

Delegate Report

GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE TOPICS 2023

Prepared by Doug Wade, Area A, Northern Region Delegate

# Introduction

In general the conference went very well, all aims were achieved within the time frame set down without any great difficulties. The Organisers, Board and Delegates worked harmoniously to achieve consensus working within the framework of the Fellowship.

The group was a good and diverse cross section of the Australian Fellowship. It was good to see some familiar faces that included members who had previously visited Darwin, people from my old home group in Sydney and people who I had met only in online meetings.Those 2nd and 3rd year Delegates who had previously only attended online conferences during COVID said meeting face to face was a much better experience and more productive.

The principal of rotation was something that impressed me by the end of the conference. Particularly the sense that the 3rd Year Delegates who had worked so hard to make the Conference a success were rotating off, that within 3 years all those Delegates in the room would have rotated off and the process would continue to the same standard.

There was also other matters addressed as well as the topics, including an overview of the Finances, Report from the Board and various working groups, followup on legacy items and election for several positions. For details of all of these see the full report on the conference.

Finally, not a junket. Although the motel was nice, it was noisy, it was possible to see Botany Bay from my bed, but because we were starting early and ending late I never got to do that. Like all the Group members who gave up their times to discuss the topics, the GSR’s who came along to the Area Assembly and the District Committee who help have our voice heard, all this effort went into the process.

# Summary Table of Voting at Conference

# There were 30 people eligible to vote at the Conference.

# Prior to the Conference committees meet and made recommendations about each Topic recomending that it be either Accepted, Rejected or Amended. These recommendations are in the second column.

# The first vote on each Topic was on the recommendation put forward by the committee. If the committee recommendation was not supported then the original proposed Topic was voted on. This is outlined in Column 3. The numbers in **bold** are where I voted on each topic.

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| **TOPIC** | **Page # in Topics Document & Committee Recommendation** | **1. Support**  **2. Don’t support**  **3. Neutral** | **Comments** |
| TOPIC #004/2023: (Gender- neutral 12 Step banners for meetings) | 3 - Accept reworded proposal. | 11-16-3 27-**2**-1 | In discussion it was raised the Australian Board was the Copyright Licence holder in Australia and should have some responsibility of enquiries around copyright. Amended proposal put forward and agreed.  Advisory Action #004/2023  Conference resolved for the Board to produce a model answer to the question around inclusive based  language and our copyright restrictions be placed on the members website.  Conference also resolved for the World Service delegates to continue to investigate how we can have  a voice in changes to copyrighted literature. |
| TOPIC #007/2023: (Standardised interim financial reporting) | 6 Support | **29**-1-0 |  |
| TOPIC #008/2023: (Members who do not identify as human) | 8 Reject | 30-0-0 |  |
| TOPIC #009/2023: (Raise the profile of the 12 Concepts) | 9 Reject | **16**-14-0 9-21-0 **29**-1-0 | Revote after minority voice, then amended action and floor action later to purchase banner for Convention -  Advisory Action #009/2023  Conference recommends that a Working Group be formed to explore options to promote the 12  Concepts, without changing existing literature |
| TOPIC #010/2023: (Video/audio summary/podcast of conference highlights) | 10 Accept | 27-**3**-0 12-**17**-1 **29**-1-0 | I spoke for Minority Voice (Area GSR had been in majority to reject topic. In discussion before final vote Class A Trustee said a summary would only reflect the measurable outcomes, while Delegate reports also subjectively reflect the process to their members. Amended result -  Advisory Action #010/2023  Conference resolved the topic be rejected and that an audio version of the conference report be  made available on the members website as a companion to the written version. |
| TOPIC #011/2023: (Rewrite/update the Australian Service Manual) | 11 Accept | **30**-0-0 |  |
| TOPIC #013/2023: (Reformatting GSO Paperwork) | 12 Reject | **5**-25-0 29-**1**-0 | I spoke to Minority Voice, the reason to reject proposal was because the process was underway, Topic accepted for very same reason. |
| TOPIC #014/2023: (Acknowledgement of Country Statement at AA Meetings) | 14 Reject | **27**-2-1 | Complex but not controversial. Wording of topic problematic. Vote reflect principal of group autonomy and previous conference decisions. |
| Topic #016/2023: ('Welcome to country' at National Conventions) | 16 Reject | **23**-7-0 | As above |
| TOPIC #017/2023: (Gold Coast Bid to Host NatCon 2026) | 17 Accept | **30**-0-0 |  |
| TOPIC #018/2023: (Using materials like the "Cochrane Report") | 19 Accept | **30**-0-0 | Spoke to Areas views |
| TOPIC #020/2023: (Put Cochrane Report in Professionals' packs) | 22 Reject | **22**-8-0 |  |
| TOPIC #021/2023: (Reduce Delegates Term to 2 Years) | 23 Reject | **28**-2-0 |  |
| TOPIC #019/2023: (Shorten Class A Trustee Terms) | 24 Accept | **9**-20-1 On Topic **8**-21-1 **12**-17-1 | Topic requires 75% to pass. |
| TOPIC #022/2023: (Electronic 7th Tradition) | 26 Accept | **28**-1-0 | Advisory Action #022/2023 and #023/2017  Conference resolved to accept this Topic with a report from the Finance Working Group being  presented at Conference based on Advisory Action #023/2017 which resolved that the GSB be  requested to research cashless options available and produce an information sheet for groups that  wish to become cashless for Conference 2018.  A report was presented to Conference with details out how to open a bank account and will be  uploaded to the member website. Point of Sale systems do not work with the AA structure as they  require an ABN. The Social Media and Technology Committee is in the process of looking at App based  online transaction services as an option for Groups. The Committee will keep the Groups informed. |
| TOPIC #023/2023: (Volunteers for Phone Line) | 28 Accept | **30**-0-0 |  |
| TOPIC #024/2023: (New PI Poster) | 29 Accept | **27**-3-0 |  |
| TOPIC #025/2023: (Proposal for a Secular Leaflet) | 30 Reject | **25**-3-2 **21**-7-2 |  |
| TOPIC #015/2023: (Need for a secular AA leaflet) | 32 Accept | 15-**15**-0 on topic 21-**8**-1 | Very tough Topic, I spoke against. |
| TOPIC #026/2023: (One Group, One Vote) | 34 Reject | **24**-6-0 **16**-14-0 |  |
| TOPIC #028/2023: (Resume Printing Service Manual and Guidelines) | 36 Reject | 17-**12**-1 16-**14**-0 |  |
| TOPIC #029/2023: (Dyslexic Font for Big Book) | 37 Accept | **27**-3-0 |  |
| TOPIC 030/2023: (Change to Service Manual) | 40 Accept | **29**-1-0 |  |
| TOPIC 031/2023 GUIDELINE # 39: (Virtual Area Guideline) | 41 Accept | **30**-0-0 |  |