**Topics for Conference 2024 – Assessment Chart**

| **Topic** | **Subject** | **Agree** | **Disagree** | **Neutral** | **More info needed** | **Comments** |
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| **TOPIC #001/2024: (Creating a 2/3 Delegate voting majority at Conference** | **.**  Creating a 2/3 Delegate voting majority at Conference while respecting Concept IV (Right of Participation)  In any future AA Australia General Service Conference where Delegates make up less than two thirds majority of overall voting members:  • On any vote where all delegates vote the same way, this is to be considered the equivalent of a mathematical 2/3 voting majority.  2/3 voting majority of Area Delegates at Conference is a long-held desire of the Australian fellowship, with multiple topics being put up in previous years to achieve it; all of which have failed. Why? Commonly, the suggestion is to remove votes from the other voting members of conference, which of course conflicts with Concept IV, AA’s Right of Participation. Bill W himself warns against this:  ‘*Certainly, our Trustees and service workers are no less conscientious, experienced, and wiser than the Delegates. Is there any good reason why their votes are undesirable? Clearly there is none. Hence, we ought to be wary of any future tendency to deny either our Trustees or our service people their Conference votes*’ – C4 Essay.  As such, to achieve a 2/3 Delegate majority, a fresh and more spiritual approach is required; one that doesn’t erode C4 – one of AA’s foundation principles |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #002/2024: (2/3 Majority)** | The 2/3 majority Area Delegate issue again – can we be inclusive and democratic?  Use this Topic to consult the fellowship in Alcoholics Anonymous Australia to see if there is need for a National Group Conscience on this again at Conference.  Permit all AA members the chance to be informed rather than being told that it is needed. Find out if is a need to proceed with divisive discussion on an issue that may not be viewed as an issue when the fellowship are allowed a chance to consider and view our literature for themselves.  If a bigger topic needs to be created to fully inform and we must wait until 2025 to do it right then that is good thing and best for AA as a whole to make sure everyone is having opportunity to consider it.  If the delegates return with a no vote, then conference can move on from time consuming nitpicking process debates and get focused on helping develop things that will save alkies.  The Concepts exist to guide us. Let’s use this one.  From Concept 12  The Conference shall observe the spirit of AA Tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power….that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, sustainable unanimity,….that it never perform acts of government, that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain **democratic** in thought and action.  As a former delegate I have seen for myself the time-consuming and disunity effects of this topic when it gets brought to conference when the topics ask for it to be solved. Never have we the members actually been asked as a whole if it is even something we all want addressed.  I think that if this topic is discussed through the proper channels of communication via delegates and GSRs and groups conference will know if the members of AA want the time of their trusted conference servants spent on this. Isnt that truly democratic? |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #003/2024: (Cost Equalisation Guideline)** | **.**  The General Service Board suggests creating a Cost Equalisation Guideline.  The Board suggests that a Cost Equalisiation Guideline is agreed on to ensure that the expenses of Conference and Board meetings are fairly divided among Areas in a clear and consistent and equitable way |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #004/2024: (Update GL-07 PI/CPC in the Guidelines)** | .  There is scope for sections to be added on Professional Awareness, the Internet (Facebook), where to find information and general updates from information raised at the 2024 Public Awareness Forum and PI/CPC newsletters and Professional Conferences and Luncheons |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #005/2024: (Change name from CPC to PA**) | Change name of ‘Cooperating with the Professional Community’ to ‘Professional Awareness’ (CPC to PA)  The Board is in agreement for the Topic to be decided at Conference and if accepted by conference will be conducted in accordance with GL-27. Other guidelines will be updated during the upcoming Document Review process.  Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is simplifying its terminology by replacing the term ‘Cooperating with the Professional Community’ with Professional Awareness’  This can emphasise mutual understanding, education, and destigmatisation of alcohol addiction.  By promoting transparency and respect for professional boundaries, AA aims to enhance support for individuals seeking recovery |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #006/2024: (Flow Chart for PI Material)** | **.**  Public Information (PI) and Professional Awareness (PA) flow chart for development and approval of PI/PA material.  For groups, districts and areas to be given a clear flow chart for the development and approval of new PI/PA material.  A conference working committee to develop a flow chart for development/approval fo PI/PA material. The flow chart to be in the spirit of ‘Flow Chart for Development of an AA Pamphlet’ from Section 11 ‘AA Literature’ of the Service Manual. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #007/2024: (World Service Delegate’s vote)** | Ratio of Delegate to non-Delegate Conference Members - World Service Delegate’s vote  The General Service Board recommends revising our structure and updating our service manual and all other relevant service documents to align with our founders' original intent, and our own long stated ideal that delegates comprise at least two-thirds of Conference members.  To help achieve this the Board further recommends that while continuing to welcome with gratitude the ongoing participation and valuable contributions of the World Service Delegates at Conference, we transition away from the two World Service Delegates continuing to have vote at Conference (to take effect after the current WSDs appointees rotate out, as they accepted their positions under the current arrangement). |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #008/2024: (Class A Trustee numbers)** | **.**  Ratio of Delegate to non-Delegate Conference Members - Class A numbers.  The General Service Board recommends revising our structure and updating our service manual and all other relevant service documents to align with our founders' original intent, and our own long stated ideal that delegates comprise at least two-thirds of Conference members.  With deep gratitude for the dedication and invaluable contributions of our esteemed Class A Trustees, the Board proposes an adjustment to our Service Manual and Charter and other relevant documents, reducing the maximum number of Class A Trustees from 4 to 2. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #009/2024: (Accessibility Guideline for AA Australia)** | Conference to create an accessibility guideline.   * Conference to create or adapt from the US version, an Australian guideline for accessibility, to help inform AA Australia of this important aspect of carrying the message |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #010/2024: (Add upside down triangle)** | **.** Structure chart of the upside down triangle be put back in the Service manual with the Groups at top of chart followed by the Districts, Area Assemblies, Delegates at Conference and the GSB at the bottom to show that groups have complete Authority at Conference as written in Concept 1.  Alcoholics are visual people and seeing the diagram of the upside down triangle can help our members see our structure much clearer and the path for topics and the Authority the groups have for Conference. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #011/2024: (Accepted Literature)** | Having a new category of Conference ‘Accepted’ Literature.  Conference to consider a new category of literature to stand beside *Conference Approved* literature. A category that indicates literature has been assessed by a conference committee and accepted or designated as “official’.  We need the ability to endorse or accept literature (posters, PI, cards etc.) for national use and circulation without everything needing to go to conference and take a year.  A Conference Committee could be given the authority to effectively sign off on submitted materials ensuring they meet guidelines, traditions etc. and allow them to be shared nationally with AA backing on the members website or GSO website. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #012/2024: (Online Meeting Guideline)** | Supporting the growth and effectiveness of the Australian AA Fellowship through authentic online meetings listings.  The Board to refine the criteria for listing online meetings on the national website to ensure it fulfills its intended purpose of supporting the growth and effectiveness of the Australian AA fellowship.  The issue is that alcoholics use meetings.aa.org.au to find Australian meetings, both in-person and online. However, the national website includes international and overseas online meetings.  These international meetings reduce the incentive to create Australian meetings, as they compete for attendees, listing times, and often request 7th Tradition contributions from Australian members, diverting resources away from local services.  The idea is to establish a workable, clear and objective criteria for listing online meetings, to ensure that meetings on the national website are genuinely part of the Australian fellowship. This will support the growth and effectiveness of the Australian AA community to help alcoholics get sober and stay sober. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #013/2024: (Ratio of Delegate to non-delegate Conference Members** | The General Service Board recommends revising the wording in our service manual and all other relevant service documents to align with our founders' original intent.  The Board recommends that we make amendments to our Service Manual and other relevant service documents, including to the first paragraph under the heading “Who Conference Members Are” by replacing the words “more than two thirds” with “at least two thirds”. This would bring it into alignment with the original wording in the source documents written by our founders. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #014/2024: (Trim the numbers of Trustees on the Board**) | The Conference and the Board should look into sticking to Article 18 of Articles of Association of GSB, returning the General Service Trustee Role back to what is its main function – being responsible to the Board for running the GSO from a business point of view and that’s it. AA recovery work and carrying the message issues work on behalf of the fellowship can then be done by trustees the membership selects to do them.  Return management group and the GSTs to the status of sub-committee reporting to the Board.  GSTs no longer on the Board as full members.  GSTs no longer vote at conference.  GSTs are self-nominating and not selected by the members like Regional Trustees are, they are supposed to be dedicated to this one job, and no more.  Because they have to be in Sydney allowing GSTs full Board memberships gives Eastern Region, Sydney over proportion of representation at Board level and conference.  Reducing this concentration of authority will be more equitable across the country and encourage people elsewhere to join services and not be run by Sydney.  Give people in other regions an equal chance to serve as trustee, not give Sydney a 3 times greater chance.  Reduce the numbers of Board members to delegates at conference. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Topic #015/2024: (Alcoholics Anonymous Australia, one united Structure)** | The Conference task a Working Group to ascertain the need, relevance and support for uniting the Two Service Structures of Alcoholics Anonymous into one Structure.  The Working Group is a starting point to investigate the need, relevance and support of the idea of joining the current two service structures, CSO Structure, and General Service Structure as one united Alcoholics Anonymous, Australia Service Structure.  The Working Group would encourage participation of members of both Structures.  In the Spirit of Cooperation, engagement and consultation with CSO Committees, employees and Service members, similarly with all members of the General Service Structure and the greater Fellowship would be a given.  Based on the findings of the Working Group, a Report reflecting a Negative result to be presented to Conference 2025.  Should there be sufficient relevance, need and support, a report should be tabled at Conference 2025 outlining the proposed next steps with the idea of presenting a Topic to Conference 2026.  The outline of that Topic to be distributed to all parties for further discussion and ratification |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #016/2024: (Correctional Facilities Book)** | An anthology of stories from Australian members about Correctional Facilities.  Following on from the success of The Message Stick, a committee be formed to gather stories from members who have Correctional Facilities as part of their recovery story. Like our 2nd Edition Big Book and the Message Stick, the stories would have a distinctly Australian flavour.  Our GSO stocks books from the Grapevine who have successfully harvested the pages of the Grapevine to publish theme-based books. We have already proven we can also publish theme-based books. |  |  |  |  |  |
| **TOPIC #017/2024: (Past Delegates and Trustees – Service Manual)** | Suggested rewrite for the section on Past Delegates and Trustees in the Service Manual THE AREA PART 2 pg 15. See attachment. |  |  |  |  |  |
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