



# **61st AUSTRALIAN GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**

THURSDAY 7th - SUNDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2019

Mercure Sydney International Airport Hotel,  
22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek, NSW

Conference Theme:

**OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE**



**This Conference Report is  
considered a confidential  
publication and ought to be  
used for AA purposes only.**

**Since this report is a  
confidential AA document, for  
members only, it may contain  
members' full names and  
addresses.**



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# **SECTION 1**

## **Information**





**CONFERENCE THEME:  
OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE**

**AGENDA  
61<sup>st</sup> AUSTRALIAN GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE  
NOVOTEL SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HOTEL  
22 LEVEY STREET, WOLLI CREEK, NSW**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>– Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
<b>Thursday 7th Nov</b>	
11.00am – 12.30pm	Delegates & Observers Meeting
11.30am – 12.30pm	Meeting of the General Service Board
12.30pm – 1.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1.30pm – 3.00pm	Meeting of the General Service Board
1.30pm – 3.00pm	Delegates & Observers Meeting
3.00pm – 4.00pm	Recital of Declaration of Unity
	Reading of Twelve Traditions (long form)
	Reading of the Twelve Concepts
	Roll Call/Getting to know you – self intro
	Opening address – Chairman – GSB (Mike E)
	Presentation on Conference theme (Chris B)
4.00pm – 6.00pm	Report Charter & Service Manual Committee International Committee
6.00pm – 7.00pm	<b>Dinner</b>
7.00pm – 8.30pm	Discussion & decision on Topic #005/2019 (full Conference)
8.30pm – 9.30pm	Treatment Facilities Committee
	Correctional Facilities Committee
<b>Friday 8th Nov</b>	
7.30am – 8.30am	<b>Breakfast</b>
8.30am – 8.40am	Preview Days Events
8.40am – 10.30am	Policies & Admissions Committee
	PI&CPC Committee
	Finance Committee
10.30am–11.00am	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11.00am – 1.00pm	Remote Communities Committee
	Literature Committee
	Conference Committee on Trustees
1.00pm – 2.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00pm – 3.15pm	Conference Agenda Committee
3.15pm – 3.45pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
3.45pm – 4.30pm	World Service Delegates Reports & questions
4.30pm – 5.00pm	Report on National PI&CPC Forum 2019 & questions Anna S)
5.00pm – 5.30pm	Regional Forums 2018 Reports & questions (Delegates)
5.30pm – 6.00pm	Free
6.00pm – 7.30pm	<b>Dinner</b>

**CONFERENCE THEME:  
OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE**

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	
7.30am – 8.30am	<b>Breakfast</b>
8.30am – 8.40am	Preview days' events
	Reading of Administrative Procedures (Rob C)
8.40am -10.30am	Trustees Nominating Committee Report (Mike E)
	Conference Committee on Trustees Report and voting on recommendations (David A)
	Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Chris B)
	Conference Policies & Admissions Report and voting on recommendations (Gabrielle N)
10.30am–11.00am	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11am – 1.00pm	Trustees' Treatment Facilities Committee Report (Lachlan B)
	Conference Treatment Facilities Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Gabrielle N)
	Trustees' Correctional Facilities Report (Bill H)
	Conference Correctional Facilities Committee Report and voting on recommendations (David A)
	Trustees' International Committee Report (David E)
	Conference International Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Paul C)
	Trustees' Finance & Budgetary Committee Report (Mike E)
	Presentation of Financial Report and Acceptance Fabian Iannello
	Conference Finance Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Allan D)
1.00pm – 2.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00pm – 3.15pm	Trustees' Literature & Archives Committee Report (Paul J)
	Conference Literature Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Garry S)
	Trustees' PI&CPC Committee Report (Andy P)
	Conference PI&CPC Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Garry S)
	Trustees' Remote Communities Report (Penelope C)
	Conference Remote Communities Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Janet M)
3.15pm – 3.45pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>
3.45pm – 5.15pm	Trustees' General Service Conference Committee Report (Mike E)
	Conference Agenda Committee Report and voting on recommendations (Rob C)
	Date and theme of Conference 2020
5.15pm – 5.30pm	Bids for combined National T&CF and PI&CPC Forum 2021 Bids for National Convention 2023
5.30pm – 5.45pm	Bids for 2020 Regional Forums
6.00pm – 7.30pm	<b>Dinner</b>

**CONFERENCE THEME:  
OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE**

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<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
<b>Sunday 10th Nov</b>	
7.30am – 8.30am	<b>Breakfast</b>
8.30am – 8.40am	Preview day's events
8.40am – 9.00am	Floor Actions
9.00am – 10.30am	Ask It Basket – questions/suggestions re Conference
10.30am–11.00am	<b>Morning Tea</b>
11.00am– 12.00pm	Ask It Basket – questions/suggestions re Conference
12.00pm – 12.30pm	Chairman's Closing Remarks + Farewells
12.30pm – 1.00pm	Group photographs
1.00pm – 2.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00pm – 2.30pm	Meeting of General Service Board
	Post Conference Area Delegates Meeting

**DELEGATES' & OBSERVERS' MEETING**  
**GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE**  
**THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**  
**11.00AM – 12.30PM**  
**1:30PM – 3.15PM**  
**AGENDA**

Welcome ..... Rob C

From Topic to Advisory Action .....

Committees ..... .. Paul C

Discussion & Decision .....Janet M

How Conference Votes .....

Voting ..... Stephen R

Minority Voice .....Garry S

Third Legacy Procedure ..... Chris B

How do I have a say? .....

Self Introduction.....Allan D

Floor Actions.....Gabrielle N

What's on Your Mind/Ask It Basket/Conference Inventory ... .. David A

Wrap Up Rob C

Questions & Answers ..... All

**ROLL CALL**

**AREA DELEGATES**

**TO THE 61<sup>ST</sup> AUSTRALIAN GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2019**

	AREA	PANEL NUMBER	YEAR
<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>			
Jack S	A	61	2019
Rob C	B	59	2017
<b>NORTH EASTERN REGION</b>			
Tracy C	A	61	2019
Chris B	B	59	2017
Bonnie I	C	61	2019
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>			
Paul C	B	59	2017
David A	D	60	2018
Geoff S (attended as Alternate to elected delegate 2016)	F	58	2019
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>			
Janet M (attended as alternate 2018 – no elected delegate)	A	60	2018
Pippa (Alternate Jed attended 2018)	B	60	2018
Adrian H	C	61	2019
Garry S	D	59	2017
Anna S	E	61	2019
Allan D	F	59	2017
Gabrielle N	G	60	2018
Steven R	H	60	2018
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>			
Carolyn G	A	61	2019
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>			
Brian D	A	61	2019
Clare S	B	61	2019

**GENERAL SERVICE BOARD  
OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA**

<b>CLASS A TRUSTEES</b>			
Ruby Jones			2017
<b>GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES</b>			
Mike E	Chairperson		2014
Lachlan B			2018
<b>REGIONAL TRUSTEES</b>			
Stephen R	Chairperson	North Eastern	2019
Andy P		Central	2018
Judy W		Eastern	2019
Paul J		Western	2018
Penelope C		Southern	2018
Bill H		Northern	2016

**OTHER VOTING MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE**

David E	World Service Meeting Delegate	2016
Brian S	World Service Meeting Delegate	2018
Valerie M	General Service Office Manager	1996

**NON-VOTING**

Tony C	General Service Office	2002
Chris S	General Service Office Office	2011
Taping Co-ordinator	Caring & Sharing Tape Library	

## CONFERENCE 2019 COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	POSITION	REGION	AREA	YEAR
<b>POLICIES &amp; ADMISSIONS</b>				
Gabrielle N (Chair)	Delegate	ER	G	2
Rob C (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	CR	B	3
Tracy C	Delegate	NER	A	1
Chris B	Delegate	NER	B	2
Jack S	Delegate	CR	A	1
Pippa O	Delegate	ER	B	2
Carolyn G	Delegate	NR	A	1
Valerie M	Co-ordinator			
David E	World Service Delegate			
<b>Non-voting observers:</b>				
Judy W	Eastern Regional Trustee			
<b>PUBLIC INFORMATION &amp; CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY</b>				
Garry S (Chair)	Delegate	ER	D	3
David A (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	ER	D	2
Clare S	Delegate	WR	B	1
Anna S	Delegate	ER	E	1
Steven R	Delegate	ER	H	1
Janet M	Alternate Delegate	ER	A	1
Andy P	Chair, Trustees PI&CPC Committee			
Tony C	Co-ordinator			
<b>Non-voting observers:</b>				
Lachlan B	General Service Trustee			
Stephen R	North Eastern Regional Trustee			
<b>FINANCE</b>				
Allan D (Chair)	Delegate	F	ER	3
Paul C (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	B	SR	3
Geoff S	Delegate	SR	F	1
Brian D	Delegate	WR	A	1
Adrian H	Delegate	ER	C	1
Mike E	Chair, Trustees' Finance Committee			
Chris Surplice	Co-ordinator			
<b>Non-voting observers:</b>				
Penelope C	Incoming Chair, Trustees' Finance Committee			

## CONFERENCE 2019 COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	POSITION	REGION	AREA	YEAR
<b>REMOTE COMMUNITIES</b>				
Janet M (Chair)	Delegate	ER	A	2
Allan D (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	ER	F	3
Clare S	Delegate	WR	B	1
Jack S	Delegate	CR	A	1
Steven R	Delegate	ER	H	1
Adrian H	Delegate	ER	C	1
Carolyn G	Delegate	NR	A	1
Penelope C	Past Chair, Trustees' Remote Communities Committee			
Bill H	Northern Regional Trustee			
Tony C	Co-ordinator			
<b>LITERATURE</b>				
Garry S (Chair)	Delegate	ER	D	3
Rob C	Delegate	CR	B	3
Chris B	Delegate	NER	B	3
Geoff S	Delegate	SR	F	1
Paul C	Delegate	SR	D	3
Gabrielle N	Delegate	ER	G	2
Paul J	Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee			
Chris	Co-ordinator			
<b><i>Non-voting observers:</i></b>				
Brian S	World Service Delegate			
<b>CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES</b>				
David A (Chair)	Delegate	SR	D	2
Anna S	Delegate	ER	E	1
Brian D	Delegate	WR	A	1
Tracy C	Delegate	NER	A	1
Bonnie I	Delegate	NER	C	1
Pippa O	Delegate	ER	B	2
Mike E	Chair, Trustees' Nominating Committee			
Valerie M	Co-ordinator			
David E	World Service Delegate			



## CONFERENCE 2019 COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	POSITION	REGION	AREA	YEAR
<b>REPORT CHARTER &amp; SERVICE MANUAL</b>				
Chris B (Chair)	Delegate	NER	B	3
David A (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	SR	D	2
Brian D	Delegate	WR	A	1
Allan D	Delegate	ER	F	3
Pippa O	Delegate	ER	B	2
Steven R	Delegate	ER	H	2
Paul J	Chair, Trustees' Literature Committee			
Tony C	Co-ordinator			
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>				
Paul C (Chair)	Delegate	SR	B	3
Gabrielle N (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	ER	G	2
Geoff S	Delegate	SR	F	1
Jack S	Delegate	CR	A	1
Anna S	Delegate	ER	E	1
Adrian H	Delegate	ER	C	1
David E	Chair, Trustees' International Committee			
Brian S	World Service Delegate			
Valerie M	Co-ordinator			
<b>Non-voting observers:</b>				
Ruby Jones	Class A Trustee			
<b>TREATMENT &amp; SPECIAL NEEDS</b>				
Gabrielle N (Chair)	Delegate	ER	G	2
Janet M (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	ER	A	2
Rob C	Delegate	CR	B	3
Garry S	Delegate	ER	D	3
Jack S	Delegate	CR	A	1
Steven R	Delegate	ER	H	2
Lachlan B	Chair, Trustees' T&SN Committee			
Tony C	Co-ordinator			
<b>Non-voting observers</b>				
Stephen R	Incoming Chair, Trustees' T&SN Committee			

## CONFERENCE 2019 COMMITTEES

<b>CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES</b>				
David A (Chair)	Delegate	SR	D	2
Allan D (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	ER	F	3
Paul C	Delegate	SR	B	3
Anna S	Delegate	ER	E	1
Pippa O	Delegate	ER	B	2
Adrian H	Delegate	ER	C	1
Bill H	Chair, Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee			
Chris S	Co-ordinator			
<b>Non-voting Observers</b>				
Judy W	Incoming Chair, Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee			
<b>AGENDA</b>				
Rob C (Chair)	Delegate	CR	B	3
Paul C (Alt. Chair)	Delegate	CR	B	3
Bonnie I	Delegate	NER	C	1
Clare S	Delegate	WR	B	1
Chris B	Delegate	NER	B	3
David A	Delegate	SR	D	2
Gabrielle N	Delegate	ER	G	2
Carolyn G	Delegate	NR	A	1
Mike E	Chair, Trustees General Service Conference Committee			
Valerie M	Co-ordinator			
<b>Non-voting observers</b>				
Lachlan B	Incoming Chair, Trustees' General Service Conference Committee			

## **A MESSAGE FROM BILL W**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Conference shall become our successor.

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

## WHY DO WE NEED A GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE?

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

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

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

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

## DECLARATION OF UNITY

This we owe to AA's future

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

The Board resolved that a letter be sent by the Chairman of the General Service Board to Richmond CSO advising that the requests in their letter were being seriously considered and a response to their request will be sent in due course.

The Board resolved that a sub-committee be set up to make a recommendation to the General Service Board by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 regarding a response to the letter from Richmond CSO. The sub-committee would consist of Penelope C (Chair); Andy P, Stephen R.

The Board resolved that, starting in February 2020, the Board would meet in a city or town other than Sydney in February and that a 'meet the members' session would be included on the agenda. The July Board meeting would be held in Sydney.

The Board resolved that the February 2020 Board meeting would be held in Melbourne.

The Board resolved that the following resolution from November be added to the Board Consciousness document: Any member who cannot attend for the duration of Board or Conference meetings should not attend at all.

The Board resolved that all bids to host international events must be approved by the General Service Board.

The Board resolved that, as David E was unable to attend, Ruby Smith attend the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting in Hong Kong as the Alternate World Service Meeting Delegate.

The Board resolved that all requests for funding from the International Sponsorship Fund to be approved by the General Service Board

The Board resolved that Ruby Jones be elected as Chairperson of the Trustees' International Committee for a two year period, effective immediately after the General Service Conference.

The Board resolved that Lachlan B be elected as Chairman of the Trustees' General Service Conference Committee for a two year period effective immediately after Conference.

The Board resolved that Stephen R be elected as Chairman of the Trustees' Treatment Facilities & Special Needs Committee for a two year period, effective immediately after the General Service Conference.

The Board resolved that, following discussions on considering appointing a professional communications co-ordinator, Lachlan B was requested to prepare detailed job descriptions for discussion at the next Trustees' PI&CPC committee meeting in February.

The Board resolved that there should be discussion on attracting young people into the Fellowship at the next meeting Trustees' PI&CPC Committee meeting in February. Stephen R will write an article on attracting young people into the Fellowship for publication in AA Around Australia.

The Board resolved the following be added to the 'Procedure' section of the Trustees' Literature Committee Composition, Scope & Procedure document:

An annual report of the Committee's actions is made by the Chairman of the Committee to the members of the Australian General Service Conference during the annual meeting in November.

The Board resolved that Judy W be elected as Chairperson of the Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee for a two year period, effective immediately following Conference.

The Board resolved that the decision to appoint new Class A Trustees be held over until the November 2019 Board meeting.

The Board resolved that a copy of the budget would be sent to the Conference Finance Committee members by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019. A copy would be included in the Conference folder.

The Board resolved, after review of the austerity measures taken, to accept the following recommendations from the Management Group

1. That 2 World Service Meeting Delegates should be funded to attend the World Service Meeting in 2020.
2. That all staff members should attend future Board meetings and National Conventions.
3. That the February Board meeting be extended to run for two days, as in the past.
4. That we continue with the policy of not subsidising Area/District events.
5. That we continue with the policy of pre-approval by the Board for single expenses in excess of \$20,000.

The Board resolved that Penlope C be elected as Chairperson of the Trustees' Finance Committee for a two year period, immediately following Conference.

The Board resolved that a topic be submitted to the General Service Conference requesting feedback on whether the Fellowship wishes to have four issues a year of AA Around Australia and whether or not this publication should be made available to individuals electronically.

The Board resolved that all staff salaries be increase by 5% per annum, effective 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

The Board resolved that Paul J be elected as Chairman of the Trustees' Remote Communities Committee for a two year period, effective immediately.

The Board resolved that discussion on General Service Board Board presence at upcoming National Conventions should be on February Board agenda.

The Board resolved that the expenses guidelines submitted by the Management Group were reviewed and it was agreed unanimously that these guidelines be added to the Board Consciousness document.

### **GUIDELINES FOR EXPENSES AT BOARD AND OTHER MEETINGS**

1. Receipts must be provided for all expenses claimed and for any expenses applied to cash advances.
2. Expenses can be claimed for travel at the lowest available fare, accommodation (room only) for the duration of the event and meals.
3. For attendance at events other than Board meetings, the General Service Conference and the National Convention, expenses will only be reimbursed if approved by the Management Group prior to the event.
4. Any surplus from cash advances should be returned to GSO promptly.
5. Taxi vouchers should only be used for travel between your home and airport and airport to and from the meeting venue. Sharing taxis is encouraged
6. If you invite guests to meet with you for a meal, this expense should not be charged to AA.
7. Costs incurred in making changes to flights after booking as per your request should be at your expense.
8. If you stay extra time at a hotel extra accommodation and meal costs should be at your expense.
9. Incidental expenses at a hotel (movies, internet, use of hotel telephone, mini bar, etc.) should be at your expense.
10. You should not charge meals for anybody else to your room. Doing this makes it difficult to allocate expenses to the appropriate account.

That the sub-committee, after reviewing correspondence relating to the letter to Richmond CSO, draft and circulate another letter to the Board so that the letter can reach Richmond CSO by 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

That the sub-committee draft and circulate a response to the letter from NSW Service Council to the Board.

## OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE

The first time I recall hearing the phrase “our primary purpose” was very early in my sobriety. I was weeping down the phone to my sponsor, over the sad state of my personal life - especially about the loss of my children. Of course, like most newcomers I was full of guilt, shame, remorse and self-pity, and I was begging my sponsor to tell me what to do.

The answer came straight back at me. “Remember your primary purpose, Chris.” I think she was a bit irritated with me. After the shock subsided, it dawned on me that those “things” such as Chapter Five and the Traditions, which we read out at the start of every meeting were much more than just platitudes. They were real spiritual principles to try to live by, and of course I’d heard it before - every time the pre-amble was read out! In fact, the Traditions presented in this way are usually the first things newcomers hear, without even knowing it.

We are all very familiar with the process of going through the Steps. In order. Each one leading to the next, and in doing so, preparing us for the culmination of the exercise. Step 12 tells us that we *have* had a spiritual awakening, and then tells us to carry *this* message to alcoholics and to practice *these* principles in all our affairs.

The first mention of our primary purpose is clearly stated in Tradition 5. In addition to instructing us to carry the message it confines us to carrying that message to alcoholics. We know this as singleness of purpose.

So how can we at every level of Service do what we need to do to keep our message as our message, and to facilitate ways for that message to be carried to other alcoholics?

We are usually very cognizant of the presence of a newcomer in the rooms. We make sure they are welcomed, given literature and a cuppa, and friendly companionship for the meeting and beyond. But what about the older timer? He or she has been sober a while, has gone to hundreds of meetings, has done some service, has sponsored people, and for whatever reason, is suffering. It's easy to sit back and mouth off a few platitudes. “It will pass”. “Pain is the touchstone of all spiritual growth.” “Pray!” “Go to a meeting!” “Ring your sponsor”. “Go help another alcoholic.” But the suffering older timer might need more than that. Are they any less a suffering alcoholic because they know the programme? After all we are in the business of saving lives! It doesn't say just newcomers' lives. We are all equal in the rooms, and suffering is something that happens to all of us, at various times.

Perhaps we need to get rid of the notion that recovery from alcoholism has a beginning and an end. That the goal is “complete wellness”, whatever that might happen to be. All our journeys certainly have a low and usually painful starting point. I'm beginning to see more and more that the non-existent endpoint keeps changing, like moving goal posts, as we get deeper and deeper into the principles of our program. What was that about not leaving before the miracle happens?

Late in 1934 – 85 years ago – a man well known to all of us was struck sober, because of a message which was brought to him by an old school friend. Because of his sudden and spectacular release from alcohol following a lifetime of suffering and seeking answers, he decided it was his primary purpose to make sure that every drinker should stop drinking via the medium of a white lightning experience like his. He spent the next 6 months in New York, trying to replicate the experience for people. It didn't work. Not a one responded. But he stayed sober. Puzzled, he spoke to Dr Silkworth who gave him some very sage advice - that Bill should emphasise the angle of the compulsion and allergy, when he was talking to prospects.



In May of 1935, Bill went to participate in a business deal in Akron, Ohio. The deal flopped, and he realised that he was on very shaky ground, but he absolutely knew that he did not want to drink. What had always worked for him in the past was working with another alcoholic, albeit unsuccessfully, and he knew that he had to find another drunk to work with. He doggedly tracked down Dr Bob, with the sole purpose of not being forced to drink, and AA was born. After a bit of a shaky start, these two guys realised that they had a new primary purpose – that of carrying the message of recovery to others, starting with the ones they found in Akron Hospital, and creating this fellowship.

Dr Bob continued working away at the coal face – helping other alcoholics and taking them through the fledgling program from the Oxford Groups, and with the help of already published books such as “Varieties of Religious Experience,” “The Sermon on the Mount”, and the Bible. Of course, he was always available for Bill W. to bounce his ideas off, and he was a very moderating influence. It’s been said that if Dr Bob had had his way, we may still all be travelling to Akron to get the message. Conversely if Bill had had his way, we may have been franchised by 1945, and probably not alive today. No criticism. Just their two very different personalities. Both very much needed, as are all our personalities today. Interesting that they never had a cross word!

Bill had eventually returned to New York, where his very great primary purpose developed, and one for which we should all be very grateful – that of writing extensively about the development of AA and other materials with which we are all familiar. Alongside writing, Bill was very active in setting up the structure of AA. In trying to raise money for the purpose, he met some people who became great friends of AA, and who helped set up the Alcoholic Foundation, later to become the General Service Conference.

After the Big Book was published, and initially inched its way on to the market, several newspaper articles were published about AA. The Saturday Evening Post article generated a huge jump in membership. So, the once very small, almost invisible organisation became well known and well respected. The growth led to its own set of problems, which are ongoing to this day, but thanks to the publishing of the Grapevine and the Twelve Traditions, we have the tried and tested guidelines to see us through any problem or crisis as they arise. The twelve worst mistakes that AA made in its first ten years were addressed, and we, once again are the fortunate recipients of Bill’s wisdom and foresight.

What has all that got to do with our Primary Purpose today? We know we must carry the message, in Unity. Without Unity all of this would surely die, and us along with it. All our principles ask us to go contrary to our selfish instincts and desires, and practicing unity is no different.

Each group has but ONE primary purpose – to carry ITS message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Each group has a different angle on that purpose. Beginners meetings. Steps meetings. Big Book Study meetings. Identification Meetings. Speaker meetings. Group Conscious meetings. District meetings. Area meetings. Group outings. Roundups. Rallies, Social activities. Conferences. And many more.

The fact that there are so many types of meetings, reflects the fact that there are varied needs in AA. But all are charged with one valuable activity – that of passing on its message in Unity. As long as we are all laser focussed on that purpose, then what could possibly go wrong?...

In the Grapevine book “Our Twelve Traditions” there is an excellent essay entitled “The Challenge to Ego in Tradition Five”. An enlightening and conscience jogging story, which points out that our obligation to the newcomer trumps any other matter. And it points out very gently the liberation we get from Tradition Five, as we try to fulfil that primary purpose. As we

trudge along doing that, all sorts of spin-offs come in to view. What may seem like a chore, quickly becomes a gift. Because we are not tied down with ownership of assets, with medicine, with religion, with education or with politics, which are all diversions which create other diversions, we can be free to fulfil our primary purpose more effectively.

“Still more wonderful that we do not have to be specially distinguished among our fellows in order to be useful and profoundly happy. Not many of us can be leaders of prominence, nor do we wish to be. Service, gladly rendered, obligations squarely met, troubles well accepted or solved with God’s help, the knowledge that at home or in the world outside we are partners in a common effort, the well understood fact that in God’s sight all human beings are important, the proof that love freely give surely brings a full return, the certainty that we are no longer isolated and alone in self-constructed prisons, the surety that we need no longer be square pegs in round holes but can fit and belong in God’s scheme of things – these are the permanent and legitimate satisfactions of right living which no amount of pomp and circumstance, no heap of material possessions, could possibly be substitutes. True ambition is not what we thought it was. True ambition is the deep desire to live usefully and walk humbly under the grace of God.”

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions page 124.

Page 109 of “AA Comes Of Age” sums it all up nicely. Regarding the admonition and caution of sticking to our last, like the shoemaker.

“Today we understand and accept this paradox: The more AA sticks to its primary purpose, the greater will be its helpful influence everywhere.”

I would like to take this opportunity to address a couple of issues which have come to light since my essay on the Conference theme was submitted.

Prior to coming to my first Conference, I was really looking forward to the experience. I had been told that I would see AA functioning with the very best interests of all AA Australia in their hearts. And while that has been true to some extent, I have also observed the dark side in action.

I feel that the time has come to say it like it is – to support the General Service Manager and our Staff, and to endorse, 100% what Vanda said in her report.

It has been incredibly frustrating and disappointing to have even seen this dark side. My time as Delegate has been overshadowed by conflict, with no apparent point, and not of my making. I have continually felt hamstrung and manipulated in my role as a Delegate, by the very principles of our beautiful programme. It has taken some time to realise that not everyone has similar ideals to me.

I know that my recovery has grown and developed exponentially, in turning the other cheek, and dealing with mountains being made out of molehills. I know I must practice patience, tolerance, kindness and love, but when trying to practice these qualities is used to control me, it is destructive, not constructive, and I do not wish to compromise my principles for the sake of peace, because peace is never to be had when dealing with chronic malcontents and mischief makers.

All I have ever wanted to do in this forum is to facilitate Tradition 5. To use my position to educate people about the structure, and to encourage as many members as possible to become involved. I believe to a large extent this has happened. I left my final Area Assembly on Saturday feeling fairly content that we have a new Delegate and Alternate Delegate, and a full complement of committee members. Good reports coming in through the Districts and progress being made in getting Districts going again. Always a work in progress.

My primary purpose as a Delegate does nor consist of trawling through old Conference decisions, ready to pounce on any miniscule fault or perceived wrong. If we trust the process, those things will work their way to the surface without being micromanaged in the way that is happening at the moment, to the detriment of this conference forum.

It is my job to get behind the group decisions and see if I can help make them work for the greater good of all AA members, new, old and yet to be here. Even if I do not personally agree with them. Gladly, I have lots of instances of being able to do that in my file of experience. To me this is AA in Action.

It is not my job to criticise the board at every touch and turn. I have actually heard this said. It shocked me then and it shocks me now. There are other ways to get one's point across, than by publicly exposing every perceived error. For example, I was stunned recently, when a member of conference tried to make a big deal over a printing error in a page number of our Conference folder. Really? How petty. We are dealing with human beings. Guess what? They make mistakes! Have we all not done that? And at the end of the day, our very small fellowship has rocked on in spite of it.

Something else which started me really thinking about how differently we view things, and the impact which that could have on Conference or any group conscious decisions, was the comment made when a topic did not become an Advisory Action. The comment was "But I prayed about that!" What? For Santa God to do what he/she thought was right? And did we all not pray about our conference work? I dunno what it says in your Big Books, but mine tells me to pray only for the knowledge of His will for me and the power to carry it out. If it's His will for me to lose the vote, then so-be-it.

We are all supposed to be the current leaders of this spiritual movement. As Delegates and Trustees we are also charged with the responsibility of being the temporary bean counters. Can each one of us hand on heart say that we are practicing the principles of truth and love and generosity of spirit, for the betterment of all AA in Australia.

Walking out under the exit sign, fully accepting the decisions made, with an undertaking to report without bias, and to help the work along, are spiritual actions, which like all the others, require practice.

All of us can have our say. Our fellowship is democracy in action. But having our say does not mean that we all automatically get our way. Sometimes not getting our way is a greater spiritual lesson.

Thank you for your attention.

Chris B

Delegate Area B North Eastern Region



## **SECTION 2**

### **Reports**



## AREA DELEGATES REPORTS 2019

### EASTERN REGION

#### Area A

Hi my name is Janet and I am an Alcoholic, currently serving as elected Delegate since December 2018. This will be my 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference as I attended in an Alternate Delegate capacity November 2018. It is an absolute privilege and a pleasure to do anything in Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). I am blessed to have lovingly and encouragingly been sponsored into General Service in AA which has been a great deal of fun and fellowship. Area A is a great training ground for General Service. I love AA and I love my sober life.

Area A is the North Eastern part of NSW, runs along the east coast from Tweed Heads to Forster Tuncurry and inland to Lightning Ridge to the NSW/QLD border, and is made of 7 Districts; The Byron Shire, Northern Rivers Central Banana Coast, Hastings, Manning Great Lakes, New England and North East (Lightning Ridge). Our groups host four Area assemblies annually, location rotated around our districts. We host pre and post Conference Assemblies, an Area Inventory Assembly, Workshops and Sharing sessions over a two-year cycle. We enjoy the use of technology and teleconferencing video calling to include members. We have approximately 140 meetings per week held by various groups.

The Area A Committee rotates jobs every 2<sup>nd</sup> Year in December with the exception of the Delegate and Alt Delegate who rotate every third year. Our Area Assemblies enjoy structure, process and rotation and good general service education through service sponsorship; we have a lot of fun, we insist on it. Our Area Committee currently has only 1 vacancy, Alternate Delegate.

It has been a very busy year since Conference 2018. Area A enjoys Districts passionately operating with growing enthusiastic participation in service, groups carrying a strong AA message. The Districts within Area A host a multitude of rallies, conventions, Steps Traditions and Concept workshops and speaker events. A Big Book Muster this year was hosted by a small number of groups from Area A ER and Area C NER combined, where an overseas speaker took us on a journey through the first 164 pages of the Big Book. Over 170 members attended. Established Districts in Area A offer service sponsorship to Districts at request. We are an Area splattered with very active pockets of enthusiasm. Local groups remain diligent in carrying the AA message to Treatment and Correctional Facilities and this year Area A has seen some fabulous Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community projects and initiatives. We have a Northern Rivers drop in centre and store place for AA literature currently situated in Ballina. One district now has a virtual CSO.

Area A also enjoys frequent participation of past Area A Delegates and Trustees at District and Area meetings to work the back of the room offering guidance and sharing knowledge when requested. It was extremely useful to have our past ER Trustee and current ER Trustee at our May Assembly this year. I have enjoyed attending many groups and District meetings in the last 12 months around Area A. The Delegate's job is

demanding, a big commitment and large work load and in my experience has been an invaluable lesson in growing spiritually and so very rewarding.

Area A took Inventory in February 2019 which was facilitated by a past Area G Delegate and was a wonderful experience highlighting what we as an Area do well and where we can improve. It was agreed that we as an Area are committed to foster Service sponsorship. We would consider the best ways to perform CSO functions across Area A, welcome new representatives to Area Assemblies, publicly thank those that complete projects, start a list of Area A achievements for the information of the groups, report back to the groups on the progress of Area decisions, investigate an orientation booklet for Area service and routinely ask for the Minority Voice after every Area decision.

I have found the two meetings/get togethers of Delegates outside of Conference extremely useful and of value; one in Canberra at this year's National Convention and the one via teleconference in March. Both steeped in AA Tradition and Concepts, educational, a place to share Area ideas and to support newly elected Delegates.

In June I attended a lunch invite in Sydney to meet a past GSO Manager of the New York GSO and a Q&A session. It was an absolute privilege and pleasure to attend. The take home points for me were to open your heart, listen, be willing to change my mind, accept criticism, look at how I react to things, be all inclusive, explain respond and never counter attack, and that restraint is a good principle. To wear AA like a loose garment, to go with the right spirit, as a Delegate I have to think and question, to bring fresh points of view and have delegated responsibility and to look deep into my AA heart and at Conference work hard for unanimity. Having met Bill W he shared that Bill loved hell raisers and debate and had a policy of responding and to not be defensive and to look at the extension of spiritual principles. There was much talk that day about the benefits of good process's in AA and to consider that the Chairman of the GS board needs to be a non-alcoholic and the GSO manager an alcoholic= enforced mutual respect. It was suggested that plans in AA can be hindering, there is no room for Corporate as its too protective of institution, power driving lacks spirituality and authority needs to be limited. It was truly the most wonderful way to spend an afternoon and an education.

The ER Festival of Recovery Ideas at The Entrance in July was a pleasure to be involved with on the organising committee and to attend. I particularly enjoyed the session on the power of AA Tradition and the power of the Purse. An audio of the day is available from the Caring and Sharing library, well worth a listen.

I attended The Meet the Board Initiative in July at The Annuka Beach resort Coffs Harbour (in the Banana Coast District Area A ER). The need for this event has raised some questions in our Area.

Area A have the privilege of hosting a past Trustee from the USA for 5 days in the Byron Shire District in October, for a weekend of service workshops and our Pre-Conference Assembly where we will discuss this year's Topics for Conference. Area A are very excited about this opportunity.

The Groups of Area A have expressed ongoing concerns about the current General Service structure and its challenges, change, AAs future in Australia, AAs finances and Board Accountability.



It is an absolute privilege to serve as Area A ER Delegate and I am very much looking forward to attending The 2019 Annual General Service Conference.

Janet M  
Area A Eastern Region Delegate

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## **Area B**

My name is Pip and I am an alcoholic. My home group is the Spiritual Concepts Group that meets in Canberra on Thursday evenings from 7.30-9.00 pm. If you are visiting Canberra, I recommend a visit. It's a great meeting! At least I think so.

This is my second year serving as Delegate, although 2019 will be my first experience of Conference. Last ER Area B was ably represented by Jed R. our Alternate Delegate.

Area B covers the ACT and South Eastern NSW extending from Batemans Bay South to the Victorian border and Westwards along the Victorian border to Tumut, Canberra, Mittagong and Braidwood. Canberra hosts approximately 40 meetings per week and the broader region host a further 40 meetings weekly. Many meetings operate without Group Service Representatives (GSRs). The number of active Groups in the Area is undetermined since the Committee has been without an active Registrar for more than five (5) years.

Having said that, I am excited to report that the 2019 Area B Committee is (almost) firing on all cylinders!!

## **Committee Representation**

For many years now, Area B has struggled to be self-supporting in service. In 2018, despite much lobbying, we were unable to fill the majority of services positions. The 2019 Election Assembly was poorly attended, and we were unable to form a quorum. With the Chair, Secretary, PI/CPC Coordinator and B-Line Editor roles due for rotation at the Assembly, Area B was left with a Committee consisting of Delegate and Alternate Delegate

Since the National Convention was due to be held April in Canberra, it was resolved that we would hold another Election Assembly in May, after the Convention, and if we were unable to form a functional committee, that Area B should go into recess. It was also determined that the Area Fellowship needed to be informed of this and the potential consequences of such an action. As such, we embarked on a dedicated information campaign.

We held a combined Election/Topics for Conference Assembly on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2019. It was a big day for election in Canberra. I am delighted to report that more than forty (40) GSRs and interested members attended including members from Goulburn and Bowral. Unfortunately, the South Coast was not represented, however the Merimbula Saturday morning group had a newly elected GSR.

The Election process was exciting and highly animated. Third Legacy elections were held for the Chair, Secretary and B-Line editor roles. All Committee positions were filled

except the Coordinator roles for PI/CPC, Treatment Facilities and Special Needs (TF/SN), Correctional Facilities Group (CFG) and Remote Communities. In the interim, a combined PI/CPC and TF/SN sub-committee was formed with the brief to identify/recruit a Coordinator. The CFG, already a functional group providing services to men and women at the local ACT prison, were given the same brief.

At the June Committee meeting a PI/CPC Coordinator was elected and a CFG Coordinator elected in July. We continue to search for a TF/SN Coordinator and Alt. Secretary.

### **Resuscitating Area B**

As the Delegate, and one of only two (2) remaining Committee members, it was my responsibility to inform the local and regional Groups of the purpose of Area and its role in the service structure and overall well being of AA in Australia.

The Alternate Delegate and I developed a flyer for distribution to Area Groups (see Appendix A) and spoke at various meetings throughout the region, about the importance of supporting Area given the challenges faced by AA in the new millennium, specifically: evidence-based medicine, widespread social media comments publicising AA as a dangerous cult, an increasingly secular western society and societal demands for inclusivity that places pressure on Tradition 5 and our singleness of purpose.

We also discussed the findings of the “A.A. Internal/External Communications Audit Report: Bringing Bill W.’s vision into the 21st century”, presented to the A.A. General Service Board on August 21, 2018.

### **General Service Representative (GSR) Workshop**

We determined that informing Groups of the importance of the General Service Representative (GSR) in maintaining the well-being of the Fellowship, was critical and might help to improve engagement in the Area. As such, we held a GSR workshop on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2019, two (2) weeks before the Election Assembly.

Topics included The AA Service Structure in a Nutshell, The Role of the GSR and How to Write a Topic for Conference. A BBQ lunch was provided by the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter Men’s Group.

The Workshop was attended by approximately 20 GSRs and interested members. It was most encouraging to see that newcomers and residents of treatment facilities were interested in learning about service. Feedback was very positive and, I understand, a number of Groups elected GSRs and some, Alternate GSRs, as a result of the workshop.

### **Founder’s Day**

This year, Area B’s Founder’s Day celebrations were a great success, from the organising to the closing meeting. In contrast to previous years, the event was organised by an energetic and committed group of eight (8) core members who received additional support from many others on the day. It was truly a day of Fellowship.

A highlight of the day included an extraordinary meeting designed to explore some of the safety issues faced by AA members. Titled “You Can’t Ask That” and structured along similar lines to the ABC TV show with the same name, a panel of eight (8) members

answered questions addressing the things we often don't speak of in A.A. but which we know to be problems e.g. 13<sup>th</sup> stepping and bullying. Members shared how they apply spiritual principles to keep themselves safe and help other members to stay safe and sober. Proceeds from registrations and 7<sup>th</sup> tradition collections provided much needed funds for Area and the Brown Paper Bag Appeal.

### **National Convention 2019**

Area B hosted the National Convention in Canberra over Easter this year. The Convention Organising Committee, chaired by Judy W, our ER Regional Trustee, worked tirelessly and the Convention was a tremendous success.

### **Group Service Representation**

Area Assemblies are held quarterly and historically, have been poorly attended by GSRs, especially from Canberra and the South Coast. GSRs from Goulburn and the Southern Highlands regularly attend.

Informing Groups of their important role in the General Service Structure seems to have had a positive impact on GSR engagement at Area. Each Committee meeting since the Assembly has seen approximately 5 Groups represented.

Our Registrar has been hard at work obtaining contact details for GSRs and meetings. We are hosting our Pre-Conference Assembly on October 12<sup>th</sup> and hope to see increased engagement from Groups facilitated in part by the option for regional GSRs to participate via conference call.

### **Financial Position**

Financially Area B continues to struggle. We have been financially solvent largely because we have not been spending the allocated budget. If Area B is to become a more functional entity, especially within PI/CPC, we must develop strategies for increasing our income.

Mostly we receive the ten per cent portion of group donations allocated to 60:30:10. A few Groups donate directly to Area, most notably Lakeside, 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter Men's Group, Goulburn and the Southern Highlands. The donations from these Groups keep Area B afloat and we are most grateful for their contributions. We have also managed to raise additional funds via events such as Founders Day.

It is likely that much of our financial difficulties arise from lack of awareness from the Fellowship. Increased GSR engagement in Area has already paid dividends with an additional donation from the Barton Group. We are challenged however to continue to increase awareness, to engage in further fund-raising ventures in order to attract additional income sufficient to match expenditure.

### **Correctional Facilities**

Our success attracting members to serve on Area B is also reflected in the restoration of the Area B Correctional Facilities Team (CFT). Over the past few years the Area has had increasingly difficulty attracting members to join the CFT. This together with a decrease in the number of male and female detainee attendance caused a suspension in prison service at the AMC in 2017.

Late in 2018, due to the dedicated efforts of a couple of CFT members, alternate meeting times were negotiated with the Alexander Maconachie Centre (AMC) followed by a drive to recruit new members to this important arm of service. As a consequence, both the men and women detained within the AMC again receive regular, weekly AA meetings and, for those who so desire, additional sponsorship visits.

The revised meeting times on the women's side have been very successful. Regular meetings are held every Saturday at 2pm. The men continue to meet midweek due to AMC security requirements and therefore continue to experience difficulties recruiting sufficient members to meet the rostering requirements.

With a revitalised CFT, Area B is now keen to expand this service to support meetings at the Goulburn and Cooma gaols.

### **Public Information**

Despite the service challenges faced by Area B, the outgoing PI/CPC Coordinator had been very active and piloted a successful social media campaign in the ACT, and later across all parts of Area B serviced by the Canberra CSO. Unfortunately, for unknown reasons, the owner was locked out of his FB account and the campaign was discontinued.

Our incoming PI/CPC Coordinator also brings a high level of enthusiasm and energy. Keen to adopt a more strategic approach to PI/CPC that is sustainable despite rotation in service positions, she has established a committed, enthusiastic working party, reviewed current service activities and provided a Draft plan for PI/CPC actions moving forward. She and another enthusiastic member will be attending the PI/CPC Forum in Sydney this September.

We are hoping to obtain financial support from the Canberra CSO to assist funding some of the planned activities.

### **B-Line Newsletter**

The B-Line Newsletter is Area's monthly publication outlining local and National AA events and member stories. It is distributed to GSRs and interested members via email. Members are encouraged to print copies off and have them available at meetings. The incoming editor is experiencing the same difficulties faced by previous editors, persistent calls for contributions with little response from local members. Nonetheless his writing skills, creativity and commitment ensure an attractive newsletter every month.

### **Treatment Facilities**

Currently Area B is without a Treatment Facilities Coordinator however, the PI/CPC group have included this important service opportunity within their portfolio and Draft Plan. Also, the local Central Service Office (CSO) provides in-house meetings to the alcoholic in detox at the Canberra Hospital.

### **Area B CSO Amalgamation**

The difficulties attracting sufficient members to engage in service at Area level has, for many years, prompted much unofficial discussion about the advantages of amalgamating Area and CSO Committees. This debate intensified with the possibility of Area going into recess and the potential amalgamations of two (2) Areas and CSOs in Sydney. As such one Group, proposed a motion to discuss Area/CSO Amalgamation as

an Agenda item at the combined Election/Topics for Conference Assembly. The volume of business at the Assembly prevented discussion of the topic and it was held over to the next Committee meeting.

For Area B this is not a simple decision. Our geographical makeup is unlike those in the metropolitan areas and we have two (2) operational CSOs. Since we operate without Districts, an amalgamation potentially leaves the regional Area unrepresented in A.A. Australia. To date, much of the business for our subsequent Committee meetings has been given over to this debate. As such we are failing to meet our primary purpose obligations: to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

At the last meeting we voted to hold over any discussion of amalgamation until April 2020. This would provide the newly formed Area Committee an opportunity to demonstrate functionality in meeting its primary purpose.

We perceive that a large part of our problem is communication. Since we are without Districts in our service structure it is difficult to communicate with and engage the wider region, especially the Far South Coast. As such, Area B's primary purpose for the next few months will be to improve communication with the broader region in the hope to increase engagement and commitment to Service.

I am looking forward to attending my first Conference this year and meeting other Delegates as we continue to trudge the road to happy destiny.

Yours in service,  
Pip  
Delegate, Area B, Eastern Region

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## **Area C**

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## **Area D**

My name is Garry S and I am an Alcoholic. My home group is Oatley Monday night and I have had the privilege to serve Area D Eastern as Delegate for the 2017 and 2018 conferences.

Area D Eastern has quite a large footprint and covers a diverse demographic. Our area covers South Western Sydney and Campbelltown, Sutherland Shire, Wollongong and the South Coast to past Nowra.

We currently have approximately 75 groups in our area

Are area meetings are attended by an average of 10 groups and we have one District from Campbelltown.

We have had about half our committee positions filled this year and due to rotation, we now have a vacancy for Secretary, T & CF and Registrar. The position of alternate

delegate has been filled by Rangi P from Caringbah group and I thank him for taking on this important role.

Our Pi is developing well with some active programs at the moment. We also have an opportunity to apply to Nowra Correctional Centre and are looking for willing members.

Some of our members attended the Eastern Regional Forum at The Entrance on July 13<sup>th</sup> this year. We felt it was a very productive and enjoyable day.

The financial position of our area is quite strong at the moment with quite a few new groups donating this year and we are encouraging these groups to send a GSR to Area.

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to be of service to AA in this way, and it has been a huge growth period for both in my understanding of the service structure of AA, and myself in my personal recovery. I see even more clearly how service is an integral part of staying sober both physically and emotionally

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## **Area E**

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## **Area F**

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## **Area G**

I represent Area G in the eastern region. The area covers the inner city area of Sydney and runs from La Perouse to Watsons Bay, along the harbour, down the Parramatta River to Silverwater and through the inner west to Dulwich Hill. While small geographically, it is the most densely populated Alcoholics Anonymous area Australia.

In 2019 the groups in Area G:

1. Started a new meeting in Long Bay jail
2. Reinvigorated the relationship with the Forensic Hospital attached to Long Bay jail and restarted a meeting there
3. Continued to forge relationships with NSW prison chaplains
4. Held widely attended workshops and meetings to discuss the structure of AA, the principles embodied in the Traditions and the Concepts, and service in general
5. Continued to coordinate more than 10 regular H and I treatment centre rosters
6. Submitted topics to conference on two thirds majority of delegates to Conference, the principle of rotation, and continuous improvement in our General Service Office.
7. Continued to hold over 100 Alcoholics Anonymous meetings each week
8. Continued to see increased group representation at our combined Central Service Office and Area Meetings.
9. Contributed financially toward:
  - The service structure of AA as a whole,
  - Continuing the supply of AA literature to treatment centres in the area

- The supply of AA literature to jails
- Contributed to AA internationally, including an initiative to bring Big Books into schools in India
- Continued to support other areas coming to Conference through Conference levies

### **Issues of Concern to Area G**

For some years now, questions have been consistently raised by members of Area G regarding whether Conference conforms to AA's principle of rotation (tradition 9), and whether conference is a representative body of AA as a whole (concept 1), given that we fall short of a two thirds majority of delegates, as per the minimum requirement in the original Conference charter designed by our founder Bill Wilson.

The history of these concerns being raised is documented in previous conference reports. The conscience of Area G is also unanimous in its view that rotation is a vital AA principle and that the final authority in AA should be AA members through their groups. This is currently not the situation in Australia and has not been for many years.

The experience of the areas representatives has been that the Areas' conscience is often in the minority at conference. While this in itself is not an issue, what is of concern is that those entrusted with the conscience of our area do not feel that the minority voice is given the careful consideration that Concept 5 clearly asks of us, especially of those of us in a position of leadership.

A couple of the dominant but false narratives that have emerged from my experience of conference that we feel need to be challenged are

- *"The groups cannot tell Conference how to run Conference through topics".*

It is up to Conference to decide how to run Conference, if members of the fellowship are not given the opportunity to view a topic on this issue because it has been rejected by the Agenda Committee, then groups are being denied the right to participate, or at the very least be informed, in the running of their fellowship.

- *"That everyone attending conference is representing AA as a whole, so a two thirds majority of delegates is unnecessary."*

A reading of Bill Wilson's writing on delegate representation will quickly dispel this myth. We agree with Bill Wilson and expect our structure to reflect the principles our founding members carefully put into place. The delegates are there as representatives of the fellowship and the groups, the trustees are there as board members, they are bound by a charter. Bill Wilson clearly intended that the Delegates should have the final authority through their two thirds majority.

Area G believes that a fellowship that regards Unity as one of its defining principles, must demonstrate genuine respectful consideration to its minority voice. It cannot continue to minimise the serious concerns of a large number of its members regarding the AA General Service Structure and expect those members to continue to be motivated to support that structure.

We are an Area that takes the Principles that are embodied in our Steps, our Traditions and our Concepts seriously. We love our history, our founding stories and the unique structure that was developed by our founders. The Australian AA General Service Structure does not seem to be operating in accordance with some of these principles. Our groups through their Delegates are not the final authority, and the principle of rotation is inconsistently practiced in some roles and not practiced at all in others. These are facts, they not just the opinion of a few disgruntled members as has been suggested to dismiss these concerns.

Discussion and debate mean that there is thought and passion and, most importantly, that people care enough to stay and say – this is not working; how can we make it better? I am proud to be a part of an informed Area that questions the status quo and has the willingness to speak up in the face of criticism.

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## **Area H**

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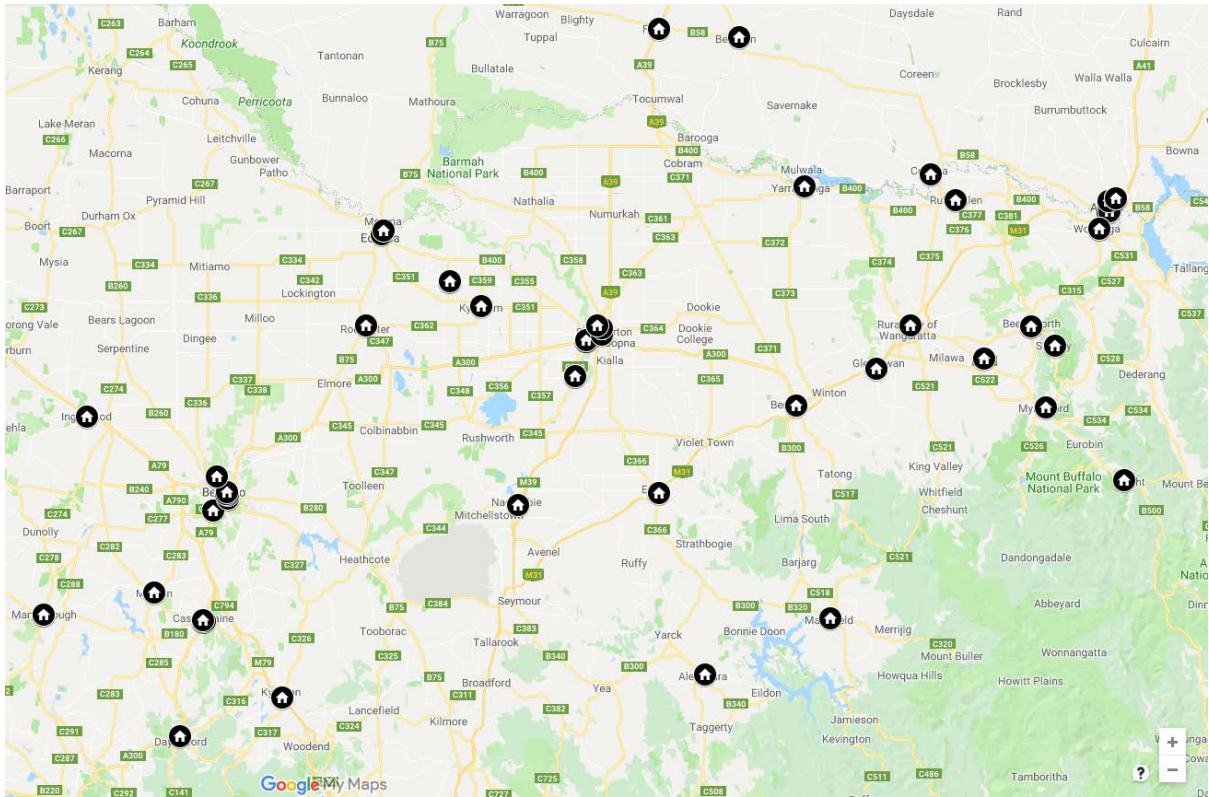
## **SOUTHERN REGION**

### **Area B**

Hi all, my name is Paul and I'm an alcoholic. I am grateful to be here at my third conference where I hope I can contribute in some small way to further our primary purpose.

Area B encompasses a large area of central and north/north eastern Victoria and lower Southern NSW. Our groups currently number 62, decreasing over the last year from 64. See the map below, roughly centred geographically in our Area. It shows groups spread an area of over 50,000 square kms (I missed a zero last year) with in excess of 300 km east to west and about 200 km north to south at the farthest points.





*(thanks to the AA Times and Google Maps for the map above)*

Last year, I reported that we have struggled to attract members to ongoing service commitments as evidenced in the poor attendance at Area assemblies over the recent years (14%). This year, I'm happy to report that of the three active districts in the area, there have been further efforts to turn this around.

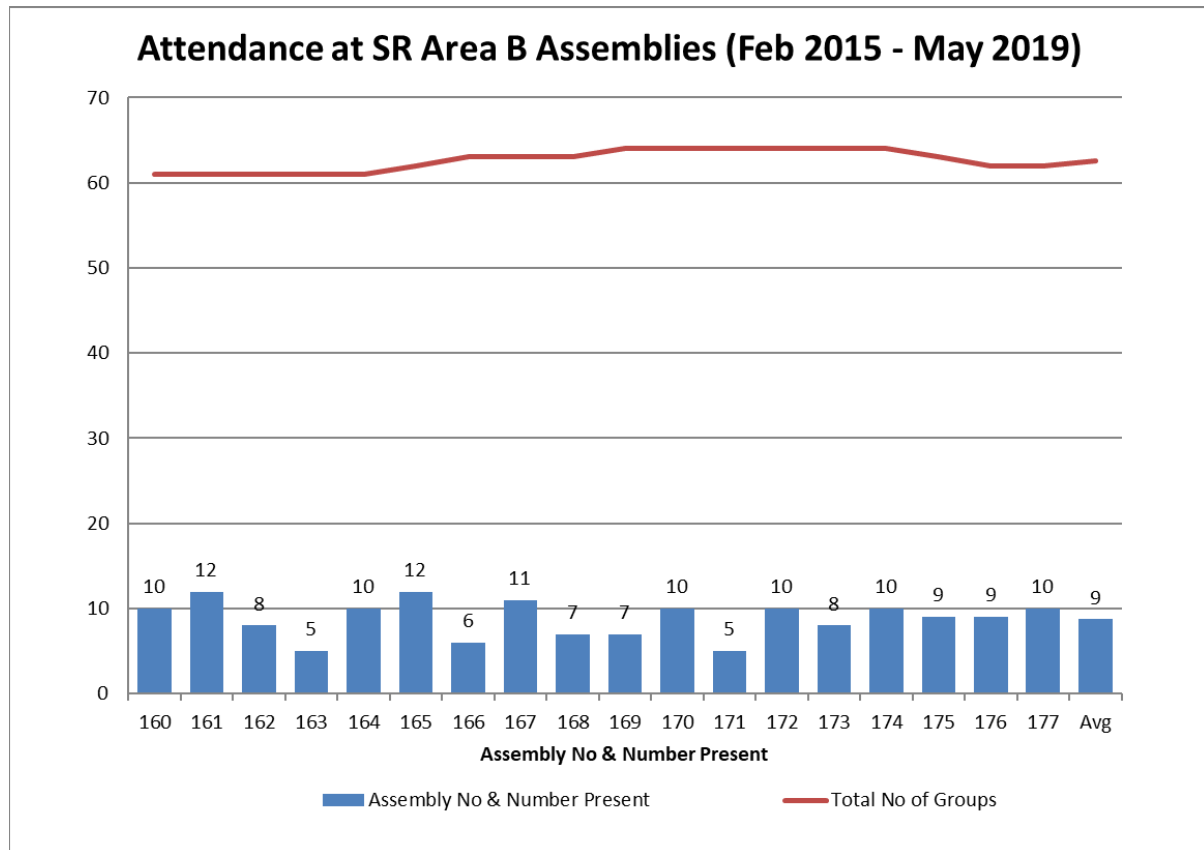
Several years ago, we trialled rotation of Assembly locations between Shepparton, Albury and Bendigo in an effort to make assemblies more accessible. However, we found the attendance declined at all locations and returned to holding assemblies at Shepparton as it is the most central geographically. Attendance increased marginally since that time.

Taking a look at what the area does well or not so well by taking an inventory in February was a catalyst for a workshop on "Participation". This led to discussion about the need for a website for the Area. Steps are being taken to develop a draft website for review at the November Area B Assembly.

Other ideas that have been suggested include the Bendigo district continuing to look at what may attract members in fellowship – that is activities beyond the rooms, hoping that this will lead to a closer AA community. It was a general consensus that holding events that foster fellowship may bring people together in service as well.

This has led to the formation of a district sub-committee to begin arrangements for a similar event to the one that used to be known as the "Bendigo Combined Weekend" previously held in March over the period of 1991 - 2012.

Similarly, the Shepparton district has had an injection of enthusiasm that has ensured that the 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend would go ahead from the 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and Albury Wodonga's 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be celebrated during the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019.



We have three participating districts, active over the last year doing their best to carry out their function and maintain a presence. We have members active in public information at area, district and group levels that continue to demonstrate their gratitude with action.

Albury, Bendigo and Shepparton districts maintain 24-hour phone services, with Bendigo having a consistent web presence for a decade.

We generally precede our area assemblies with workshops. Over the last year, we've conducted workshops that included area inventory, conference topics and conference approved literature. Due to the unavailability of the 2019 topics we have not reviewed at the assembly, but distributed directly to district and groups.

Financially, we've managed to keep paying our way, but without the literature sales contributions we would find group/district contributions falling short of the minimum needed to send our delegate to conference, let alone making reasonable surplus for contributions to GSO.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to align myself to be most useful in carrying out our primary purpose...

Yours in fellowship,

Paul C  
Southern Region Area B Delegate

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**Area C**  
No delegate

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**Area D**

Hi Everyone,

David A, Alcoholic, Area D Conference Delegate Southern Region, second term, panel 60.

That's a long introduction.

Area D SR. covers the Western suburbs of Melbourne, two major regional cities Geelong and Ballarat and many rural Central Victorian towns.

Our Area Registrar shows that we have 124 registered groups and no doubt many more meetings. Although there have been some significant growth in GSR's attending Area Assemblies there is still a large number of groups not participating in the general service structure.

So as an attempt to find out why, the Area is holding an inventory day on 27th October 2019 to try and gather together as many group members as we can and determined why the lack of participation.

One of our members visited a few groups recently and asked the reason why they had no GSR attending Area Assembly. The reasons varied from:

- They didn't know what a GSR was.
- They hadn't had anyone to fill that position.
- They didn't think it was necessary to have one.
- Disunity in Victoria have made them disillusioned.

But once prompted they did mostly agree to bring it up at the next group conscience.

The final format for the inventory day is still taking shape but it will include:

- Guest speaker
- Presentations by Area Committee members
- Active group participation
- The opportunity to have your say

And of course some great food (a must at A.A functions)

We're also trialling the use of phone/ webcam participation, which is a step forward in trying different ways to get people involved.

Another great acquisition to our Area is a new P.I./CPC Co-ordinator who has hit the ground running. It is by no coincidence that every time the area has a proactive, go getter P.I./CPC Co-ordinator the Area comes alive and groups get more involved and as a by-product there is a larger attendance at Area Assemblies.

Some of the recent activities have been:

- Generation next stall – mental health and well-being for young people.
- Radio stations – 24 regional stations playing CSA's over 1000 times already and feedback through phone Coordinator's to say that at least two callers were a result of hearing CSA's on Radio.
- TV. CSA's Coordinator started looking into these and one of the local groups are interested in taking on the responsibility of following these through.
- Getting groups to check the possibility of advertising meeting times in local newspapers in the community sections.
- Making available through Area some basic P.I packs for groups that are interested in doing P.I in their local area.
- Organising a fundraiser to raise money for a larger P.I specialised project such as a sign at a train station. Stay tuned!

Our P.I./CPC coordinator will also be attending the P.I./CPC FORUM in September and is looking forward to hearing about other ways to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

Area D also maintains a website for all Area D functions and reports. It includes quick reference guide for GSR's, Group and district activities. It will also update GSO + GSB notifications. Over 30 day period (July/Aug) there was 112 sessions by 94 users and 178 pages viewed.

Area Registrar – Shows 124 groups with 53 GSR's and 8 alternative GSR's registered.

A reflection as to why we're holding an Inventory Day as previously mentioned.

Financially we are well supported by groups always been able to pay conference levy and hold functions such as the Southern Regional Festival (2018) and the upcoming Inventory Day (Oct 2019). As previously mentioned an active P.I always seem to get groups contributing.

Area D also has two inter-groups that share their reports at assemblies.

The Victorian Prisons Intergroup (VPI) has a close connection with Area D because a large number of prisons are in our geographical area and many of the fellowship that attend meetings in these institutions are from groups from within Area D also. Approximately \$1500 a quarter is spent on literature that goes into these prisons. Made up of approximately 150 beginners packs, 150 little big books, 150 little 12 x 12 plus a limited number of other books such as Daily Reflections, Living Sober etc.

North West Intergroup as the name suggests is the northwest suburbs of Melbourne and they maintain a phone call diversion roster of volunteers to take calls from the alcoholic out there still looking for help.

Their records show that over 65 days from 12 May to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 they received 85 calls, the majority of calls from the north-west catchment area.

The NWIG committee concluded that there was still a need to continue maintaining the phone line roster and that the 1300 diversion system is working correctly.

So to conclude my delegates report for 2019 Area D is progressing in the right direction and as with personal inventory the area is prepared to ascertain what is required to bring about change and growth in the area. Sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly.

I look forward to being a part of new growth in Area D in the next 12 months as Delegate and beyond.

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### **Area E**

No delegate.

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### **Area F**

I was elected as delegate for Area F, beginning March this year. I have previously been to Conference as an alternate.

Area F is still in early days, and taking small slow steps forward. Until recently we had a full committee but have since received a couple of resignations. Our next Assembly falls between time of writing and Conference so will bring any news with me.

We are focussed on trying to attract more groups into the structure, and are working with our Districts to lift enthusiasm for service against a background of the hangover of previous disputes well documented elsewhere. Fortunately we are starting to reach groups and members who want to focus on the future and carrying the message. We are physically located next to a large long time dormant Area and are figuring out how to spread the idea of the need for connection to conference for groups there too.

We have a workshop about the service structure and the utility of service planned to happen before our next assembly, and will be keen to use this as a rallying point to bring on new groups.

We are financially ok and will be addressing requests from individual groups to help support them and their speakers to take literature into rehabs and detox clinics.

I look forward to hearing how other Areas around the country have tackled these issues when I meet everyone in Sydney.

Geoff S

Delegate, Area F, Southern Region

## **NORTH EASTERN REGION**

### **Area A**

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### **Area B**

My name is Chris B. I am an alcoholic, and currently the Delegate for Area B of the North Eastern Region.

Area B extends from the southern boundary of the Fitzroy River in Rockhampton, down to the northern border of the Brisbane River. Both boundaries cut through the middle of the respective cities, so there is a great deal of difficulty in defining which groups belong where in terms of District or Area. From Brisbane, the Area extends out towards the western border of Queensland, bypassing Toowoomba, but including Dalby and on out the Warrego highway, with the same pattern leading west from Rockhampton. It is a ridiculously large piece of Australia, but with a relatively small population. In theory it would be an ideal Area to divide to provide another Delegate to Conference, but in practice this would probably not work, especially now with the difficulties being experienced in Area A of the NER, and the fact that there are only 4 functioning Districts in this huge area.

This will be my last report to Conference. It's the end of my third year, and it's time to move on. I can't believe how quickly the time has flown. It was very valuable indeed to have had a full term as Alternate Delegate, and I am pleased that Cliff P has taken up the challenge to be Alternate Delegate. Preparing to hand over my role is interesting, because I get to see how much I have learned.

I have loved serving in the role of Delegate. It's been an amazing experience. Many thanks to Area B NER for the wonderful support I have received.

The Structure of AA Australia works well for our comparatively small numbers of members. Bill's vision has been adjusted to fit us here. Our General Office staff have a combined wealth of knowledge and experience. It may not be perfect, but it's not broken, so let's all try to work with it, to trust our trusted servants, and to support, rather than to tear down. It has always been a relief to be able to pick up the phone and ask them any question, to receive a sensible reply, because they know what they are doing, and how things work.

Area B contains three large Correctional Facilities. Woodford Prison is well serviced by a small group of members, who really treasure this service. They are always on the look out for likely members to join the roster. This dedicated group facilitate up to four meetings there every Friday, and one member takes another meeting out there on alternate Saturdays. Through good liaison with the Correctional Authorities, AA has been given permission to have a large print Big Book left in each punishment cell, along with the only other book – the Bible. Considering that statistically 75% of any prison population is there for alcohol related offenses, this is a masterful incentive. Large print because if an inmate gets sent to punishment, they are not allowed their specs. Maryborough Prison is basically serviced by one AA member, and one helper. They take

2 meetings per week to that facility. Sad to report that although we had an approach from a member of the staff of Capricornia Correctional Facility, no AA member in Rockhampton or surrounding area was able to take up the challenge of doing service of this nature up there.

#### Highlights from the year.

In February, Cliff and I were discussing the age-old gap in knowledge about structure and service. We decided to offer a service workshop day, which we ran with a different format to most workshops, brought about mainly because we had lots to talk about in a short space of time. Despite being almost stymied by Hurricane Oma which obligingly moved away for the day, the event got off to a flying start with a member giving a very powerful share about how service has helped her in recovery/AA life and in her private/working life. That was followed immediately with a series of 10-minute service talks, without any breaks. We had tea and coffee available throughout, but no formal breaks except lunch. We put on a Traditions play, and we even had time for a presentation on the Concepts. There has been much favourable feedback, with people continuing to comment on how useful it was. It was an easy day to organise. Everybody who was asked to participate agreed, and all enjoyed the experience. We mixed it up with the use of some AV stuff, and some paper and pen sessions. It was great fun. Everybody went home with a commemorative bookmark, and a printed booklet.

We have been trying to come up with ways to include our remote members in the Area Assemblies. Some of them live 2 day's drive away. The Area is going to trial using a Conference Call facility to have those members "present" in the Assembly room. A small committee has been formed to formulate some guidelines, especially around voting. Our area still gives some members an allowance to travel to Assemblies and encourages Districts to support this travel as well.

The Tag-A-Long has been held in this Region, since 2013 and is becoming an increasingly popular event. Great opportunities for people to enjoy larger face to face meetings, and campfire sessions. More and more the participants are seeing opportunities for effective Public Information. Contacting these busy and stressed outback people prior to the arrival of the group in town seems to work very well. Among other events this year the travellers and locals met with health professionals at the Murgon hospital, to have lunch and a PI session. There were 27 professionals there, and 7 AA's. At Longreach there were 32 health professionals and 11 AA's. Articles were published in both local newspapers. This is a brilliant effort. Grass-roots AA at it's best. Experience has shown that it works well if the Professionals are contacted in advance and invited to the meetings, rather than just expecting them to rock up.

Another wonderful thing which has happened this year is that we were contacted by the supervisor of first year medical students from Griffiths University. They were based at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, for their Community Placement Programme. Many community groups took part in this – for instance the Hear and Say Centre, and Indigenous Health Facilities. We were not able to offer the students days at our facility, but they warmly welcomed our suggestion that a small group of us go and talk to them about AA. This was followed by question and answer time. The Students were all interested and engaged. Some had never heard of AA, so it was a marvellous opportunity to sow some seeds with these young medics right at the beginning of their careers. They were all given an information pack for professionals, and a local meeting list, along with an invitation to attend any meeting as an observer. We were pleasantly

surprised with their positive responses. We have given them notice that they will all be invited to the biennial Professional luncheon, due to be held in 2020. We were presented with a certificate of appreciation – what does one do with those things? – and invited to attend the follow up day. It was very pleasing to hear that the students got a good idea of AA and will be able to pass it on if necessary. We understand that next year's First Year students will be offered the same experience.

The Professional luncheons have been held regularly on the Sunshine Coast. We are very fortunate to have someone in the District who has a real talent for organising these events. It's a long process because as he explains, what we are doing is building relationships, which takes time. Members are invited to forward the name(s) of their health professionals to the organiser. Formal written invitations are then sent out to all the contacts thus established and the professionals are offered the opportunity to attend the function as our guests, for a very nice meal and to hear the carefully selected speakers. Usually one long-time sober AA member and a professional with experience of alcoholism, and of working with AA. Equivalent numbers of AA members are invited to attend at their own expense. The seating is managed so that the professionals are parted from their associates and seated alternately with an AA member. All are given an information pack, to take home. There is a literature display. It is a marvellous opportunity for networking and planting a seed. The formal part of the event is short and to the point, leaving plenty of time for chatting.

Area B has returned to holding four assemblies per year, which is working well. At all our Assemblies we hold one-hour workshops on Service Topics. This is a great learning experience both for the presenters, and the recipients, and a very positive start to the Assemblies.

Alcoholics Anonymous will only continue to thrive and grow if we all pay attention to our inheritance. New members are the lifeblood, and it's vital to ensure that they have clear unbiased information, based only on the literature. We've only just begun!

Many thanks again for the opportunity to serve AA Australia.

Chris Bekker

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**Area C**

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**CENTRAL REGION**

**AREA A**

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## **AREA B**

Hi all , My name is Rob C , my home group is the Adelaide Book Study and my sobriety date is 11-2-1998 .

This is my 3<sup>rd</sup> year as Delegate of Area B in the Central Region and my final year at conference , it has been a great learning experience and I have made many mistakes but I continue to ask for help and guidance from a wealth of experienced members and a loving God .

Area B is south of the River Torrens and covers a mass of land across too the New South Wales and Victorian Borders .

The Area has 5 Districts , 4 with DCM's -

City and Eastern District – kicked off again this year after many years sitting dormant .

Southern District – has become healthy , meets every 2 months and has began too become structured .

Riverland – Is very active with Attendance in the Cadell Prison and is doing PI in the community .

Fleurieu is currently not functioning .

Our Newest District is the Lower South East – The District is situated on the Limestone coast , from Narracoorte down too Mount Gambier , the groups decided they wanted to be a part of the General Service Structure and where unsure what they could do as they where in the Fleurieu District which stretches all the way down too Victor Harbour , 60 minutes from the Adelaide CBD .

After consulting with Valerie at GSO and our Regional Trustee Andy P , they decided to inform all the groups in the Fleurieu District that they would form their own District and did , they have elected a DCM , have a secretary and are in Contact with the Area and meeting every second month.

We hold a annual assembly and business meetings every month at Area B , this years assembly was the biggest I have seen in many years , we have had a few of our trusted servants rotate out and many new faces have come along , we go through the same ups and downs and all you guys in all the other Regions .

TCF -

Our coordinator is Clinton M , he has been trying to establish a meeting at the Mobilong Prison , he coordinates our presence in the Woolshed Rehab and DASSA Detox , groups currently look after each on a weekly rotation 3 groups over a month on Tuesdays at the Woolshed and 5 groups over a month on Fridays at the Detox , we are looking into the rotation of these groups and establishing guidelines for the spirit of rotation , representation at the District or Area with A GSR and a coordinator for the Group who is part of the TCF sub-committee .

PI&CPC -

Brett has just taken the position of coordinator from Courtney who put in a stellar effort and organised the Doctors Conference held recently in Adelaide and funded by the GSB .

We are still attending the Gennext conference , many of the Districts here are starting too do PI .

Our new chair is Rick , former DCM of the Southern District , we have new treasurer – Mark and new Secretary Kim .

The Area B camp was a great success this year , 150 members attended , Andy P organised a Magical Mystery Tour from the Canberra Convention to the Roonka campsite , there was also a 2021 Convention Auction Fundraiser , the camp raised \$5000 this year for Area B , CSO and the 2021 National Convention to be held in Adelaide .

I look forward too seeing everyone again at conference this year and meeting all the new guys .

In Unity and Service ,  
Rob

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## **WESTERN REGION**

### **AREA A**

Thank you for the privilege of being in service as the Area A, Western Region Area Delegate. I am Brian and I am a grateful member of this fellowship. I was elected as Delegate in February of this year.

Area A, Western Region, covers a vast area that includes areas north of the Swan River in the city of Perth to the top of the North West region of the state and out to the eastern border area between WA and South Australia. We currently have 91 meetings and 73 Groups in the Area. Included in this total are 15 country groups and 3 meetings being held in correctional facilities.

Area Assemblies are held every 3 months, with the first being held this year at the beginning of February. On average, there are 20 GSRs attending these meetings. A new committee, excluding Delegate and Alternate Delegate, will be elected in the first meeting of next year. All other positions will remain stable.

Area A also includes two districts, Swan Districts which operates between the Perth CBD to the Eastern Suburbs and the Midwest District based in Geraldton.

### **Public Information**

The Area A PI have been very busy with high schools. They have attended four talks at various schools in the Northern Suburbs and currently there is a member emailing other schools in our Area informing schools of our services. In addition, they have participated in the following activities.

- The Cyril Jackson Health Festival.
- The Balcatta SHS Health Expo
- A talk at Alta-1 CARE school
- The Belmont City College Health Expo
- Library displays and information to doctors surgeries are ongoing, especially in the Swan District.
- Exploring carrying the message to Universities and TAFEs for both professionals in

training (nurses, midwives, counsellors, doctors etc) and students who may have a drinking problem.

- Yours in Service, PI/CPCToday the PI/CPC attended the Swan District Committee Meeting and they want to form a sub-committee group to Area A.

The PI/CPC requested GSR's ask their Group if they want to create a PI Representative role to do, for example, pamphlet distribution in their locality to Medical Centres, Doctors and libraries.

## **Treatment and Correctional Facilities**

### **Rehabilitation Facilities**

Weekly meetings continue to be held at Salvation Army's Bridge House a detox facility, Graylands Mental Health Hospital, and Next Step Rehab. The Coordinators of both Bridge House and Graylands meetings have been proactive in maintaining the meetings and carrying the message.

Next Step does not have a coordinator at the time of this report, which is a necessary role as there is a requirement to speak with the manager at Next Step at least once per month and this flow of communication needs to continue. AA is invited to the stakeholder, Mental Health Commission, events. The Treatment Centre Coordinator has been acting in the role since December and the roster is set for six months. All committee and GSR's have been requested to take to their groups, noting that a minimum of two years' sobriety is required, information relating to the role and process will need to be read and discussed with the Treatment Coordinator.

The Ngalla Mia meeting also does not have a coordinator and as of May of this year, was not being attended by clients. Given this information and that there are AA meetings twice per week within close proximity, it was decided at the last Area A Meeting in May, that literature will continue to be stocked and the meeting be closed.

### **Bandyup Women's Prison**

The weekly visits by female AA members to the women's prison at Bandyup have mostly been going very well. The numbers of inmates attending vary, sometimes they have had 2 women attending and other times up to 10. Information, reported back by attendees, is that the prison itself is very under staff and because of this they have had more lockdowns. Sometimes attendees are advised in advance about the lockdowns and other times they are not. While this has proven quite challenging for those members attending, the meetings have continued, even if there have been a few occasions the meeting has been cancelled.

Other challenges faced by attending members, has been the continuity of staff. The Officers reported to change quite regularly and due to this some of them have no idea about the weekly visits and their role in relation to the meetings. Attending members have had to educate prison staff on what happens which takes time and often results in only a few inmates being contacted and allowed to attend.

### **Correctional Facilities (Male)**

Weekly meetings continue at both Wooroloo and Acacia Prisons.

The meetings have been going okay, with between 3-14 inmates attending. There have been some issues with getting AA members clearances from the prisons, and only a few visiting members having clearance. Communication with both prisons is continuing

aimed at getting more members cleared and able to attend the meetings. In order to make visits simpler for members with clearances, the meeting format has been adjusted to facilitate as many of the inmates sharing as possible in the given time. All new attendees receive a mini blue book and a green prison pamphlet to take with them.

### **WAYPAA**

WAYPAA remains strong, with 16 committee members, committed to carrying the message and organising and facilitating events throughout the year. One such event was Bare foot bowls with approx. 100 attendees. The last event at the time of this report was AA's Got Talent. All funds raised go towards the WAYPAA AA Convention at which they will organise a guest speaker.

Brian D.  
Delegate of Area A, Western Region.

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### **Area B**

Hi my Name is Clare and I am an Alcoholic. I am privileged to be of service in my 1<sup>st</sup> year as Delegate Area B, Western Region. Our Area is currently active and fairly well supported with all service positions currently filled except for the Treatments Coordinator. As an area we support the spirit of rotation and all positions rotate every 2 years. We strongly advocate sponsoring into service and often discuss at meetings how we can carry the message and support service at all levels. Area B has 3 active Districts these being Port, Peel and South West Districts. As of our July assembly Area B has 88 registered groups and approximately 104 meetings per week. Of these 6 are held in Prisons and 33 are held in regional and country areas. Meeting formats vary and include ID meetings, women's and men's meetings, spiritual concepts, big book and steps meetings and topic and AA approved literature meetings. Over the past year Area B has had a strong focus on carrying the message, supporting service at all levels and PI. We continue to explore ways, in which we can make use of new technologies to more effectively communicate within the fellowship and without as well as exploring options as we move forward in an increasingly cashless society.

2018 saw the birth of the fledgling South West District and it has been a pleasure to follow their progress as they have progressed into a flourishing active district supporting the Regional and Country Communities in the South West of Western Australia. Many groups in the District have shown their support through both seventh tradition and service. This has greatly assisted the district in initial set up, which has allowed the district to progress their outreach activities. A literature fund has been set up at the CSO. At the last Area Assembly the District reported that:

- Although there have been many changes and adjustments which have taken a lot to getting on top of, the feeling is positive and upbeat for the progress of the district. The initial outreach and mail-out to all Doctors Surgeries within the district has now been completed, along with all Courts, but the response were limited so follow ups are now being conducted to see what we can do to help the professionals.
- The Palmerston Rehab meeting is continuing to remain strong, despite several volunteers who were previously able to attend, being unable to continue. A new strong core group of members have come onboard and continue to chair and

facilitate those meetings each Tuesday night. The response from the residents is very encouraging. Many are leaving and remaining in contact with AA Members and getting to local meetings. A roster list is being drawn up to ensure that there is always one or two members in attendance with at least one back up. Due to the lack of financial resources the SW District has decided to purchase and provide little blue books for the newcomers and the regular Big Books are still for sale along with other literature. The district also funds the chip purchases for this meeting

- The district dedicated help line phone has been set up and running and is rotation between the various towns and groups. There have been some limited calls, but largely it has been quiet so far until further outreach can push the message out there. The big plus is that members who are looking for a service position can utilize this as an opportunity, which has been well received.
- There has been a decision to purchase additional literature from CSO for the purpose to popping Big books into the local libraries.
- PI intends to hold a workshop for GSRs for the surrounding areas, however the workload on the few people has been considerable in the last couple of months, so time has been of a premium. Temporarily this has been put on hold until we can get more information together.
- SW District members are still able to access a list of upcoming event dates via the secret Facebook group pages for Busselton and Bunbury. This has been generally well received and a good tool for encouraging unity.

In summary the SW District is starting to make slow and steady progress, with member enthusiasm starting to grow. If you sat in a local meeting 3 years ago perhaps 25% would be working a program of recovery and have a sponsor, but if you were to look today, you would find probably at least 75% now so that indicates a slow change. Like all changes, progress is slow, but with continued progress and hard work, we are hoping that the district continues to step out and carry the message.

Since reactivating in 2017 Port District continues to focus on carrying the message, PI and building opportunities to support service and fellowship and encourage group participation with a well attended Unity BBQ held at the end of February. The BBQ provided opportunity for members to engage in fellowship, learn about service opportunities and sign up for service activities such as prison meetings, treatment centers and PI. Following on from the success of the unity BBQ Port District have increased their meetings. Meetings will now be held every second month at 12 Steps House, Willagee, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday every second month. A sausage sizzle will be held prior to each meeting it is hoped that as well as providing regular opportunities for fellowship it will also increase the attractiveness of attending District meetings and hopefully engage members into service. In addition port District report that they are:

- Continuing to develop relationships with the Fremantle Courts. This has been a slow process. Currently the Courts have communicated that although they can't advocate for AA members to hand out AA literature they have allowed a stand for information which Port District keep stocked including cards with AA contact numbers.
- The Mental Health Unit at Fremantle Hospital, Alma Street have establish links with Fremantle AA groups that hold regular meetings on hospital grounds. This relationship allows group members to collect patients from the Alma Street Unit to attend meetings.

- A Steps workshop to be held in November at 12 Steps House, Willagee.

As of the last Area B assembly Peel District were pleased to report that attendance at District meetings has improved considerably. As a result of the concern shown about managing such an extensive geographical area Peel District defined their boundaries and provided a map to Area. The concern being that the Eastern boundary of the WA/SA border incorporated a vast rural and remote area, too large for the Peel District to service. Peel District remains very active, finances are healthy and an increased participation in Peel District Meetings is welcomed. District meeting dates have been changed to the second Saturday of even numbered months commencing this June. This should avoid future conflicts with Area B Assembly meetings. The District reports that:

- AA member Sally K, with the help of Mandurah Group members, has been doing a great job visiting, making contact and supplying literature to a wide range of medical personnel and facilities, including doctors at their surgeries. As these people are so busy, it seems that at times the only way in is to make presentations whilst providing lunch. She also keeps regular contact with some of the schools and various religious persons in the Mandurah area. Sally does not wish to commit as a representative but is happy to continue doing the work in the current capacity as part of the greater Mandurah groups.
- The Peel District pamphlet is continually reviewed and updated at District meetings. Recent changes include Mundijong Wednesday Women's Meeting is now a "closed meeting".
- At the last District meeting, there was some discussion of developing a pamphlet for university students on alcoholism and AA. Also, to develop a single page, brief invite to doctors and other professionals to attend open AA meetings.
- Peel District have newcomers to service packs which they will share with Area B secretary for distribution to GSRs
- The District held a Workshop on Groups, which was attended by 45 to 50 members. A summary of the points raised was submitted to the Serenity magazine.
- The system of having separate a Minute Secretary and an Honorary Secretary is working well as it divides an otherwise heavy workload.
- Adding an Action Plan Summary to the Minutes is helping to remind members to follow-up on the Meeting's decisions.

Supported by the Districts, Groups and individual AA members, Area B Public Information Representative, Lyndal has done an amazing job of coordinating Area PI activities. Area supported her attendance at the National PI & CPC Forum and is looking forward to her report at the November Assembly. Area PI activities include:

- Dropping off AA information at doctors surgeries, churches, Peel hospital and health centers utilising funds from Peel District.
- AA members have attended Colby College.
- AA members approached Rockingham Mental Health ward
- AA members are registered to attend Health Expo at Como Secondary College
- Patients from Alma St are now attending AA meetings at Fremantle Hospital
- AA posters and literature has been dropped off at Police Stations and are regularly refreshed
- All courts across Area B are covered. Members stock literature, attend court and approach public to offer AA message

- AA information stands at Mental Health Awareness Forum and at an upcoming Aboriginal Alcohol and other Drugs conference.

Area B services six (6) prisons Damien T is the Area B Corrections Coordinator, however, to reduce burn out and support the role Area B has developed a Corrections Sub-committee and assigned each prison its own coordinator. Each coordinator is then responsible for coordinating rosters, literature etc for their prison. This system is working well. Progress reports from each of the prisons follow:

#### **Corrections Coordinator for Hakea Prison, Canningvale – Damien T**

Hakea Prison is the largest prison in WA, with over 1000 inmates. Meetings are held Thursdays at 12:30pm. Because Hakea is a transitional facility, the inmates are transient, which makes it hard to get a regular steady group. However, it is usually well attended with 10 - 20 inmates each week. The prison is a maximum-security facility, and as such, the meeting cannot be conducted without a member in attendance. Due to the meeting being during a workday, we can find it difficult to get people able or willing to attend. As I am now working full time I have not attended the meeting myself for three months. I'm very grateful to Richard C and Darren K, who have maintained the meeting during this period. However, Hakea has cancelled the meeting several times in the last few months due to staffing issues, and Richard reports he has only attended one meeting in the last month, at which there were several inmates. Richard has continued to hand out literature and says there is always a demand for the Big Book. Three other members have applied for clearance to the prison, Steve M, Sean D and Ned G and we are awaiting their clearances now.

I would like to express my gratitude to those mentioned above for their service and commitment. Often we see the boys post sentencing at Casuarina or Karnet Prison and they have been introduced to AA via the meeting in Hakea. I believe it is making a big difference. I would encourage anyone that works away, on a roster or has flexibility in their work to attend, even if it is only once a month.

#### **Corrections coordinator for Melaleuca – Maria B**

The Melaleuca Women's prison meeting was reopened on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April this year. I would like to thank the members that are attending and make the meeting possible and those that have applied and are awaiting clearance. I would also like to thank Mauz, the Chaplain at Melaleuca, and the officers who make our meeting possible. They are all incredibly supportive. It was actually Mauz that approached AA about starting a meeting at Melaleuca!

While we do have several members waiting for clearance, we still need more! At the moment it is quite the juggle to cover the roster and I am so grateful to those members that have helped out by attending more than their rostered once a month commitment. While meetings in the prison have the same format as meetings on the 'outside', they are more than 'just another meeting'. There is something very special about them and I feel extremely privileged to be a part of them. Members attending have told me how rewarding they find the meetings. The inmates attending the meeting always tell us how grateful they are that we are there, and I share that gratitude. (The inmates attending, are of course also AA members; I am using the terms 'members' and 'inmates' for ease of distinction) We have 10-15 women attending each week.

As Melaleuca is primarily a remand facility, many of the women are there for a relatively short time. This means that we have a LOT of newcomers! Therefore this means that we

require a large amount of literature. I would like to thank those Groups that have already kindly donated literature or funds to purchase it. There are a few Groups that have a Prison Literature Donation tin on the Chair's table at meetings, and I would like to take this opportunity to suggest that your Group consider doing the same. These donations benefit all the prisons in Area B. Another option is your Group could 'sponsor' a prison meeting directly.

As mentioned, there are a lot of newcomers, but there are also some women that have attended regularly since the meeting opened. They are very enthusiastic and have brought other women to the meeting with them. The meeting has recently changed from a pure ID meeting to a steps study meeting at the women's request. At the women's request at a recent meeting, a guard kindly photocopied Step 1 from the 12 and 12 and the St Francis of Assisi prayer for those attending to take away with them. (We now have a template for a bookmark with several AA prayers on it as these have been very popular.)

There have been requests for sponsorship and we are working with Mauz to facilitate this. The women are shown how to contact us after their release by ringing the CSO and one woman did just that! Many members showed their support and she attended several meetings. She recently moved from the area, and while she did pick up a drink, she has been back in contact. She told me she 'doesn't want to go back to her old ways' and has got herself to a meeting!

In closing, I would like to thank Alcoholics Anonymous for allowing me the privilege of this Service.

#### **Corrections coordinator for Karnet – Jon D**

The Skippy Group of Alcoholics Anonymous continues to meet at the Karnet Prison Farm on a weekly basis between 7-8pm every Tuesday.

A bi-weekly roster is currently shared between Jon, Damien and Kerry.

The attendance varies between 5-15 people per meeting.

#### **Corrections coordinator for Casuarina – James M & Justin (alternate)**

Meetings at Casuarina are run by the inmates themselves and are currently the strongest of Area B's prison meetings. There are 3 meetings a week, Big Book study on Tuesday and Wednesday. There are currently 2 people in the prison going through the steps and it is anticipated that they then will take others in prison through the steps.

Justin and James recently attended a health expo in Casuarina. If members would like to get involved in prison service contact details are in the Serenity magazine. There are now separate contact people for different prisons.

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### **NORTHERN REGION**



## GENERAL SERVICE BOARD REPORTS

### CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS & REPORT

Before I give my Chairman's report, I would like us to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet (the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation) and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging.

Welcome all to the 61<sup>st</sup> Australian General Service Conference, with our very appropriate theme being 'Our Primary Purpose'.

We have several new Conference members this year, so a special welcome to:

Adrian (Area C, Eastern Region)

Anna (Area E, Eastern Region).

Bonnie (Area C, North Eastern Region)

Brian (Area A, Western Region)

Clare (Area B, Western Region)

Carolyn (Area A, Northern Region)

Jack (Area A, Central Region)

Tracy (Area A, North Eastern Region) and

Stephen (North Eastern Regional Trustee).

Also welcome back to returning Conference members:

Geoff (Area F, Southern Region) – previously attended Conference as Alternate Delegate) and Judy (Eastern Regional Trustee) – previously attended Conference as Delegate for Area B, Eastern Region).

During 2019 the General Service Board met in Sydney for one day in February and in Coffs Harbour for two days, where we had the opportunity to meet members from the mid and north coast of New South Wales and also from Queensland. Resolutions from these meetings are in the information section of your Conference folder so there is no need for me to take up time reading them to you.

The General Service Board manned a stand at the National Convention in Canberra and we plan to do this at all future National Conventions.

The Chairs of the various Trustee Committees have provided reports outlining the activities of their committees throughout the year. The Board is aware that, in the last few years, an inordinate amount of time has been focused on internal issues. In 2020 we are looking forward to getting back to our primary purpose focusing on, among other things, raising the profile of AA on a national level via public information and communication with the professional community as well as improving communication with the Fellowship, with a view to encouraging more members to participate.

I wish you all an enjoyable and productive experience and now declare the 61<sup>st</sup> General Service Conference open.

Mike E

Chairman, General Service Board

## **TRUSTEES' FINANCE & BUDGETARY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The committee met in July. Unfortunately, due to problems encountered with the changeover from MYOB to Xero, accurate end of year financial reports were not available. The problems were resolved, with the assistance of our accountant, Fabian Ianniello, and the audited report has been completed and approved by the Board. We are pleased to report a healthy profit of \$10,248 for the year. Fabian will be at Conference again this year to present the financial reports and answer any questions you may have.

The Board resolved that austerity measures could be relaxed. This means that we will be sending both World Service Delegates to the World Service Meeting in 2020 and all staff members will attend Board meetings and the National Convention in 2020.

The Board has submitted a topic regarding the publication of AA Around Australia for discussion at the General Service Conference.

A budget for the year ending 30 June 2020 was prepared and sent to the Conference Finance Committee. No comments, feedback or questions were received. We received advice from our auditors that the expectation to have a budget prepared and sent to the Conference Finance Committee by 31<sup>st</sup> August was unreasonable, as realistic budgets cannot be prepared until after the accounts have been audited. This information was conveyed to the Conference Finance Committee.

We expect to have a facility for online donations via the national website available very shortly. All donations must be from AA members and within the donations limit set by Conference.

Penelope Campbell will take up the position of Chair of the Trustees' Finance Committee following Conference.

Mike E

Chair, Trustees' Finance Committee

## **TRUSTEES' TREATMENT FACILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

For some reason, very few topics relating to these areas are submitted to the General Service Conference. Perhaps we can discuss possible reasons for this during the meeting of the Conference Treatment Facilities & Special Needs Committee.

As stated in their Composition, Scope and Procedure document, the responsibility of this Conference committee is to make recommendations to Conference for carrying the message through the service structure to alcoholics within Treatment Facilities and those with special needs.

The Board feels there is room for increased AA activity in these areas, particularly special needs. The General Service Office was recently approached by an Aged Care Facility to assist and we were reminded that this is something we have been neglecting. Southern Region groups are working on assisting deaf alcoholics. Our GSO has provided information gathered when our former National PI&CPC Co-ordinator was doing considerable work in this Area.

Alcoholics with special needs are defined as those separated from the programme and Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous by language, culture, homelessness, impairment of sight, hearing, mental health and other permanent or temporary disabilities.

Next year, Area G Eastern Region will host the last combined National Treatment & Correctional Facilities Forum. After that, as decided by the General Service Conference 2018, there will be one combined biennial event, covering Treatment Facilities, Special Needs, Correctional Facilities, Public Information, Co-operation with the Professional Community and presumably Remote Communities, which is not mentioned in the Advisory Action.

My term as Chair of this committee finishes following Conference, at which time Stephen R, North Eastern Regional Trustee, will take up the position.

Lachlain B  
Chair, Trustees' Treatment Facilities & Special Needs Committee

#### **TRUSTEES' CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES REPORT**

The committee met in July and reviewed our Agenda and Action List. There has been very little committee activity this year as very few topics relating to Correctional Facilities have been submitted to Conference in recent years. The review of the Correctional Facilities Guideline is underway and progress will be reported to the Conference Correctional Facilities Committee during review of their Action List. I will be completing my term as Trustee at the end of this year. Judy W will take up the position of Chair of this committee following Conference.

Bill H  
Chair, Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee

#### **TRUSTEES' INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

There was very little activity at committee level this year. A podcast for inclusion on the national website, providing information on AA Australia's activities internationally is in progress. Lachlan B has kindly volunteered to assist with the technical aspects of making this happen.

As requested by Conference, details of donations to the International Sponsorship Fund were published in AA Around Australia and this will be ongoing. AUD 4,998.82 will be transferred to New York to assist with the International Literature Fund shortly.

It was decided that all bids to host international events, such as the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting and the World Service Meeting, should be approved by the Board.

It was also decided that all requests for funding from the International Sponsorship Fund should be approved by the Board.

Phylis G, the first Asia/Oceania Delegate from Fiji, was assisted to attend the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting in Hong Kong. A copy of the report from Phylis is attached to my World Service Delegate Report.

As usual, our General Service Office has dealt with several international matters throughout the year. They have published details of overseas conventions in AA Around Australia and on our national website.

A request was received from Auckland, New Zealand, GSO to supply them with Australian and American Big Books as their GSO was out of stock. They were advised that, under the terms of our international licencing agreement with New York, we could only supply literature within Australia.

We received a request from Pago Pago Group to translate AA literature into Samoan. We supplied details on the process for getting literature translated, i.e. to contact AA World Services. Many members are unaware that all AA literature is copyrighted and cannot be translated. AA handles all aspects of translation, to ensure that the AA message is kept pure. A copy of their translation policy and request form can be found on their website [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

We received a request from GSO Israel to use one of our Community Service Videos (the child in the wardrobe), which they absolutely loved. Permission was given. AA in Israel is a young community and are just starting out on using media to carry the message.

We had a request from a member in Turkey who was eager to attend a National Convention in Australia. This request was passed on to the Toowoomba 2020 National Convention Committee.

A Canadian member will shortly be arriving to live and work in North Bungunya in Queensland. Unfortunately there is not a meeting nearby, but hopefully she will be able to start one.

I will be finishing my term at the end of the year. Ruby Jones will take up the position of Chair of this committee following Conference.

David E  
Chair, Trustees' International Committee

<b>TRUSTEES' PUBLIC INFORMATION &amp; CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT</b>
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Hia All

Our national [PI@CPC](mailto:PI@CPC) co-ordinator Dave S welcomes all ideas connected to public information he can be contacted on 0423873220 or via email at [aapicpcnational@gmail.com](mailto:aapicpcnational@gmail.com)

Regarding all electronic and professional communications, we are aware that we need to improve communication within the fellowship, we are looking at a number of options to improve this.

It was also noted at the board meeting that we have not had any significant press release for a long time. This may be an option to help promote our message to the general public

We discussed the action list and the update is as follows

#### Advisory Action

010/2018 Conference resolved to accept [PI@CPC](#) committees recommendation to replace the PI poster AA It Works with a contemporary option as there is still demand for this poster. Conference recommends that members and groups be invited to submit suggestions for a new poster or posters to be submitted to conference for consideration  
The poster is going in AA around Australia and website, it has also been sent out to delegates

6-7/13 Updating of [PI@CPC](#) workbook

The workbook is at the printers at the moment with new updates added

042/2017 Bid for 2019 National PI'CPC forum

The national PI'CPC forum was held on 13th-14<sup>th</sup> September in Chatswood

27/2017 National webmaster should be requested to include Duration of meeting field to the list of website meetings

In progress

009/2018 2019 year long PI sub committee to co-ordinate events that allow press, media, book festivals etc to report on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of big book printing

National PI co-ordinator

28/2017 Complete redesign of service website

Redesign in progress

38/2014 An annual review of service website be added to the scope of conference  
[PI@CPC](#)

Will be on agenda 2019

42/2018 Membership survey results will be published on the service website as soon as data is prepared

This has not been done as there was minimal interest from the fellowship

#### Report from National [PI@CPC](#) coordinator

Frustratingly, most commercial avenues require a large budget that I believe would be well beyond the tolerance of members. It is also very fluid in so much as i.e. a static billboard and signage are concerned and will only be seen by mostly the same people repetitively for a short period. A month appears to be the standard campaign time. To attract a wider audience, the ads needs to be relocated at cost. Mobile ads on public transport might be viable locally, but the organisation would need to be done in individual areas involving public and private ownership of the mobile recourses. Electronic billboards, roadside, bus shelters and shopping centres are in the same genre as static boards and host the same issues. Medical Centre screens are a great option but also need to be set up and monitored locally... Great idea though!!!

Google ads... those things that pop up in the corner of the screen while you're online!!! Annoying as they are, they may be a cheap, convenient way to carry our message. A short sharp message like "DRINKING CAUSING YOU TROUBLE... A.A CAN HELP!" The viewer clicks on the ad and is rocketed through the stratosphere (cloud) to arrive on our dedicated landing page. Cost to A.A. between 25c and \$2 per click. This idea got some interest from a number of members who have experience in this field. All of whom can expect a knock on the door if the idea goes further.

I have recently been contacted by the Brazilian Fellowship in regards to their “Anonymous Friend” chat bot app, of which you may be aware. The app is primarily aimed at youth alcohol, but it might have wider implications, given that the age of the “Techno-geek” has risen drastically along with the technology, and I sure with a bit of tinkering by our local Techno Gurus the age gap can easily be bridged. The original app had some security shortfalls which have been addressed and it is due for a re-release. This app could be a useful tool in our far flung remote areas.

I have some concern regarding the Nth Territory fellowship. I’d read an online news report and posted it in the latest edition of the Patter. It report pointed out that a large percentage of Territorians had no knowledge of where to turn with their drinking issues. I wondered how we could help. I emailed our Darwin office but had no response after a couple of weeks, so last week I took the opportunity to call. I got talking to a lady, Michelle, who looks after the office a couple of times a week and has the phone diverted to her mobile at other times. Michelle is an 18 month sober, single Mum, working and studying and has no experience at district or anywhere else. After we spoke she said she would mention it to her 30 plus year sponsor to see what they might do. I have as yet heard nothing from them.

John B. tells me there is no P.I. rep from N.T. visiting the forum, but I remain hopeful I of finding someone with some knowledge of area and perhaps some contacts.

I have had contact with the N.F.P. Australian and New Zealand Mental Health organisation, which is based here on the Gold Coast. They hold numerous conferences and symposiums around the country, giving a platform for professionals to voice new progress for mental health issues. The Gold Coast events have been serviced by the local PI for some years now, by way of a display table and direct contact with professionals. This is a fairly straight-forward approach to engage with professionals and I thought (good grief not again) that we might do more by participating in the main program by way of a dedicated presentation.

Below is a snap-shot of costs from their prospectus for the Child and Adolescents 2020.  
PARTNER, SPONSOR, EXHIBITOR OR ADVERTISER BOOKING COST :-  
PARTNER : Platinum \$10,000 +GST, Gold \$ 7,000 +GST, Silver \$ 4,500 +GST, Bronze \$ 3,000 +GST

EXHIBITOR: Showcase / Trade Display \$ 1,800 +GST, Extra registration (2 max) \$ 450 +GST pp

SPONSOR : Networking Function \$ 5,000 +GST (+ branded cocktail napkins / aprons)  
Games Zone Game 1 | 2 | 3 \$ 3,000 +GST (signage & promotional items) GAME #,  
Barista Cart \$ 4,000 +GST (+ coffee & branded cups), Hydration \$ 1,500 +GST (+ water bottles), Delegate Notebook \$ 1,000 +GST (+ item)

ADVERTISE : Conference plenary drop (2 only) \$ 650 +GST plus item (content subject to approval), Conference handbook - full page \$ 600 +GST, Conference handbook - half page \$400 +GST, Conference handbook - quarter page \$ 250 + GST  
Conference web campaign \$ 750 +GST per campaign.

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Recently a member supplied a piece of our literature, "AA Basics for Busy Doctors" to an A.A. supporting doctor with the idea of reviewing its relevance. The doctor indicated it could be re-edited to suit the vagaries and workload of today's busy doctor. Given the time scale of the original writing of most of our "Professionals" literature, might it be a positive move to review all of it for relevance. It would be a time consuming process and we might do well to seek out supporters and members with knowledge of modern professional practises to look at where we might improve.

I have also been made aware of the A.A. webpage ranks rather low on internet search engines... coming in somewhere in the middle of the page 3... This gives it a ranking of about 25th in response to normal/regular "keywords". Speaking to some who have some experience in these matters, the old process of "keywords" and "new content" just doesn't cut it anymore. There are a multiple impacting factors that drive ratings, one of which is being linked to other pages. Given the recent security failings of social media, the linking of pages might pose some issues for our self-supporting and anonymity traditions.

It is of concern that there seems to be very limited topics submitted to conference around PI, I am hoping that this year at the national conference we can look at this

Yours In Service  
Andy  
Chair of trustees PI@CPC committee

#### **TRUSTEES' GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

I participated in the June teleconference of the Conference Agenda Committee and also in the teleconference held in August, which was also attended by Lachlan B, who will take up the Chair position of this committee following Conference.

The Committee reviewed and noted feedback from the 2018 General Service Conference, in particular comments regarding chairing of the full Conference sessions. The importance of familiarising themselves with voting procedures was stressed. Chairs for this year's Conference have been selected, with the majority of them being experienced former Area Delegates. Chairing can be assisted by all Conference members familiarising themselves with the Conference Administrative Procedures included in the information section of your Conference folder and also given to all members as separate laminated yellow sheets. The Board agreed that only one person, fully familiar with Conference procedures, will be permitted to sit alongside the Chair, to provide advice, if needed.

Items from last year's Ask It Basket were reviewed and noted. These suggestions were:

1. That the Conference Agenda Committee needs to make it clear that the Ask It Basket at Conference relates to current Conference inventory. This was discussed during the Conference Agenda Committee teleconference and the delegate making the presentation on this subject at the Delegates Meeting will clarify.
2. Need to have clear flow charts to assist Chairs of full Conference sessions. All Chairs have been provided with material to assist them.

3. Locate existing Advisory Action suggesting that Delegates should only chair one committee. This will be included on the Agenda of each Conference committee this year.

The committee also reviewed the draft Conference agenda prepared by the Conference Agenda Committee and had no suggested changes.

Mike E

Chair, Trustees' General Service Conference Committee

#### **TRUSTEES' NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

This year we were saddened to hear of the deaths of past Western Regional Trustee Kerry S and past Class A Trustee Tom F. We acknowledge the valuable contribution they both made to our Fellowship.

This year the Board welcomed two new Trustees – Judy W, Eastern Regional Trustee and past Area B Eastern Region Delegate and Stephen R, North Eastern Regional Trustee.

Currently we only have one Class A Trustee – Ruby Jones. We have received several applications, which we will be reviewing at the November Board meeting. To assist us in our decision, a sub-committee has been formed to ascertain skills of Board members and skills desirable for future Board members. It is hoped that next year we will have a full complement of Trustees, with a balance of valuable skills to assist the Board in carrying out their tasks.

I have served as a General Service Trustee for six years. Unfortunately we have no candidates for this position. We had two expressions of interest by members and they were invited to attend Management Group meetings, but did not show up. A past Eastern Region Delegate was also approached, but was unavailable. With the General Service Trustee position, it is important that they attend Management Group meetings for a period before applying for the position, so they fully understand the commitment required. In the meantime, an interstate Trustee will be invited to attend meetings, using a telecommunications app. We urge Delegates, particularly Eastern Region delegates, to assist us in filling this position.

Sadly this year we will farewell Northern Regional Trustee Bill H and World Service Delegate David E, who was also a past Southern Regional Trustee and Chairman of the General Service Board. We thank them for their contribution and wish them well. We are disappointed that no applications for Northern Regional Trustee to replace Bill have been received. We are, however, pleased to see that one application for World Service Delegate has been received.

Mike E

Chair, Trustees' Nominating Committee



## TRUSTEES' LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Hi Everyone, my name is Paul J and I am Alcoholic.

Welcome to all new delegates to these committees.

This report covers 2 conference committees, report charter and service manual & literature committees.

The review of Guidelines GL14 & GL15 is now complete, this task has involved multiple topics going back a number of years and is now ready for presentation to conference, a big thank you to Chris B who did a mountain of work on this.

The review of the delegate section of the service manual is now also complete and ready to be submitted to conference.

We have 9 topics this year to discuss so it will be a busy time at conference for us.

Love in Service  
Paul J  
Western Region Trustee.

## TRUSTEES' REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Hi Everyone, my name is Paul J and I am Alcoholic.

I have taken over the role as chair of this committee at the July Board meeting, welcome to those new to the committee

We have 1 topic to discuss this year

### **TOPIC #016/2019**

**To compile and publish a selection of personal stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AA members, their journey to AA and experience, strength and hope.**

The only other item I have to report is a fantastic presentation make by Diane --- at the recent PI/CPC forum about her work in remote communities.

Love in Service  
Paul J  
Western Region Trustee.

# **GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE REPORT**

## **Staff**

There have been no staff changes this year.

## **Conventions and other functions attended**

Valerie M and Chris S attended the National Convention held in Canberra over Easter. Chris Surplice attended the Eastern Regional Forum held in The Entrance.

## **Equipment purchased**

There were no major purchases during the year.

## **Board meetings attended**

Valerie M and Tony C attended the February 2019 Board meeting in Sydney and Valerie M and Chris S attended the July 2019 Board meeting held in Coffs Harbour.

## **Insurance**

All insurance policies were renewed.

## **Management Group**

All staff attended the monthly Management Group meetings held at General Service Office, which were also attended by the General Service Trustees.

## **Co-ordination & Review Committee**

All staff attended the Co-ordination & Review Committee meetings held at General Service Office monthly.

## **Finances**

A copy of the end of year audited financial reports will be distributed to all delegates at Conference.

## **International Sponsorship Fund**

As at 11/10/19 there is \$4,999 available to send to GSO New York for the International Literature Fund. This will be transferred to them before the end of the year.

As at 11/10/19 there is \$19,896 remaining in this account for use in the Asia/Oceania zone.

## **Remote Communities Fund**

Members have donated \$5,994 to assist carrying the message to remote communities.

## **Rent**

Our rent increased from \$2,350.47 to \$2,677.74 per month.

## **Archives**

Brian S from Pymble Group continues to do a great job on sorting the archives and visits the office at least once a week.

## **Trademarks**

All Trademarks are current.

## **AA Around Australia**

The Intellectual Disability Foundation of St. George, provide us with a fast, professional and very affordable distribution service.

## **Website Development**

There was no major expenditure on website development throughout the financial year. Our thanks to Steve T and David McQ for their ongoing assistance with this valuable public information tool.

## **Service Website**

Thanks also to Julie L for her work on our Service Website. National Office staff continue to try to encourage members to use this site.

## **1300 Number**

Working well, with very few reported problems. Throughout the year the cost of operating this service was \$6,113. We continue to cover all costs associated with this number.

Valerie Martin

## 1<sup>st</sup> Term World Service Delegate's report

The conference started on the 11th July 2019 with a welcome and introduction to the other delegates and observers. I was delighted to have a second delegate with me in the person of our Class A Trustee, Ms Ruby Jones.

The workload at this conference was very heavy with a number of workshops and we we're also split into different committees including a brief update on the work com plated since the last AOSM Meeting.

The committees were as follows: Policy, Admissions and Finance; Website, Literature and Publishing; Working with Others; and Agenda and Site Selection Committee. I was allocated to be on the 'Working with Others' Committee. It was agreed to have regular meetings online via Viber and WhatsApp. I am looking forward to see how functional this will be.

After reports were read from all committees we had reports the following countries: Australia; New Zealand; Bhutan; China; Fiji; Hong Kong; Korea (English Speaking); Japan; Russia; Singapore; Thailand; India; Iran; and Middle Eastern Regional Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous (MERCAA). The MERCAA committee consists of the following Middle Eastern countries: The United Arab Emirates; The Kingdom of Bahrain; The State of Qatar; The Sultanate of Oman; Lebanon; The State of Kuwait; The Kingdom of Jordan; The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Egypt; and Sudan.

With all these different nationalities the language interpreters were kept very busy. These interpreters were invaluable to the cohesiveness of the seminar. Following these reports a World Service Meeting Report was submitted by Eva S. from GSO New York. This report is freely available to anyone. David R, Publishing Director of AA World Services (AAWS), gave an interesting and an informative presentation on the history of AA's publishing efforts and the processes involved in getting our Message in print. This is especially important as AAWS has a legal, moral and spiritual responsibility to protect the integrity of AA's Message in all translations of AA Literature. Ruby and I had enjoyed David's company on a number of occasions discussing issues we were having in Australia. I would be very happy to confidentially discuss the advice David had provided with the Board at Conference.

The Australian Delegates and the New Zealand Delegates had a private meeting to discuss the responsibilities that Australia and New Zealand share in the Pacific Region. The new incoming chairman, Roger from NZ, will examine how we could improve communication in the Pacific Region. However, it was agreed that countries in the Pacific Region had the responsibility to individually assert their need for help in getting AA's Message. Australia also sponsored Fiji's participation in the Conference which placed a significant extra burden on the writer. However, it was a very positive experience for me to provide this assistance to the Fijian Delegate (see Fiji's Report).

The topic of discussion on splitting the AOSM, put forward by Japan, was defeated as the Conference felt that all the experience of Australia, New Zealand, Japan and India would be lost to the smaller struggling service structures. This led to a number of discussions for country to country service sponsorship. Such discussions identified the lack of a guideline or procedure to follow for this process to happen. I would like to suggest that the Australian General Service Conference setup such a structure. Some countries require limited funding and others only require someone to explain our Service Structure to them. This could be brought about by telephone conference calls or, as in the case of Iran, I sent to them a number of flyers of Service Weekend Workshops. As well as these flyers, I also sent a graphic of our Service Structure as depicted in our Group Handbook.

As a final suggestion on this matter, I would like to suggest that we extend an invitation to the Australian Conference to delegates from these smaller and developing Service Structures. This could be done by inviting one Delegate from one country each year on a rotating basis. In closing I would like to thank the staff for their assistance in sorting out the debacle of our hotel rooms in Hong Kong. At one stage, it looked like we were going to sleep in the street or be washing dishes in a hotel kitchen for the next 10 years!

Since returning from Hong Kong there have been a number of What's App and Skype meetings with seven countries of the Sponsorship from Country to Country committee on how to engage the indigenous population of these countries. This is mentioned earlier in the report.

Further work has been undertaken to enable some past delegates from Australia to attend the delegates reunion in Detroit in 2020. This information has been passed out to all delegates that I know off. For the information of any delegates or past delegates that are attending who wish to attend this reunion, it starts on 30 June 2020 and finishes on the 31<sup>st</sup>. It is close to the International Convention. Please feel free to contact me about this further information will be supplied.

I am hoping to speak to as many delegates as I can at the coming conference in getting some assistance to hold a past delegates and trustees reunion at the 2020 Convention to be held in Toowoomba. This would be held on the Thursday night before the start of that convention.

I have also attended all board meetings and official things I have been invited to and have spoken at a number of weekends about the role of world service.

Yours In Service,

Brian S World Service Delegate Term One

## 2<sup>ND</sup> TERM WORLD SERVICE DELEGATE REPORT

Due to personal reasons, I was unable to attend the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting in Hong Kong. My thanks to Ruby Jones for stepping in as my Alternate. A copy of Ruby's report is attached.

We were delighted to hear of the appointment of Phylis G as the first Asia/Oceania Delegate for Fiji and had no hesitation in assisting Fiji to be represented at the Asia/Oceania meeting in Hong Kong. A copy of Phylis' report is attached.

I attended the 2019 National Convention in Canberra, where there was considerable interest in our International Desk.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity of serving as one of your World Service Delegates.

Dear GSO Board,

On behalf of the Fiji AA Fellowship I would most sincerely like to thank you for the financial sponsorship you provided for my attendance as a delegate to the Asia Oceana Delegates Service Meeting in Hong Kong on July 11 - 14, 2019.

I would also like to thank Brian S, First term delegate for his guidance and assistance and Shirley C, my AOSM Service Sponsor. As a first term delegate there was much to learn and their tutorship in service, allowed me to have a successful experience at the Service Meeting.

What stood out for me in the workshops and business meetings was the similarity of problems many of the countries had in reaching the alcoholic due to lack of awareness, education, organization structure, sponsorship, limitation of public awareness concerning alcoholism and recovery and most important our language translation needs for AA literature.

While larger countries had strong AA organizational structures, many countries as Mongolia, Bhutan, Iran, and Fiji (South Pacific Islands) lacked and needed assistance. While the desire to carry the message is strong, the ability to do so often needs assistance/sponsorship to flame that spark of carrying the message so that a country can become self-supporting in its service structure and in its ability to reach the still suffering alcoholic.

The South Pacific islands remain an area that continues to have a need for assistance/sponsorship. Having a delegate representing a portion of that area and to bring some of the needs of Fiji, Solomons, and Papua New Guinea to the AOSM was welcomed at the service meeting. How we are using technology to connect in skype meetings, to reach isolated islands in Fiji and beyond to other South Pacific Islands and to develop program by weekly studies of the 12 steps, 12 traditions and the Big Book via the internet, provided a means that could be used in other countries.

In my AOSM committee, which was the Site and Agenda Committee, we were unable to select a site as no bid had been put forward yet. We did select for the 2021 Theme, "Back to the Primary Purpose. We discussed and recommended that there be more time spent on our primary purpose and less time on business topics, with a new agenda being more open to breakouts and sharing with delegates being able to go the workshop of their choice. I was elected as chair of the committee for Agenda and Site Selection for 2021.

As a result of your sponsorship, I feel that via my report and sharing with the Fiji Fellowship a greater understanding of service in Fiji has been made possible by my experience at the AOSM. A larger world wide fellowship now exists and in our chat rooms, as we have members from China, Thailand, and Dubai, sharing their experience strength and hope.

The AOSM meeting certainly met my expectations. I do not think I have ever been in a group of such dedicated AA members with their primary purpose being the learning of how to better carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. This experience would not have been possible without your generous support and sponsorship. Fiji deeply appreciates the opportunity you have given.

Vinaka Vakalevu,

Phylis G

## AOSM Report

As all are aware, I had the privilege of accompanying Brian S to the 13<sup>th</sup> annual AOSM which was held in Hong Kong in July. This was an amazing opportunity and I am incredibly grateful to have been considered by my fellow Board members to participate. To sum it up briefly would be to say it was a very educational experience; rewarding and enlightening, and I enjoyed my time in Hong Kong greatly.

I was very nervous flying into Hong Kong, not entirely sure of what to expect. I had never been to a country like Hong Kong before, and felt somewhat intimidated. I did manage to feel a little more comfortable knowing that I would have people that I knew, such as Brian S, and Tony V, who was attending as an observer. There were many observers in attendance at this AOSM; in particular, there were those who were from the Chinese Fellowship who wished to learn from delegates in attendance.

My first day was spent exploring the city of Hong Kong in the morning and in the afternoon attend registration for the AOSM and meeting the other delegates. There were representatives from Thailand, Mongolia, Hong Kong, China, Russia, New Zealand, Iran, South Korea, India, UAE, Japan and Fiji in attendance; some who were first-term delegates and some who were second-term. The chairperson and secretary of the AOSM were from New Zealand, and had two delegates in attendance, as well as Australia and Japan. The Japanese delegates had two interpreters who spent the days of the AOSM repeating everything that was said into Japanese, which was a tough job. In addition, we had two representatives from AAWS, Eva and David, who had attended the AOSM and provided interesting insight and spoke on topics of their expertise in AA World Services.

The second day of the AOSM began with countries reading their reports and commenting on what the Fellowship of AA looked like in their regions. Main highlights were countries' progress with translating literature into other languages, how many meetings they have country-wide, and challenges faced. An interesting finding I had concluded from the AOSM is that many of the same problems that we face in the Australian Fellowship are also felt in other countries; in particular, how we can reach out to the still-suffering alcoholic and carry the message. Some countries, such as Thailand and the UAE/MERCAA, have struggled to maintain a strong AA Fellowship due to cultural differences and the fact that AA is still considered to be a very hidden resource in communities.

Another common problem which was being faced in many of the countries in attendance was engagement from those of the native land and non-English speaking. Places such as the UAE, Thailand, South Korea, China and Hong Kong all expressed their concern of how to engage those that are not just ex-pats to participate in AA in their representative countries. Even the delegates in attendance at the AOSM had been ex-patriots themselves; the representative from Thailand was an American man, the representative from China was a New Zealand Maori man, the representative from Hong Kong was an English man, and the representative of South Korea was a Canadian man. It was brought up frequently in discussions that it was a common problem that was being faced in the Fellowship of some of these countries and attempts to discuss solutions were made during the AOSM. I suppose in a reflective sense, whilst Australia has a relatively-strong fellowship compared to the other countries in the Oceanic zone, one may think about how we reach out to our own native First Australians and Indigenous populace.

After the countries had read their reports, we moved onwards to the Secretary and Treasurer reports. Of the countries in the Oceanic zone, Australia, Japan and New Zealand have the



strongest Fellowships and will often financially sponsor other countries to participate and attend the AOSM. However, with the AOSM being held in an Asian country such as Hong Kong, this made it particularly easier for some countries to finance their delegates to attend the AOSM such as Thailand and Mongolia. Singapore, Thailand and Japan commented on the difficulty of having greater contributions to the AOSM as the Fellowship in their home countries does not necessarily understand what the AOSM does and where the funds go to.

Following this, the committee reports were read. The committees for the AOSM had replicated the WSM committees and consisted of the Policy, Admissions and Finance Committee; the Website, Literature and Publishing Committee; the Working with Others Committee; and the Agenda and Site Selection Committee. Each committee's report had some element of discussion which was centered on the difficulty in communicating with other committee members and progress of the committee to accomplish tasks. It was discussed further that the committees may not necessarily be viable in their current format due to lack of participation and difficulty in engagement; some issues raised were that continuous rotation is often a barrier, language difficulties, time differences and lack of service participation at the Fellowship level. It was suggested later in the AOSM that revision of the committees could be added to the AOSM 2021 agenda to see how viable and important they were moving forward. Broadly, it was agreed that continuously trying to communicate, keeping communication lines open and encourage Service Sponsorship would be the best way to overcome the barriers to engagement.

Following the committee reports, the Japanese delegates put forward the proposal to re-establish boundaries in the Oceanic zone and separate into two zones. The idea was put forward as there were so many countries in the Oceanic zone and it may encourage greater work and engagement. However, the round-table discussion had identified several ways that this would be of detriment to the broader AA Fellowship, such as creating extra work and difficulty for other countries to learn from one another. It was discussed that the diversity of countries present in the AOSM is of great advantage and that with more countries comes a greater shared experience. Some of the countries within the Oceanic zone greatly lean upon other countries that have larger and more established AA Fellowships, and it was considered from the round-table discussion that the idea of separating the zone would marginalise these countries further.

After the proposal was discussed, we separated into workshop groups to discuss questions which were designed to invite discussion of how the AOSM could function better and how countries could support one another. Workshop discussions were held again on the third and fourth days, to address a total of 8 topics:

- Reaching out to smaller countries
- AOSM statement of purpose
- Country-to-Country Service Sponsorship
- Networking and communication between meetings
- Countries financing their delegates
- Financial sponsorship for delegates to attend AOSM
- Agenda items/topics for discussion in the 14<sup>th</sup> AOSM
- Prudent reserve for AOSM

These topics became the broader themes of the AOSM discussions had through round-table sharing, committee meetings and workshops. During the workshops, there was positive sharing about what the purpose is of the AOSM, and how we can educate others with respect to issues they may have in the Fellowship at the country level. There was a

recognition of the need to continue to try and Carry the Message as best possible. Some countries mentioned the difficulty with contributing financially to the AOSM and even funding their own delegates to attend the AOSM, commenting on how the location of the present AOSM was beneficial to keep costs relatively low.

The third day of the AOSM began with a presentation of the World Service Meeting Report by the Japanese delegates. From the continent of Africa, the only participant at the WSM was South Africa. There were 45 countries represented at the WSM in total. The theme of the WSM was “AA’s Future in a Modern World” where topics such as social media, the internet and e-books were discussed. The presentation of the report facilitated a broader discussion at the AOSM of the distinction between Country-to-Country 12-step sponsorship, and financial sponsorship from another country to attend the AOSM or WSM. Currently, there is no pamphlet or guideline that dictates how Country-to-Country sponsorship may look like. This was considered through committee discussion to be a topic for the next AOSM.

Following this, a presentation was given from David R at AA World Service regarding literature and licensing. Exciting advancements in the realm of AA literature included adaptation of text into e-book format for prisons and treatment facilities, audio versions of pamphlets, and looking into production of material in sign language. David then went on to describe how future advancements would look; such as voice-activated intelligence in the home (think Alexa home systems) which would be able to read AA literature over speaker! It was also an opportunity for David to talk about a new book published by the AAWS (the first in 29 years) which were reflections of Bill W’s conference talks. Discussion ensued from the presentation including how the GSO New York could approach difficulties with electronic material being downloaded and distributed, how translations are reviewed and the representation of AA in media such as TV and film. David advised that the GSO New York is not seeing any decline, currently, of literature sale due to the introduction of e-books and revenue is maintaining steadily. Eva advised that when it comes to the depiction of AA in film and TV, they receive requests from producers to ensure accuracy and the GSO New York will review prior to the material being produced and distributed.

I was on the Policy, Admissions and Finance Committee of the AOSM and we met after David’s presentation to go over old and new business. Business included suggestions of uniting the Fellowship in countries such as South Korea and China where English-speaking members and Chinese-/Korean-speaking members operated separate structures. Guidelines for rotating delegates and alternate delegates was a topic of discussion for the committee, as well as guidelines being developed for financial sponsorship. An archivist for the AOSM was discussed and it was decided to offer the position to New Zealand, due to their space and capacity for archival. The committee then voted on a recommendation to put to the AOSM for discussion which was concentrated on the number of ex-pats involved in AA Fellowships at the country level, and how countries could reach out to the local community for participation.

Eva from AAWS provided a presentation on the third day about her role on the International Desk at the GSO New York. At the GSO, there are 7 departments and 95 employees, including 11 “staff members”. Subjects covered in the workings of the GSO New York (called “Service Assignments”) included Co-operation with Professional Community/Treatment (in the same Service Assignment), Corrections, Group Services, Communication, International, Regional Forums, International Conventions and Accessibilities (re: “Special Needs”). Eva commented on how rotation was best accommodated with notebooks and information packs so that the next rotated delegate or staff member could be as well informed as the last. Eva advised that there is AA activity in approximately 180 countries around the world.

Observers from China who were in attendance were asked to speak on their experience of the Fellowship in mainland China and ideas were sought to strengthen the Fellowship and provide unity between Chinese and ex-pats. A discussion followed whereby other delegates would share their experience, strength and hope concerning engagement of the community, difficulties with the language barrier, and how countries can strengthen their Service Structure and service participation.

On the fourth day, recommendations were put forward from the committees. There were not many recommendations put forward overall. The Policy, Admissions and Finance committee put forward a recommendation to amend the guideline concerning alternate delegates and the spirit of rotation, which was carried.

- Recommendation – to provide clarification regarding specific AOSM delegates terms of service, the following text to be added to the *Guidelines for the Conduct of the Asia Oceania Service Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous Anonymous*, item 3:  
“In accordance with Tradition Nine, the AOSM delegates shall observe the spirit of rotation. It is preferred that delegates attend only two AOSM's (one 4-year term), but this guideline is not binding on any structure within the AOSM zone. If a structure appoints an individual to stand in for their delegate (such as an alternate delegate) who cannot attend, this would be endorsed by the Policy, Admissions and Finance (PAF) committee prior to the start of the AOSM”

It was recognised that this guideline was for a preferred situation, as it was commonplace for countries to have a lack of appropriate representatives to participate in the AOSM as an official delegate. The purpose of the guideline was to ensure that alternate delegates who would stand in for other delegates who could not attend, were permitted to attend the AOSM again if the individual was voted in as an official delegate.

The committee also put forward two recommendations for countries who wished to request financial support; 1) to outline their projected costings in a table (carried) and 2) to have the AOSM secretary coordinate all requests for financial support and distribute to countries in the AOSM (carried). The recommendation for offering the position of AOSM archivist to New Zealand was also put forward and this was a recommendation that was accepted by the AOSM and New Zealand was happy to be of service. It was determined from the recommendation that if New Zealand did not have the capacity to maintain archives for the AOSM, then a request would be put forward to Australia. I had mentioned during the discussion at the committee, as well as the conference, that Australia is currently having difficulty with maintaining archives at the country level, so therefore, Australia would have difficulty with maintaining archives for the AOSM at this present time.

The Website, Literature and Publishing Committee were next to present their recommendations. Their first recommendation, which was carried, was for the committee chairperson to communicate updates, pending AOSM approval, to the webmaster within 30 days of the last AOSM. The committee's second recommendation was to ensure that each standing committee had relevant technology available to them to ensure adequate translations. This was carried by the AOSM.

The Site Selection and Agenda Committee was next to provide recommendations and presented three themes for the 2021 AOSM. It was voted for the theme of next AOSM to be “Back to the Primary Purpose”. There were no other recommendations put forward by the committee. At the time of presentation to the broader AOSM floor, there were no bids for

hosting the 2021 AOSM. The final committee, the Working with Others Committee, also had no recommendations but instead hoped to make active changes in the way that it communicated and how other countries could be helped through Country-to-Country sponsorship.

Workshop groups next provided recommendations in response to the topics which were discussed earlier. It was suggested that a regular communication WhatsApp group would be of an advantage to keeping communication lines open among AOSM delegates. Several topics for the next AOSM were put forward, including how to work culturally appropriately, helping other fellowships develop, engaging and integrating local communities and reviewing committee structures. Engaging local members of the community into AA was discussed at a round-table conversation and several ideas were put forward of how to branch out and unify the Fellowship within countries. Such suggestions included having interpreters and interpreting equipment, being aware of meeting location to ensure inclusivity and taking the time to engage with non-English speaking members to create connections.

Next, another round-table conversation was had; this time, regarding engagement with the Professional Community. Delegates were encouraged to share their experiences with trying to engage fellow members of the professional community and what their PI events and engagement looked like. Some delegates described how they would hold regular presentations to hospital staff or taking time to engage purposefully with professionals in everyday settings. Others commented on taking initiative and opportunity to educate wherever possible. It was reiterated throughout the discussion that time, persistence and building relationships were key to ensuring success.

Elections were then held for positions within the AOSM. Three nominations were put forward for voting of Chairperson; two who were voting delegates and one who was a non-voting observer. After the voting was cast, it was raised by Brian how the framework for the voting had disadvantaged one of the nominees. I personally shared with Brian's comments on the disadvantage this had placed on the vote, with some delegates agreeing and others disagreeing with the view. It was considered that it would be put forward to the Policy, Admissions and Finance committee for amendment to guidelines at the next AOSM. Roger, from New Zealand, had been elected as the Chairperson for the next AOSM. Tony V, from Australia, was elected as the Alternate Chairperson. Masayo from Japan was elected as the Secretary and Yasuhiko from Japan was elected as the Treasurer.

I came back from the AOSM feeling very inspired by the discussions and sharing that had been had and excited about my role within the Fellowship. I had just come off a Board meeting only a few days prior where we had a portion of time which was to discuss issues which left me feeling tired and drained. Engaging in the AOSM discussions had given me a new perspective and appreciation for my role in the Fellowship and for the opportunity which had been provided to me. I left Hong Kong with relationships built, laughs had, tears shed and an educated mind. I was immensely grateful to have been able to attend.

Thank you to the Board for providing me with the opportunity to participate in the 13<sup>th</sup> AOSM.

Yours in Service,

Ruby Jones

Class A Trustee, 3<sup>rd</sup> term

## **SECTION 3**

### **OUTCOME OF TOPICS**



## OUTCOME OF TOPICS 2019

TOPIC NO.	TOPIC	OUTCOME
001	That Conference undertake a review of its current voting structure, having regard to the Right of Participation, to identify options for change that would enable Area Delegates to constitute more than two-thirds of the voting members at the Australian General Service Conference.	Advisory Action #001/2019
002	That Conference ensures that the Principle of Rotation is observed in relation to the membership composition of all Conference Committees.	Rejected. Internal Conference matter.
003	Remove and / or amend all references in AA literature and on our website that state or imply that AA Groups are the final authority (including in Concept 1). These could be changed to something like "AA Groups can make suggestions" * (*if their topic gets past the agenda committee)	Rejected. A 2/3 majority vote of all Conference members is binding. A simple majority vote is considered a suggestion.
004	Rotation of Conference Committee Co-ordinators Conference resolved to re-establish the spiritual principle of rotation to the role of Conference Committee Co-ordinator, thereby aligning that role with other positions at Conference.	Rejected. See comment in Topic 2.
005	Operation of Conference Delegates Committees Conference resolved to rescind Floor Action 2013/041 "Resolved by a show of hands, that all Conference Committees should change their CS & P documents so that all Conference members have equal participation rights in keeping with Concept IV." Thereby returning the operation of the Conference Delegates Committees to their intended operating formula.	Voted on but not Advisory Action
006	The only way the GSO communicates directly with members is via AA Around Australia. This is published twice yearly or quarterly, and is largely reliant on a group or member receiving a hard copy by post or remembering to download from aa.org.au. This is not an effective means of communicating to the maximum number of members in a short time frame.	Voted on but not Advisory Action

## OUTCOME OF TOPICS 2019

007	The General Service Board are the legal custodians of AA, and are respected as such. This topic is to simply request reporting and greater transparency of some GSB activity. The goal is to remove unnecessary mystery and separation between the GSB and the members, and help us all improve understanding and effectiveness.	Referred directly to General Service Board.
008	AA could do with a few more colour A4 PI poster options. Please find my suggested options attached.	Advisory Action #008/2019
009	Currently there is no specific provision for members to leave a nominated Central Service Office a sum of money in their will. This topic suggests that the AA Guideline relating to CSOs, GL-12, should make such a provision.	Voted on but not Advisory Action
010	That AA Australia produce a 9 <sup>th</sup> Step Promises banner.	Voted on but not Advisory Action
011	That the time frame between Topics for Conference closing and being distributed should be revised.	Voted on but not Advisory Action
012	Encourage alcoholic-addicts to maintain anonymity as a drug addict at AA meetings.	Voted on but not Advisory Action
013	That the GSB (In consultation with our current volunteer archivist) employ a professional Archivist to assess our archives in order to A) Ensure we are employing best practice with regard to storage, management, integration and access of the material and B) Learn how we can digitize relevant material	Advisory Action #013/2019
014	That the database on the aa.org.au website be upgraded. The current database does not have enough fields to support all necessary information for groups to designate meeting functions.	Rejected. This is already being handled by the website team.
015	That a large 288cm x 233cm and giant 244cm x 415cm Concepts banner be produced for display at AA National Conventions and AA Rallies. These sizes are what are currently available from GSO for Steps and Traditions	Advisory Action #015/2019



## OUTCOME OF TOPICS 2019

016	<p>To compile and publish a selection of personal stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AA members, their journey to AA and experience, strength and hope.</p> <p>The book could be an excellent resource to carry the message to prisons, health services and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations. The book will have a national focus – sharing stories from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members from all States and Territories; including, if possible and appropriate, a cross-section of stories from men, women, young Indigenous people, transgender, disabilities.</p> <p>I have attached a copy of my own personal story which may or may not be included in the book, but attach it as an example of the style of written content that might be similarly adopted by other members to appeal to Indigenous readers. See Attachment A.</p>	Advisory Action #016/2019
017	That the AA principle of rotation is put into effect in all key positions at Conference.	Rejected. See comment Topic 2.
018	That Conference look into the most effective ways for the General Service Office to serve the Fellowship in years to come.	Rejected. Contrary to Conference Charter, item 10. GSB has entire freedom of action in routine business affairs.
019	Amend the Australian Conference Charter on page 72 of the Australian Service Manual, (restoring it to our founder Bill W's original wording) to read that "Area Delegates make up at least two thirds of the Conference body".	Voted on but not Advisory Action
020	General Service Board establish a permanent AA Convention bank account	Voted on but not Advisory Action
021	A New Funding System for the AA Convention	Voted on but not Advisory Action

## OUTCOME OF TOPICS 2019

022	That conference resolve to correct the lack of 2/3 majority of delegate votes on the conference floor, as stated in the Conference Charter. Due to a historic flaw and our inability to increase the number of Areas in Australia in our General Service structure, there is not a 2/3 majority of delegate votes on the conference floor. This proposal will restore the 2/3 majority required by Concept 1.	Voted on but not Advisory Action
023	Other than the Delegates Conference, the GSO, AA Board and Delegates Conference can only request bids, to host and plan such events as Conferences/Conventions	Rejected. The topic was unclear and the matters referred to had already been dealt with at previous Conferences.
024	Advisory Action #006/2017 Conference resolved to reject the proposal to include additional information on disruptive behaviours in the AA Group Handbook. However, it was resolved that the proposer be asked to consider submitting two topics at another General Service Conference – (1) a Guideline of Safety in AA and (2) a paragraph for addition to the AA Group Handbook, referencing the Guideline.	Advisory Action #024/2019
025	Correcting a situation that gives the GSO Office Manager an endless vote at Conference, entitling a single member to a function no other member can access.	Rejected. Incorrect information. Long term managers & staff at GSOs in other countries have vote at their Conference.
026	Enhanced safe guards, against personalities dominating principals in our collective AA Conscience.	Rejected. Purpose of topic is unclear.
027	The General Service Board requests that the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia advises whether it wishes to have four issues of AA Around Australia annually and whether or not this publication should be made available electronically to individuals.	Advisory Action #027/2019

There were additional Advisory Actions as follows: (see Advisory Actions section for details):

Advisory Actions #028/2019 - #050/2019

## **SECTION 4**

### **2019 CONFERENCE ADVISORY ACTIONS**



## **GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2019 ADVISORY ACTIONS**

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

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### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES**

#### **Advisory Action #28/2019**

Conference resolved to appoint Greg B as World Service Delegate for a four year period, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

### **CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE**

#### **Advisory Action #29/2019**

Conference resolved to accept the new Area Delegate section of the Service Manual as recommended by the Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee, with the following changes:

Top paragraph on page 123 of the Conference folder, relating to the Alternate Delegate, to be removed.

Addition to page 124:

To seek out past Delegates to share their experience. Meetings between Conferences may be useful to fellow Delegates.

Voting: For: 27; Against: 1; Abstentions: 3  
Carried

#### **Advisory Action #030/2019**

Conference resolved to accept the new Guideline #14, with the following changes:

The word 'Conferences' to be removed from the heading.

Addition under 'Paying Bills':

It is suggested that a budget be prepared. Preparing a budget for any AA event is financially responsible and accountable.

Voting: For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1

#### **Advisory Action #031/2019**

Conference resolved to accept the new Guideline #15 with the following change:

Under 'Deaf, Disabled & Other Special Needs Groups' replace the word 'gays' with 'LGBTQI plus'.

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

#### **Advisory Action #032/2019**

Conference resolved to accept the new Guideline for Internet Use.

Voting: For: 30; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

#### **Advisory Action #022/2019**

Conference resolved that this topic be referred to the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee pending outcome of their review. (Topic: to correct the lack of 2/3 majority of delegate votes on the conference floor, as stated in the Conference Charter.

Due to a historic flaw and our inability to increase the number of Areas in Australia in our General Service structure, there is not a 2/3 majority of delegate votes on the conference floor. This proposal will restore the 2/3 majority required by Concept 1.

#### **CONFERENCE POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE**

Advisory Action #001/2019

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

Voting: For: 17; Against: 14; Abstentions: 0

#### **CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Advisory Action #033/2019

Conference resolved that the Audited Report for year ended 30 June 2019 be accepted.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #034/2019

Conference resolved that the General Service Board Budget for year 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to 30 June 2020 be accepted.

Carried by a show of hands

#### **CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

Advisory Action #013/2019

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that the General Service Board (in consultation with our current volunteer archivist) engage a professional archivist to assess our archives in order to:

- a) Ensure we are employing best practice with regard to storage, management, integration and access of the material and
- b) Learn how we can digitize relevant material.

Voting: For: 31; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

Advisory Action #015/2019

Conference resolved that a large 288cm x 233cm and giant 244cm x 415cm Concepts banner be produced for display at AA National Conventions and AA Rallies. These sizes are what are currently available from GSO for Steps and Traditions.

Voting (on topic): For: 20; Against: 9; Abstentions: 1

Advisory Action #024/2019

Conference resolved that the document containing suggestions on safety of members for inclusion in the AA Group Handbook and the Guidelines be referred to the General Service Board for review and legal input.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #027/2019

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that four issues of AA Around Australia be published annually and that they be made available electronically for individuals and groups.

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

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

### **Advisory Action #008/2019**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference PI&CPC Committee's recommendation that the submitted colour A4 PI posters be made available through the General Service Office in hardcopy and electronic format.

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

### **Advisory Action #035/2019**

Conference resolved that the General Service Board, in conjunction with the Conference PI&CPC Committee, conduct a new Fellowship Survey without any further delay.

Voting: for: 26; Against: 4; Abstentions: 0  
Carried

### **Advisory Action #036/2019**

Conference resolved to issue a statement of apology to members who submitted entries to the original Fellowship Survey.

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

### **Advisory Action #037/2019**

Conference resolved that the Public Service Announcements be further edited to ensure personal anonymity and singleness of purpose and that the website address be added. Conference approved having a mail poll approval vote after editing to avoid delay in production.

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

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## **CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

### **Advisory Action #016/2019**

Conference resolved that a book be compiled and published, containing a selection of personal stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AA members, their journey to AA and experience, strength and hope.

The book could be an excellent resource to carry the message to prisons, health services and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations.

The book will have a national focus – sharing stories from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members from all States and Territories; including, if possible and appropriate, a cross-section of stories from men, women, young Indigenous people, transgender, disabilities.

Voting (on topic): For: 27; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

## **CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

### **Advisory Action #038/2019**

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the word limits for the following headings on the Conference Topic Form be increased to 150 words each: Topic; Background; Solution; how will the alcoholic or Fellowship of AA benefit. The 50 word limits regarding costs and whether there has been a consultation process should remain.

Voting: For: 25; Against: 5; Abstentions: 1  
Carried

Advisory Action #039/2019

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the following Minority Report Guidelines adopted from the US/Canada General Service Conference be approved for use in Australia:

- 1. The minority, expressing a feeling or opinion in light of the right of appeal to the General Service Conference, has been very rare. It is hoped that an individual entitled under Concept V to appeal would exhaust every avenue offered within the General Service Conference structure prior to making an appeal to the General Service Conference.*
- 2. All Conference members are entitled to appeal to the General Service Conference.*
- 3. The minority should announce, in writing, to the chair of the General Service Board, the Chair of the Conference Agenda Committee and to the General Service Office Conference Coordinator that it intends to appeal under Concept V to the General Service Conference.*
- 4. All Conference members will be given notice through the General Service Office of the minority's decision to file an appeal.*
- 5. Appeals under Concept V, including any minority report and background, should be submitted in writing 30 days prior to the General Service Conference in order for these materials to be distributed to Conference members. The G.S.O. Conference Coordinator will be responsible for seeing that this material is made available to all Conference members within 10 business days after its receipt.*
- 6. The minority's appeal will be presented before the start of deliberation on Committee Reports:*
  - The minority will be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their appeal. • The majority will then be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their position.*
- 7. The discretion to debate a minority's appeal rests with the Conference body. The chair will ask if there is a motion to decline to debate the minority's appeal. A motion to decline to debate a minority's appeal:*
  - Must be made without comment. • Needs a second. • Is not debatable. • Requires a two thirds majority.*
- 8. If the Conference decides to debate the appeal, it then takes the form of a motion which does not require a second. If passed by substantial unanimity, it becomes an advisory action.*
- 9. Whether or not an appeal is debated, a summary of the minority's report and the disposition of the appeal will be published in the Final Conference Report.*

**2012 Additional Committee Considerations:**

- The committee considered modifying the procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference and took no action. They agreed that the policy approved by the 2011 General Service Conference sufficiently provides a process for the "Right of Appeal" as described in Concept V — the procedure allows for a "well-heard minority" to be a "chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority," and it makes the "best possible use of minority feeling and opinion."*



Voting: For: 28; Against: 0; Abstentions: 3  
Carried

Advisory Action #040/2019

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the General Service Conference 2020 be held from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #041/2019

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that 2020 Agenda Committee meetings be held by teleconference on:

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020 at 11.30am EST to formulate agendas -

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 11.30am EST to allocate topics to Conference.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #042/2019

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation that the deadline for receipt of topics for the 2020 General Service Conference be 4pm Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #043/2019

Conference resolved that the theme of the General Service Conference 2020 would be 'I Am Responsible'.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

<b>BIDS</b>
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Advisory Action #048/2019

Conference resolved to accept the bid from Area C, North Eastern Region to host the combined 2021 National T&CF and PI&CPC Forum.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #049/2019

Conference resolved to accept the tentative bid by Areas A and B Western Region to host the 2023 National Convention.

Voting: Carried by a show of hands

Advisory Action #050/2019

Conference resolved to accept the following bids to host Regional Forums in 2020:

Area A, North Eastern Region

Area B, Eastern Region (tentative)

Area B, Southern Region (tentative)

Voting: Carried by a show of hands



## **SECTION 5**

**VOTED ON BUT NOT ADVISORY  
ACTIONS**



## **CONFERENCE TOPICS 2019 VOTED ON, BUT NOT RESULTING IN ADVISORY ACTIONS (VOTING ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS)**

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### **CONFERENCE FLOOR**

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#### **TOPIC #005/2019**

##### **Operation of Conference Delegates Committees**

Conference resolved to rescind Floor Action 2013/041 "Resolved by a show of hands, that all Conference Committees should change their CS & P documents so that all Conference members have equal participation rights in keeping with Concept IV." Thereby returning the operation of the Conference Delegates Committees to their intended operating formula.

NOTE: (The Conference Agenda Committee noted the wording of this topic was confusing. The wording is what the submitter would like to see in the resulting Advisory Action).

Conference resolved to reject the proposal to rescind Advisory Action #041/2013, which had given non Area Delegate members of Conference Committees the right to vote in Committee meetings.

Voting (on the topic): For: 12; Against: 15; Abstentions 4

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### **CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE**

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#### **TOPIC #009/2019**

Currently there is no specific provision for members to leave a nominated Central Service Office a sum of money in their will. This topic suggests that the AA Guideline relating to CSOs, GL-12, should make such a provision.

Conference resolved to reject the proposal that Guideline 12 – CSOs should include information on how members can leave a nominated Central Service Office a sum of money in their will. This was a matter for CSOs to determine.

Voting (on the topic): For: 10; Against: 20; Abstentions: 0

---

#### **TOPIC #019/2019**

Amend the Australian Conference Charter on page 72 of the Australian Service Manual, (restoring it to our founder Bill W's original wording) to read that "Area Delegates make up at least two thirds of the Conference body".

Conference resolved to reject the proposal to amend the Conference Charter as this matter would be addressed by the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee during their review of voting ratios at Conference.

Voting (on topic): For: 10; Against: 20; Abstentions: 0

---

TOPIC #022/2019

That conference resolve to correct the lack of 2/3 majority of delegate votes on the conference floor, as stated in the Conference Charter.

Due to a historic flaw and our inability to increase the number of Areas in Australia in our General Service structure, there is not a 2/3 majority of delegate votes on the conference floor. This proposal will restore the 2/3 majority required by Concept 1.

Conference resolved to reject the proposal to correct the lack of 2/3 majority of delegate votes on the Conference floor, as this matter would be addressed by the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee during their review of voting ratios at Conference.

Voting (on topic): For: 4; Against: 24; Abstentions: 3

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<b>CONFERENCE POLICIES &amp; ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE</b>
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TOPIC #012/2019

Encourage alcoholic-addicts to maintain anonymity as a drug addict at AA meetings.

Conference resolved to reject the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommendation that alcoholic-addicts be encouraged to maintain anonymity as a drug addict at AA meetings by adding the following statement to the open meeting Primary Purpose statement:

*"If you also identify as a drug addict, it is important for our common welfare that you maintain your anonymity as a drug addict and focus on your problem with alcohol."*

Voting (on topic): For: 12; Against: 17; Abstentions: 2

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<b>CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE</b>
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TOPIC #020/2019

General Service Board establish a permanent AA Convention bank account

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee's recommendation to reject the proposal to establish a permanent AA National Convention bank account, as possible difficulties included changing signatories, handling multiple Convention accounts, autonomy of Host Planning Committees, complexity around auditing and a perception that the authority rested with the General Service Office.

Voting (on committee recommendation): For: 28; Against: 2; Abstentions: 1

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TOPIC #021/2019

A New Funding System for the AA Convention

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee's recommendation to reject the proposal for establish a new funding system for the AA Convention as the National Convention Host Planning Committee are autonomous and it is not the place of Conference to direct them on how to raise funds or to request mandatory contributions.

Voting: (on Committee recommendation): For: 31; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Finance Committee's recommendation to reject the proposal to raise the seed funding for National Conventions to \$15,000.

Voting: (on Committee recommendation); For: 12; Against: 14; Abstentions: 0

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## CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

### TOPIC #006/2019

That AA Australia provide functionality for members to subscribe to email updates on aa.org.au and that this be used to communicate with the fellowship on any matter affecting all AA members, and to distribute the electronic version of AA Around Australia.

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that the proposal to subscribe to email updates on aa.org.au and that this be used to communicate with the fellowship on any matter affecting all AA members, and to distribute the electronic version of AA Around Australia. The Service Structure is the preferred method of communicating to the Fellowship and AA Around Australia is already in the process of being distributed electronically.

Voting (on committee recommendation): For: 26; Against: 4; Abstentions: 1

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### TOPIC #010/2019

That AA Australia produce a 9<sup>th</sup> Step Promises banner.

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that the proposal to produce a 9<sup>th</sup> Step Promises banner be rejected, as it is not necessary.

Voting (on committee recommendation): For: 25; Against: 5; Abstentions: 1

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## CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

### TOPIC #011/2019

That the time frame between Topics for Conference closing and being distributed should be revised.

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Agenda Committee's recommendation to Conference that the suggestion to have the Conference topic deadline at the end of May, allocation of Conference topics at the June Agenda Committee teleconference and published on the website by the mid July be rejected.

The reason for the suggestion to reject the topic is:

The Conference Agenda Committee need to have this material at least four weeks prior to their meeting. There would be insufficient time for **the Committee Co-ordinator** to process and distribute them to the Conference Agenda Committee, particularly as this would coincide with a busy time in the General Service Office preparing for the end of Financial Year.

Voting (on committee recommendation): For: 24; Against: 6; Abstentions: 0





## **SECTION 6**

### **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**



# REPORT

## CONFERENCE POLICIES AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek, NSW  
Friday 8th November 2019 8.40am – 10.30am

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### ROLL CALL

Chairperson:	Gabrielle N, Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region
Alt. Chairperson	Rob C, Delegate, Area B, Central Region
:	Tracy C, Delegate, Area A, North Eastern Region
:	Chris B, Delegate, Area B, North Eastern Region
:	Jack S, Delegate, Area A, Central Region
:	Pippa O, Delegate, Area B, Eastern Region
:	Carolyn G, Delegate, Area A, Northern Region
:	Valerie M (Co-ordinator)
:	David E (World Service Delegate)

Non-voting observers: Judy; Ruby Jones

### APOLOGIES

Nil

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The committee reviewed the Composition, Scope and Procedure document and made no changes

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2014-2018)

The committee reviewed the Action List and made no recommendations.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### REVIEW 2019 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE

##### TOPIC #001/2019

That Conference undertake a review of its current voting structure, having regard to the Right of Participation, to identify options for change that would enable Area Delegates to constitute more than two-thirds of the voting members at the Australian General Service Conference.

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

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE POLICIES AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek, NSW  
Friday 8th November 2019 8.40am – 10.30am

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### TOPIC #012/2019

Encourage alcoholic-addicts to maintain anonymity as a drug addict at AA meetings.

The Conference Policies & Admissions Committee recommends to Conference that alcoholic-addicts be encouraged to maintain anonymity as a drug addict at AA meetings by adding the following statement to the open meeting Primary Purpose statement:

*“If you also identify as a drug addict, it is important for our common welfare that you maintain your anonymity as a drug addict and focus on your problem with alcohol.”*

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### ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

Carolyn G was elected Chairperson  
Pippa O was elected Alternate Chairperson

# **REPORT**

## **CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER AND SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
Thursday 7th November 2019 4.00pm – 6.00pm**

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### **ROLL CALL**

Chris B (Chairperson)	Delegate, Area B, North Eastern Region
David A (Alternate Chair)	Delegate, Area D, Southern Region
Brian D	Delegate, Area A, Western Region
Allan D	Delegate, Area F, Eastern Region
Pippa O	Delegate, Area B, Eastern Region
Steven R	Delegate, Area H Eastern Region
Paul J	Chair, Trustees Literature Committee
Tony C	Co-ordinator

### **APOLOGIES: Nil**

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

**The committee reviewed the Composition, Scope and Procedure document and made no changes.**

### **REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2014-2018)**

**The committee reviewed the Action List and made the following comments: Advisory Actions 012/2015; 035/2018; 056/2016 all relate to new or reviewed guidelines considered by the committee at this Conference.**

### **REVIEW PROPOSED NEW AREA DELEGATE SECTION – SERVICE MANUAL**

#### **REVIEW GUIDELINE 14**

#### **REVIEW GUIDELINE 15**

#### **REVIEW GUIDELINE FOR INTERNET USE**

**The committee viewed all these new or reviewed sections of the Australian General Service Manual and Section 14 Guidelines, and recommends to Conference that these submissions be accepted for inclusion in the Service Manual.**

# **REPORT**

## **CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER AND SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
Thursday 7th November 2019 4.00pm – 6.00pm**

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### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **REVIEW 2019 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

##### **TOPIC #009/2019**

Currently there is no specific provision for members to leave a nominated Central Service Office a sum of money in their will. This topic suggests that the AA Guideline relating to CSOs, GL-12, should make such a provision.

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected, as a matter for CSOs to determine.**

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##### **TOPIC #019/2019**

Amend the Australian Conference Charter on page 72 of the Australian Service Manual, (restoring it to our founder Bill W's original wording) to read that "Area Delegates make up at least two thirds of the Conference body".

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee has no recommendation for this topic as this matter is contingent on the examination and recommendation for Topic 001/2019 allocated to the Policies and Admissions committee at this Conference. The committee supports this topic in principle.**

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##### **TOPIC #022/2019**

That conference resolve to correct the lack of 2/3 majority of delegate votes on the conference floor, as stated in the Conference Charter.

Due to a historic flaw and our inability to increase the number of Areas in Australia in our General Service structure, there is not a 2/3 majority of delegate votes on the conference floor. This proposal will restore the 2/3 majority required by Concept 1.

**The Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee supports this topic in principle, but has no recommendation for it, as the matter is contingent on the examination and recommendation of Topic 001/2019 allocated to the Policies and Admissions committee at this Conference.**

# **REPORT**

## **CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER AND SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
Thursday 7th November 2019 4.00pm – 6.00pm**

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

**There were no changes to core documents during the year.**

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

**Pippa O was elected Chairperson  
Brian D was elected Alternate Chairperson**

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel

22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek NSW

Thursday 7th November 2019 4.00pm – 6.00pm

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### ROLL CALL

Chairperson	Paul C, Delegate, Area B, Southern region
Alt. Chairperson	Gabrielle N, Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region
	Geoff S, Delegate, Area F, Southern Region
	Jack S, Delegate, Area A Central Region
	Anna S, Delegate, Area E Eastern Region
	Adrian H, Delegate, Area C, Eastern Region
	David E (Chair, Trustees' International Committee)
	Brian S (World Service Delegate)
	Valerie M (Co-ordinator)

### Non-voting observers

Ruby Jones, Class A Trustee

### APOLOGIES

Nil

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

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

#### **Scope**

As there had been no AOSM Directory for some time it was agreed that the the wording of point 5 would be replaced with 'Review reports from the World Service Meeting and Asia/Oceania Service Meeting.

The World Service Delegates were requested to ascertain why the AOSM Directory had been discontinued and whether there were any plans to produce another one.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2014-2018)

The committee reviewed the Action List and made no recommendations.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **REVIEW 2019 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

No topics were allocated to this committee

### ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

Anna S was elected Chairperson

Jack S was elected Alternate Chairperson



# REPORT

## CONFERENCE TREATMENT FACILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE

Meeting held at: Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek, NSW  
Thursday 7th November 2019 8.30pm – 9.30pm

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### ROLL CALL

Chairperson	Gabrielle N, Delegate, Area G Eastern Region
Alt. Chairperson	Janet M, Alt. Delegate, Area A Eastern Region
	Rob C Delegate, Area B, Central Region
	Garry S, Delegate, Area D, Eastern Region
	Jack S, Delegate, Area A, Central Region
	Steven R, Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region
	Lachlan B (Chairperson, Trustees' Treatment Facilities & Special Needs Committee)
	Tony C (Co-ordinator)

Non-voting observers  
Stephen Roche

### APOLOGIES

Nil.

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The committee reviewed the Composition, Scope and Procedure document and made no changes.

Note: Members of the Committee, Janet M and Jack S will investigate acceptable options of alternative names for "Special Needs."

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2014-2018)

The committee reviewed the Action List and made no recommendations.

### NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW 2019 CONFERENCE TOPICS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
CONFERENCE

No topics were allocated to this committee.

### ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

Jack S was elected Chairperson  
Steven R was elected Alternate Chairperson

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Meeting held at:

Mercure Sydney International Airport Hotel

Thursday 7th November 2019 4.00pm – 6.00pm

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### ROLL CALL

Chairperson

David A, Delegate, Area D, Southern Region

Alt. Chairperson

Allan D, Delegate, Area F, Eastern Region

Paul C, Delegate, Area B, Southern Region

Anna S, Delegate, Area E, Eastern Region

Pippa O, Delegate, Area B, Eastern Region

Adrian H, Delegate, Area C, Eastern Region

Bill H, Chairperson, Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee

Chris S (Co-ordinator)

Non voting

observers Judy W

Incoming Chair, Trustees' Correctional Facilities Committee

### APOLOGIES

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The committee reviewed the Composition, Scope and Procedure document and made no changes

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2014-2018)

The committee reviewed and Action List and made the following recommendations:

037/2018 No further action needed. The committee asked that the original proposer be asked to submit a topic with more detail about the matter.

### NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW 2019 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO  
CONFERENCE

No topics were allocated to this committee.

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### ELECTION CHAIRPERSON & ALTERNATE CHAIRPERSON

Adrian H was elected Chairperson

David A was elected Alternate Chairperson

# REPORT

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

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek, NSW  
Friday 8th November 2019 8.40am – 10.30am

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### ROLL CALL

Chairperson	Garry S (Delegate, Area D, Eastern Region)
Alt. Chairperson	David A, Delegate, Area D, Southern Region
	Clare S (Delegate, Area B, Western Region)
	Anna S (Delegate, Area E Eastern Region)
	Steven R, Delegate, Area H Eastern Region
	Janet M, Delegate, Area A Eastern Region)
	Andy P (Chair, Trustees PI&CPC Committee)
	Tony C (Co-ordinator)
	Lachlan B (General Service Trustee)
Non-voting observers:	Stephen R (North Eastern Regional Trustee)

### APOLOGIES

Nil

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The committee reviewed the Composition, Scope and Procedure document and made no changes.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2014-2018)

The committee reviewed and Action List and made the following recommendations:

#### **#042/2018 (Re: Membership Survey)**

That the plan to conduct a new Fellowship Survey commence without any further delay. The Committee also recommended that Conference issues an statement of apology to members who submitted entries to the original survey.

#### **022/2015 (National Technology and Media Advisor).**

Lachlan B is no longer engaged in this position, The Committee recommends that its vacancy be re advertised without delay.

# **REPORT**

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

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek, NSW  
Friday 8th November 2019 8.40am – 10.30am

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### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **REVIEW 2019 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

##### **TOPIC #008/2019**

AA could do with a few more colour A4 PI poster options. Please find my suggested options attached.

The Conference PI&CPC Committee recommends to Conference that these posters be made available through GSO in hardcopy and electronic format.

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### **REVIEW NATIONAL WEBSITE**

The Conference PI&CPC Committee reviewed the National website and the report from Steve T of the national website team is being distributed to Conference.

### **REVIEW SERVICE WEBSITE**

The Conference PI&CPC Committee reviewed the Service Website. Julie L., the Service Website Administrator reports that:

“I'm currently rebuilding the service website, as per the Service Website Committee report submitted to conference last year. The main changes are:

- \* making the layout easier to use, and more visual
- \* making it easier to find documents, including all documents being fully searchable (not just the text of the posts they're attached to)
- \* adding lots of useful content regarding service in general
- \* adding useful daily content (eg Daily Reflections)

### **REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION - PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Conference PI&CPC Committee reviewed the Public Service Announcements and recommends that these be made available for the purposes of Public Information,

# **REPORT**

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

**Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel**

**22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek, NSW**

**Friday 8th November 2019 8.40am – 10.30am**

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

**Janet M was elected Chairperson**

**Clare S was elected Alternate Chairperson**

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek, NSW  
Friday 8th November 2019 8.40am – 10.30am

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### ROLL CALL

Chairperson:	Paul C, Delegate, Area B, Southern Region
Alternate Chairperson:	Geoff S, Delegate, Area F, Southern Region
	Brian D, Delegate, Area B, Western Region
	Bonnie I, Delegate, Area C, North Eastern
Region	Adrian H, Delegate, Area C, Eastern Region
	Mike E, Chair, Trustees' Finance Committee
	Chris S, Co-ordinator
Non-voting observers:	Penelope C (incoming Chair, Trustees' Finance Committee)

### APOLOGIES Allan D

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The committee reviewed the Composition, Scope and Procedure document and made no changes

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2014-2018)

The committee reviewed and Action List and made the following recommendations:

016/2018 completed

021/2018 completed

022/2018 completed

012/2014 Geoff S from Area F SR to resurrect the Advisory Action and report back on progress prior to February Board meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### REVIEW 2019 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE

#### TOPIC #020/2019

General Service Board establish a permanent AA Convention bank account

The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be rejected. Citing possible difficulty in changing signatories, how we handle multiple Convention accounts, autonomy of Host Planning Committees, perception that the authority rested with GSO and Complexity around auditing.

# **REPORT**

## **CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
22 Levey Street, Wollsi Creek, NSW  
Friday 8th November 2019      8.40am – 10.30am**

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### **TOPIC #021/2019**

#### **A New Funding System for the AA Convention**

**The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be rejected. The HPC is autonomous and it isn't our place to direct them how to raise funds. We don't request mandatory contributions.**

**The Committee recommends to Conference that the seed funding for National Conventions be raised to \$15000.**

---

### **REVIEW AUDITED ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

**The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that the audited reports for year ended 30 June 2019 be accepted.**

### **REVIEW BUDGET JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020**

**The Conference Finance Committee recommends to Conference that the General Service Board Budget for year ended 30 June 2020 be accepted.**

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

**Bonnie I was elected Chairperson  
Brian D was elected Alternate Chairperson**

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel

22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek, NSW

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 11.00am – 1.00pm

---

### ROLL CALL

Chairperson:	Janet M, Alt. Delegate, Area A, Eastern Region
Alt. Chairperson:	Allan D, Delegate, Area F, Eastern Region)
	Clare S, Delegate, Area B, Western Region
	Jack S, Delegate, Area A, Central Region
	Steven R, Delegate, Area H, Southern Region
	Carolyn G, Delegate, Area A, Northern Region
	Penelope C, (past Chairperson, Trustees' Remote Communities Committee)
	Adrian H Delegate, Area C Eastern Region
	Tony C (Co-ordinator)

### Non voting observers

Bill Hayes (Northern Regional Trustee)

### APOLOGIES:

Allan Douglas, Delegate, Area F, Eastern Region

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

The committee reviewed the Composition, Scope and Procedure document and made no changes.

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2014-2018)

The committee reviewed the Action List and made the following recommendation:

That delegates Clare S and Jack S revise and reissue the call for members to consider forming a specific committee to deal with indigenous matters, as expressed in Advisory Action 070/2016. This would include an article for prominent inclusion in AA Around Australia, and posting at both national and service websites.



# **REPORT**

## **CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek, NSW  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 11.00am – 1.00pm

---

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **REVIEW 2019 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

##### **TOPIC #016/2019**

To compile and publish a selection of personal stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AA members, their journey to AA and experience, strength and hope.

The book could be an excellent resource to carry the message to prisons, health services and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations. The book will have a national focus – sharing stories from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members from all States and Territories; including, if possible and appropriate, a cross-section of stories from men, women, young Indigenous people, transgender, disabilities.

I have attached a copy of my own personal story which may or may not be included in the book, but attach it as an example of the style of written content that might be similarly adopted by other members to appeal to Indigenous readers. See Attachment A.

The Conference Remote Communities Committee recommends to Conference that this topic be rejected.

The Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be returned to the submitter, inviting them to compile stories, including those from 25 members already willing to contribute, and to resubmit these as a topic to Conference in 2020 for further consideration of this proposed publication. It was suggested that such a topic could be referred to the Conference Literature Committee.

The submitter's working group will be invited to be in contact with the Committee Trustee and Delegate Chair in relation to this initiative and that further details be included in the AA Around Australia article mentioned in 070/2016 above

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

The Remote Communities Committee reviewed the Remote Communities page of the Service Website and made no new recommendations.

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

Jack S was elected Chairperson  
Clare S was elected Alternate Chairperson

# **REPORT**

## **CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Hotel  
22 Levey Stree, Wolli Creek, NSW  
Friday 8th November 2019 11.00am – 1.00pm**

---

### **ROLL CALL**

(Chairperson) Garry S, Delegate, Area D, Eastern Region  
Rob C, Delegate, Area B, Central Region  
Chris B, Delegate Area B, North Eastern Region Geoff S,  
Delegate, Area F, Southern Region  
Paul C, Delegate, Area B, Southern Region Gabrielle N,  
Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region Paul J (Chairperson,  
Trustees' Literature Committee) Chris S (Co-ordinator)

Non voting observers:  
Brian S (World Service Delegate)

### **APOLOGIES No apologies**

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

The committee reviewed the Composition, Scope and Procedure document and made no changes

### **REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2014-2018)**

The committee reviewed and Action List and made the following recommendations:  
038/2016 Chris B to approach Tony J to elicit interest.  
021/2015 Completed  
010/2014 Completed

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **REVIEW 2019 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

#### **TOPIC #006/2019**

That AA Australia provide functionality for members to subscribe to email updates on aa.org.au and that this be used to communicate with the fellowship on any matter affecting all AA members, and to distribute the electronic version of AA Around Australia.

The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be rejected.  
The Service Structure is the preferred method of communicating to the fellowship.

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Hotel  
22 Levey Stree, Wolli Creek, NSW  
Friday 8th November 2019 11.00am – 1.00pm

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AA Around Australia is already in the process of being distributed electronically.

---

### TOPIC #010/2019

That AA Australia produce a 9<sup>th</sup> Step Promises banner.  
The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be rejected. The committee feels that it is not necessary.

---

### TOPIC #013/2019

That the GSB (In consultation with our current volunteer archivist) engage a professional Archivist to assess our archives in order to  
A) Ensure we are employing best practice with regard to storage, management, integration and access of the material and  
B) Learn how we can digitize relevant material.

The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be accepted.

---

### TOPIC #015/2019

That a large 288cm x 233cm and giant 244cm x 415cm Concepts banner be produced for display at AA National Conventions and AA Rallies. These sizes are what are currently available from GSO for Steps and Traditions.

The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be rejected. Meeting size banners are available. Shipping costs for the giant banners are high due to being over length.

---

### TOPIC #024/2019

#### Advisory Action #006/2017

Conference resolved to reject the proposal to include additional information on disruptive behaviours in the AA Group Handbook. However, it was resolved that the proposer be asked to consider submitting two topics at another General Service Conference –  
(1) a Guideline of Safety in AA and

# **REPORT**

## **CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Hotel  
22 Levey Stree, Wolli Creek, NSW  
Friday 8th November 2019 11.00am – 1.00pm**

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**(2) a paragraph for addition to the AA Group Handbook, referencing the Guideline.**

**The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that the topic be accepted.**

---

### **TOPIC #027/2019**

**The General Service Board requests that the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia advises whether it wishes to have four issues of AA Around Australia annually and whether or not this publication should be made available electronically to individuals.**

**The Conference Literature Committee recommends to Conference that four issues of AA Around Australia be published and that it be made available electronically for individuals and groups.**

---

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

**Geoff S was elected Chairperson  
Gabrielle N was elected Alternate Chairperson**

# **REPORT**

## **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES**

**Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek NSW  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 11.00am – 1.00pm**

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### **ROLL CALL**

(Chairperson) David A, Delegate, Area D, Southern Region  
Anna S, Delegate, Area E, Eastern Region  
Brian D, Delegate, Area A Western Region  
Tracy C, Delegate, Area A, North Eastern Region  
Bonnie I, Delegate, Area C, North Eastern Region  
Pippa O, Delegate, Area B, Eastern Region  
Mike E, Chairman, Trustees' Nominating Committee  
David E, World Service Delegate  
Valerie M (Co-ordinator)  
Non-voting observer: Ruby Jones (Class A Trustee)

### **APOLOGIES**

Nil

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

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

#### **Composition**

It was agreed that the following words be removed from the third paragraph "from among the second year panel members" as this was not accurate. First year panel members were eligible to be elected as Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson.

### **REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2014-2019)**

The committee reviewed the Action List and made no recommendations.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **REVIEW 2019 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE**

No topics were allocated to this committee

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

Applicant: Greg B

# **REPORT**

## **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES**

**Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
22 Levey Street, Wolli Creek NSW  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 11.00am – 1.00pm**

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**The Conference Committee on Trustees recommends to Conference that Greg B is a suitable candidate for election by the General Service Conference as World Service Delegate for a four year period, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.**

### **TRUSTEE VACANCIES TO OCCUR WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS**

#### **Completion of term 31 December 2019:**

Bill H (Northern Regional Trustee) Mike E  
(General Service Trustee) David E (World  
Service Delegate)

The Board is still seeking 3 Class A Trustees.

**The Co-ordinator advised that there had been expressions of interest in the Northern Regional Trustee and General Service Trustee positions and that the Board would be reviewing three Class A applications at the post Conference Board meeting.**

**The committee briefly discussed how members could be encouraged to nominate for Board and World Service Delegate positions but made no recommendations.**

#### **Completion of term 31 December 2020**

There will be no Trustees or World Service Delegates completing their term in 2020.

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

**Brian D was elected Chairperson  
Tracy C was elected Alternate Chairperson**

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel

22 Levey Street, NSW

Friday 8th November 2019 2.00pm – 3.15pm

---

### ROLL CALL

Rob C (Chairperson)

Delegate, Area B, Central Region

Paul C (Alt. Chairperson)

Delegate Area B, Southern Region

Chris B North Eastern Region Delegate, Area B,

Clare S Delegate, Area B, Western Region

Gabrielle N Delegate, Area G, Eastern Region

David A Delegate, Area D, Southern Region

Carolyn G Delegate, Area A, Northern Region

Mike E Chairperson, Trustees GS Conference Committee

Valerie M Conference Co-ordinator

### APOLOGIES Nil

### REVIEW COMPOSITION, SCOPE AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENT

### REVIEW ACTION LIST (ADVISORY ACTIONS 2014-2018)

The committee reviewed the Action List and made no recommendations.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### REVIEW 2019 CONFERENCE TOPICS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONFERENCE

#### TOPIC #011/2019

That the time frame between Topics for Conference closing and being distributed should be revised.

4.) We need to give new (and old!) members the time and grace for careful explanations, and consideration.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the suggestion to have the Conference topic deadline at the end of May, allocation of Conference topics at the June Agenda Committee teleconference and published on the website by the mid July be rejected. The reason for the suggestion to reject the topic is:

# REPORT

## CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
22 Levey Street, NSW  
Friday 8th November 2019 2.00pm – 3.15pm

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The Conference Agenda Committee need to have this material at least four weeks prior to their meeting. There would be insufficient time for the Committee Co-ordinator to process and distribute them to the Conference Agenda Committee, particularly as this would coincide with a busy time in the General Service Office preparing for the end of Financial Year.

---

### DISCUSSION ITEM FROM AUGUST 2019 AGENDA COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

It was agreed that word limits of Conference Topics be discussed at the Conference Agenda Committee meeting in November and a recommendation made to Conference.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the word limits for the following headings be increased to 150 words each: Topic; Background; Solution; how will the alcoholic or Fellowship of AA benefit. The 50 word limits regarding costs and whether there has been a consultation process should remain.

### RECOMMENDATION FROM AUGUST 2019 TELECONFERENCE

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to the General Service Conference that the following Minority Report Guidelines adopted from the US/Canada General Service Conference be approved for use in Australia:

- 1. The minority, expressing a feeling or opinion in light of the right of appeal to the General Service Conference, has been very rare. It is hoped that an individual entitled under Concept V to appeal would exhaust every avenue offered within the General Service Conference structure prior to making an appeal to the General Service Conference.*
- 2. All Conference members are entitled to appeal to the General Service Conference.*
- 3. The minority should announce, in writing, to the chair of the General Service Board, the General Service Conference Delegate Chair and to the General Service Office Conference Coordinator that it intends to appeal under Concept V to the General Service Conference.*
- 4. All Conference members will be given notice through the General Service Office of the minority's decision to file an appeal.*



# REPORT

## CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel

22 Levey Street, NSW

Friday 8th November 2019 2.00pm – 3.15pm

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5. Appeals under Concept V, including any minority report and background, should be submitted in writing 30 days prior to the General Service Conference in order for these materials to be distributed to Conference members. The G.S.O. Conference Coordinator will be responsible for seeing that this material is made available to all Conference members within 10 business days after its receipt.

6. The minority's appeal will be presented before the start of deliberation on Committee Reports:

- The minority will be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their appeal.
- The majority will then be given a maximum of ten minutes to present their position.

7. The discretion to debate a minority's appeal rests with the Conference body.

The chair will ask if there is a motion to decline to debate the minority's appeal. A motion to decline to debate a minority's appeal:

- Must be made without comment.
- Needs a second.
- Is not debatable.
- Requires a two thirds majority.

8. If the Conference decides to debate the appeal, it then takes the form of a motion which does not require a second. If passed by substantial unanimity, it becomes an advisory action.

9. Whether or not an appeal is debated, a summary of the minority's report and the disposition of the appeal will be published in the Final Conference Report.

### **2012 Additional Committee Considerations:**

- The committee considered modifying the procedure for the submission of Concept V minority appeals to the General Service Conference and took no action. They agreed that the policy approved by the 2011 General Service Conference sufficiently provides a process for the "Right of Appeal" as described in Concept V — the procedure allows for a "well-heard minority" to be a "chief protection against an uninformed, misinformed, hasty or angry majority," and it makes the "best possible use of minority feeling and opinion."

### **DATE – CONFERENCE 2019**

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the General Service Conference 2020 be held from Thursday 5th- Sunday 8th November 2020

# **REPORT**

## **CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

Meeting held at Novotel Sydney International Airport Hotel  
22 Levey Street, NSW  
Friday 8th November 2019      2.00pm – 3.15pm

---

### **DATES FOR AGENDA COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2019 & DEADLINE FOR CONFERENCE TOPICS 2020**

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that 2020 Agenda Committee meetings be held by teleconference on:

Saturday 13th June 2020 at 11.30am EST to formulate agendas -

Saturday 15th August 2020 at 11.30am EST to allocate topics to Conference.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020 4pm

Recommended deadline for receipt of Conference topics.

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the deadline for receipt of topics for the 2020 General Service Conference be 4pm Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THEME OF GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2020**

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends to Conference that the theme for the 2020 General Service Conference be chosen from the following options:

1. Singleness of purpose
2. An interesting bunch
3. Pause when agitated or doubtful
4. We ask for an intuitive thought or decision
5. We know only a little
6. The spiritual kindergarten
7. Finding our voice
8. Acknowledging our ultimate authority
9. As he may express himself
10. Our group conscience
11. We are responsible
12. Anonymity: our spiritual foundation

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

Clare S was elected Chairperson  
David A was elected Alternate Chairperson

## **SECTION 7**

### **ASK IT BASKET/CONFERENCE INVENTORY SESSION**



## ASK IT BASKET QUESTIONS DISCUSSED

### Question

Does Conference agree that minority opinions be recorded in the Conference Report.

### Answer

Conference disagreed with this suggestion

---

### Question

Topic 007/2019

The topic was sent to the Board. The person who wrote this topic has not received any notification. Why don't we get to discuss rejected topics, especially as it attempts to dispel any separation between the General Service Board and the Fellowship as a whole.

### Answer

Submitters of rejected topics are notified and given the reason for rejection. All rejected topics are included in the Conference folder, together with reason they were rejected by the Conference Agenda Committee. Any Conference member can request that the Conference considers discussing a rejected topic.

---

### Question

With the Agenda Committee's Guideline on the Minority Report, what is the General Service Conference Delegate Chair? As this is the US/Canada guideline and we do not have this position, should it be removed? Ref. page 2 of Conference Agenda Committee Report back.

### Answer

Conference agreed that this should be removed from the Guidelines.

---

### Question

When a topic is rejected as it is an internal Conference matter, when does topic discuss internal Conference matters?

### Answer

During Conference Committee meetings or during the Ask It Basket/Conference Inventory session.

---

### Question

Can the Agenda Committee please explain why 3 and arguably 5 topics this year on the spiritual principle of rotation were rejected. The principle of rotation is critical for AA to be effective.

### Answer

AA Australia has a staff of 3. It is not feasible to rotate these positions. Conference Committee Co-ordinators are paid staff positions. Co-ordinators are assigned to committees in accordance with their roles in the General Service Office. This is common practice in other countries. The reasons for rejection of these topics were included in the Rejected Topics section of the Conference folder.

---

**Question**

Does Conference feel that Rejected Topics and the reason for rejection need to be documented in the Conference Report, not just the Conference folder, so that the Fellowship can access that information?

**Answer**

Conference disagreed with this suggestion. The Conference Report was an account of what had been discussed and decisions made at Conference.

---

**Question**

As an Area Delegate over the weekend I have heard over and over again at this Conference the terms 'lack of trust' and 'disunity', often coupled with the idea that somehow the Board are responsible for rectifying this. I put it to the delegates, what are we doing as individuals? What simple thing are we delegates doing in our Areas with our groups to build trust between the Fellowship and the Board.

**Answer**

Conference agreed that delegates had a responsibility to ensure that groups and members had accurate information. It was noted that lack of trust in the Board did not seem to be a nationwide issue.

---

**Question**

Can the Board please consider opening up the General Service Trustee vacancy to a wider geography than Sydney. You are already using Zoom and it could be trialled maybe?

**Answer**

As explained in the Service Manual, it is necessary for the General Service Trustees to be within commuting distance of the General Service Office. Their physical presence can be required urgently.

---

**Question**

Can we get a copy of the Plan on a Page as used by the General Service Board.

**Answer**

The Plan on a Page was currently under review, but could be made available.

---

**Question**

Are Delegates contact details in the Conference folder confidential? Mine was passed on to someone outside of Conference.

**Answer**

The Delegates contact details are for the use of other Conference members only and should not be passed on to anyone outside of Conference without permission.

---

**Question**

Can we please refrain from racist jokes on the floor of AA or do people condone it.

**Answer**

The Conference does not condone racist jokes.

---

## **SECTION 8**

### **AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT**





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

**Financial Report**  
**For the year ended**  
**30 June 2019**

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

The Directors present their report together with the financial report of General Services Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia for the year ended 30 June 2019 and auditor's report thereon. This financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australia Accounting Standards.

**Directors Names**

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

Michael Eastaway

William Hayes

Ruby Jones

Lachlan Botticchio

Penelope Campbell

Paul Jones

Andrew Poad

Judy Woolstencroft Appointed 1 January 2019

Stephen Roche Appointed 1 January 2019

Brett Fulloon Resigned 31 December 2018

Paul Bugden Resigned 14 July 2018

Thomas Faunce Resigned 14 December 2018

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

**Company Objectives**

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

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

**Company Performance**

The company incurred a surplus for the year of \$10,248. (2018 surplus \$48,196)

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



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

**Information on directors**

<b>Paul Bugden</b> Special responsibilities	Eastern Regional Trustee
<b>Michael Eastaway</b> Special responsibilities	General Service Trustee
<b>Thomas Faunce</b> Special responsibilities	Class A Trustee
<b>Brett Fulloon</b> Special responsibilities	Northern Eastern Regional Trustee
<b>William Hayes</b> Special responsibilities	Northern Regional Trustee
<b>Ruby Jones</b> Special responsibilities	Class A Trustee
<b>Paul Jones</b> Special responsibilities	Western Regional Trustee
<b>Penelope Campbell</b> Special responsibilities	Southern Regional Trustee
<b>Lachlan Botticchio</b> Special responsibilities	General Service Trustee
<b>Andrew Poad</b> Special responsibilities	Central Regional Trustee
<b>Judy Woolstencroft</b> Special responsibilities	Eastern Regional Trustee
<b>Stephen Roche</b> Special responsibilities	North Eastern Regional Trustee

**Directors' meetings**

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

Michael Eastaway  
 Thomas Faunce  
 Brett Fulloon  
 Ruby Jones  
 William Hayes  
 Lachlan Botticchio  
 Paul Jones  
 Penelope Campbell  
 Andrew Poad  
 Judy Woolstencroft  
 Stephen Roche

<b>Director meetings</b>	
<i>Eligible</i>	<i>Attended</i>
3	3
2	2
2	2
3	3
3	3
3	3
3	3
3	3
3	3
1	0
1	1

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

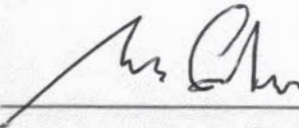
**Members guarantee**

The company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute to a maximum of \$50 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the company. At 30 June 2019 the number of members were 8. The combination total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$400

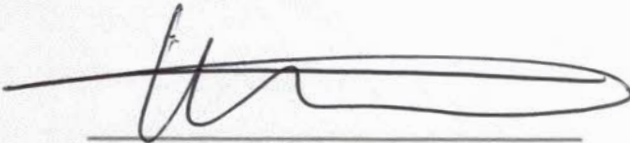
**Auditor's independence declaration**

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

Signed on behalf of the board of Directors



Director



Director

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019



GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

ABN 77 001 417 125

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

TO THE DIRECTORS OF

GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the period ended 30 June 2019 there have been:

- i. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- ii. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

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

**GRAEME KAY**  
Registered Company Auditor

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

Dated: ..... 25 October 2019 .....

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN 77 001 417 125  
Statement of Comprehensive Income  
for the year ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Sales Revenue	2	301,027	288,182
Other Revenue	2	316,076	394,812
	2	<u>617,103</u>	<u>682,994</u>
<b>Less Expenses</b>			
Changes in inventories of finished goods and work in progress	3	37,691	35,532
Cost of Goods Sold	3	(174,957)	(178,244)
Depreciation	3	-	(18)
Employee benefits expense		(246,315)	(269,388)
Rent expenses		(40,987)	(40,682)
Doubtful Debts		4,791	-
Insurance expenses		(17,579)	(16,540)
Telephone expenses		(6,380)	(6,385)
Postage		(4,262)	(6,905)
Public information expenses		(15,714)	(11,369)
Conference / Seminar costs		(55,145)	(55,533)
Travelling expenses		(38,397)	(39,404)
World service levy		(8,486)	-
Other expenses		(41,115)	(45,862)
		<u>(606,855)</u>	<u>(634,798)</u>
<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>		10,248	48,196
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<u><u>10,248</u></u>	<u><u>48,196</u></u>



General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN 77 001 417 125  
Statement of Financial Position  
as at 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	244,219	257,052
Receivables	6	30,459	25,447
Inventories	7	194,001	156,310
Other financial assets	8	95,190	93,684
Other assets	11	4,966	23,479
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>568,835</u>	<u>555,972</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Receivables	6	20,417	10,008
Property, plant and equipment	9	-	-
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u>20,417</u>	<u>10,008</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>589,252</u>	<u>565,980</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	12	90,681	63,239
Provisions	13	5,921	5,630
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>96,602</u>	<u>68,869</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	13	67,993	82,702
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<u>67,993</u>	<u>82,702</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>164,595</u>	<u>151,571</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>424,657</u>	<u>414,409</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings	14	424,657	414,409
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>424,657</u>	<u>414,409</u>



General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
 ABN 77 001 417 125  
 Statement of Changes in Equity  
 for the year ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Total Equity</b>		
Balance at the beginning of the year	414,409	366,213
Movement in equity from:		
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	10,248	48,196
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<u>424,657</u>	<u>414,409</u>

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN 77 001 417 125  
Statement of Cash Flows  
for the year ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from customers		580,754	674,749
Payments to suppliers and employees		(593,831)	(664,468)
Interest received		1,750	2,143
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	15	<u>(11,327)</u>	<u>12,424</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Receipt from (Payments for) investments		(1,506)	98,063
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>		<u>(1,506)</u>	<u>98,063</u>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		(12,833)	110,487
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		257,052	146,565
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>	5	<u>244,219</u>	<u>257,052</u>

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN 77 001 417 125  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2019

**NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other applicable authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial report was approved by the Directors as at the date of the Directors' report.

The financial report is for the entity General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia as an individual entity. General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation and presentation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

**(a) Basis of preparation of the financial report**

*Historical cost convention*

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value of certain classes of assets and liabilities as described in the accounting policies.

**(b) Revenue**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**(c) Income tax**

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

**(d) Inventories**

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



**NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**(e) Financial instruments**

*Classification*

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

*Held-to-maturity investments*

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

*Loans and receivables*

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

*Financial liabilities*

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

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

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

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

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

*Plant and equipment*

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

*Depreciation*

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

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

**NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**(g) Intangibles**

*Website costs*

Website costs are initially recorded at the purchase price and then amortised on a straight line basis over the period of 3 years. The balances are reviewed annually and amounts written off to the extent the realisable future benefits are considered to be no longer probable.

Other intangible assets other than those acquired in a business combination are initially recorded at cost. Other intangible assets are amortised on a straight line basis over the period of 20 years. The balances are reviewed annually and amounts are written off to the extent the realisable future benefits are considered to be no longer probable.

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

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

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

**(i) Provisions**

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

**(j) Leases**

Lease are classified at their inception as either operating or finance leases based on the economic substance of the agreement so as to reflect the risks and benefits incidental to ownership.

*Operating leases*

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are recognised as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Lease incentives received under operating leases are recognised as a liability and amortised on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

As of 1st July 2019, Leases will be recognised as per AASB 16 "Leases" if applicable



**NOTE 1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**(k) Employment benefits**

*(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations*

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

*(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations*

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

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

**(l) Borrowing costs**

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

Borrowing costs are expenses as incurred.

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

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

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

**(n) Comparatives**

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

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN 77 001 417 125  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2019

**NOTE 2: REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Sales revenue	301,027	288,182
- Sale of goods	<u>301,027</u>	<u>288,182</u>
Total revenue from operating activities		
Other Revenue	1,750	2,143
- Interest income	264,045	266,631
- Donations and grants	10,417	77,856
- Conventions	39,864	48,182
- Other revenue	<u>316,076</u>	<u>394,812</u>
Total revenue from non-operating activities		
Total revenue and other income	<u>617,103</u>	<u>682,994</u>

**NOTE 3: OPERATING SURPLUS**

Surplus / (deficit) for the year	137,266	142,712
- Cost of Sales	-	18
- Depreciation	2,851	101
- Bad Debts Written off	(4,791)	-
- Doubtful Debts	12,315	12,489
- Audit Fee - Audit Services		

**NOTE 4: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION**

Compensation received by key management personnel of the company	93,744	90,367
- short-term employee benefits	7,976	7,822
- Post-employment benefits	<u>101,720</u>	<u>98,189</u>

**NOTE 5: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash at bank and on hand	244,219	257,052
	<u>244,219</u>	<u>257,052</u>

**NOTE 6: RECEIVABLES**

<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade Debtors	30,309	34,304
Impairment Loss	(6,400)	(11,191)
	<u>23,909</u>	<u>23,113</u>
Other Debtors and deposits	6,550	2,334
	<u>30,459</u>	<u>25,447</u>
<b>NON CURRENT</b>		
Amount receivable from:		
- director related parties	-	8
- other related body corporates	20,417	10,000
	<u>20,417</u>	<u>10,008</u>
	<u>50,876</u>	<u>35,455</u>



General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN 77 001 417 125  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2019

**NOTE 7: INVENTORIES**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
At Cost		
Finished goods - at cost	204,203	164,553
Provision for impairment	<u>(10,202)</u>	<u>(8,243)</u>
	<u>194,001</u>	<u>156,310</u>

**NOTE 8: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS**

<b>CURRENT</b>		
Held to maturity financial assets		
Term Deposit	<u>95,190</u>	<u>93,684</u>
	<u>95,190</u>	<u>93,684</u>

The term deposit has an interest rate of 1.00% p.a and a maturity date of 12th March 2020

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

<b>Leasehold improvements</b>		
At cost	23,026	23,026
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(23,026)</u>	<u>(23,026)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost	12,553	12,553
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(12,553)</u>	<u>(12,553)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total Property, plant and equipment</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**(a) Reconciliations**

<b>Leasehold improvements</b>		
Opening carrying amount	-	-
Less: amortisation expense	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Closing carrying amount	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</b>		
Opening carrying amount	-	18
Less: disposal	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Less: depreciation expense	<u>-</u>	<u>(18)</u>
Closing carrying amount	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**NOTE 10: INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

Website costs - at cost	-	28,019
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>-</u>	<u>(28,019)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**NOTE 11: OTHER ASSETS**

<b>CURRENT</b>		
Prepayments	<u>4,966</u>	<u>23,479</u>
	<u>4,966</u>	<u>23,479</u>



General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN 77 001 417 125  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2019

**NOTE 12: PAYABLES**

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Trade Creditors	48,416	23,718
Sundry creditors and accruals	42,265	39,521
	<u>90,681</u>	<u>63,239</u>

**NOTE 13: PROVISIONS**

<b>CURRENT</b>		
Employee benefits	(a) 5,921	5,630
	<u>5,921</u>	<u>5,630</u>
<b>NON CURRENT</b>		
Employee benefits	(a) 67,993	82,702
	<u>67,993</u>	<u>82,702</u>
	<u>73,914</u>	<u>88,332</u>
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability		

**NOTE 14: RETAINED SURPLUS**

Retained Surplus at beginning of year	414,409	366,213
Surplus / (deficit)	10,248	48,196
	<u>424,657</u>	<u>414,409</u>

**NOTE 15: CASH FLOW INFORMATION**

<b>Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities with profit after income tax</b>		
Profit after income tax	10,248	48,196
<b>Non-cash flows in profit</b>		
- depreciation and amortisation	-	18
- bad and doubtful debts	(1,940)	101
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries</b>		
- (increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	(13,481)	28,114
- (increase) / decrease in other assets	18,513	(10,341)
- (increase) / decrease in inventories	(37,691)	(35,532)
- increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables	30,670	363
- increase / (decrease) in tax liabilities	(3,228)	(33,277)
- increase / (decrease) in provision	(14,418)	14,782
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>(11,327)</u>	<u>12,424</u>

**NOTE 16: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

- (a) Apart from the loans to regions, there were no related party transactions during the year
- (b) No Directors received remuneration during the year

**NOTE 17: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS**

- (a) Operating lease commitments
- Non-cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:
- Payables

- no later than one year	-	-
- later than one year and no later than five years	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>


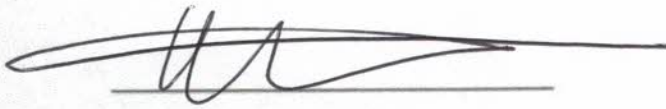
The lease agreement on the premises is currently on a month by month basis until a new lease agreement is signed.

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

The Directors of the company declare that:

- (a) the financial statements and notes of the company are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*; and
  - (i) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
  - (ii) comply with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act*
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

Dated this

25<sup>th</sup>

day of

October

2019



General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia

ABN 77 001 417 125

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year ended , and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

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

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- ii. complying with *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Basis for Opinion

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

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

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Preparation

I draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of preparation. The financial statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Strata in complying with the Strata Schemes Management Act 1996. These financial statements do not include the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements and have not prepared in accordance with the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements specified by Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. My report is intended solely for the Strata and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than the Strata. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

---

**Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance**

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

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

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

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

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

**GRAEME KAY**  
Registered Company Auditor

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

Dated: ..... 29 October 2019 .....



**DISCLAIMER**

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

I have compiled the accompanying additional financial information of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2019, as presented on pages 20-21. The additional information has been prepared to satisfy the information needs of the Directors of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia in accordance with the Accounting Policies adopted in the preparation of the annual financial statements of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia for the year ended 30 June 2019 as described in Note 1 to those financial statements.

*The Responsibility of the Directors*

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

*My Responsibility*

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

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

*Assurance Disclaimer*

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

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

**GRAEME KAY**  
Registered Company Auditor

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

Dated: ..... *29 October 2019* .....

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

Additional Information  
for the year ended 30 June 2019

Private information for the Directors  
On the 2019 Financial Statements

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Sale of Goods	301,027	288,182
<b>Less Cost of goods sold</b>		
Opening Inventory	156,310	120,778
Purchases / Materials used	174,957	178,244
	<u>331,267</u>	<u>299,022</u>
Less closing inventory	194,001	156,310
<b>Total cost of goods sold</b>	<u>137,266</u>	<u>142,712</u>
<b>Gross profit</b>	<u>163,761</u>	<u>145,470</u>
<b>Other operating income</b>		
Interest Income	1,750	2,143
Conference levies	39,864	48,182
Convention	10,417	77,856
Donations	264,045	266,631
<b>Total other operating income</b>	<u>316,076</u>	<u>394,812</u>
<b>Contribution Margin</b>	<u>479,837</u>	<u>540,282</u>
<b>Less Expenses</b>		
Audit and accountancy	(22,810)	(23,104)
Bad debts	(2,851)	(101)
Bank charges	(851)	(909)
Computer support	(859)	(954)
Conference / Seminar costs	(55,145)	(55,533)
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(18)
Doubtful Debts	4,791	-
Electricity and gas	(5,245)	(5,243)
Holiday pay	(291)	(1,590)
Insurance expenses	(17,579)	(16,540)
Legal and trademark expenses	(221)	(38)
Long service leave	14,709	(13,191)
Office expenses	(4,270)	(9,516)
Postage and freight	(4,262)	(6,905)
Production costs	(2,968)	(4,961)
Public information expenses	(15,714)	(11,369)
Rent expenses	(40,987)	(40,682)
Repairs and maintenance	(344)	(709)
Salaries and wages	(239,848)	(234,124)
Subscriptions	(696)	(327)
Superannuation	(20,885)	(20,483)
Telephone	(6,380)	(6,385)
Travelling expenses	(38,397)	(39,404)
World service levy	(8,486)	-
	<u>(469,589)</u>	<u>(492,086)</u>
<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>	10,248	48,196
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<u>10,248</u>	<u>48,196</u>



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

Additional Information  
for the year ended 30 June 2019

Private information for the Directors  
On the 2019 Financial Statements

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>NOTE 11: Sundry creditors and accruals</b>		
Collection due to others	29,993	22,445
GST Payable	665	1,724
PAYG withholding tax	-	3,776
Superannuation payable	1,607	1,576
Provision for audit	10,000	10,000
	<u>42,265</u>	<u>39,521</u>
 <b>NOTE 12: Provisions</b>		
 Current employee benefits		
Annual leave	<u>5,921</u>	<u>5,630</u>
	<u>5,921</u>	<u>5,630</u>
 Non-current employee benefits		
Long service leave	<u>67,993</u>	<u>82,702</u>
	<u>67,993</u>	<u>82,702</u>