

**GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2022
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 #046/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee's recommendation that the proposal to remove reference to CSOs in the guidelines be rejected. Conference resolved that reference to CSO's in the AA Guidelines and the AA Service Manual be replaced with the words Local/Central Service Office. While the Australian Service Manual makes it very clear that Central/Local Service offices provide local services to participating groups outside of the General Service Structure, the use of mostly the term Central (CSO) could be confusing. The change to Local/Central Service Offices provides the necessary clarity. It is further recommended that the GSB consult with Local/Central Service Offices about the change and the reason for it. This Advisory Action emanated from Advisory Action #015/2021

Voting: For: 21; Against: 3; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #:024/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee's recommendation that the revised National Convention Guideline be accepted with the following words added to the Host Planning Committee.

The Host Planning Committee has responsibility for the timing, however consideration should be given for the time of year in which it is held, and the duration of the Convention to cater for domestic and international travellers.

Voting: For: 24; Against: 0; Abstentions: 2
After hearing the minority voice there was a revote:
Voting: For: 21; Against: 5; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #025/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee's recommendation that the revised Correctional Facilities Guideline be accepted with the following minor edit in the "Code of Conduct" paragraph 3.

You may encounter corrective services officers who don't share your passion for AA. You should not try to impress them, but we need to keep on side by keeping our minds on the alcoholics who still suffer, now and in the future: thoughtless words or actions can instantly undo prolonged efforts to establish AA in a facility.

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

Advisory Action #002/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee's recommendation that Section 4 (The District and District Committee) of the Australian General Service Manual be expanded to provide more clarity.

Voting: For: 24; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #002-B/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee’s recommendation that Chapter II of the 2021-2023 revised and updated edition of the US/Canada Service Manual be used as a source document instead of the document submitted with the Topic.

Voting: For: 24; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0
Carried

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES

Advisory Action #017/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Committee on Trustees recommendation to support the Board’s intention to change Article 4 of its Articles of Association by rewording the last sentence to read:

‘Any Trustees having retired shall not be eligible for reappointment, except in the case where the Class A Trustee has retired before completion of their five year term of office’

Voting: For: 22; Against: 4; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #026/2022

Conference resolved to recommend to the General Service Board that Garry Scott be elected as Eastern Regional Trustee for a four year period, effective 1st January 2023.

Voting: Carried by Third Legacy Procedure

Advisory Action #027/2022

Conference resolved to recommend to the General Service Board that Dominic Hyde be elected as Western Regional Trustee for a four year period, effective 1st January 2023.

Voting: For: 24; Against: 0; Abstentions: 2
Carried

Advisory Action #028/2022

Conference resolved to recommend to the General Service Board that John O’Leary be elected as North Eastern Regional Trustee for a four year period, effective 1st January 2023.

Voting: For: 21; Against: 2; Abstentions: 3

Advisory Action #029/2022

Conference resolved to ratify the appointment by the General Service Board of Andrew Taylor as General Service Trustee for a four year period, effective 1st January 2023.

Voting: no disapproval vote
Carried

CONFERENCE TREATMENT FACILITIES & ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #003/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Treatment Facilities & Accessibility Committee’s recommendation that the General Service Board encourages the Fellowship to take steps to raise awareness that AA welcomes Deaf and Hard of Hearing people wishing to investigate the 12 Step solution to alcoholism and supports the cost of an Auslan interpreter for one year at a cost of \$3,408 in the hope that the existing meeting will become self supporting. The submitter of this topic should be invited to work with the committees in the implementation of this Advisory Action.

The expenditure for a Facebook campaign or teletypewriter line is not recommended at this time.

Voting: For: 17; Against: 5; Abstentions: 1
Carried

CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #030/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee's recommendation that the audited accounts of the General Service Board for year ended 30 June 2022 be accepted.

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

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

Advisory Action #005/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Public Information & Co-operation with the Professional Community's recommendation that any idea that encourages individuals to participate in PI&CPC should be supported and that the week of December 11 should be 'National Put up an AA Poster' week.

Voting: For: 22; Against: 4; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #018/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Public Information & Co-operation with the Professional Community's recommendation that, in line with the General Service Board's decision to form a new committee, a new Conference Committee (The Technology & Social Media Committee) should be formed. The overall scope of the committee will be any member service or supporting function that heavily relies on technology or that is/will be impacted by changes in technology, e.g. tasks relating to the National and Service Websites, Social Media, Communications and Member Services.

Voting: For: 26; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
Carred

CONFERENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #004/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Correctional Facilities Committee's recommendation that a Working Group be formed to develop less formal and easy to read and use materials that improves a person's engagement with AA both whilst they are in, and after they have left a Correctional Facility. The new materials should be submitted to Conference 2023 for approval.

It was noted that the material supplied with the topic was not consistent with current published literature and the content included suggestions based on AA lore rather than the AA programme.

Voting: For: 19; Against: 4; Abstentions: 3
Carried

CONFERENCE POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #031/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommendation that the submitted article 'Tradition Three and what it means for Specialised AA Groups', produced by the Trustees' Literature Committee, be made available to the Fellowship by publishing in pamphlets, AA Around Australia and other publications, websites, etc. This Advisory Action emanated from Advisory Action #023/2021

Voting: For: 18; Against: 4; Abstentions: 3

After the Minority Voice there was a revote on the committee's recommendation.

Voting: For: 13; Against: 12; Abstentions: 1

Carried

Advisory Action #013/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee's recommendation that a decision regarding a General Service Conference Inventory be postponed until 2024 after the Policies & Admissions Committee working group report and recommendations has been completed. This report will include a review and recommendations on the Conference voting structure and a full service literature review and should be completed by 2023.

Voting: For: 23; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1

Carried

Advisory Action #032/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee's recommendation that future pre-Conference Delegates & Observers meeting be held virtually and that Alternate Delegates be permitted to attend.

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

Carried

CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #019/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Remote Communities Committee recommendation that extends the scope of the National Combined Forum be extend to include Remote Communities, but that the name should be changed to something less unwieldy such as the National Combined Carry the Message Forum or National Combined Outreach Forum.

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

Carried

CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #020/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference International Committee's recommendation that the sum of \$2000 be donated to the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat to assist with the running costs of the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0

Carried

CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #033/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that a Sub-committee be established to publish stories and create multimedia suite of AA Resources for the First Nations AA still suffering Alcoholic. This Advisory Action emated from Advisory Action #016/2019.

Voting: For: 22; Against: 2; Abstentions: 4

After the Minority Voice there was a revote on the committees recommendation.

Voting: For: 16; Against: 10; Abstentions: 2

Carried

Advisory Action #010/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that the General Service Board investigates and pursues mechanisms by which Australian members (and the worldwide Fellowship generally, can have a say in future decisions regarding changes to our key literature.

*Note: The Conference Literature Committee agreed that there are references in the US/Canada Conference Charter that encourage consultation and communication between Conferences, and recommended that these channels be explored and developed, led by our World Service Delegates.

Voting: For: 27; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1

Carried

Advisory Action #011/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that the AA Australian Group Handbook be made freely available to all members as a downloadable PDF.

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

Carried

Advisory Action #015/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that a small working group be formed to edit and adopt the AAWS District Committee Member (DCM) Kit page for general service in Australia. It is acknowledged that modifications will be required to suit Australia, licensing agreements, etc.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 1; Abstentions: 2

Carried

Advisory Action #016/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that a small working group be formed to edit and adopt the AAWS General Service Representative (GSR) Kit page for general service in Australia. It is acknowledged that modifications will be required to suit Australia, licensing agreements, etc.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 1; Abstentions: 2

Carried

Advisory Action #021/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that the Board's request for permission to produce and sell an 80th anniversary medallion be accepted.

Voting: For: 26; Against: 2; Abstentions: 0

Carried

Advisory Action #023/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee’s recommendation that a limited run of an 80th Anniversary Australian Big Book be published, with the provision that a robust process is undertaken to ensure known page numbering issues and any typographical errors are reviewed and fixed as part of this process. It was further resolved that the submitted Foreword to be accepted, on the proviso that the Preface of the 50th Anniversary Edition is also included.

Voting: For: 20; Against: 7; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #034

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee’s recommendation that the Guidelines for Service Entities on Archives and the Archivist job description be accepted.

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

CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #035/2022

Conference resolved that the General Service Board be requested to formulate a proposal re combining Conference Committees (re Advisory Action 001/2021) by 31st March 2023 and that an online meeting of the General Service Conference be convened in May 2023 to discuss and vote on the proposal.

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

Advisory Action #036/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee’ recommendation that the 2023 General Service Conference be held from Saturday 4th – Sunday 5th November 2023 (venue to be advised).

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

Advisory Action #037/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee’ final recommendation that the Agenda Committee should meet on Saturday 17th June 2023 at 11.30am EST by teleconference to formulate agendas and on Saturday 5th August 2023 at 11.30am EST by teleconference to allocate topics to Conference Committees.

Voting on original committee recommendation: For: 14; Against: 13; Abstentions: 0

After the Minority Voice there was a revote:

For: 9; Against: 18; Abstentions: 0

The Committee then met to formulate a new recommendation, shown in Advisory Action above..

Voting: For: 26; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0
Carried

Advisory Action #038/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee’ final recommendation that the deadline for receipt of 2023 Conference Topics should be 4pm Friday 16th June 2023.

Voting on original committee recommendation: For: 25; Against: 1 Abstentions 0

After the Minority Voice the original recommendation was amended, as per Advisory Action above.

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

Advisory Action #039/2022

Conference resolved that the theme of the 2023 General Service Conference would be ‘My Home Group – Commitment to Action’.

Voting: by a show of hands
Carried

Advisory Action #040/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee’s recommendation that Advisory Action #017/2001 (that delegates should hold the Chairman’s position of one Conference committee only) be rescinded or reworded, as it is not currently workable.

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

BIDS

Advisory Action #022/2022

Conference resolved to accept the General Service Board’s proposal that the 2025 National Convention be held in Sydney to celebrate AA Australia’s 80th anniversary and that it be hosted by the General Service Board.

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

Advisory Action #041/2022

Conference resolved to accept the bid by Areas A and B Central Region to host the 2024 National Convention.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

There were no bids to host the 2024 Combined National Forum or 2023 Regional Forums.

FLOOR ACTIONS

Advisory Action #042/2022

Conference resolved to recommend to the Conference Agenda Committee that pre-Conference committee meetings be held virtually and that the main Conference be held physically for 2023.

Voting: For: 22; Against: 3; Abstentions: 1
Carried

Advisory Action #043/2022

Conference resolved that, after each conference committee meeting is held in October, the draft report prepared by the committee coordinator is reviewed for accuracy and approved by the Committee Chair and/or the Trustee member of the committee before it is circulated to all Conference members or added to the Conference folder.

Voting: For: 16; Against: 6; Abstentions: 2
Carried

Advisory Action #044/2022

That the Australian AA Group Handbook be updated to replace 'gays; with 'members of the LGBTQIA+ community' in this section:

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.'

And that the article about specialised groups be updated accordingly before publication.

Voting: For: 20; Against: 4; Abstentions: 1
Carried