Al-Anon is available to families who may know a problem drinker who may need help

### **Media: TV, Radio Stations, Newspapers**

We contact our local Media outlets each year with literature & videos. PI talks on request for community events can be arranged

### **Tafe/University**

We visit & provide literature & Big Books to our Tafe Colleges located at Wyong & Gosford along with the Ourimbah University Campus

### **Libraries**

With the amalgamation of the Wyong & Gosford Councils recently it became the Central Coast Council. There are now (11) libraries located in our Area i. They all have Big Books. A recent enquiry was received requesting (6) Big Books & (6) Twelve Steps & Traditions, they are currently being documented at their Kariong distribution centre

### **Agencies**

We distribute AA literature around all Districts. Agencies vary from Aboriginal, Mental Health, Centrelink, Lifeline, Community Housing, Youth & Neighbourhood Centres, Employment Agencies, just to name a few. We follow up each Agency quarterly to check literature stocks are replenished

**NOTE:** All this service work commenced in 2004 when the Brisbane Waters District was formed (ie Gosford Council boundaries). We expanded the boundaries later on to include the Wyong Council area. This eventually led to Area i Eastern Region being approved in April 2021.

### **PROBLEM DRINKERS IN THE WORKPLACE**

We were contacted on 29/12/2020 by our Gosford Service Office following an enquiry made by a Workplace Employer who engaged Pacific Island persons from Vanuatu to work on farm sites around Australia. The local Area Health team were unable to assist and they recommended AA

This led us to contact Craig O the Principal at OPW an Employment Agency from Broadbeach Qld. They are contracted with the Federal Government to arrange farm

workers to be employed in the various States. He advised me a serious drinking culture

had developed at a Workplace farm located at Peats Ridge on the NSW Central Coast during 2020. He was seeking help & advice from AA

He requested that we contact the Farm Manager Nicki M at Family Fresh Farm (see website) to meet to see what AA could offer. We met on 31/12/2020. She advised us that they had employed (60) male & females from the Pacific Country of Vanuatu to work under contract for (6) months. A serious drinking culture had developed which had caused property damage, behavioural problems in the Workplace & after hours drinking parties among the employees. She was most concerned about these worker's welfare. Due to Covid-19 these employees had been unable to return home. The problems had been further exacerbated with no return home date know at that time

We arranged & held an onsite AA PI Meeting for the farm workers & staff on the 6/1/2021. Our (5) AA Members shared their AA stories. Despite an English barrier the Language of the Heart prevailed. All attendees received AA literature with (20) Big Books being distributed. \*After the meeting had finished (1) employee came back & asked me in his best pigeon English for a Big Book. Not to disappoint him as we had none left, the Farm Manager Nicky M handed "Xavier" her copy of the Big Book which we had presented to her recently. This was a very powerful moment for us all to witness, the employer helping the employee in the workplace who may have a drinking problem. Both Workplace team leaders agreed on their return home they would be prepared to visit Community Village Leaders and distribute AA literature which we could provide free

We have recently been advised the problem drinkers from Peats Ridge have been sent home, the other workers have been placed around the country on farm sites as a reward for good behaviour. A further (39) workers have recently arrived to commence work at Peats Ridge. This is not an isolated incident. We have been advised workers from other Pacific Island Countries on Workplace farm sites have reported similar alcohol related incidents occurring.

We have found from our experience that the Pacific Island people have been spiritually disconnected from their cultural way of life since arriving in Australia. It would appear there is little or no AA in existence in their country Vanuatu. They need help.

"We must teach more by example than by word"

John S  
Area i Delegate ER

---

---

## **SOUTHERN REGION**

### **Area D**

#### **DELEGATE REPORT- AREA D SOUTHERN REGION**

As a first year Delegate, this is my first report to Conference. I hit the ground running – being a member of the Agenda committee and the Policy and Admissions committee gave me the opportunity to start participating in Conference planning well before our October committee meetings.

[Area D](#), in the Southern Region is bordered by the Yarra River and includes the Western and Northern suburbs of Melbourne, other major regional cities such as Geelong and Ballarat and extends west to Beaufort and north to Mangalore. There are 141 AA meetings in Area D. We have contact details for about 70 groups. GSR attendance over the last 4 Assemblies has been an average of 12. *That equates to about 8% of the groups/meetings in the Area regularly sending a GSR or Alternate to Assemblies*, which is bit disheartening. I am in discussions with the Southern Regional Trustee and some Area committee members about us doing some kind of virtual road show post Conference to create more awareness, hopefully leading to more interest and participation.

The Area D committee currently has a Chair, Treasurer, Registrar, PI Coordinator, as well as two sitting DCMs, one of whom also acts as Area Webmaster. We have a new Secretary hopefully being elected at our October Assembly after not having one for a few months. A decision was made earlier this year to not seek a new Literature Officer. This role became largely redundant. Instead, the registrar sends out welcome packs to new GSRS / registered groups, and the PI coordinator supports requests for literature for PI. We currently do not have an alternate Delegate.

A large number of meetings in the Area are still meeting online only or using a hybrid format. Some meetings are face to face only, and closed during COVID restriction periods. With the COVID lockdowns continuing throughout 2021, it is not really possible to ascertain yet how many meetings will retain an online presence long-term.

Assemblies are held 4 times per year. We have decided 3 will continue to be online, with our last Assembly of the year, the election assembly, to be a day-long face to face event. It remains to be determined if that will be possible this year.

The Area currently has two active Districts, in regional parts of the Area – Geelong and Ballarat. **Ballarat District** currently has District meetings monthly face to face on a Sunday morning, with an average of six groups participating in varying degrees.

**Geelong District** also meets monthly, online, on a Monday evening. They have an active, long established local AA answering service which has recently integrated with the national 1300 number, roadside signs through the local council, and have a Treatment Facilities coordinator and sub-committee supporting rosters for two facilities. The District continues to provide Zoom account access to some meetings in the District. There used to be 3 Districts within the metropolitan part of Area D, but over the last few years they have all gone into recess due to lack of support and interest. There is, however, an active intergroup in the metropolitan part of the Area- **North-West intergroup (NWIG)**. Their primary activity is running a phone line, and running phone volunteer training annually, but have recently extended to doing some Facebook advertising and adding great content to their Facebook page. There have been joint initiatives in the past between the Area and NWIG and I hope this will continue.

There is a small group of groups called 'Werribee Unity', however I am unsure what beyond the group activities they may be conducting at the moment.

The **Victorian Prisons Intergroup** consistently sends a report and a representative to Area D Assemblies. The VPI is an autonomous intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous. Its primary purpose is to facilitate the carrying of the AA Message of recovery to inmates in Victorian Correctional Facilities and in transition into the community throughout Victoria. It is responsible to the AA members and Groups who support and fund it. The Intergroup meets quarterly, at the end of February, May, August and November. Sadly, visits to most correctional facilities are yet to resume 'post COVID'.

The VPI representative who attends Assemblies is a past Area D Delegate and another past Delegate is now their group's GSR. Their ongoing support of the Area and their knowledge and experience are invaluable.

### **Delegate Observations**

It is my observation that the themes that continue to come up at Assemblies are that the groups in Area D don't always feel they are getting enough accurate, up to date and easy to understand information from the GSO/GSB about AA Australia's financial situation, and what is needed from members. There is also frequent discussion about better consultation with members and groups about matters that affect AA as a whole. In general, there seems to be concern about how to re-engage members who have not taken to online meetings as well as some.

One concerning trend I have noticed with online meetings is that more than a few do not call for AA announcements. This reduces the opportunity for service-related announcements and for members to be reminded about being connected to AA as whole.

### **Conference Topics**

I hosted a Q&A Zoom session on August 22<sup>nd</sup> as an opportunity for GSRs and members to ask questions about the topics before discussing them with their groups, which was well attended and received, with feedback indicating it was very helpful. GSRs from other Areas attended also.

### **Public Information**

Public information activities within the Area in the last year have included providing literature and PI packs for groups on request, large billboards at a metropolitan train station and on a building in a regional centre, and regular open education and sharing Zoom sessions on PI, rather than a formal PI sub-committee.

One group in a part of Melbourne that hasn't had an active District for some time got together with some other groups and ordered 300 packs to distribute to local doctors. While I hope this could lead to the reforming of a District, this is indicative of what I see happening in different parts of the Area. Groups do want to carry the message and they take their primary purpose seriously, but they are often doing it without the organisation of a District, a committee, regular meetings, having a DCM, etc. It's happening more ad-hoc and organically. I do think Conference has an ongoing responsibility to understand trends in the fellowship and consider how we can be flexible and support it to grow, in order to ensure AAs future.

We were organizing for a speaker at the GPCE Conference in Melbourne in Nov 21 and considering the cost of an expo stand also, as our PI coordinator was involved in coordinating speakers for the same conference in multiple states, however Sydney is the only one that went ahead (very successfully!) as all others were cancelled for COVID related reasons. Our PI coordinator is also involved in a national PI sub-committee to create a standard format and materials for a 30-minute presentation/forum that can be delivered to health professionals online, so we look forward to the Area being able to get involved in that as it comes to fruition.

At the time of writing this report we have an Assembly in about one weeks' time. Area D has a sizeable amount of money in the bank which we are intent on spending so while groups have and continue to be asked for their ideas and input on how to spend it, the Area PI coordinator has developed two proposals to be put forward at the upcoming Assembly. One is for a Plakkit Indoor A2 Poster campaign. Plakkit are a postcard/poster company who specialise in printing and putting up those large A2 posters (think in between A4 and movie-size posters) you see in cafes, bars, food courts etc. We are proposing a 4-week campaign of 100 posters per week across the inner West and inner North of Melbourne. Estimated cost \$1600. The second one is Civic Guides through

Civic Outdoor. Civic Guides are large posters you see on bus stops and similar, with a map of the local area on the left and a large poster on the right. We are proposing posters in 6 locations for 24 weeks, total estimated cost \$5,000.

The PI coordinator is being fully funded to attend the national combined forum in Brisbane in February 2022, and my registration is being funded as I will be travelling with the PI coordinator.

### **National Convention**

I am a member of the Host Planning Committee for the National Convention being held in Melbourne in April, 2022. The committee meets monthly, and has a mix of reasonably young and very enthusiastic members who have been involved in VICYPAA and similar events as well as older, sober members, some of whom have been involved in past conventions. At the time of writing this report, the venue has been confirmed, ticket prices have been confirmed, digital and printed save the date flyers have been produced, and the committee is hoping to go live with early bird ticket sales around October 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is six months before the convention. The first fundraising event was/is a fun run, which after 3 postponed was shifted to virtual, with members encouraged to run 3.8km in their own time in the own area, email in their times and forward their fundraising efforts by the end of October. It seems likely \$1-1.5k will be raised from this event.

I look forward to being part of the first full-length virtual Australian Conference and meeting everyone virtually I haven't yet worked with so far this year on a committee or working group.

Lisa R, Delegate, Area D Southern Region.

---

---

### **Area F**

Area F has been through some changes since the 2020 Conference. The previous Delegate Geoff S was elected to join the GSB in April, and the Delegate position was filled by me. The Alt-Delegate also resigned for personal reasons however Dave C had now filled this role.

I have spent the time between April and present to get up to speed with the full extent of the duties of a Delegate, and gaining more knowledge of the Concepts and Traditions. The new committee now has all positions filled apart from Registrar, and are looking at changing Banks, to make updating and re-operating the accounts easier.

I have attended a number of Group Consciences to assist in discussions of the topics, and held a very well attended Topics Assembly in September, and is now well informed with the Area's thoughts on the issues and is looking forward to attending Conference in November.

The one active District (Inner City District) has been very strong, including a Facebook campaign which has seen large numbers of new people consult the local office website, and links with the Salvation Army.

The post- conference plans include working to help groups in dormant districts to come together again and carry the message. Area F is also planning workshops to support GSRs with the knowledge and value of their role in AA.

Regards,  
Justin D



## **NORTH EASTERN REGION**

### **Area A**

My name is Raylene and I am an alcoholic. This is currently my second year as Delegate. I am thoroughly enjoying this Service position. It has enabled me to grow and learn, to be of service and to meet wonderful members doing wonderful things in service and recovery.

Area A is made up of 3 Districts. Central QLD District (Mackay) which extends south to just north of Rockhampton; North QLD District (Townsville) and Far North District (Cairns) which extends up to the Torres Strait Islands. As of our last Area Assembly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 all positions are full. Financially, the Area is currently sitting above prudent reserve with discussions to be held regarding excess funds at the next Area Assembly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2021.

Area A holds an annual roundup which rotates between Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. This year it was held in Cairns in July. Fundraisers were held in Cairns and money raised has been donated back to the Area as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. Townsville went into a 3-day lockdown prior to the roundup which lifted at 6pm the first night of the roundup. This left some of our more vulnerable members unable to travel. Overall, the event was a success with 108 members in attendance.

#### Central QLD District

As of August 2021, the Central QLD District has 10 Face to Face meetings a week. Some meetings have stayed on Zoom since Lockdown 2020.

Mackay operates a 24-Hour phone line. All positions are full on the District committee except for PI.

#### North QLD District

All positions on the North QLD District are currently full and the district holds monthly Face to Face meetings.

Most AA meetings are back Face to Face with a couple choosing to remain on Zoom.

Townsville will hold their Annual Living Sober Weekend from the 1<sup>st</sup> of October to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2021. A subcommittee has been formed and members are enthusiastic about seeing the weekend come together.

#### Far North QLD District

All positions on the District are currently full. The District meetings have now moved from being monthly held on Zoom as a result of Covid 19 to Face to Face every 2 months.

Most AA meetings are now back Face to Face with 2 remaining on Zoom.

The Far North QLD district has a CSO office with members meeting monthly. The committee members are active in producing a monthly newsletter, assisting with stocking, purchasing and ordering literature and keeping the office open 5 days a week taking 12 Step calls and ensuring the 24-hour phone line is operated.

PI – CPC:

The PI and CPC committee meets monthly via Zoom and have resumed visits to facilities including Cairns Clinic, Vinnies Rehab and Day Detox. The committee is also starting to form a presentation aimed at professionals and facilities staff.

Correctional Facilities:

At present there are no members visiting the Lotus Glen Correctional Facility, however a couple of members are seeking the support from other members to get visits restarted.

Workshops:

Last year a committee was formed to create a workshop called Caring for AA. A series of 6 different presentations we put together over a course of time. These were finalised and presented over a course of 6 weeks and have been developed to be re-used by members and groups longer term.

I look forward to seeing everyone in November.

Yours in Service

Raylene  
Area A Delegate  
North Eastern Region

---

---

## Area B

Hi. My name is Cliff, and I am an Alcoholic. This is a wonderful privileged to be serving as Delegate for Area B in the Northeastern Region.

Area B in the Northeastern Region runs through the center of Queensland starting north of the Brisbane River extending up to Rockhampton and stretching out across to the South Australian Border.

This year started out with a little bit of hope for the fellowship. Meetings were all back face to face and the restrictions were very minimal. Everything appeared to be moving forward with groups looking at setting up events, Area Assemblies were back face to face, and meetings were growing. Then we had lockdowns and restrictions in certain parts of the Area, and this made things very unpredictable. We found groups and members were just trying to deal things the best they could to keep moving forward and are very hesitant to organize any events.

Area B is currently running with 2 Districts as there has been a struggle with the low number of members doing service, groups are still having a hard time filling positions along with the low numbers in District and Area Meetings. We are trying to find ways to reenergize old members and encourage new members into service. Our Area Assemblies has incorporated Zoom into the meetings to enable people from the remote areas and along with members who can not or may not be able to travel to the assemblies. There have been a couple of small one day events lucky enough to go ahead, as they were outside the restriction area or in low restriction area.

There is not a lot else to report on as things although moving slow are still moving with some hesitation and guess work on what may happen with the restrictions.

Yours in Service  
Cliff P

---

---

### **Area C**

The production of the edited videos in our opinion is too dark & has a blurred vision which detracts from each member's AA talk

The videos recently produced in colour by Area E for Young People focused on showing the AA members doing daily actions and filmed their hands, bodies, profiles without showing faces. This was done to avoid the blurry face look which makes the videos look sinister. Copies of the videos they produced for Young People are available on the Area E Eastern Region website for viewing, click on Links AA Australian videos  
NER Area C 2021 Conference Report

The National Combined Forum has been rescheduled to 25-27 February 2021. Refunds are available for those who had registered and may not be able to attend.

QYPAA is still going strong and held their convention on the Gold Coast in September. The Gold Coast Rally also went ahead.

One district (Ipswich) has folded, five remain. Participation at Area Assemblies has been good, although there still seems to be some confusion about GSO finances.

The Conference Finance committee has continued to meet throughout 2021 do discuss ways to improve communication with the fellowship. A letter to the fellowship regarding AA finances was published in the September issue of AA Around Australia, and GSO is currently working with a Graphic Designer on a format for regular communication of financial information.

YIS  
Bonnie I  
NER Area C Delegate

---

---

## CENTRAL REGION

### AREA A

**Report not received by deadline.**

---

---

### AREA B

Area B Central Region covers a large diverse area of South Australia incorporating the Riverland (Loxton, Renmark, Berri, & Waikerie) The Adelaide Hills (Hahndorf, Aldgate, Stirling, Mt Barker, & Strathalbyn) across to the Victorian boarder (Mt Gambier and Millicent), and The Fleurieu Peninsula (Goolwa, Victor Harbor, Yankalilla, Sellick's Beach, Aldinga, McLaren Vale, Hackham) and following the South Coastal Region to The City of Adelaide, the River Torrens being a boundary between Area A and Area B.

At this year's Area B Assembly, Carol Robinson was welcomed as the Area B Delegate who recently filled an Interim Alternate Delegate position and attended Conference last year in 2020. Alan B was welcomed as Area B Treasurer to replace myself. Rick K was welcomed as the new DCM for City & Eastern District, Ray R was welcomed as the new Chairperson to replace Rick K. Rosie R was welcomed as the New PI & CPC Officer to replace Brett T.

We have moved our Area B Meeting back face to face again meeting at St Saviour's Church in Portrush Rd, Glen Osmond since May this year. Meetings continue to be on the first Saturday of the month at 9.00am. There is still an option for Zoom in Hybrid to cater for the Country DCM's having to travel long distances to the meetings. So far, the response has been positive.

The City & Eastern District has resumed meeting face to face after a recent Covid 19 outbreak. The District also has a hybrid zoom option for those who can't attend face to face. The District has a new Chairperson Adrian M, Rick K as the new DCM, & Tania S as the Secretary.

It continues to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month.

The Southern District and the Lower South East District continue to be in recess as they are unable to find a DCM. Some groups in the Southern area have chosen to join the CAED.

### **The Treatment and Correctional Facilities**

Area B Groups have continued the much needed service to various facilities across Area B (see below).

There has not been any growth in the number of facilities Area B have serviced with AA commitments from 2020 to 2021.

Feedback from all the facilities is that the Groups are providing valuable, well received information for their consumers.

Alcoholics Anonymous is regularly seeing attendees to various groups from almost all the facilities.

## **Area B Treatment and Corrections Monthly Group Commitments:**

### **DASSA Withdrawal Services Glenside - Fridays 7:00pm**

- Week 1) By the Book
- Week 2) Payneham Primary Purpose
- Week 3) Adelaide book study
- Week 4) City Beginners
- Week 5) Breakfast Meeting

### **The Woolshed – Tuesdays 7.30pm**

AA is still being well received and is very welcome at the Woolshed. The groups have had great feedback from the Management. Area B thanks all the groups for their service. Members from Adelaide City Beginners/Aldinga rostered for the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month.

Adelaide Big Book Study rostered for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, and Hackham Steps rostered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. This provides an AA continuous attendance on 3 Tuesdays of the month.

### **Aboriginal Sobriety Group Lakalinjeri Tumbetin Waal (LTW) Men's Rehab - Fortnightly Tuesday 10:30am**

Area B continues to serve the T& CF commitment at the Men's ASG rehab. Presentations take place every second Tuesday at 10:30am onsite at Monarto. It's great informal service with an opportunity to build rapport with a group of men in rehab for up to 6 months at a time.

- Week 1) Ad Hoc Team various groups
- Week 3) Ad Hoc Team various groups

### **Southern Intermediate Care Unit - Fridays 10:00am**

Hackham Big Book Study + Southern members

### **Aboriginal Sobriety Group House Of Hope Women's Rehab**

Have not restarted after Covid Break in July 2021.

Area B Treatment and Corrections Officer would like to thank all groups for their service to the Alcoholic who stills suffers as well as to the entirety of Area B for the opportunity to serve.

Discussions are in place with a worker from Tumberland Farm Rehab who contacted Area B to take over sourcing members to attend on a Thursday evening.

Kindly in service  
Dylan McQ

Treatment and Correctional Facilities Officer  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Area B Central Region

## **Public Information**

In February 2021, – I first took on the PI & CPC position, asked around for advice and read through handbooks. Was handed box of previous work from last member in role. Bulk of the handover material was related to Teenagers / Young People. The Regional Trustee identified SA as being one of the only regions without Young People in AA committee.

March – I connected with QYPAA and WAYPAA, decided to open a Young Persons' meeting in Adelaide to gather possible candidates for a committee. Started researching venues, format etc. Connected with National PI & CPC committee, gained access to resources, connections to experienced members all over Australia, and invites to zoom meetings.

April – I asked Area B for permission to spend money on getting pens made with AA phone number and website on it to go with literature with the thinking professionals less likely to throw away a pen and my background in medical reception knowing the marketing value of free stationary. Started drafting a table of services for literature handouts.

May – I opened a Young Persons' meeting in Adelaide. Spreading the word about what YPAA committees can do. Staying in touch with QYPAA and WAYPAA. Posted literature to Riverland. Having trouble with places accepting pamphlets due to Covid – display stands with such pamphlets are on hold in some places e.g. Centrelink. Was able to hand some pamphlets over for staff resource only.

June – The PI increased the services to handing out literature including schools, medical centres, allied health, social services, councils/libraries– asking around for ideas. Discussed possible animated presentation (due to Covid making it hard to public speak) explaining AA for professionals.

July – Continued to Research pens, networking, drafting and trying to plug SAYPAA. QYPAA and WAYPAA passed on their formats and documents for committee, invited to their conventions.

August – Ordered pens. Researched where we can distribute Big Books. PI & CPC National Convention cancelled, was able to refund accommodation and flights and rebooking for February.

September – Area B voted to spend some funds on Big Books to distribute to libraries, little street libraries etc. Putting together order for CSO. Placed an ad in “A Message of Hope” to have inaugural SAYPAA Committee meeting.

YIS Rosie R  
Area B PI & CPC  
AA Central Region

## **Central Service Office**

The Central Service Office is in Room 203, Level 2, 95 Currie Street, Adelaide. CSO has survived COVID 19 well. The Central Service Committee appointed a new Office

Administrator Angela McArdle who commenced late last October in 2020. She has settled in very well and has been very enthusiastic when canvassing members for positions in service.

The Central Service Council meeting for the AGM was held in August with a new Committee being formed. Positions were filled for Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Central Service Trustee, & After-Hours Phone Line.

### **Adelaide Convention**

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, Adelaide was unable to host the National Convention for 2021.

\$16,145.00 Surplus funds were sent to the GSB, this being more than some conventions have raised when they have actually happened. The GSB were very grateful for the contribution.

We were fortunate to have received a full refund from the Hilton.

All funds have been returned for registrations and donation refunds.

Our jewellery purchase made a surplus of approximately \$400.00, thanks to all who helped to sell it.

I am looking forward to serving at Conference this year and thank Alcoholics Anonymous for this wonderful opportunity.

Kind Regards,  
Carol R  
Area B Delegate  
AA Central Region

---

---

## **WESTERN REGION**

### **AREA A**

**Report not received by deadline.**

---

---

### **Area B**

#### **Delegate's Report Area B Western Region**

Hi my Name is Clare and I am an Alcoholic in my final year as Delegate Area B, Western Region. As my term as delegate comes to an end I can reflect on how much I've gained and learned from my experience. I have reconfirmed that although the terrain is sometimes difficult and rocky terrain I absolutely adore being an active participant in General Service. I will move forward in my journey as a better communicator, active

listener and with a genuine appreciation of the Group Conscience in action. More, I am more in love with AA Australia than ever before and feel privileged to have been trusted to serve my area for the past three years. I look forward to more years of active service to follow and am looking forward to new adventures.

Enough about me though... Again 2021 has proved to be a difficult and challenging year for Area B as we continue to navigate the increasingly familiar waters of a Covid 19 world. Like many others we have struggled with Covid fatigue and difficulty reengaging our membership into active general service. We have not had a full complement of committee positions filled since July 2020 and we've found that members have been hesitant to commit. This seems to be a reflection of the ongoing uncertainty that pervades the wider world. However, our districts have consolidated and are very active. Again I see this as a reflection of members sticking closer to home. We continue to strongly advocate sponsoring into service and this and how to navigate carrying the message in an online environment have been the topic of workshops and discussion meetings at all levels.

In general Area B fellowship has developed a strong positive responsiveness to the evolving Covid situation. The use of online platforms as a tool for communication and meetings has grown and normalised over the past two years. With active consideration and adaptation given to keeping members safe and operating within the AA guiding principles. Particularly around anonymity, singleness of purpose and affiliation as well as safety.

Most Area B meetings have returned to either face to face or hybrid meetings although a few opted to stay online or were new online meetings created in response to the initial lockdown that have chosen to remain on a virtual platform. We did loose a few meetings especially where venue considerations just proved too difficult to navigate long term. Area B currently has 87 registered groups and approximately 106 meetings per week including online meetings. Of these 6 are held in Prisons, 28 are held in regional and country areas and 15 are either a hybrid or online meeting. Meeting formats vary and include ID meetings, women's and men's meetings, spiritual concepts, big book and steps meetings and topic and AA approved literature meetings. We continue to explore ways in which we can make use of new technologies to more effectively communicate within the fellowship and increase participation in general service and the service structure of AA in general. This included organising opportunities for discussion and questions around the topics to support the development of an informed group conscience ahead of our October Area Assembly.

Area B has 3 Districts two of which are currently active, Port and Peel. Unfortunately, the reinvigoration of the South West District which was occurring in 2019 has not endured through Covid. Although the fellowship continues to thrive and both the annual Esperance Round up held over the Australia Day long weekend and the "Bunbury Anniversary ", one of Western Region's longest running meetings were back face to face this year and well attended. Members also report that online meetings continue to provide a welcome relief for many of our more traditionally isolated members and groups who have benefited from both outside virtual visitors and from being able to access meetings from all over Australia and the world.

Port District continues to focus on carrying the message, PI and building opportunities to support service and fellowship and encourage group participation. Meetings are held



every second month and their Unity BBQ's were reintroduced with the easing of restrictions. Port again hosted the New Year's Eve Fellowship event and are already planning this year's event as a fundraising opportunity for the 2023 AA National Convention which will be held in Perth at the same venue as 2018 (Rendezvous Observation City Scarborough). These events provided both an opportunity for fellowship and a safe place for newcomers and older sober members to celebrate the New Year. The event was well attended and was accessed by some of our newly sober members just out of rehabs and jail.

Peel District is currently continuing strong with all positions currently filled and meetings well attended. Despite reduced face to face meetings finances remained healthy and Zoom meetings allowed for an increased participation in Peel District Meetings. The District has been running regular Zoom workshops to support members with a variety of topics including: Internet safety, carrying the message to the newcomer and tradition 7. Feedback from members suggests that the Zoom platform has been wonderful for those members who may be isolated by geography, age or health. Peel aims to continue to offer online or hybrid workshops on an ongoing basis.

It has been another difficult year for Area B's six (6) prisons. Many thanks and much gratitude is extended to our dedicated team that makes up the Corrections Sub-committee under the direction of James, Area B Corrections Coordinator. In 2019 Area B successfully implemented the sub-committee structure to reduce burnout. Each prison is allocated its own coordinator under James's direction. Each coordinator is then responsible for coordinating rosters, literature etc for their prison. This system is working well. Attendance by outside AA members at Prison meetings continues to be periodically disrupted due to Covid. Coordinators found it very difficult to even get literature into prisons or communicate with inmates. Melaleuca Women's prison also underwent a change of management during this time. Our thoughts have been with the inmates and our thanks to our Corrections Coordinator, his team and all the rostered members for their dedication and perseverance. It has been wonderful to see all 6 prison meetings back in action as soon as possible. It's also fantastic to note that the inmate run meetings in both Karnet and Casuarina ran without outside support as often as possible within the strict lockdown regulations. We have also seen a marked increase in ex prison inmates coming to meetings and continuing with the program on release. The Area B membership has a strong commitment to supporting prisons service with some meetings sponsoring an institution or literature fund.

Again I would like to thank my Area and our outgoing Regional Trustee Paul J for their ongoing support, trust and for allowing me the joy of being of service.

Warm regards. Yours in Service,

Clare Sz

---

---

**NORTHERN REGION****AREA A**

**Report not received by deadline.**

## GENERAL SERVICE BOARD REPORTS

### TRUSTEES' FINANCE & BUDGETARY COMMITTEE REPORT

My term as Chair of the Trustee Finance Committee began at the February Board Meeting this year with the resignation of Penelope CI – Southern Region Trustee. Thank you to Penny for all her work on this committee.

#### The year of Self-support

The impact of COVID 19 on the General Service Office had caused an unexpected and substantial reduction in normal revenues and a decision was made by the General Service Board to accept the Government financial assistance provided to all Australian not-for-profits impacted by the crisis, to ensure they stayed operational. The General Service Office operates a Prudent Reserve with the Reserve's principal purpose being to provide financial resources to continue the essential services of the GSO when unexpected events or disruption to services happen. The General Service Office Management Group undertook a review of the current Prudent Reserve structure and found that the current accounting of the Prudent Reserve and the limits were inadequate in times of crisis. A new Prudent Reserve Plan has been developed and presented and accepted by the General Service Board.

Under the new Prudent Reserve Plan the General Service Board considers that a Prudent Reserve of less than 12 months does not offer adequate protection for the vital services provided by the General Service Office. After discussions and following advice from the Management Group, the General Service Board recommended that a recommendation be made to Conference by the Finance Committee that the limits for the General Service Office Prudent Reserve be increased from 6-12 months to 12-16 months. This was taken to Conference 2020 and the recommendation was voted in with Advisory Action #25/2020.

After Conference the Finance Committee at the instigation of Bonnie I as Chairperson, has met on a number of occasions to develop ideas to improve communications with the fellowship around the need for consistent contributions to ensure that the General Service Office is able to remain self-supporting. Bonnie I, on behalf of the Conference Finance Committee sent a letter to Andy P, Chair of the General Service Board stating that 'the CFC believe it would be beneficial to provide a monthly snapshot of member contributions which indicates relative surplus or shortfall. It would also be good to differentiate voluntary member contributions from revenue (literature sales) to assist in effecting a cultural change from reliance on literature sales to meet our financial responsibilities to being truly fully self-supporting'. Ways of doing this are currently under development and will be presented to the Board and General Service Office when completed.

Bonnie I (Chairperson) developed an article for AA Around Australia titled 'Does it take a crisis to change a culture – Financial lessons from Covid 19' reiterating how the Groups and members can help through considering taking electronic donations at group's meeting; by using a square or similar device or organising a direct debit set up, to either your group's bank account or directly to GSO.

A letter from the General Service Board date 10 February 2021, was also sent to the fellowship again communicating our current position and reminding members of the need to contribute. This has improved contributions with the Management Group working towards the Prudent Reserve goal which now stands at 12.3 months.

Cheryn P  
Trustee Conference Finance Committee

## **TRUSTEES' TREATMENT FACILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Chair of the Conference Committee, Jack S, resigned a few months ago. This position was subsequently filled by Damien G whom I am yet to contact with.

Activity in this area has been confined to the 2021 Combined Forum. This Forum was postponed due to the pandemic and is now scheduled to take place in Brisbane from 25-27 February 2022. Please go to [www.aanationalcombinedforum2021.com](http://www.aanationalcombinedforum2021.com) for more information.

Mike R, the national co-ordinator has been involved with the committee and has been approached in relation to the program so far as Treatment and Accessibility is concerned.

Tony C, from the GSO had obtained quotes for a Auslan Big Book Video – there had been a suggestion to investigate the prospects of producing a book in sign language for our members –along the lines of the American Sign language initiative. Tony had approached Auslan Consultancy and after some discussion received indicative pricing of \$21,500. Tony had thought that given the constraints that it would be unlikely we would proceed. The question should be posed though, because on one view, members may be reluctant to give 'extra' money to the GSB unless there is a reason to do so. Producing an Auslan version of the BB may be that reason.

Yours in service,  
Stephen R

## **TRUSTEES' CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES REPORT**

A big welcome to all, especially our new Delegates and those new to the Conference Correctional Facilities Committee.

The Trustee's Committee met three times during the year. It has been pretty quiet and so there is not much to report.

The updated **GUIDELINE NO GL-22 SUGGESTIONS FOR MEMBERS WISHING TO VISIT CORRECTION CENTRES** has been completed and is before Conference this year for approval.

Unfortunately I had no input from the Conference Corrections Committee, so completed the update myself.

Thanks to Area G which provided some feedback though.

I am very pleased to report that there has been an application for the National Correctional Facilities Coordinator. This is really good news and I will announce at Conference the new coordinator if the appointment is approved at the Board's meeting just before Conference.

Lockdown has proved a challenge to those visiting goals. The NSW prison service has a program called Just Connect which provides group meeting facilities which can be used to host AA online meetings to approximately 308 correctional facilities throughout NSW. The Just Connect application process also includes permission to gain access to face to face AA meetings.

The Just Connect Initiative committee members have completed work on designing a database to be stored on the GSO National website. This project was completed in conjunction with Lachlan B the GSO trustee and Julie from Brisbane who is the appointed GSO website manager.

This database will include each corrective services facility in NSW and also store service information and contact details for AA members. These members may be currently involved in rosters, prison visits, online meetings and other service work related to NSW Corrective Services NSW.

Finally, as you will know the Combined Forum was postponed to February 2022. I look forward to catching you in Brisbane next year.

Yours in Love and Service

Judy W  
Chair Trustees Correctional Facilities Committee

## **TRUSTEES' INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Hello, my name is Narelle, and I joined the Board in February 2020 as a Class A Trustee. I joined at a challenging time, just as Covid was rearing it ugly head and as such have not had the opportunity to meet everyone in person, all my contact has been via Zoom meeting. I still hold out hope that next year I may have the opportunity to attend board meetings and experience Conference in person.

I was elected as Chairperson of the International Committee at the February Board meeting this year. My report will be brief as all activities have been extensively covered in the reports of Bryan S (2<sup>nd</sup> Term World Service Delegate) and Greg B (1<sup>st</sup> Term World Service Delegate).

The Australian GSO provided sponsorship to the Fellowship in Fiji which enabled two of their members, Phylis G (2<sup>nd</sup> Term Delegate) and Mary R (1<sup>st</sup> Term Delegate) to attend the 2020 WSM and the 2021 AOSM which was held virtually via Zoom in July. The AOSM was attended by 44 members including our World Service Delegates Greg and Bryan and other delegates from all over the Asia-Oceania regional member countries, members from the New York office, past AOSM delegates from Australia and GST

representatives from the host country India. All Board members and Area Delegates were given the opportunity to be observers at this year's virtual AOSM. A link to the comprehensive report about their experience was published in the September issue of AAAA.

A report from the World Service (International) Committee is included in each edition of the General Service Board's Quarterly Newsletter.

We are still awaiting a response from GSO New York with regards to our enquiries on the outcome of the meeting held between AA and NA. Understandably the GSO New York have been dealing with other urgent matters still arising from the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

Narelle Buchanan  
Chairman, Trustee's International Committee  
Class A Trustee, General Service Board

#### **TRUSTEES' PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

This committee meets at least twice a year, in February and July, and more frequently if necessary. It is responsible for determining policies and supervising activities that increase public understanding of AA and prevent, or at least lessen, public misunderstanding of our program. It seeks to create mutual understanding and co-operation between the Fellowship and those professional Groups and individuals concerned with alcoholism and the sick alcoholic. It is through this committee that the Class A Trustees can play their major role of being the public face of the AA Fellowship – by facilitating and attending activities such as seminars and press/media releases, and promoting co-operation with professional community programs, e.g. in medical, nursing or law schools.

This committee has met a number of times in the last year. Items that we have been dealing with are;

- 1) The Chatnow feature; following the floor action from conference last year our committee have met a number of times and we now have a recommendation for conference this year which we feel answers all questions posed
- 2) There has been a sub committee of the National PI@CPC coordinator formed to look at formulating processes to use zoom to give presentations to professionals
- 3) I have still had no response from New York regarding printable E-pamphlets and being allowed to publish downloadable literature on our website
- 4) A mail poll was held to vote on the audio visual videos that have been presented and adjusted a number of times. The vote was still not in favour of the videos being used and our committee have had them re-edited again for approval
- 5) Lachie has received a quote to redesign the service website and will carry out presentation at conference

On a personal level I have attended a number of PI presentations over the last year, myself and Vanda held a zoom presentation to junior doctors at the Monash university. I have spoken at a number of radio presentations and carried out a podcast interview

Yours In Service

Andy P Chairperson Trustees [PI@CPC](mailto:PI@CPC) Committee

### **TRUSTEES' GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Report not received by deadline.**

### **TRUSTEES' NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

This committee is chaired by the Chair of the General Service Board. The Committee overviews all nominations for membership to the General Service Board. The Nominating Committee acts to see that all vacancies for Trustees, including Class A Trustees, also World Service Delegate and General Service Office Manager positions, are properly filled, in terms of the greatest possible competence, stability and industry. This includes careful deliberation, painstaking investigation and interviewing, refusal to accept casual recommendations and preparation of suitable candidates well in advance, resisting any temptation to snap decisions or hasty judgment. The ongoing success of AA Service depends on the quality control exerted by this committee. The committee maintains a close relationship with the Conference Committee on Trustees in the review process of Trustee nominations, either at Conference or during the year if interim appointments to the Board are considered necessary. It is less directly involved in International Delegate nominations, receiving information but only occasionally advising. Recommendations are received from the Management Group at General Service Office when the position of General Service Office Manager must be filled.

In the last year we have had 2 new trustees join the board

- 6) Jane M has joined as the regional trustee for the Northern Region.
- 7) Geoff S has been voted in as regional trustee for the Southern Region This position will need to be ratified at conference this year
- 8) We now have a new staff member to replace Tony, Patrick S commenced employment on the 24<sup>th</sup> May

The Board has set up a sub-committee to look at recruiting Class A Trustees.

Yours In Service

Andy P

Chairman Trustees Nominating Committee

### **TRUSTEES' LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Hi Everyone, my name is Paul J and I am Alcoholic. Its been a very challenging year for us all involved in the fellowship with lockdowns in different States and the ongoing challenges we are faced with.

We have a number of topics to deal with from 2020 & 2021 conference. RCSM Committee has 3 topics to discuss this year and the Literature Committee has 6 to discuss.

The report from the USA 71st General Service Conference has some very interesting reading and developments for Literature.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service  
Paul J

## **TRUSTEES' REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Hi Everyone, my name is Paul J and I am Alcoholic.  
Its been a very challenging year for us all involved in the fellowship with lockdowns in different States and the ongoing challenges we are faced with.

Thank you to Diane for the wonderful work she is doing as the National Remote Communities Coordinator.

The article she has written in September AAAA is fantastic and just shows part of the important work the tag-alongs and roundups do in the remote parts of our country.

We have no topics to discuss this year just a update on Advisory Action 016/2019

I have attended many meetings throughout this project and the work is progressing well. Deadline for Stories has been extended to 30 September 2021 if everyone could encourage to indigenous members to send in their stories to [indigenusaabook2020@gmail.com](mailto:indigenusaabook2020@gmail.com) or PO Box 1050, Newtown NSW 2042. They are also asking if anyone is interested and able to take over the coordination of our meetings and the project generally.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service

Paul J

# **GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE REPORT**

## **Staff**

Tony C retired in March this year, after 19 years of service. Chris S has now taken over duties previously handled by Tony and Patrick S was employed in May. Patrick is responsible for literature dispatch and other office duties.

## **General Service Office**

The office is located in Arncliffe which was identified as an Local Government Area of Concern for almost three months. Staff had to obtain permits to be able to visit the office.

## **Literature Supplies**

Staff were able to keep up with the demand for literature, although there were despatch difficulties due to Australia Post being overwhelmed. We also experienced difficulties in getting supplies of literature purchased from AAWS which resulted in an out of stock situation with some items.

There was a noticeable increase in sales via the online bookshop during some periods.

## **Conventions and other functions attended**

Valerie M was invited to attend Al-Anon's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary online meeting to speak on the relationship between AA and Al-Anon.

## **Equipment purchased**

There were no major purchases during the year.

## **Board meetings attended**

Valerie M and Chris S attended the February and July 2021 Board meetings both of which were held online. Patrick S attended the July Board meeting.

## **Insurance**

All insurance policies were renewed.

## **Management Group**

All staff attended the monthly Management Group meetings held at General Service Office, which were also attended by the General Service Trustees.

## **Co-ordination & Review Committee**

All staff attended the Co-ordination & Review Committee meetings held at General Service Office monthly.



## **Finances**

A copy of the end of year audited financial reports and the budget for July 2021 – June 2022 have been distributed to all Conference members.

We have set up a PayPal account so that members can easily donate if they wish to do so. [donations@aa.org.au](mailto:donations@aa.org.au)

We have also set up a QR code which takes you to the donations page on our website.

## **Rent**

The annual rent increase was waived by the landlord this year.

## **Trademarks**

All Trademarks are current.

## **AA Around Australia**

This quarterly publication has been distributed by email throughout the year and also made available on the website.

## **National Website**

The General Service Board has approved the setting up of a Technology and Social Media Team which will be headed by Lachlan B. This team will oversee both the national and service websites. Our thanks to David M and Steve T and all our meetings list updaters around the country, who have managed to keep our meetings list current, despite numerous changes throughout the year. Steve T has now retired and his place has been taken by Jeff B.

## **Service Website**

There will be an overhaul of this website during the coming months. The General Service Board has approved \$1000 expenditure to set up a Buddy Press Website.

## **1300 Number**

Working well, with very few reported problems.

Valerie M

## **2<sup>nd</sup> TERM WORLD SERVICE DELEGATE REPORT**

My name is Brian, I am an alcoholic, my Home Group is Brisbane Traditions. My sobriety date is 20 June 1977.

I got to Alcoholics Anonymous on that date. I was fortunate that I had good sponsorship that involved me in all aspects of the fellowship. This led me to being elected as Australia's World Service Delegate in 2017. I was elected to the position which I accepted with a great deal of trepidation and fear in relation to my ability to do the job to the standard that I believe it should be done at. This example had been clearly shown to me by previous delegates right back to hearing the delegate Ann O'C giving a report in the park in Brisbane.

My first international World Service Meeting was in Durban, South Africa in 2015. My second one was the AOSM in Hong Kong in 2019. In Durban, Australia only had one delegate and I found that it was very limiting to do that. I was asked to present a paper on service beyond the group. Upon returning I was more convinced than ever that Australia should always send two delegates as the role is way too large for one person to cover it all and report back successfully. On returning, I copied onto a stick everything that went on in South Africa, all the workshops, all the committee reports and sent it to every trustee in Australia to pass on to delegates. The disappointing thing of this action was that only one person contacted me about how we could use the suggestions contained in that. This convinced me more than ever on the importance of General Service Representatives and District Committee Members in our communications within the fellowship and I believe that we need to strengthen the free-flowing of information through our General Service Representatives and District Committee Members. I believe Australia is well served by trusted servants and our trusted employees and yes there is a difference. This became very clear to me when I was elected to participate in the Policies and Procedures Committee of World Service in South Africa. I stayed on this committee for four years and one day I made the mistake of thanking an international committee secretary for their service to the fellowship, only to be told that it wasn't a service position, they were employed under Tradition Eight.

With the onset of Covid, the workload of the World Service Delegate became very busy without the constraints of limited finances to carry the message outside of our normal 12 Step work. The 2020 World Service Meeting was held on Zoom but the work of the committee, especially the Policies and Procedures Committee started months before. We were asked to review four countries who wished to be seated or represented at the meeting in 2020. The requirement for a country to be seated is that they must have a literature distribution centre or some growing service structure like a General Service Office. You cannot self-nominate to join the World Service Meeting. I am happy to say that out of all the countries that applied for representation, only two were knocked back because they did not meet the criteria. The countries must select a delegate and the requirements for delegates is that they should be a current resident of the country, but not necessarily a citizen of the country they are serving. These requirements are more important today than ever as more of the fellowship's business meetings move online. The highlight of the online World Service Meeting in 2020 was the virtual tour through Stepping Stones, the home of Bill W. and Lois. I have previously visited Stepping Stones twice but the virtual tour showed me things I had missed like the broken boomerang with 1948 written on it by the groups in Australia, and the first printing of the Big Book in Australia sitting in the lobby for the world to see.

As World Service Delegate in Australia, I've attended two World Service Meetings, two AOSM Meetings, presented papers at both World Service Meetings, the second one was on Country to Country Sponsorship. To share my experience on these subjects was a privilege. I also attended all board meetings in person and online and participated freely, sometimes too freely (oops I made a mistake!). As I've been able to communicate at this level, I believe that the groups of Alcoholics Anonymous have a great responsibility to keep our fellowship united and keep us all to our primary purpose. A good example of this is the way the fellowship has responded to Covid 19 and moved online. This also has a financial consequence for the fellowship as we are not practicing the Seventh Tradition in the way we used to. One of the things that I've come to understand is the importance of our General Service Representatives and our District Committee Members in our communication with our trusted servants and the Board's communication with our trusted employees. I recently hosted a meeting of all District Committee Members in the Area I live in, to talk about World Service and communication within Alcoholics Anonymous.

In my time, I would like to see delegates to the General Service Conference reunions started in Australia and to be a regular feature on all National Conventions to be held in the future.

As World Service Delegate, since the onset of Zoom, I am regularly asked to participate in workshops and presentations all around the world. However, in Australia, we seem to be fascinated with importing speakers on the First Legacy and forgetting about the other two. We seem to have a proliferation of meetings in Alcoholics Anonymous and not enough Groups. As a result, our message seems to be lost and becomes "just go to meetings and all will be okay".

Recently when participating in a workshop as World Service Delegate Term Two, on Zoom, I was talking to one of the other panelists, who informed me that he had just registered his Group with GSO New York and had received a registration number for his Group and that the Group was the fifth Group of Alcoholics Anonymous in the world and he asked me what was the registration number of my Group? And I had to say "I don't know". He then asked me how would my Group have a say about changing some of our literature? Once more I had to say "I don't know". I tried to find out which was the oldest Group still operating in Australia, nobody could tell me for sure. I would like to suggest that we start registering our Groups at a National level. We appear to do it piecemeal.

As this Conference will be my last, I finish my term on 31 December 2021, though I may hold no more positions I will be available to help the incoming delegates to understand the role but I definitely will not be doing the job. I am a great believe in rotation but not rotating into oblivion. In the last two years I have been ably assisted by Greg B, our first term delegate, and we have started online meetings with past Australian AOSM and World Service Delegates so we don't lose the experience of all the service that these people gave the fellowship. As I believe Alcoholics Anonymous is built on the experience of one alcoholic helping another at the Group level, at the District level, at the Area level, at the Board level and at the World Service level. If we were to disregard this experience of service then we wouldn't have a service structure. Each one of these trusted positions are just as vital as the next. In reading this, I would ask you to read page 326 in As Bill Sees It.

Yours in the fellowship of the spirit,  
World Service Delegate - Term Two,  
Brian S

## 1<sup>st</sup> TERM WORLD SERVICE DELEGATE'S REPORT

My name is Greg B and I am an alcoholic and a member of the Forster Saturday Morning Steps and Traditions Meeting. I have now completed my second year as World Service Delegate. It has certainly widened my vision of AA world wide and back home in Australia. To assist in increasing my knowledge for the position we have organized Zoom meetings of past Australian WS Delegates who share their experience while in the role. I realise many former WS Delegates had previously served on the General Service Board as Trustees and so had knowledge of Service at Board level. My only experience in this regard was a term as Area Delegate at Conference in 1981, 82. After 44 years in the Fellowship I am still learning.

Although it is old news (**and the final report has been sent to all Area Delegates in Australia**) I thought I'd share some thoughts on the 2020 World Service Meeting. It was held "virtually" over three days on Zoom. It began on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November and concluded on Monday 30<sup>th</sup>. Because of the time differences in the world each day began for me at 11pm Sydney time and finished at 4.30am the next morning. I suffered from jet lag without leaving the living room.

Obviously there is a difference between meeting in person and meeting on a computer screen as we have all experienced with our local meetings during this virus time. My ability to form meaningful relationships with other Delegates was lacking. The "meeting after the meeting" didn't happen. Added to that is the participants varying ability with the technology. However I think the overall objective of the Meeting – the sharing of information worldwide – was achieved.

As a First Term Delegate I was struck by the universal nature of the disease of alcoholism. Alcoholics from the four corners of the globe are affected in a similar fashion by the disease and "talk the same language" despite differences in their native tongue.

Since the disease affects us all in the same fashion, our relief comes with the same solution, embodied in the Twelve Steps of our spiritual programme.

Fortunately/Unfortunately because the disease is universal, the Fellowship is confronted with similar organizational problems worldwide. The sharing of these problems and the experience of countries who may have addressed similar situations is one of the main goals of the World Service Meetings.

And despite any conflict, chaos or confusion both inside and more particularly outside AA in our world today, the camaraderie of the Meeting was witness to the loving presence of the Higher Power within our Fellowship. The gathering of people from all corners of the world in a peaceful, joyful, supportive atmosphere would surely be God's ideal for his entire world. I was reminded of the final paragraph of Step Eleven in our book "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions":-

*"Perhaps one of the greatest rewards of meditation and prayer is the sense of **belonging** that comes to us. We no longer live in a completely hostile world. We are no longer lost and frightened and purposeless. The moment we catch even a glimpse of God's will, the moment we begin to see truth, justice and love as the real and eternal things in life, we are no longer deeply disturbed by all the seeming evidence to the contrary that surrounds us in purely human affairs. We know that God lovingly watches over us. We know that when we turn to Him, all will be well with us, here and hereafter."*

Our AA Service world is also split up geographically into zones. Our zone covers the Asia Oceania area and as a World Service Delegate I am also Australia's Delegate at these Asia-Oceania Service Meetings.

**Allow me to digress.** *I'm ashamed to admit it but I knew very little about the AOSM (Asia Oceania Service Meeting) before taking up my position as WS Delegate. Most of the remainder of this report has been repeated from an article in the Board's Quarterly Newsletter. I'm aware that I (like most people) often do not conscientiously read material unless it impacts on me personally. It is only when material is repeated and I say "Oh, he's not talking about that again" that you can be fairly confident I've heard the message. And so, because I believe that we, the Australian Fellowship, need to take a greater interest in the AOSM, I repeat the report.*

The 14<sup>th</sup> AOSM was set down for 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021 in India and much preparation had been carried out by the host nation before the decision was made to hold the meeting virtually due to the Covid Virus. This was obviously very disappointing to the Planning Committee in India and indeed the entire Indian Fellowship. Once again **this report will be distributed to all Area Delegates once it has been finalized.** Organisation of the technology to hold the meeting was taken up by members in Japan and we are certainly indebted to them for services which would have cost us many thousands of dollars.

36 members participated in the Meeting from a total of 19 countries. They were:

|                      |           |             |             |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| Mercaa (Middle East) | Australia | Kyrgystan   | South Korea |
| Hong Kong            | Japan     | Israel      | Fiji        |
| India                | Singapore | Iran        | Bhutan      |
| Thailand             | Russia    | New Zealand | Nepal       |
| China                | Mongolia  | Sri Lanka   |             |

Across the AOSM Zone there is a 20 hour time difference (8am in Dubai is 4pm in New Zealand) so the three days started early for some and finished late for others. Despite this, attendance was good and overall feedback was very positive. Presentations included Country to Country Sponsorship, examined both from the Sponsee and Sponsor positions, the process involved in establishing GSO's (from the experience in Iran, Mongolia and Japan) and a history of the AOSM presented by our own Shirley C. and Doug G. of Japan.

We were joined by Racy J. and David R. from GSO New York who spoke on the International Literature Fund, Literature Translations, Licensing and Distribution. Unfortunately there were no bids for the 15<sup>th</sup> AOSM so further enquiries were to be made in this regard.

As I noted earlier in the report, I've come to believe our Australian Fellowship needs to be more proactive in carrying the message in our Zone. We have the longest serving Fellowship in our Zone and it is our responsibility to take a more active interest in it. I suggest, in the year 2025, when our Fellowship celebrates our 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, we should investigate hosting the AOSM on our shores.

Greg B  
First Term World Service Delegate