



2025 Conference Topics





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Enquiries should be directed to the General Service Office of AA Australia

1/1 Garnet Street, Rockdale NSW 2216

gso@aa.org.au

+61 2 9599 8866

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Introduction

These are the Topics that will be discussed and voted on by Conference in November 2025.

These are usually distributed via the Area Delegates to the GSRs who then in turn ensure their group members are aware of the Topics and have discussed them so that their GSR be informed of their Home Group's Group Conscience on the Topics when they attend their Area Assembly. Doing this means that they can be part of an informed discussion there. This in turn allows the Area Delegates to be informed with the Group Conscience of their Area on each topic when they take part in the General Service Conference.

Assemblies and Delegates alike should remember that Area Delegates are not representative of Areas in the usual political sense. Conference is the collective Conscience of AA Australia as a whole. Area Delegates do not go to the Australian General Service Conference to push for special benefits for their respective Areas. They go primarily to render a service to Australian and to world AA, to ensure that AA continues to function – as a whole. Certainly, they should bring with them the viewpoints of their own Areas on Australian issues, or such local problems as may affect AA as a whole. But Area Delegates are always servants, never senators. Based on a bigger picture gained from sharing with others at Conference, a Delegate may well gain a different understanding of an issue and should be free to follow his or her conscience in voting. (The Australian AA Service Manual – p61).

See Concept III on "Right of Decision" for a full explanation. The Conference Steering Committee will aim to provide the Conference Topics Document by the end of July each year. This will give GSRs Area Delegates (and) two months to organise group conscience discussions and Area Topic Assemblies. This timeframe is suggested as Conference Committee meetings are scheduled to take place starting in early October.



Topic #001/2025

Approval and publication of an AA Recovery Journal.

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the development, publication, and sale of a Conference-approved AA Recovery Journal, to include themed sections on Step work, gratitude, personal reflection, and meeting notes, as well as daily quotes from Conference-approved literature. We propose that a Working Group be formed to develop the journal in collaboration with the General Service Office, with the initial launch taking place at the National Convention.

What issue does this proposal address?

There is currently no Conference-approved daily recovery journal available in Australia. While AA offers a wide range of books, pamphlets, and workbooks, members have expressed a need for a structured journal aligned with AA's message and spiritual principles. Many members already use journals informally; a Conference-approved version would offer spiritual consistency, encourage engagement with the program, and fill this gap in the literature.

Background information that supports this proposal

A survey of AA members (89 responses) showed strong demand for a structured recovery journal. Key findings include:

- 85% of respondents expressed interest in an AA Recovery Journal.
- 80% preferred it include daily quotes from Conference-approved literature.
- 90% were willing to pay around \$20 for the resource.
- 88% supported it being a Conference-approved tool.

The success of similar resources in other fellowships (e.g. NA's Just for Today Journal) further supports the viability of this initiative. These journals have sold consistently online and at conventions, reinforcing the model's appeal.

See appendix for complete survey results.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

The Recovery Journal will:

- Provide members with a daily tool for reflection, recovery, and spiritual growth.
- Support newcomers and sponsors by offering structure and encouragement.
- Foster engagement with AA literature and Twelve Step principles.
- Generate income in alignment with Tradition Seven, helping sustain AA services.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Estimated printing cost: approx. \$10 + GST per journal (for 1,000 copies).

- Retail price: \$20 per copy (plus postage).
- Revenue will be reinvested into future print runs to ensure sustainability.
- Launch at the National Convention to help recoup initial printing costs.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The proposal was endorsed at our Area Assembly in February 2025.

- Districts, Groups, and individual members surveyed expressed strong support.
- Survey results confirmed widespread demand and willingness to purchase.

Statistical Summary of Survey Results

Survey Question	Response Option	Percentage (%)
Are you interested in an AA Recovery Journal?	Yes	85%
	No	10%
	Unsure	5%
Which features are most important?	Step Work Sections	75%
	Gratitude Lists	70%
	Meeting Notes	65%
	Daily Quotes from AA Literature	80%
Would you be willing to purchase the journal?	Yes	90%
	No	5%
	Unsure	5%
How much would you be willing to pay?	Less than \$15	10%
	Around \$20	80%
	More than \$25	10%
Should this be a Conference-approved resource?	Yes	88%
	No	7%
	Unsure	5%

Survey Aspect	Summary
Total Respondents	89 Groups
Interest Level	Strong majority support for the journal
Preferred Features	Step work sections, Gratitude lists, Meeting notes, Daily quotes
Willingness to Pay	Around \$20 per journal
Literature Gap Identified	No Conference-approved daily journal exists
Support Level	Endorsed by multiple groups & districts
Area Assembly Endorsement	Approved at February 2025 Assembly

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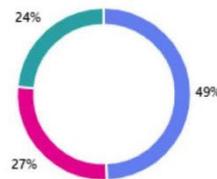
AA Recovery Journal expressions of interest

Responses Overview Active

Responses 89 	Average Time 03:40 	Duration 38 Days 
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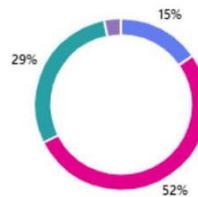
1. Would you be interested in purchasing a recovery-themed journal designed by AA members?

● Yes	44
● No	24
● Maybe	21



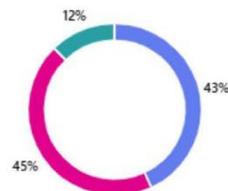
2. How much would you be willing to pay for a journal featuring AA literature, quotes, prayers, and themes

● Less than \$10	10
● \$10 - \$19	34
● \$20 - \$29	19
● Over \$30 and less than \$50	2



3. Do you currently keep a journal?

● Yes	28
● No - but I really would like to start	29
● No - not interested in doing so	8

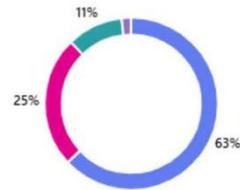


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AA Recovery Journal expressions of interest

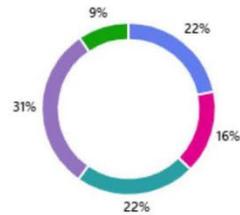
4. How often do you or would you like to journal?

● Daily	36
● Weekly	14
● Sometimes	6
● Rarely	1



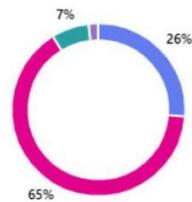
5. What purposes do you or would you use your journal for? (Select all that apply)

● Gratitude lists	39
● Reflecting on meetings	28
● Step work or sponsor activities	40
● Personal thoughts and reflections	55
● Other	17



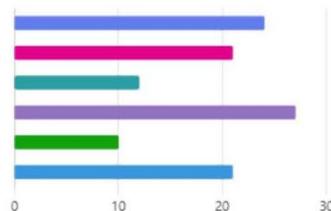
6. What size journal would make most sense for you?

● A4 Portrait (300mm x 210mm)	15
● A5 Portrait (210mm x 150mm)	37
● Other (slightly bigger than A5)	4
● Other	1



7. Within the Journal - what would you want it to look like (select all that apply)

● One day per page (dates)	24
● No dates	21
● Mostly Blank pages for free-form journaling	12
● Themed sections	27
● Loads of blank and lined paper at the back	10
● Whatever - so long as there is space to write stuff	21



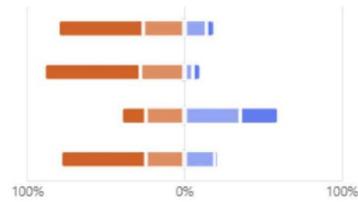
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AA Recovery Journal expressions of interest

8. Please rate the following themes importance in being included for your journal 1 being most important and 4 being least important

● 1 most ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 least

- AA prayers, Steps, and Traditions
- Space for gratitude lists or daily reflections
- Meeting notes and contact information
- Prompts for nightly reviews or daily intentions



9. What else would you like to see in your AA-themed journal

28 Responses

Latest Responses
 "Two way prayer,"
 "Daily thoughts.."
 ...

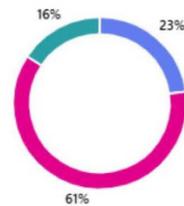
10. Further suggestions, feedback or other?

18 Responses

Latest Responses
 "Themed sections.."
 ...

11. Would you like to be part of the team getting this off the ground?

- Yes, I would love to 13
- No thank you 35
- Maybe 9



12. Please enter your name, homegroup and email - we will be in touch

22 Responses

Latest Responses
 "Margot step sisters drmargothosie@gmail.com"
 ...



Notes



Topic #002/2025

Raising awareness of the Plain Language Big Book

What do you want Conference to do?

Approve the formation of a working group to discuss and suggest ways to raise awareness of the Plain Language Big Book, its legitimacy as Conference approved literature, and its potential as a tool for increasing the accessibility of our vital message to alcoholics.

What issue does this proposal address?

“For years, A.A. members have expressed a need for a Plain Language Big Book. Based on the shared experience of A.A. members, some people may not have regular contact with other A.A. members to help them understand the A.A. program of recovery and the specific vocabulary as it is used throughout the original book Alcoholics Anonymous. Other people have a hard time reading, especially books that were written long ago...”

- Excerpt from insert of the Plain Language Big Book

Background information that supports this proposal

“[The Plain Language Big Book was] published in accordance with Advisory Actions passed by substantial unanimity of the General Service Conference (GSC) of Alcoholics Anonymous. In 2021, the 71st GSC advised that this book be developed. Progress reports, then sample chapters were reviewed at the 72nd and 73rd GSCs. The final draft of the Plain Language Big Book was reviewed and approved by substantial unanimity at the 74th GSC, in April 2024. This process and outcome adopts this text as Conference-approved literature.”

- Excerpt from insert of the Plain Language Big Book

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

“The Plain Language Big Book has been written to present the original ideas and same spiritual message of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous... [It] is a tool to help readers understand the book Alcoholics Anonymous, which was first published in 1939. This new book is designed so that the A.A. Twelve Step program of recovery from alcoholism may be easily understood and accessible by all people who have a desire to stop drinking...”

- Excerpt from insert of the Plain Language Big Book

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

To be determined by working group

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Submitted by two individuals based on discussions with interested AAs

Notes



Topic #004/2025

“Safeguarding AA policy document” to be produced as an educational animation.

What do you want Conference to do?

Providing a Consistent, Accessible Safety Resource

A safety video would ensure that all groups have a consistent resource for safety education, rather than relying on word-of-mouth or inconsistent local guidelines. It could be:

- Shown at Newcomer Meetings: Giving new members clear expectations and empowerment from the start.
- Available Online: Members can watch it at their own pace if they miss a meeting.
- Incorporated into Group Literature: Allowing it to complement existing AA guidelines on safety.

What issue does this proposal address?

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) provides a life-saving support network for individuals recovering from alcoholism. However, AA must prioritize the safety and well-being of its members. While AA literature addresses issues such as anonymity and sponsorship, there is no standardized safety video to educate members on how to recognize and prevent potential safety risks. Developing a safety video would enhance AA’s mission by fostering a secure environment where all members can focus on recovery without fear of harm.

By educating members, groups and all service entities on safety, risks and prevention strategies, AA can continue to provide a supportive, inclusive and secure environment for all who seek recovery.

Background information that supports this proposal

AA meetings are open to individuals from all walks of life, including those who may pose safety risks to vulnerable members. Concerns include:

- Predatory Behavior: Vulnerable newcomers, especially women, have reported being targeted by older, more experienced members (often referred to as “13th stepping”).
- Emotional and Psychological Abuse: Some members may manipulate others, pressuring them into harmful relationships or financial exploitation.
- Physical Safety: While rare, there have been instances of physical altercations or threats within meetings.

A safety video would provide clear guidance on identifying abuse, neglect, exploitation, bullying, harassment and discrimination. Providing information about boundaries and taking appropriate action when issues arise.

There is ample evidence of AA already producing this kind of material:

Example 1 : <https://youtu.be/qN6t4jAXJd0>

Example 2 : <https://youtu.be/2lHrfa9kTOc>

Example 3: https://youtu.be/m_hWmFLAz5g

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Reinforcing AA’s Commitment to a Safe Space

AA groups operate under the principle of mutual support, but newcomers may not always understand how to navigate the fellowship safely. A safety video would:

- Clarify Group Autonomy and Responsibilities: Each AA group is autonomous, but all groups should prioritize member safety. The video can outline best practices without conflicting with AA’s traditions.
- Encourage Healthy Sponsorship Relationships: It can provide guidance on choosing a sponsor who respects boundaries and does not exploit their sponsee.



- Understand Anonymity with Caution: While Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of AA, members should be cautious about sharing personal information with people they do not know well.
- It will ensure offensive behaviour will not be condoned.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

\$1000 - \$5000 or perhaps a member has the capacity to produce something consistent with the links already provided.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

"" is a meeting. This topic has been workshopped amongst those attending this meeting, which consist of past and current delegates and members currently active in the national service structure.

Notes



Topic #009/2025

The Living Sober book should be removed from our literature

What do you want Conference to do?

Remove the Living Sober book from our literature.

What issue does this proposal address?

The Living sober Book contradicts the AA Big Book and is not suitable for a real alcoholic. The poor advice, tips and tricks, recommended in the Living Sober book will not work. If they did, the alcoholic would not be powerless. The misguided advice in the Living Sober book has the power to kill a real alcoholic.

Background information that supports this proposal

A real alcoholic, as described in the AA Big Book and the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous is powerless over alcohol and has, at certain times, no defence against the first drink.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

It will explain what a "real alcoholic" is. Explain the mental obsession and physical craving and why at certain times, "real alcoholics" have no defence against the first drink. It will explain "powerlessness" and the difference between a problem drinker and someone suffering from the mental illness, that is alcoholism.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

None.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

There has been a ground swell of members, world wide, for many years, that would like to see this book removed from our literature.

Notes



Topic #010/2025

Revamping the Australian PI Workbook and publishing it in digital format

What do you want Conference to do?

Repeal Advisory Action 1996/008, which requires the printing of the Public Information (PI) Workbook, and repeal Advisory Action 1996/009, which specifies that the workbook should be A5-sized. This proposal recommends replacing the printed version of the PI Workbook, which has remained unchanged since 1996, with an updated digital version that members can download for free. The digital format will allow for more flexibility, ease of access, and the opportunity for timely updates, ensuring that the workbook meets the evolving needs of members and still-suffering alcoholics.

What issue does this proposal address?

The current PI Workbook, dating back to 1996, has not been updated since its inception. It largely mirrors the North American PI Workbook, with only minor modifications. As a result, it is outdated in both content and design. Updating the workbook and offering it for free in a digital format would significantly enhance accessibility and allow for timely updates to keep the information relevant. Moreover, this update would ensure the workbook is more tailored to the unique needs of the fellowship in Australia, providing a more localised and effective resource for members engaged in Public Information and Professional Awareness.

Background information that supports this proposal

As of January 2025, the General Service Office (GSO) has 22 PI Workbooks remaining in stock. In 2024, GSO sold a total of 36 workbooks. Upon reviewing the possibility of reprinting, the staff determined that the current workbook is outdated, and that demand is too low to justify the expense of another print run. Transitioning to a digital format would be a more cost-effective solution, allowing for easier updates and greater flexibility in the future. Repeal Advisory Actions 1996/008 and 1996/009, replacing the current PI Workbook with an updated digital version available for members to download at no cost.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

An updated version of the Alcoholics Anonymous Public Information Workbook would greatly benefit still-suffering alcoholics by providing more relevant, accessible, and engaging resources to make the Public and Professionals aware of the AA Program. The workbook could reflect modern-day challenges and incorporate new insights into alcoholism, offering a more inclusive and updated approach to outreach. It could also address current communication methods, such as digital platforms, making it easier for those in contact with Alcoholics to access support, especially those who might not otherwise seek help. With clearer explanations of AA's principles, an updated workbook would encourage those in contact with still suffering Alcoholics to take the first steps toward recovery with confidence and hope.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Developing a new digital Workbook via a Committee led by the National PIPA Coordinator would minimize costs, reduce printing and storage expenses, prevent outdated stock, and save money. Using the Skills Register for finding a designer ensures cost-neutrality, avoiding reprinting and long-term stockholding expenses.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This topic is supported by the Eastern Region Area D Assembly



Notes



Topic #014/2025

AA approved Program Resources and sponsorship workshops.

What do you want Conference to do?

Create AA approved Step & Sponsorship Guides, workbooks and resources.

What issue does this proposal address?

Across the Fellowship, a wide range of non-Conference-approved workbooks, worksheets, and sponsorship tools are in use. These materials – including interpretations by individual members, external publishers (such as Hazelden), or structured programs like "Big Book Awakenings" – vary in approach and quality. While some are helpful, they may also introduce confusion or create perceived authority figures within AA. This can be particularly harmful to newcomers who may receive inconsistent messages.

Sponsorship is often approached informally, and in some cases, members may not have the experience or skill to effectively guide others through the Steps in a way that aligns with AA's spiritual principles.

Background information that supports this proposal

The submitter is a health professional who regularly refers clients to AA and has observed that the varied and sometimes personality-driven experiences of sponsorship can impact the effectiveness of the message being carried. In some cases, the inconsistent use of non-AA materials, combined with a lack of sponsorship training or structure, may hinder the recovery journey of newcomers and affect the confidence of referring professionals.

Developing AA-approved resources could offer clearer guidance and strengthen AA's cooperation with health professionals by improving how the recovery process is communicated.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Encourages a more consistent experience of the Steps between sponsors and sponsees.

- Reinforces the principle of "principles before personalities."
- May enhance engagement with health professionals by providing accessible, AA-aligned tools.
- Supports sponsors in their efforts to carry the message more effectively and confidently.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Minimal – such resources could be initially developed as downloadable PDFs or hosted online.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This topic was not discussed at a group level prior to submission.

Notes



Topic #017/2025

Creation of a national, standard process for the project management of Advisory Actions.

What do you want Conference to do?

That the GSC approve a small working group of members with professional experience in project management, to create a user-friendly process for project-managing advisory actions based upon Concept II suggestions.

Visually and conceptually, the step-by-step process could resemble the 7-step process we already feature in our AA Australia Service Manual relating to Conference Topics. Almost a part B to that process.

What issue does this proposal address?

Right now, AA Australia has no established process, or set of guidelines, outlining how working groups, committee etc manage projects. Once a Topic is voted to become an Advisory action at conference, the working group charged with turning it into a new AA product or process has no established anchor-point upon which to begin work. They literally have to work out how to work things out. This can be both time-consuming, frustrating and, ultimately, unspiritual.

The second issue relates very much to the first above. Currently AA Australia is not taking full advantage of the spiritual project management practices outlined in our Concept II. These approaches remain an under-utilised opportunity.

Background information that supports this proposal

The lack of a formal project management process for advisory actions (and potentially other AA- related projects) is the only background information that comes to mind.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

A three-legacy recovery is a very desirable thing. To not do all we can to embody the spiritual principles as outlined in Concept II – to literally not look for an agile way to embody them in a sustainable, effective way, denies those of us who do general service project work an opportunity for this.

Equally, members have sometimes waited years for Advisory Actions to be turned into member-ready products and processes, and at times the outcomes have been less than satisfactory. Having a CII-driven process for project management would rid us of these issues. Working groups could initiate work far more quickly by following clear, simple steps, and, as per CII suggestions, more working groups would be led by those members with professional industry experience in the matter at hand – e.g. creating a new publication.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Normal text Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Maecenas porttitor congue massa. Fusce posuere, magna sed pulvinar ultricies, purus lectus malesuada libero, sit amet commodo magna eros quis urna.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Zero. A working group of members is all that is required.

Notes



Topic #018/2025

Creating a new Australian 7th Tradition Flyer

What do you want Conference to do?

To create a working group to update the material in 'Group Contributions Plan' and combine it with relevant information in 'Money and Spirituality' to create a simple, readable, online flyer that can be updated regularly and provides groups with inspiration and information to carry out the 7th tradition.

What issue does this proposal address?

This topic has been created in response to the financial report given by the General Service Trustee at conference last year. It is one small step to bringing consciousness and focus to the 7th tradition at the Group, Area and National level. It would contain information about how being 'fully self supporting' includes supporting the service structures that keep AA running.

Background information that supports this proposal

The 2 pamphlets "Group Contributions Plan" and "Money and Spirituality" are the only references available on the AA website. It is felt that an update and rewrite would bring fresh energy and ideas to the 7th tradition in Australia

Group Contribution Plan flyer: <https://literature.aa.org.au/collections/service-literature-pamphlets/products/group-contributions-plan>

Money and Spirituality flyer: <https://www.aa.org/self-support-where-money-and-spirituality-mix>

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Hopefully it will increase the group contributions reaching the GSO and help us to become fully self supporting as a National fellowship.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Just the cost of printing the pamphlet if that was considered the best way to broadcast it. It may be best just to keep it as an online document in which case there would be no costs involved.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

X Region Area X

Notes



Topic #020/2025

Maintaining the Principle of Rotation at all Levels of AA

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference resolve that after the current rotation of the Board Secretary, no former Trustee may serve as General Service Board Secretary, and that the role's duties, requirements, and rotation timeframe be clearly defined in the Australian Service Manual.

What issue does this proposal address?

Reappointing a former trustee as GSB Secretary violates the principle of rotation. Potentially, this could allow one member to remain closely involved with the Board for up to eight consecutive years, especially if followed by an additional term as World Service Delegate. AA's Service Manual advises stepping aside when terms end, not holding on to influence. While technically permissible, reinstating a former Trustee as Board Secretary contradicts the intent of rotation, which discourages retaining positions of influence.

Establishing clear guidelines helps protect structural integrity and provides opportunities for wider participation from trusted servants across the service structure.

Background information that supports this proposal

AA's Spirit of Rotation ensures no member remains in a service role too long. Rooted in Tradition Two, it prevents governing authorities and fosters accountability to the entire fellowship via the Board and Conference. Rotation allows all members to serve, preventing any one person from becoming indispensable. Though stepping down can be difficult, it promotes humility and anonymity, placing principles over personalities.

AA's Traditions and Concepts emphasize limited terms in service to prevent long-term governance.

- Tradition Two states, "Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." Rotation prevents personal authority, ensuring leaders serve at the fellowship's behest.
- Tradition Nine reinforces simplicity and rotation in service, preventing hierarchy. Bill W. emphasized using trusted servants rather than granting permanent management.
- Concept IX encourages leaders to step down humbly, fostering successors instead of clinging to power. Bill W. contrasted "elder statesmen" (who step aside) with "bleeding deacons" (who resist rotation).
- Concept XII warns against any individual gaining unqualified authority, ensuring AA remains democratic.

Exceptions to rotation should be carefully weighed. AA literature advises that no one is irreplaceable—trusted servants rotate out, allowing new members to step up. AA trusts that a Higher Power will provide another willing servant, and that no individual is irreplaceable.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Rotation:

1. Keeps AA's Primary Purpose at the Forefront – Tradition Five calls for carrying the message, not maintaining power. Rotation ensures leadership remains humble and service driven.
2. Fosters Inclusivity and Fresh Energy – New voices keep AA relevant and welcoming. Rotation prevents exclusivity, showing newcomers that AA is built on principles, not personalities.
3. Encourages Service and Growth – Service strengthens sobriety. Rotation creates more opportunities for members to step up and grow spiritually.
4. Prevents Ego and Power Struggles – Regular leadership changes keep AA free from personal ambition, ensuring accessibility and unity.
5. Protects AA's Group Conscience – Rotation ensures a democratic, diverse leadership structure that represents the whole fellowship.



6. Safeguards AA's Stability – A rotating service structure prevents burnout, preserves adaptability, and ensures AA's future.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

The cost of implementing this suggestion would be Zero.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This Topic was discussed at the Group Conscience of my Home Group and carried with a substantial majority.

Notes



Topic #025/2025

Create a Professional Press Kit

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the development and ongoing maintenance of a national, standardised press kit, to be created, managed, and updated by the General Service Office (GSO). The press kit should have an official sponsor within GSO and be made accessible through the AA Members' website. It must comply with AA's legal, branding, and communication standards and reflect the organisation's core values.

What issue does this proposal address?

AA currently lacks a nationally coordinated press kit or formal oversight of public-facing communication materials. As a result, inconsistent, unprofessional, and legally questionable resources are often shared externally – including unauthorised use of AA branding, amateur presentation, and messaging that misrepresents AA's purpose.

This lack of structure undermines public trust, risks reputational damage, and can expose AA to legal and compliance issues. A centralised, professionally managed press kit will ensure that external communications are accurate, consistent, and aligned with AA's Traditions, Concepts, and public responsibility.

Background information that supports this proposal

In the absence of national oversight, many external communications, including media resources and press kits, are created informally by members or groups without clear guidelines or accountability. For example, a large WhatsApp group has produced and circulated public-facing materials without proper attention to branding, legal compliance, or professional standards.

This decentralised approach often results in poor-quality materials that can misrepresent AA and create public confusion. By contrast, a professionally developed and centrally maintained press kit would:

- Uphold AA's reputation and integrity;
- Ensure materials meet legal and branding standards; and
- Provide a reliable resource for media, professionals, and members engaging with the public.

Embedding the responsibility for this resource within GSO would ensure continuity, quality control, and alignment with AA's long-term public information goals.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

A standardised, accessible, and professional press kit will:

- Protect AA's public image by ensuring all materials is accurate, compliant, and aligned with AA principles;
- Enhance public and media engagement, increasing the likelihood that those in need will find AA;
- Promote consistency in how AA presents itself nationally, reinforcing credibility with professionals and the wider community;
- Support members with clear, approved resources for PI/CPC work; and
- Safeguard AA's message through centralised oversight and sustainable management, avoiding the pitfalls of ad hoc volunteer efforts.

Ultimately, this helps AA remain a trusted organisation for the still-suffering alcoholic seeking recovery.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Initial costs would include professional design, legal consultation, and internal GSO staffing to develop the press kit. Ongoing costs would cover maintenance, periodic updates, and administrative oversight.

Exact costs cannot be confirmed without further scoping but are considered reasonable operational expenses in light of the benefits to AA's public engagement and integrity.



At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This topic has been discussed at a strategic level by members of the X Working Group (X). It has not yet been presented to a broader group, district, or area group conscience. The discussion has focused on identifying the risks associated with the current approach to public materials and the need for a centralised, professional solution.

Notes



Topic #026/2025

Rebranding and revitalising aaservice.org.au

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the rebranding and updating of aaservice.org.au, with a focus on integrating the website with the new Members portal, to improve user experience, streamline digital services, and align with AA Australia's evolving digital infrastructure. This project will also ensure that aaservice.org.au is brought into line with the new national websites – aa.org.au, members.aa.org.au, and literature.aa.org.au – creating a cohesive and unified digital presence for the Fellowship.

What issue does this proposal address?

This proposal addresses the issue of outdated digital infrastructure and a fragmented user experience across Alcoholics Anonymous Australia's online presence. Specifically, it aims to:

- Ensure that aaservice.org.au is more user-friendly and accessible for all members and fully aligned with the newly launched Members portal to create a seamless experience.
- Update the website's design, functionality, and security to meet modern web standards and better serve AA Australia's members, while taking care to maintain the integrity of the existing service. Developed more than a decade ago, the current platform's stability and technical underpinnings are not fully documented, and any upgrades must carefully preserve critical functions.
- Acknowledge that aaservice.org.au has, to date, effectively been another AA-owned website with no formal management, oversight, or custodianship. As a result, we do not have a complete understanding of what data, history, or resources are currently housed within the platform. A full audit will be required to identify and protect any critical information.
- Recognise that aaservice.org.au holds significant historical and operational data that must be protected and retained. Without careful handling, there is a risk of losing valuable content, records, and functionality that support AA's service structure. A structured redevelopment approach will ensure the platform remains usable, secure, and valuable for the Fellowship into the future.
- Integrate aaservice.org.au with AA's other digital properties – aa.org.au, members.aa.org.au, and literature.aa.org.au – to provide a cohesive, professional, and easily navigable online experience, ensuring members can readily access resources, support, and information across all platforms.

Background information that supports this proposal

The current aaservice.org.au website is outdated, fragmented, and operates independently from the newly developed Members portal and other national websites.

Modern web standards, security requirements, and accessibility expectations now necessitate a full redesign to ensure the site's long-term sustainability, improve member engagement, and provide streamlined access to service resources.

Aaservice.org.au has historically had no formal management structure, and its underlying content, systems, and data have not been fully audited. There is a risk that valuable information could be lost if redevelopment is not handled carefully.

This update will also align aaservice.org.au with AA Australia's broader digital strategy, ensuring consistency across all digital platforms – aa.org.au, members.aa.org.au, and literature.aa.org.au – and delivering a more cohesive, secure, and professional service model for the Fellowship.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

This proposal will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of AA Australia's digital services by streamlining internal resources and ensuring consistency across platforms.



By updating and integrating aaservice.org.au with the new Members portal, members will benefit from easier, more intuitive access to relevant service resources, without the confusion of navigating multiple websites or managing additional logins.

It will also reduce duplication of effort for staff and volunteers, eliminating the need to create or maintain separate materials across disconnected systems. This unified approach will foster more cohesive communication and strengthen AA's overall digital presence.

Ultimately, it ensures that everyone within the Fellowship – whether trusted servants, members, or those seeking help – can more easily find the information and support they need, keeping our focus firmly on carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Yes, costs will be involved in implementing this proposal.

Accurate cost estimates will depend on several factors, including the scope of work identified during an initial audit and any additional technical requirements uncovered through due diligence.

It is recommended that the project be given scope and approval to commence, starting with a full audit and discovery phase. This will allow AA Australia to properly assess the technical state of the current platform, define the necessary work, and obtain accurate quotes before moving into the full redevelopment and integration process.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This topic has only been discussed at a strategic level by members of the X Working Group (X).

Notes



Topic #031/2025

Updating the "AA in Your Community" Pamphlet

What do you want Conference to do?

The General Service Conference to approve the updated pamphlet, aligning the content with the U.S. version while incorporating necessary adjustments to suit the Australian Fellowship. A suggested updated version is attached to this Topic.

The information in this pamphlet should also be made available in one or more digital formats.

What issue does this proposal address?

The existing stock of this pamphlet was printed in 1995, and it requires a complete rewrite and redesign to better engage with and appeal to today's Professionals.

Background information that supports this proposal

A review of the stock at the General Service Office highlighted the outdated nature of this pamphlet. The current U.S. version is significantly more comprehensive, including links to online resources and a section on the Cochrane Report.

Investigation into the history of this pamphlet uncovered a Conference Advisory Action (2007-007) mandating an update to the 1995 pamphlet. However, this update was never implemented for reasons unknown, and this Topic seeks to rectify the issue.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

An updated version of the "AA In Your Community" pamphlet would significantly benefit still-suffering alcoholics by offering more relevant, accessible, and engaging resources to inform Professionals about the AA program. The revised pamphlet could include updated insights into alcoholism treatment and address modern communication methods, such as digital platforms, enabling Professionals to more easily connect with AA. This is particularly crucial for reaching individuals who might otherwise chose other treatment methods.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

An initial print run of 2,000 copies is estimated to cost approximately \$2,500, based on the printing of similar pamphlets. We believe this updated pamphlet will be significantly more appealing, leading to increased sales that could not only recoup the initial cost but also potentially generate a modest profit over time.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This topic was endorsed unanimously at the X Region Area X Assembly.

A 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 depend our lives and the lives of those to come.

I Am Responsible

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

Supporting Recovery:

How AA Works in Your Community



1300 22 22 22
aa.org.au





Introduction

Alcoholics Anonymous deeply appreciates the many professionals who have supported the AA program of recovery. Countless individuals have found a new way of life with their help, and our gratitude is immeasurable.

This pamphlet serves as a general introduction to Alcoholics Anonymous for professionals. It outlines what AA is, how to find meetings in local communities, and how AA collaborates with professionals to assist individuals struggling with alcohol use.

Research has long shown that a sense of community—where people are connected through social, familial, and shared experiences—is vital to emotional well-being.

Alcoholism disrupts these connections, isolating individuals from loved ones, derailing aspirations, and sometimes leading to severe consequences such as imprisonment, mental health crises, or even death.

One of the most significant gifts of AA is helping individuals return to their communities, sober and with a renewed sense of purpose. AA members are parents, spouses, children, friends, and colleagues who, once lost to alcoholism, have now reconnected with their lives.

AA works alongside doctors, healthcare professionals, faith leaders, law enforcement, court officials, educators, counsellors, and social workers—those who share a common goal: to support individuals in reclaiming their place in the community and living a life free from alcohol.

Understanding AA: How It Works

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people from all backgrounds who support each other in maintaining sobriety. With an estimated membership of around two million worldwide, AA is open to anyone with a desire to stop drinking—this is the only requirement for joining. Members share their experiences, strength, and hope with one another through meetings and personal connections. There are no membership fees or dues.

AA follows a program of complete abstinence from alcohol. Central to this program are the Twelve Steps, a set of guiding principles shaped by the experiences of countless members. These Steps, when practiced as a way of life, incorporate spiritual elements found across various traditions and have helped individuals around the world achieve lasting sobriety.

Studies on AA's effectiveness—though AA itself does not conduct or sponsor research beyond its internal demographic surveys—suggest that one of the most impactful aspects of the program is the shift it fosters in a person's social

environment. By moving away from relationships centred on heavy drinking and forming connections with others in recovery, individuals find stronger support for maintaining long-term sobriety.

Additionally, AA offers a unique community where members recover not only by focusing on their own healing but also by helping others on their journey. This outward focus—turning from personal struggle toward service—is a fundamental principle of AA. Many who remain sober carry this spirit of support and service into their relationships with family, friends, coworkers, and the broader community.

The AA Group

The AA group is the foundation of the Alcoholics Anonymous community. Each group operates independently, guided by a set of time-tested traditions that have emerged from the collective experience of its members. The core work of AA is carried out by individuals who are themselves in recovery, supporting one another in maintaining sobriety. Typically, when two or more alcoholics come together with the shared purpose of staying sober, they may consider themselves an AA group, provided they remain self-supporting and do not affiliate with outside organizations.

Local groups often appoint rotating committees to manage essential group activities and services. These responsibilities include organizing and facilitating AA meetings at designated times and locations.

Where Does AA Meet?

AA meetings take place in a variety of venues, such as community centres, schools, and places of worship. While many meetings are held in religious buildings, AA itself is not affiliated with any religious institution. This practice dates to the early days of AA in the 1930s when churches generously provided space for meetings—an arrangement that continues today. However, AA groups function as tenants, contributing rent through voluntary member donations collected during meetings.

How Can Professionals Locate AA Meetings in the Community?

In most areas, finding an AA meeting is quick and straightforward. A simple internet search for "Alcoholics Anonymous" typically leads to local meeting listings, which can be accessed through the official AA website.

For even greater convenience, the **Meeting Guide** app—available for free on the App Store and Google Play—provides up-to-date information on meeting times and locations. This app helps users find in-person meetings near their homes or workplaces, access virtual meetings, and view essential details such as meeting type, address, and schedule.



Professionals seeking AA-related resources can explore a range of online formats, including reading materials, audio content, and videos. Alcoholics Anonymous Australia also maintains a presence on platforms such as LinkedIn and YouTube. Additionally, the **General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous** website (www.aa.org.au) offers valuable information for both professionals working with individuals struggling with alcohol use and those seeking help themselves.

Finding the Right Meeting for Everyone

AA is committed to inclusivity, offering a diverse range of meetings to support individuals from all walks of life. Meetings are available for newcomers, young people, LGBTQ+ individuals, Indigenous Australians, agnostics and atheists, and those on the Spectrum, among many others. Exploring different meetings can help individuals find a group that best suits their needs.

AA meetings are generally classified as **"open"** or **"closed."** Open meetings welcome non-alcoholics, including family members and professionals, who may attend as observers. Closed meetings, however, are reserved for those who have a desire to stop drinking.

For those unable to attend in-person meetings, a variety of virtual options are available. Many meetings take place on online platforms, while other formats include:

- **Email meetings**, where members receive and respond to messages on a chosen topic.
- **Live chat (text) meetings**, structured like in-person meetings, with real-time participation.
- **Discussion forums or message boards**, where members can share insights on posted topics at any time.
- **Telephone meetings**, conducted in a conference call format.

These options ensure that support is accessible to those seeking help, regardless of location or circumstances.

How AA Works with Professionals

AA has a long-standing tradition of **cooperating** with, but not affiliating with, other organizations. Upon request, AA can provide informational presentations and facilitate AA meetings for professionals seeking to understand the program. (For more information, visit www.aa.org.au)

While each situation is unique, here are some examples of how AA works alongside professionals:

- **Correctional Settings** – AA members have experience in establishing AA groups within correctional facilities across Australia. Many AA groups hold meetings inside these institutions. Additionally, AA members volunteer as **temporary contacts** to assist individuals recently released from custody, connecting them with local AA meetings to help build stability and support long-term sobriety.
- **Healthcare Professionals & Students** – AA provides resources to help medical professionals and students on clinical rotations address common misconceptions about the program. These include the belief that AA is a religious organization or that it excludes individuals on medication. When possible, healthcare professionals are encouraged to observe **open AA meetings** to better understand how meetings function. This enables them to provide accurate information to patients and, in some cases, connect them with AA members who can accompany them to their first meeting. This support can be particularly beneficial for individuals leaving treatment centres, hospitals, or other institutions.
- **Faith Leaders** – Clergy members and spiritual advisors who counsel individuals struggling with alcohol use may find it helpful to establish connections with local AA members. They can refer individuals seeking help and gain insight from AA literature, including *Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book)*, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, and *Living Sober*. Attending open AA meetings can further enhance their understanding of the program.

For more details on how AA collaborates with professionals, visit www.aa.org.au and navigate to the **"Health Workers & Media"** section.



Commonly Asked Questions About Alcoholics Anonymous:

Is AA a Religious Organization?

AA is not a religious organization and does not require any specific beliefs for membership. While many religious leaders have expressed support for AA, the Fellowship itself is not affiliated with any religious group or denomination. Its members come from a wide range of backgrounds, including those with strong religious faith, agnostics, and atheists.

Does AA oppose Alcohol consumption?

AA members understand that they cannot safely consume alcohol, but they recognize that for many people, alcohol can be enjoyed responsibly. The typical AA member has no intention of discouraging or depriving others of something that, when used appropriately, can be enjoyed in moderation.

Are There Any Rules in AA?

One of the unique aspects of AA is that it operates without strict rules, regulations, or mandatory requirements—whether at the local group level or globally. There are no bylaws dictating how often members must attend meetings or specific actions they must take. The guiding principle of AA is simple: **the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.**

Will Others Know If I Join AA?

Anonymity is a fundamental principle of AA. While some members, over time, may choose to share their involvement in the fellowship, **no one has the right to disclose another member's participation.** This ensures that newcomers can attend AA with confidence, knowing that their privacy will be respected and that their struggles with alcohol will remain confidential.

Is There a Cost to Join AA?

AA membership is **completely free** and does not require any financial commitment. The program is available to anyone with a desire to stop drinking and is funded solely through **voluntary contributions** from its members.

Does AA Oppose Alcoholics Taking Prescribed Medication?

AA does not provide **medical advice** or make recommendations regarding medication. Decisions about medical treatment, including the use of prescribed medication, are personal matters that should be discussed between an individual and their healthcare provider.

Is There Scientific Evidence That AA Works?

A comprehensive independent study published in 2020 by the *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* analysed 25 previous studies involving 10,565 participants worldwide. The findings showed that Alcoholics Anonymous is as effective as other scientifically validated treatments for alcohol use disorder, such as Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), outpatient medical treatment, and alcohol education programs. Moreover, the study found that **AA was particularly effective in supporting long-term sobriety**, surpassing many other treatment approaches in maintaining abstinence over time.

Why Doesn't AA Work for Everyone?

AA is most effective for individuals who **acknowledge that they have a drinking problem**, genuinely **want to stop drinking**, and remain committed to that goal. The program may not be as effective for those who are **unsure about their alcoholism** or who **still hope to control their drinking** rather than embrace sobriety.

Collaborating with Professionals in the Community

Since its founding in **1935**, Alcoholics Anonymous has prioritized **working alongside professionals** to support individuals struggling with alcoholism. Early AA members visited hospitals to assist those undergoing detoxification, and by the **1940s**, AA groups began **bringing meetings into correctional facilities** to reach incarcerated individuals seeking recovery.

Today, AA members continue these efforts by:

- ✓ Speaking at **treatment centres, schools, universities, and hospitals.**
- ✓ Providing information to **healthcare providers, legal professionals, and social workers.**
- ✓ Supporting professionals such as **doctors, lawyers, judges, and probation officers** who work with individuals facing alcohol-related challenges.

Many people are first introduced to AA through treatment programs or the legal system, while others seek counselling—either psychological or spiritual—before or after joining AA. Professionals in healthcare, addiction treatment, psychology, and law play a critical role in helping individuals transition into a sober and stable life.

AA remains committed to **cooperating with professionals** to provide individuals with the **support and resources** needed to **achieve and maintain long-term sobriety.**



Useful Links from Alcoholics Anonymous Australia Requests and

Questions for Professionals

<https://aa.org.au/health-media/>

Free Subscription to Newsletter For Professionals

<https://aa.org.au/category/professionals-news/>

Official LinkedIn Page

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/aa-australia/>

Official Youtube Page

https://www.youtube.com/@AA_Australia

Official Meeting Finder App

<https://meetings.aa.org.au/guide/>

Getting Started In Aa

<https://aa.org.au/new-to-aa/>

Directory Of Online Aa Meetings

<https://meetings.aa.org.au/>

Find Aa Your Nearest Aa Office

<https://aa.org.au/contact-aa/>

Official Website

<https://www.aa.org.au>

(Please note that some weblinks will have to be changed prior to publication due to the redevelopment of the aa.org.au website)

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.



Notes



Topic #032/2025

Establish Regional Forums as Statewide Group Conscience Bodies with Conference Representation

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the conversion of Regional Forums into permanent state-level group conscience bodies, composed of all Area Delegates, DCMs, and CSO management chairpersons within each state.

Further, that each Forum elect a Chairperson, and that this elected Chairperson be entitled to attend the National Conference as a voting member in addition to Area Delegates.

What issue does this proposal address?

Currently, there is no formal statewide representative structure within Alcoholics Anonymous Australia to carry the collective group conscience of each state to the National Conference.

This absence limits AA's ability to respond to statewide requests for cooperation, especially from government and community bodies, and weakens statewide support for struggling Areas.

Additionally, it contributes to an imbalance in voting power at the National Conference. Incorporating Regional Forums as formal, structured state bodies would help correct this by providing broader, more inclusive representation.

Background information that supports this proposal

Past experience during Public Information service work demonstrated that State Departments often discontinued promising local cooperation with AA because there was no visible or recognized statewide AA entity to liaise with.

Regional Forums already bring together multiple Areas, DCMs, and CSO representatives informally; this proposal formalizes and empowers that existing cooperative spirit.

This structure would more fully integrate CSOs into the GSO service structure, encouraging unity and communication across service arms.

Other AA structures internationally (e.g., in the U.S. and Canada) demonstrate the effectiveness of layered service structures while maintaining AA Traditions.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Strengthen AA's ability to respond to state-level cooperation requests, helping carry the message to more still-suffering alcoholics.

Increase support for weaker or non-functioning Areas through a collective state service body.

Promote unity by including CSOs in broader service discussions and decisions.

Correct voting imbalances at the National Conference, making it more reflective of the full Fellowship across Australia.

Empower trusted servants at local levels to contribute more meaningfully to AA's overall group conscience.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Minimal costs anticipated:

Regional Forums already exist; only minor administrative changes would be required.

Additional attendance of one new Chairperson from each state at National Conference would involve modest additional travel and accommodation costs, offset by the benefits of stronger service structures.



At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Individual submission based on extensive past service experience at Group, District, Area, and National levels (GSR, DCM, Secretary, PI/PA Officer, and X PI/PA Officer).

Further group discussion at District and Area levels is encouraged following submission.

Notes



Topic #033/2025

Accessibilities and a second virtual area.

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference adapt the application pathway for the addition of a new virtual area to be consistent with the new Trustees' Committee structure, including the provision to align a new virtual area with the National Accessibilities portfolio.

What issue does this proposal address?

Online group participation in the Australian general service structure is increasing alongside increasing awareness of the existence of Virtual Area A. With nearly 200 unique online groups hosting approximately 450 online only meetings per week on aa.org.au, the creation of a second virtual area is imminent. Two issues should be addressed before this occurs:

- I. The current application pathway (GL-39) for the formation of a new virtual area is obsolete – the Trustees' Remote Communities Committee no longer exists.
- II. Virtual Area A is already committed to directing service efforts and 7th Tradition contributions to the National Remote Communities portfolio.

Background information that supports this proposal

Current application pathway

Guideline No. GL- 39: AA Guideline for Virtual Area'

Accessibilities in AA

Accessibility issues apply to all alcoholics who have difficulties participating in Alcoholics Anonymous due to having visual or auditory challenges, are housebound or chronically ill, are living with the effects of brain damage or stroke, others who may have less visible challenges.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Carrying the message

By dedicating its service efforts to National Accessibilities, the second virtual area will be able to augment an area of 12th step work that has historically been the most challenging.

Namely, carrying the message to alcoholics that can't attend face to face meetings and conduct service in face-to-face groups.

Alignment with AA principles

Tradition Nine emphasizes that AA service boards and committees exist to serve a clear purpose and must be directly responsible to those they serve. Concept XI further warns against double-headed management, where overlapping authority leads to confusion and duplication of service. To uphold these principles, Virtual Areas should align with relevant national portfolios—namely Accessibilities and Remote Communities—rather than duplicating the work of existing geographic Areas.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Formulated by individuals from various online groups. Discussed with multiple delegates and trustees at Convention. Brought to area and endorsed.



Notes



Topic #034/2025

Developing a Publication for Housebound alcoholics.

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the formation of a working group to explore the development of a publication featuring the stories of AA members in Australia who found sobriety, fellowship and access to service opportunities through online meetings and groups despite accessibility barriers, including chronic illness, disability, and caring responsibilities.

What issue does this proposal address?

This proposal addresses the need to carry the message to alcoholics who cannot attend face-to-face meetings due to accessibility barriers. While online AA's reach is increasing, there is currently no Australian literature that reflects the unique experience of getting sober online—particularly for those who are housebound. These members often cannot access sponsorship, fellowship, or service in traditional ways. Capturing their stories in a dedicated publication would help reach others in similar circumstances who may feel AA is not available to them.

Background information that supports this proposal

The Message Stick is a powerful example of how AA Australia can connect with underserved communities through targeted storytelling. Similarly, there is currently no publication that captures the voices of those who have found full and meaningful recovery online because of accessibility barriers.

This proposal is particularly timely. Accessibility is currently a key focus within Australian AA. In 2024, the General Service Conference passed Advisory Action #009/2024, calling for the creation of an Accessibility Guideline for Australia.

Additionally, a National Accessibility Coordinator position has recently been established and now reports directly to the Board. This proposed collection of stories would align with and support the aims of this new portfolio, helping to build awareness and foster inclusion at a national level.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

This proposal will give hope and direction to alcoholics who feel they cannot be part of AA because they are housebound. It validates the experience of those who stay sober online and inspires newcomers that recovery, sponsorship, service, and fellowship is possible—no matter their physical situation. It would also enhance inclusivity within AA, ensuring that we continue to evolve in how we carry the message to “anyone, anywhere.”

This would also be a valuable resource for professionals, family members, and carers seeking information on how recovery is possible even where traditional in-person support isn't accessible.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Cost for approval of this topic is nil as it calls for the establishment of a working group. However for reference, the cost of producing The Message Stick is approximately \$10 per copy with a modest profit being made.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Formulated by individuals from numerous groups. Endorsed at group and area level.



Notes



Topic #037/2025

World Service Delegates to be made "Trustees At Large", being the same as the US system.

What do you want Conference to do?

To change the role of World Service Delegates to Trustees At Large and attending World Service Meetings to be only part of their responsibility. This would give them full voting rights on the Board of AA Australia. It would also help their vast experience at the Board level. An example of this would be the application of the Declaration of Responsibility at the Board level.

What issue does this proposal address?

To address this would help to dispel the apathy that exists in the Fellowship for General Service (World Service) similar to what Conference in the US did in 1994 (or 1997) when the American Conference changed the two thirds majority from members of the World of Alcoholics Anonymous to just the American and Canadian participants of the Conference.

Background information that supports this proposal

To address this would help to dispel the apathy that exists in the Fellowship for General Service (World Service) similar to what Conference in the US did in 1994 (or 1997) when the American Conference changed the two thirds majority from members of the World of Alcoholics Anonymous to just the American and Canadian participants of the Conference.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

It will nurture more informed participation and Area and Board level. It will also lead to more people within the Fellowship willing to be of Service to the still suffering alcoholic and it will also help to enhance the Service Structure.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

The costs are an open mind and more work for these Trustees.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

At Conference Level given the opportunity for Delegates to discuss within their relevant Areas. These positions would be elected by the same procedure as utilised by the American Fellowship.

Notes



Topic #038/2025

Corrections AA Sober After Release brochure

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve replacing Australian version of Bridging the Gap brochure – Item 04U-09, with the Corrections AA Sober After Release brochure.

What issue does this proposal address?

The design and content of the Corrections AA Sober After Release brochure takes into consideration the following aspects.

1. Accessibility.

- Literacy Issues: Many individuals in custody or facilities may struggle with reading lengthy or complex text. The brochure emphasizes ideas-at-a-glance and ensures key points are clear and easy to understand, reducing barriers to engagement.
- Cognitive Challenges: Concise and visually appealing content, broken into digestible chunks, caters to individuals with difficulty focusing or processing dense information.
- English as a Second Language: By using straightforward language, visual aids, and less text, the brochure becomes more inclusive for non-native speakers.
- Low Vision: A visually appealing design that incorporates ample white space, bold headings, and easy-to-read fonts helps those with visual impairments better navigate the content.

2. Visual Appeal.

- The brochure's use of space and design creates a more approachable and engaging format. This invites curiosity and encourages individuals to explore the material further, overcoming the initial resistance often experienced with text-heavy documents.
- Visual tools like infographics, bullet points, or diagrams ensure information is *intuitively organized*, making it easier for readers to locate and remember key takeaways.

3. Engagement Through Simplicity.

- When information is presented in a non-intimidating format, readers are more likely to take a closer look and read the additional details provided. A concise and inviting brochure makes them feel the content is manageable rather than burdensome.
- A "less is more" approach inspires confidence in individuals who may feel overwhelmed by overly wordy materials. Instead of disengaging, they are motivated to absorb and apply the practical advice offered.

4. Relevance to the Target Audience

- The sobriety focused content speaks directly to the needs and priorities of individuals post-release, providing tangible steps for maintaining sobriety and integrating successfully into society. This sharper focus ensures that the material resonates more strongly and offers actionable support during a critical period of transition.
- Always within reach due to its compact format.

Background information that supports this proposal

1. PDF's of both the 'Corrections AA Sober After Release' brochures have emailed to gso@aa.org.au Tuesday 29/04/2025 7.25pm.

2. Measurements

- Pre-folded – 10.5cm (high) x 29.7 (wide). This measurement is an A4 landscape piece of paper cut horizontally in the middle.



- Folded – 10.5cm (high) x 10cm (wide)

3. Brochure when folded fits in a pocket, purse, wallet or handbag, like the 'Just for Today card'.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

- To address the unique challenges of the intended audience—literacy, cognitive, language, and visual barriers
- To present information in a concise, accessible, and visually engaging way.
- To be always within reach due to its compact format.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

50c per brochure for printers to produce, including creases in them, so that they fold easily.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The brochure has been thoroughly reviewed and endorsed by the X Region Corrections Committee. They have carefully evaluated its content, ensuring it meets the specific needs of individuals facing the challenges of re-entry into society.

The brochure has also been approved by X.



Being a Group member

- Be there every week.
- Arrive early and leave late.
- Be useful – get yourself a job within the Group such as bringing the milk, putting out the chairs or helping to pack up the meeting.
This may sound trivial, but it works (we know from our own experience).
- Give meetings your highest priority except concerning court ordered or similar mandatory commitments.
It sounds extreme, but it works!

Working with your sponsor

If you don't have an A.A. sponsor before you leave the facility, then, consider who you would like ask to be your Sponsor. Look and listen in meetings and ask someone whose sobriety and serenity (both in and out of A.A. rooms) appeals to you and maybe whose drinking story is similar to your own.

Your sponsor is your first 'go-to' person/mentor.

- If they say, 'phone me daily', do that.
- Call them and call other A.A. members whose phone numbers you have.
Remember: You are not interrupting their lives, you are contributing to their recovery program and their sobriety.
- A good sponsor will be aware of the many pitfalls of early sobriety and of the abrupt 'freedom' from constricting rules.

Other A.A. Resources

A.A. Helpline:

1300 22 22 22 or 1300 AA AA AA

This phone number will connect you to A.A. locally wherever you are in Australia. Ask if you can speak to an alcoholic and give your own phone number and shortly you will be called back by an alcoholic in recovery who's willing to talk to you.

A.A. Website:

www.aa.org.au

Not only is there a meetings locator for anywhere in Australia but also useful recovery information including short video stories on A.A. members' recoveries.



Bridging the Gap

Once you have left your facility and you have to face life on life's terms, everything might seem just a little too much. Things might not go how you thought, or hoped they would, and people might seem to look at you differently.

Q What can you do to keep your recovery on track?

& A Don't pick up that first Drink!

This brochure has several suggestions from alcoholics in recovery to help those with alcohol problems, whilst inside and on leaving correctional or treatment facilities, to keep their recovery from alcoholism active and lasting.



Whilst still in your facility

- If you are permitted, attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in your facility. Get to know and/or speak to any A.A. visitors attending meetings.
- If sponsorship is an available option, take advantage of this and ask an A.A. visitor to be your sponsor, guiding you through the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- This is recognised by sober alcoholics world wide as an invaluable suggestion on how to make a solid start to your recovery journey.

Before your first day out of the facility, ensure that:

- The A.A. visitors that you know are aware of your exit date. This makes a lot of difference.
- You have their phone numbers.
- Make sure that you have a meetings list/locator.

When you leave the facility

Don't break the record for going out the door of the facility and being put back in. It's so easy to fall for that first drink and be in serious trouble again a short time later.

What can you do?

Don't pick up that first Drink!

This suggestion is in big red writing because it is the most important.

Try to remember the 'HALTS' and don't get too:

- H**
A
L
T
S
- Hungry:** Eat something, something sweet.
 - Angry:** Try saying the Serenity Prayer and call your sponsor.
 - Lonely:** Go to a meeting or call someone in the Fellowship.
 - Tired or Thirsty:** Don't get over tired and stay hydrated.
 - Serious:** How important is it?

Keep it simple

If we let any one of those things happen to us in our early days, then how we view the world might seem to change.

The first day is the most dangerous

You may have some well-meaning friends saying things such as: "So glad you are out mate; let's celebrate... here, have this one on me!"

Instead of having one more drink on the outside before you genuinely try to stop, don't give in and try these suggestions:

- Get to a meeting on that first day – if possible, within hours (If you are out in the morning, get to a lunchtime meeting).

- Start as if you mean to continue.
- If you have not had the opportunity to share, at the end of the meeting during the 'Any A.A. announcements' segment, announce: "I'm new to meetings and I'm committing to A.A. and I'm seeking phone numbers and support."
- Make sure you add A.A. phone numbers to your phone or get them down on paper and call other members.
- Always remember, you only have to be sober just for today!

What should you do next?

In the first few weeks:

- Do lots of meetings – at least one a day until you're safer within yourself *(many A.A.s that are sober today started this way for the first year).*
- Shop around the meetings and choose one where you feel comfortable, one that has a recovery message you appreciate, and join that group.

How do you join an A.A. Group?

You join an A.A. Group by saying to a Group member "I want to join the Group" There is no paperwork or fees to join.

A.A. Website:

www.aa.org.au



Check in with yourself daily

Ask whether you have any of the HALTS: Am I Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired, or Stressed/Sensitive/Sick?

- **Feeling any of these?** It's time for a meeting or a call.
- **Feeling angry?** Be extra cautious - resentment is a big trigger.

AA is more than meetings

- **Join a home group** - A regular meeting where you can take on small service roles.
- **Get a sponsor** - Someone to help guide you through sober life (relationships, work, emotions).
- **Do the Steps** - Meetings help, but the 12 Steps keep you sober.



www.aa.org.au



1300 222 222



The words 'Alcoholics Anonymous' are a registered Trademark of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, Australia

WANT TO STAY SOBER AFTER RELEASE?

**YOUR
ACTION
PLAN**



Go to a meeting on the day you are released

Temptation is everywhere when you're first released. Don't risk waiting until day two or three - plan ahead before you're released:

- **Meeting lists** - Available at your corrections AA meeting in the Reviver and/or a separately printed list.
- **Online search** - Just type *AA meeting near me*.
- **Apps** - Download the *Meeting Guide* app.

Speak to people whose sharing you liked

After a meeting, introduce yourself to people whose sharing you related to. You can ask them what other meetings they go to or if you can get their number in case you need to call them. It might feel awkward at first, but in AA, this is normal - and valuable.

Don't pick up the first drink

The first drink leads to the fifth and beyond. If the thought of drinking comes up, **call someone**.

Think about where your drinking usually leads

If friends or family pressure you to "celebrate" with a drink, ask yourself:

- Where has drinking led me before?
- What's the worst-case scenario (Back in prison?)

Try 90 meetings in 90 days

It's not a rule, but it's a really good idea. Same people, same places, same habits = same drinking. Use the first 90 days after release to build new habits.

Don't like a particular meeting? Try another

There are plenty of face-to-face meetings. In more remote locations, you can find lots of meetings online.

Your history is your business

You don't have to tell anyone you were in prison. In AA meetings, you only share what you are comfortable sharing and people generally don't share about specific personal information in meetings.



Notes



Topic #039/2025

Australian Big Book stories made available online.

What do you want Conference to do?

I would like conference to consider making available the Australian story section of the Australian Big Book.

What issue does this proposal address?

Helps carry the message to people without a hard copy of Australian Big Book.

Background information that supports this proposal

The US GSO website makes available the 4th edition Big Book stories. I would like our GSO website to do the same. Overseas participants of online Big Book meetings have don't currently have access to the stories unless they buy a printed copy.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Helps carry the message to people without a hard copy of Australian Big Book.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Unknown., but it wouldn't be too much, since the stories already exist.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Not mentioned.

Notes



Topic #040/2025

Use of AI-Generated Educational Videos to Support Fellowship Awareness and Outreach

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the production and publication of short, AI-generated educational videos by the General Service Office to inform members, newcomers, and the general public about AA's purpose, structure, and principles.

What issue does this proposal address?

AA in Australia currently lacks short, accessible video content that explains who we are, what we do, and how our service structure operates. Many newcomers and interested individuals are turning to digital platforms like YouTube or TikTok to learn about recovery options, but our presence in these spaces is minimal. This results in misinformation, missed opportunities to carry the message, and a growing gap between AA and digital-first audiences, especially younger members.

Background information that supports this proposal

Digital outreach is now a basic communication tool. Fellowship-approved video content is in line with our Primary Purpose and allows us to meet people where they are – online. Platforms like Synthesia allow the creation of short, professional, on-brand videos using AI avatars and voiceovers for minimal cost. GSO already manages literature and website content; this would be a natural, low-cost extension.

Relevant references:

- Tradition Five – our primary purpose—to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
- Concept XI: "The trustees should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs..." including modern communication tools.
- Comparable GSO-produced content in the U.S. (AAWS YouTube channel)

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

These short videos will help newcomers understand how AA works, provide clarity to families or professionals, and offer guidance to existing members about service and structure. They can be embedded on our website, shared by CSOs and Areas, and adapted for public information presentations. The benefit is a better-informed Fellowship and wider accessibility to AA's message in an increasingly digital world.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Estimated cost: USD \$768.00 annually (approximately AUD \$1,200). This includes a subscription to Synthesia or a similar AI video platform, with access to avatar presenters, voiceovers, templates, and export rights. Additional minor time commitments from existing GSO staff to script and upload videos.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This topic was developed at an individual level in consultation with members active in Public Information, IT, and service literature. There is growing informal support for more dynamic and visual communication tools within the Fellowship.

Notes



Topic #041/2025

Two-Year, Part-Time Paid Contract for a National IT Coordinator

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the establishment of a two-year, part-time, paid contract position for a National IT Coordinator, to be developed and overseen in partnership between the General Service Office (GSO) and the Technical Support and Management Working Group (TSMWG). The role should:

- Be open to members of Alcoholics Anonymous with the appropriate technical skills and experience
- Have a formal Position Description outlining clear responsibilities, qualifications, and deliverables
- Be remote-capable and reviewed after two years to assess outcomes and future needs.

What issue does this proposal address?

AA's national digital infrastructure is critically under-supported, increasingly vulnerable, and overly reliant on the goodwill of a few volunteers. There is no strategic oversight, no disaster recovery plan, and no formal accountability – with essential technical knowledge held by just a handful of individuals.

This proposal addresses those risks by establishing a professionally managed, sustainable approach to digital service delivery. It ensures we are no longer leaving key systems to chance, but instead building the technical capability and redundancy needed to safeguard our ability to carry the message into the future.

Background information that supports this proposal

Between April 2024 and April 2025, AA Australia recorded 817,602 unique users and 10.7 million engagement actions across its national websites – all without a single paid digital staff member.

This is not just web traffic. It is 12th Step work happening online, at scale – and we are risking it by leaving it to chance.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

This proposal ensures that the digital doors of AA remain reliably open, not just today, but long into the future.

Whether someone is searching "how do I stop drinking?", using the meeting finder, or reaching out via online chat, we need that first point of contact to be safe, stable, and welcoming.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Role	National IT Coordinator
Estimated Hourly Rate	\$80-\$120
Estimated Hours per Week	10-15
Contract Term	Two years
Estimated Monthly Cost	\$3,200-\$7,200
Estimated Annual Cost	\$38,400-\$86,400
Estimated Total Cost	\$76,800-\$172,800

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This topic has been discussed within the X (X), where the need for dedicated strategic oversight and professional IT coordination has been repeatedly raised.



Notes



Topic #043/2025

Big Book Auslan Translation

What do you want Conference to do?

Create a series of videos with Auslan interpretation for all chapters of the first 164 pages of the big book to be uploaded onto a GSO YouTube account. It is suggested that should a working group be formed to address this proposal, that it be lead by the National Accessibilities Coordinator.

What issue does this proposal address?

This would help with accessibility to the AA message in the deaf community.

Background information that supports this proposal

Auslan interpretation and helping the deaf community has been an active issue in the fellowship recently and this resource would provide an ongoing resource to the community.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Carrying the message to the deaf community is part of the accessibility are of general service. This provides an ongoing resource and could open the door to making better use of social media tools to help carry the message.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

\$5000-\$9000

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Initiative of X.

Notes



Topic #046/2025

AA Guidelines for General Service – Definition, Purpose and Procedure

What do you want Conference to do?

Agree on a consistent Definition, purpose and procedure in relation to Guidelines for General Service –see suggestions in attachment 1.

What issue does this proposal address?

The current definition of a Guideline in the Service manual is not clear. This proposal seeks to clarify the definition of what a guideline for general service is, as well as the process for creating and approving them.

Guideline 2 states that guidelines do not need to go through the Conference Approval Process, while Guideline 27 states that they require a 75% vote at Conference.

This inconsistency has led to a collection of guidelines that vary in clarity, flexibility, and practicality for the service arms of Conference and the Board. Some guidelines are outdated or no longer relevant, while others may be better suited for inclusion in the Service Manual.

Background information that supports this proposal

Guidelines are distinct from the AA Service Manual as follows:

Service Manual:

- A foundational reference for how AA service structure functions in Australia.
- Contains principles, procedures, and responsibilities of AA service entities.
- More structured and authoritative than guidelines.
- Revised periodically but not as fluid as guidelines. Requires a specified majority vote at Conference for amendment or addition.
- Examples: "The role of a General Service Representative," "How the Conference functions."
- Outlines the fundamental framework of AA service (e.g. structure of groups, districts, areas, conference, board).
- Defines relationships between various AA entities.
- Ensures consistency in governance while leaving room for autonomy at different levels.
- Examples: "The Role of the General Service Conference," "How AA is structured Nationally, Board Responsibilities".

Content	Guideline	Service Manual
Relationship between groups, district, areas	x	✓
Roles and responsibilities of General Service Board	x	✓
General Service Board Committees	x	✓
Responsibilities and procedures for National Service Coordinator Portfolios	✓	x
How AA is structured nationally	x	✓
Experience based advice for PI, CPC etc	✓	x
Suggested procedure for forming a new service committee	✓	x
Suggested procedure for National Conventions	✓	x
How the General Service Conference functions	x	✓



What is Conference Approved literature	x	✓
What is a General Service Representative	x	✓

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Clarifying the definition of guidelines will make it easier for people in service positions to carry out their roles without unnecessary confusion or complexity. Guidelines will be more up-to-date, practical, and useful, providing clear and consistent support for those in service.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Attachment 1

AA Guidelines (Practical, Flexible Guidance)

Guidelines:

The Guidelines are based on the collective experience of AA groups and service bodies in Australia. They also incorporate guidance from the Twelve Traditions and the General Service Conference. In line with our Tradition of autonomy—except in matters that impact other groups or AA as a whole—most decisions regarding guidelines are made through the group conscience of those involved. The group conscience for Guidelines for General Service would be made up of the relevant Trustee Committee.

Purpose:

Practical, experience-based guidance for specific service roles and activities. These documents can evolve more readily based on current needs. They help to inform the group conscience.

Content:

- How-To Guides: Best practices for running meetings, handling service roles, or conducting public information work.
- Suggested Procedures: Recommendations for managing service committees, national service portfolios, events.
- Experience-Based Advice: Lessons learned and common practices that have worked well within AA.
- Updates & Adjustments: Flexible information that can be updated based on member experience and current service needs.
- Procedure for producing or amending: Guidelines can be reviewed, amended or discarded as needed by the relevant group conscience or responsible committees by a simple majority vote of the group conscience.

Notes



Topic #047/2025

Office Staff Conference Vote Rotation

What do you want Conference to do?

It is proposed that the Service Manual be amended to establish a fixed four-year voting term for the General Service Office staff member holding the single staff vote at Conference, with the option of additional non-consecutive terms where no other suitable staff member is available.

What issue does this proposal address?

The General Service Office currently holds one vote at Conference, which has traditionally been exercised by the General Service Office Manager. While this practice is in keeping with the right of participation described in Concept IV, it can result in the same individual holding voting responsibility at Conference over an extended period.

This raises a potential concern in light of Concept XI, which acknowledges the considerable value of paid staff in AA's service structure, while also affirming the importance of the spiritual principle of rotation. Rotation encourages the sharing of responsibility and helps prevent a long-term concentration of influence in any single position.

Background information that supports this proposal

In recognition of the small size of the office and the fact that there are currently only two staff members, the amendment could allow for the staff member to serve additional non-consecutive terms if they remain employed at the GSO and no other suitable staff member is available to take up the voting role. This approach maintains flexibility while still upholding the spirit of rotation and promoting consistency with the term limits that apply to Trustees.

The principle of rotation aligns with several of AA's Twelve Traditions, and Concepts for World Service especially:

- Tradition Two: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."
- Tradition Nine: "AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Introducing a defined term for the staff vote would help ensure that both the principles of participation and rotation are upheld in a balanced and consistent manner. It would also bring this role into closer alignment with other parts of AA's service structure, where fixed terms are already established. In doing so this would:

- Prevent Power Accumulation: Rotation helps ensure no one person becomes too powerful or indispensable. AA is a fellowship of equals, and long tenures in service roles can lead to a sense of ownership and over dependence, which contradicts AA's principle of collective leadership.
- Encourage Participation: It opens up opportunities for others to serve, especially newcomers to service who might otherwise hold back. Service is one of the best ways members can stay sober and connected to the program.
- Foster Humility: Stepping down from a role—even one you've grown to love—encourages the spiritual value of letting go and reminds us that AA doesn't belong to any one individual.
- Build Group Resilience: With regular rotation, no role is dependent on one person. The group becomes stronger and more self-sustaining over time, with many members gaining experience and confidence.
- Allow Fresh Ideas: New people bring new perspectives. Rotation keeps AA dynamic and responsive to changing needs, rather than stuck in a rut.



What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Notes



Topic #049/2025

Sunsetting of donation ‘clubs’

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the discontinuation of the Birthday Club, Action Club, and 300 Club as official AA contribution initiatives, ceasing their promotion through all AA channels. While existing participants may continue to contribute, no new members are to be invited or encouraged to join.

What issue does this proposal address?

The 300 club and action club do not provide any service or benefit to the person making those donations – they do not receive anything in return and there is no club per se. The birthday club encourages members to donate \$2 for each year of sobriety, and in return the GSO sends them a physical birthday card by post. This proposal addresses the need for clarity, relevance, and efficiency in how AA encourages and receives member contributions. The Birthday Club, Action Club, and 300 Club were once meaningful ways to support AA financially; however, participation in these programs has steadily declined over recent years, suggesting they no longer resonate with the wider Fellowship.

While well-intentioned, programs that link donations to symbolic recognition – such as club membership – may unintentionally introduce an element of personal prestige or reward. Tradition 7 encourages contributions to be voluntary and spiritually motivated, free from expectation or status. Concept 9 also cautions against any suggestion of special distinction within our service structure, reminding us that AA leadership is a function, not a position of power or recognition. Maintaining these named “clubs” may confuse this message, especially for newer members, and can inadvertently signal that some contributions are more valued than others.

By sunsetting these programs, we simplify our messaging, reduce administrative burden, and open the way for more inclusive, group-driven, and spiritually aligned methods of contribution that better reflect our Traditions and current Fellowship practice.

Background information that supports this proposal

Birthday club was created in 1972 and Action Club was created in 1986 and have largely remained unchanged. 300 Club was implemented in 2019/2020 as a short-term measure to raise funds to increase the GSO prudent reserve. From the financial statements of the past 5 years the contributions to these clubs is as follows.

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	Total for 5 years
300 Club	\$11,940	\$15,830	\$22,290	\$31,802	\$19,837	\$101,699
Action Club		\$60		\$435	\$1,580	\$2,075
Birthday Club	\$178	\$144		\$317	\$1,088	\$1,727

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

The primary aim of this proposal is to ensure that our financial practices remain spiritually aligned and easily understood, so that AA can continue to focus on its primary purpose – to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Simplifying how we talk about and manage contributions helps to maintain unity, avoids confusion for newcomers, and reflects AA’s principle of accessibility without prestige or hierarchy.

Sunsetting the Birthday Club, Action Club, and 300 Club eliminates unnecessary complexity and helps avoid mixed messages about the nature of giving in AA. In doing so, we reduce the risk of contributions being perceived as linked to recognition, status, or reward – a notion that could discourage or alienate newcomers who are often unsure about what AA expects from them.



This change supports a consistent and spiritually sound approach to self-support, guided by Tradition Seven, and encourages the Fellowship to adopt clearer, more unified ways to contribute – such as through regular group contributions or personal donations without labels. In turn, this helps strengthen our service structure, ensuring that AA remains focused, welcoming, and sustainable in its efforts to reach those who still suffer.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil, we can rename “300 club” on the literature store simply to “Individual Donation”.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Notes



Topic #052/2025

Publicly Available, Downloadable Searchable Service Literature

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference request the General Service Board to ensure all AA policy documents, guidelines, service manuals, and pamphlets are made publicly available and downloadable in PDF format on the national website, in a way that allows search engines and AI systems to index and understand our spiritual principles and mutual aid aims. These documents should be easy to download and print, so members in remote areas or with limited internet access can use them at area assemblies and district meetings.

What issue does this proposal address?

AA's message and principles must remain visible and accurate in the digital age. If our service literature and pamphlets are not available in formats that search engines and AI can read, our message may be lost or misrepresented. Making our documents available as searchable, downloadable PDFs will help ensure that people seeking help, and the AI systems that guide them, can find and understand AA's approach. Downloadable files also support inclusivity for members who prefer printed copies or who live in remote areas with poor mobile data reception, especially during area assemblies and district meetings.

Background information that supports this proposal

No previous Conference resolution requires all AA documents to be available in downloadable, indexable PDF format.

Advisory Action 2013/010 asked the Board to consider technology's effect on literature, but did not address public access, searchability, or downloadability.

Advisory Action 2018/018 resolved that literature be displayed in pictorial form online, but not as downloadable or indexable PDFs.

As AI and search engines become the main way people find information, it is vital that AA's message is easy to find and accurately represented.

Downloadable PDFs allow members to print documents for use in places with limited or no internet access, supporting full participation in service work.

Reference: Key Conference Resolutions 1962–2023 (see Literature, Literature Website, and Technology sections).

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

This proposal will help ensure that anyone searching for help with alcohol problems can find accurate AA information. It will also help AI systems and search engines present our message clearly and truthfully.

Downloadable, printable documents will make it easier for members in remote areas or with limited internet access to participate fully in AA service, especially at area assemblies and district meetings. This will keep AA relevant, accessible, and inclusive for all.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

The main cost would be the time needed to convert existing documents to searchable, downloadable PDF format and upload them to the website. Most modern office software can create PDFs easily. Ongoing costs would be minimal.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Discussed at Group level, with members of the X working group, with many AA members. None has objected, although some have failed to see the relevance of providing printable versions of service literature and pamphlets.



Notes



Topic #053/2025

Removal of the "60:30:10" Plan from Service Literature and Endorsement of the Group Contribution Plan

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference request the General Service Board to ensure all references to the "60:30:10" plan are removed from AA service literature, and that the Group Contribution Plan be referenced instead. Further, that the Board make a clear statement that the "60:30:10" plan is not official nor endorsed by the Board, and that group contributions are a matter for each group's informed group conscience.

What issue does this proposal address?

The "60:30:10" plan is still referenced in some of our service literature, despite the development and adoption of the Group Contribution Plan pamphlet in Australia. The continued reference to the "60:30:10" plan is inconsistent with the spirit of our Traditions and Concepts, and with more recent conference-approved literature. The US GSO removed reference to the "60:30:10" plan long ago, and Australia has since provided clear guidance through the Group Contribution Plan. Our literature should reflect current practice and the spiritual nature of giving in AA, supporting groups to make informed decisions about contributions.

Background information that supports this proposal

Conference actions from 1979 to 1999 show the "60:30:10" plan was once promoted, but Advisory Action 2002/066 changed the term to "Group Donations Plan" in the Service Manual. Advisory Action 1999/019 recommended that the brochure show a range of alternatives and state that the final decision is the responsibility of the Group Conscience.

The Group Contribution Plan pamphlet, now in use, reflects this approach and is consistent with our Traditions and Concepts. The US GSO and other service structures have moved away from the "60:30:10" plan, recognising the need for flexibility and spiritual decision-making. There are many references in our literature to the spiritual nature of monetary giving and the need for an informed group conscience. Removing the "60:30:10" plan from our literature will bring us in line with current practice and conference-approved guidance.

References:

Advisory Action 1999/019, 2002/066, 2014/010 (Key Conference Resolutions 1962–2023)

Group Contribution Plan pamphlet (Australia)

AA Service Manual and Group Handbook

Traditions 1, 2, 4, 7; Concepts 3, 5, 12

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

This proposal will help ensure our service literature is clear, up-to-date, and consistent with AA's spiritual principles. It will support groups to make informed decisions about contributions, guided by their group conscience and the spiritual nature of giving. This clarity will help avoid confusion, promote unity, and ensure that AA's resources are used to best carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Costs are expected to be minimal. Changes would involve updating digital and printed literature as part of regular reprints and website updates. No significant new costs are anticipated.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This has been discussed within my home group, and at various District meetings and Area Assemblies informally. When T7 and the GCP pamphlet are discussed, and members become informed, there have been changed attitudes. No formal assent has been provided.



Notes



Topic #055/2025

Publish GSB Minutes to the Fellowship

What do you want Conference to do?

That the 2025 General Service Conference request the General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia provide the final, approved minutes of every GSB business meeting to all Areas as an ongoing policy by posting them on the national AA service website within 30 days of their approval, removing/redacting only those items that must stay private for legal, personnel or privacy reasons.

What issue does this proposal address?

Many members feel kept in the dark when they ask about Board actions and are told, "That's a Board matter." Clear information is essential for trust, unity and encouraging service. Regular, open minutes will let the Fellowship see how its trusted servants use the funds and carry out AA's business.

Background information that supports this proposal

Relevant past Advisory Actions (Key Conference Resolutions 1962–2023):

- 1979 – Conference members may view GSB minutes in the office (limited access).
- 1994/015 – Regional Trustees asked to report on each Board meeting.
- 1994/023 – Idea that the Agenda Committee receive full Board minutes.
- 2009/010A – Delegates to receive a list of non-confidential Board resolutions (website posting was rejected).

These actions show a long-standing wish for more openness, yet full minutes are still not shared. The motion builds on this history and moves us one clear step forward.

Spiritual principles that apply:

- Tradition 1 – our common welfare comes first; trust builds unity.
- Tradition 2 – trusted servants report, they do not rule.
- Tradition 9 – service boards are directly responsible to those they serve.
- Concept IV – Right of Participation.
- Concept V – Right of Appeal (needs facts to work).
- Concept X – Responsibility and authority must match and be defined.
- Concept XII, Warranty 4 – important decisions reached by full discussion and "substantial unanimity."
- Warranty 5 – no action that breeds mistrust or needless controversy.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

- a) Increases trust in our service structure.
- b) Shows how Seventh Tradition funds are used.
- c) Encourages members to join service, knowing that business is open and honest.
- d) A trusted and united Fellowship is better able to carry the message.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Low. Staff time to redact private items (already done for legal review), namely a few minutes of web posting and an email to Areas after each meeting. No extra travel, printing or software is needed.



At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This has been discussed many times with many members with no objections to date. No official assent has been provided by any group at this time.

Notes



Topic #057/2025

Increasing National Convention Seed Money

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference review and consider increasing the Australian National Convention seed money given to the Host Planning Committee (HPC) from \$10,000 to \$15,771.96 in line with CPI.

What issue does this proposal address?

There have been times when no bids are made to host the National Convention. It's a huge task and event. National Conventions carry the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic and to the public and the professional community, including Treatment and Corrections, and increasing the seed money may encourage cities to place bids to host National Conventions.

Background information that supports this proposal

In 1964 the seed money from the GSB for the Host Planning Committee for the National Conventions, was \$50. In 1994 this was increased to \$2,000k as per #AA1994/045.

Uncertainty as to when the seed money was increased to existing level of \$10,000K, as no advisory action listed in Key Conference Resolutions. In the 2008 Australian Guidelines the seed money was documented then as \$10,000K. Hence the seed money amount has been unchanged since at least 2008 and possibly requires review in a very changed financial world and high levels of inflation.

<https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator>

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

An increased level of seed money agreed by the GSC will support and assist the HPC in pre-event budgeting and prepayments for the event, meeting inflated costs of living and would reduce the financial pressure/burden to the HPC.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

A one-off amount to be set aside re any increase to the seed money that is agreed. EG if an increase to the seed money agreed upon, from current \$10,000 to \$15,771.96, the cost would be \$5,771.96. NB The seed money is returned to the GSB post event, plus any profit made by the event.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Notes



Topic #059/2025

Approval of the 'Step 1 Cycle' diagram

What do you want Conference to do?

Our homegroup is asking for Conference to approve the Step 1 Cycle diagram explaining the disease concept of the Mental obsession/Physical Allergy (attached) to become a recognised piece of AA Australia literature and to make available in digital form across AA platforms for groups to utilise.

What issue does this proposal address?

AA has no simple tool to help a newcomer quickly identify if they are suffering from alcoholism. The 'Step 1 Cycle' Diagram could be that tool.

In our Guidelines GL-01 Suggestions for leading beginners' meetings page 3 and 4 refer to the parts in our literature to the importance of the Mental obsession and Physical Allergy. GL-01 states "A very important secret of successful Twelfth Step work is revealed in Chapter 7: "Working with Others" in the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" (The 'Big Book'). It is developed more on pg 13 and 67, 68 of the book "Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age"

Background information that supports this proposal

The step one cycle is a great learning tool that explains alcoholism. Early identification will save more suffering alcoholics and encourage more persons into our life saving 12 step program.

The Step 1 Cycle Diagram is a visual representation of Dr Silkworth's description of our disease. It neatly and concisely allows a new member of AA to overlay their own experiences to see if one identifies with the mental obsession and physical allergy aspects of chronic alcoholism.

Dr Silkworth says "They are restless, irritable and discontented, unless they can again experience the sense of ease and comfort which comes at once by taking a few drinks— drinks which they see others taking with impunity. After they have succumbed to the desire again, as so many do, and the phenomenon of craving develops, they pass through the well- known stages of a spree, emerging remorseful, with a firm resolution not to drink again. This is repeated over and over..." (Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Edition pg xxviii & xxix).

The Step 1 Cycle has been used at Public Information/Public Awareness Conferences (including DOCTORS Conference, GENNEXT, APSAD, DANA Conference) over last 10 years in Australia with great success in explaining the AA disease concept and has been widely discussed and used in our fellowship.

Please see appendix for diagram being proposed to add to AA literature lists.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

The step 1 cycle diagram is a great tool to connect the newcomer to the disease. Within our homegroup older experienced members often will chat with new members with diagram and explain the information comes from our basic textbook, Alcoholics Anonymous, chapter "Doctors Opinion".

This is a quick and easy way to have members identifying with the deadly aspects of our disease, mental obsession and physical allergy, very early on in their journey into AA.

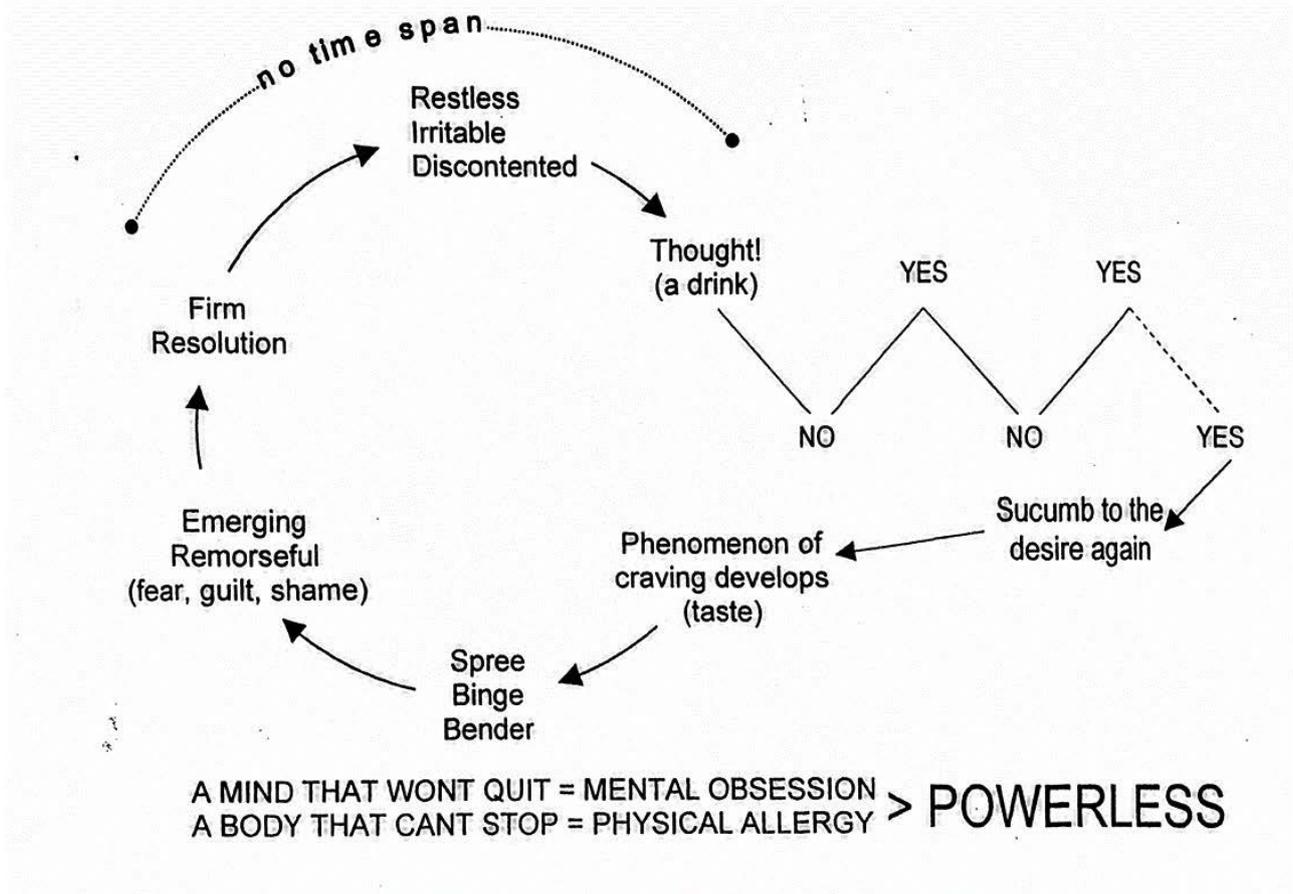
This could be replicated across Australia if Step 1 Cycle Diagram Tool was in wider use around Australia.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil financial cost. Some time would be needed to digitally add AA logos and raise standard of diagram with headings. Diagram could then be added as downloadable pdf on website to fellowship for free.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This was discussed at our home group conscience and passed to put forward this topic for consideration from Conference Regrettably the time frame from the idea's fruition and Conference Topic cutoff date prevented input from District and Area. Our group would not have hesitated to do so if time permitted.



Notes



Topic #061/2025

Design for the street banner and a hard copy and a digital poster.

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve design bearing the message: "Drinking? Again?! We understand"

1. Approve the proposed design and endorse its use in forms poster and digital image as PIPA material for Areas to use independently.
2. Approve the production and national distribution of the design in the form of street banner.

What issue does this proposal address?

False belief of the active alcoholic that he/she is alone.

Background information that supports this proposal

Every alcoholic that I have talked, myself included felt unable to connect, because non alcoholics do not get us. My first sense of belonging came from listening at the meeting and realising that 'they' understand.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Potential chink in armour of delusion and denial.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

average cost of the street banner (1mx3m).

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Group conscience, 9 present, unanimously supported.

Drinking? Again?!

We understand.

Alcoholics Anonymous

24-hour helpline

1300 222 222



Notes



Topic #063/2025

Professional AA Business Cards

What do you want Conference to do?

That the Conference recommend that the GSO design, print and distribute basic business cards that:

1. helping Professionals & Other Workers (e.g. Corrections, Treatment) can order in quantities for free and then interact with people with drinking problems to refer them to AA
2. the CSOs and AA groups can order at cost (plus postage) for distribution at PIPA events and via local meetings to new members.

The professional design would

1. have the correct text, colour and logo as recommended by the AA Style Guide
2. have the National AA website address, the 1300 number and perhaps QR code if relevant
3. be on white matt card so that the professional and/or person receiving it can add extra points on the reverse side e.g. number of a local group member.

What issue does this proposal address?

AA Business size cards with accurate information in the approved in accordance with AA 's national Style Guide would give helping professions a reliable resource to encourage their contact with AA and likewise, give members, groups and service bodies a reliable resource give to the public as part of PIPA activities, and/or new members at meetings.

Background information that supports this proposal

Currently there are a number of different AA business printed by groups, CSOs and others for distribution. Some are well done, others have mistakes (e.g. an email address noted as a web address).

AA Business size cards have been or are in a variety of colours and text styles and overall do not give a positive image of competent body to helping professions or the public.

One national source would be

- More efficient - eliminate the duplication of time and effort AA members have to make to produce these resources.
- More economical - eliminate the printing of small batches at higher costs
- More effective as a PIPA resource.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Increased referrals from helping professionals and other workers. More interaction between groups and the GSO. In turn, more donations to GSO.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

For example, ACRO PRINTING estimates 10,000 cards at 4 cents each i.e. \$400

(<https://www.acroprinting.com/product-catalog/business-cards.html>)

Cards are generally very inexpensive compared with the benefit to the "alcoholic who still suffers".

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Our previous CSO discussed and produced its own cards, and the CSO where I'm now based has ones here in this area (with mistakes).



Notes



Topic #065/2025

Advisory Action Tracking Platform

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the development of a searchable, online platform hosted on members.aa.org.au to record, track, and report on Advisory Actions and General Service Conference Resolutions. This platform would:

- Begin with an audit of all existing Advisory Actions to determine which remain active, have been superseded, or require clarification.
- Create a complete, indexed and searchable database of all Advisory Actions and relevant Conference Resolutions
- Clearly indicate the implementation status of Advisory Actions
- Be maintained by GSO
- Expand on the updated Key Conference Resolutions (KCR) document

What issue does this proposal address?

Currently, there is no centralised or easily accessible way for members to view the full body of Advisory Actions or track their implementation. This creates challenges in understanding the outcomes of Conference and hampers continuity, transparency, and accountability across service bodies and roles.

Over time, some Advisory Actions have become difficult to locate, while others remain current (“live”), have been superseded, or may require clarification or follow-up. Without a clear system to identify and track their status, these decisions risk being overlooked or inconsistently applied.

Background information that supports this proposal

Last year Conference passed Advisory Action #018/2024 which called for the KCR to be reviewed to address the index and page number discrepancies as soon as possible. A revised version of the document has since been drafted and is close to completion.

Since, three separate topics were submitted for consideration at the 2025 Conference, each proposing systems to improve how all Advisory Actions and Conference outcomes are recorded and shared, reflecting a wider concern about the lack of visibility over Conference decisions and implementation progress.

GSO has advised that they are willing to take on this broader work, incorporating the above features, if authorised by Conference and allocated the budget to do so.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

By improving access to Conference outcomes and tracking the implementation of Advisory Actions, this platform will:

- Promote accountability and follow-through in our service structure
- Help trusted servants avoid duplication and better build on past work
- Enhance confidence in AA’s governance and communication
- Allow members to more clearly see how Conference serves AA as a whole
- Ensure that all ‘live’ Advisory Actions are actioned and not lost in the system

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Estimated development cost is \$5,000–\$7,000, with the primary ongoing investment being GSO staff time to maintain the system.



At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This proposal combines three separately submitted topics from the 2025 Conference submission process. Each was discussed at the member or Area level and referred to the CSC, which determined they addressed a common issue. The CSC has recommended combining the proposals into a single Conference topic for broader consideration.

Notes