

SECTION 3

OUTCOME OF TOPICS

TOPIC NO.	TOPIC	OUTCOME
001	AA <i>Around Australia</i> includes a statement of quarterly Group Contributions giving an impression of transparency across groups. A similar financial statement included once a year in AAAA of annual expenditure should also be included (Can be extracted from General Conference Report	Advisory Action #001/2016
002	A suggestion to the General Service Board regarding compensation for Host Planning Areas Holding Conventions	Voted on but not Advisory Action
003	An additional wording to the Guidelines for Conventions to read "Groups/District should be careful not to neglect their Group/ District/ Area/ C.S.O and G.S.O financial donations in order to support Conventions.	Advisory Action #003/2003
004	Producing The Twelve Step banners that have the same punctuation and emphasis as those used in the Big Book. Specifically: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Use of an m-dash in Step One (an m-dash is a large dash) 2) Emphasis on the words 'as we understood Him' by italic font (or underline) in Steps Three and Eleven. 3) Use a comma in Step Eleven, not a dash. 4) Place a comma after the word 'steps' in Step Twelve. 5) Use of lower case to be used for the banners, this then shows the emphasis, by use of a capital letter, in the words 'Power', 'God' and 'Him'. 	Advisory Action #004/2016
005	That the Conference resolves to discontinue the position of Trustee Emeritus following the completion of the 2016 Australian General Service Conference.	Advisory Action #005/2016

006	That the General Service Conference reviews the section 'How AA Chooses its Regional Trustees' and formulates a fair process, eliminating the opportunity for politicking, favouritism and undue influence, to ensure that the General Service Board is comprised of Regional Trustees with a proven level of experience and desired qualifications.	Voted on but not Advisory Action
007	In the interest of transparency, that the General Service Board publish the following itemised information in AA Around Australia and on the Service Website following every General Service Conference. Cost of flights Cost of accommodation Cost of meals Cost of venue hire, including equipment List of those Areas who did not cover the cost of their delegate attending Conference and reasons why, including initiatives taken to fund the cost.	Advisory Action #007/2016
008	We were recently sent a lot of negative information regarding the Convention held in Fiji over Easter. On checking we discovered that there was significant misinformation and that this convention had achieved some remarkable results – several new members of existing group in Fiji, raised awareness of how AA can help among 100 professionals and 70 village elders and the establishment of an Al-Anon group (previously there was no group). We have also learned that since the Convention a member of the Fiji Government who attended the Convention has attended the World Health Organisation Convention in Geneva, Switzerland and informed their delegates how AA is helping Fiji. We ask that the General Service Conference and members throughout Australia continue to support carrying the message in Fiji and to support organised and regular initiatives to carry the message to countries in our zone, where there is little or no AA presence.	Advisory Action #008/2016

<p>009</p>	<p>That the election process for International Delegates and the cost of sending these delegates to meetings be reviewed and that in each March issue of AA Around Australia and on the service website, the following information be provided to the Fellowship:</p> <p>Cost of our international delegates travelling to World Service Meeting or Asia/Oceania Service Meeting (whichever is applicable that year). Cost of accommodation/meals or levy for these delegates to attend these meetings. A list of outcomes/achievements of these meetings.</p> <p>Would the Conference explain to the Fellowship why these delegates are not selected from the existing General Service Board or General Service Office, as is the case in many other countries. This would give two votes back to the General Service Conference.</p>	<p>Voted on but not Advisory Action</p>
<p>010</p>	<p>That the Section of Primary Duties of an Area Delegate in the Service Manual be reviewed. Some delegates (fortunately the minority) do not appear to be fully aware of these duties. For example, at a recent significant Area event, the delegate was not present, no reason for the absence was given, no message from the delegate was read out and the majority of people in attendance did not know who the delegate was. Point 6 of this section says: Conventions and other get-togethers held in the Area or Region are also important events for the Area Delegate to attend. These represent additional opportunities to talk to AAs about General Services – those AAs who might never be reached otherwise”. If this point and other points are no longer considered to be relevant or important, the service manual needs to be changed.</p>	<p>Voted on but not Advisory Action</p>

011	<p>That the Regional Forum guideline be changed to include the following statement: If a region wishes the attendance of General Service staff, Trustees (other than the relevant Regional Trustee, World Service Delegates or National Coordinators at a forum, the Areas within the region should jointly bear the cost of travel, accommodation and meals and registration for their invited guests. This is the case in other countries, e.g. USA/Canada. The General Service Board should only pay the cost of the Regional Trustee to attend and any staff overtime expenses claimed.</p>	Voted on but not Advisory Action
012	<p>That the following statement be included in the Area and District sections of the Service Manual:</p> <p>“Should an Area require a Trustee (other than the Regional Trustee), General Service Office staff member, World Service Delegate or National Coordinator to attend an Area or District event, such as an Area Assembly, Rally, Workshop, etc. the costs for travel, accommodation, meals and registration of the guest/s must be covered by the Area or District. This includes invitations for the General Service Office staff to operate literature stands at rallies, a job which could be done by local volunteers.”</p>	Advisory Action #012/2016
013	<p>That we abolish the antiquated and confusing system of panel numbers at the Australian General Service Conference. It was originally introduced in Australia in the hope of stimulating members and groups interest in the General Service Conference. It was envisaged that all delegates, when they went to meetings would say something like “I’m Bob, a member of Serenity Group and a Panel 22 Conference member”. It was vaguely hoped that all members would then rush up to Bob after the meeting and Bob would be able to convince them of the importance of participating in the General Service</p>	Voted on but not Advisory Action

	structure. Unfortunately Bob has never been seen at meetings so there is absolutely no point to us having panel numbers.	
014	There should be a fairer representation of marginalised communities such as homosexuals, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, indigenous, mentally ill, disabled, refugees and women, at the General Service Conference. Their special issues are not being properly addressed by AA.	Voted on but not Advisory Action
015	That the Conference Cost Equalisation Scheme be abolished and Areas assume the responsibility for travel, accommodation and expenses for their Delegate to attend conference. The General Service Office will provide a venue for the annual General Service Conference in Sydney	Voted on but not Advisory Action
016	Cancel further plans and initiatives in Asia Oceania region/zone including sending delegates overseas until AA Australia takes it's inventory GSO/GSB to provide all costing for members airfare/accommodation, weekend wages if applicable relating to AOSM since1999 Focus entirely on Australian PI/CPC for next 5 yrs	Voted on but not Advisory Action
017	GSO/GSB to account for travel/accommodation/airfares and use of members contributions at PI/CPC forums/events in Australia Allow Groups and members to do PI/CPC as per tradition 5 and Step 12	Advisory Action #017/2016
018	We think that internal communication within AA Australia could be improved to better connect members and assist in the promotion of AA events and service opportunities. Our inability to communicate effectively within the wider fellowship is a stumbling block to the engagement and participation of AA members in intergroup events and service.	Voted on but not Advisory Action

019	That the costs of General Service Board (GSB) meetings be met from AA general revenue funds, and that collected Conference levies need only to go towards the cost of Conference, not Board meetings.	Advisory Action #019/2017
020	That the questions and answers of the "Ask it Basket" session at Conference be minuted in the Report to Conference.	Advisory Action #020/2016
021	Topics for Conference that are rejected or forwarded onto the GSB should be sent to the appropriate Conference Committee who would have handled them had they been accepted. That Committee can then recommend to Conference if the topic should indeed be presented to the fellowship as a topic the following year.	Voted on but not Advisory Action
022	That the Australian National Convention should not be held outside of Australia again without the approval of the wider Australian Fellowship. To ensure this, a Topic to Conference should be sent out to the AA groups; specifically, for approval or disapproval as to whether or not the Convention occur outside of Australia every five years. The topic should be sent to the groups no less than three years prior to any offshore proposed National Convention, to allow for adequate reflection of need, cost and feasibility.	Topic rejected. Topic 044 submitted to Conference.
023	That the General Service Conference change the role of Trustee Emeritus at the conclusion of the 2016 Australian General Service Conference	Advisory Action #023/2016
024	To make the page layout and paragraphs of the chapter The Doctor's Opinion compatible with the US/UK versions and the pocket version of the book Alcoholics Anonymous.	Advisory Action #024/2016
025	Unlimited availability of the US 4 th Editions of the basic text Alcoholics Anonymous (the Big Book) – hard and soft covers, large print and abridged large print versions and pocket version. As members of an international fellowship, which was founded in the US, we ask to continue stocking all versions	Topic rejected. Already happens.

	<p>of the U.S. 4th edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous - hard and soft covered, large print and abridged large print versions plus pocket version.</p> <p>There should be unlimited access to the US versions, for the stories, the layout of the pages in Roman numerals and the Preface, which contains important information.</p>	
026	<p>Our Fellowship request additional information be added to our Australia Group Handbook allowing 'Groups' to have Guidance and Suggestions on how the issue of 'Predatory behaviour' <i>can</i> be addressed.</p> <p>AA Service Manual: "We have not shied away from what some think are taboo subjects"</p>	Topic referred to General Service Board for legal advice.
027	<p>Australian Aboriginal Recovery in AA It would be beneficial to have a greater effort focussed on the Indigenous Australian and it is believed that efforts will be more effective if native traditions and approaches were incorporated.</p> <p>See Attachment # 1 – The background related to Indigenous Australians See Attachment # 1.2 – AA Service Web site – Members Plea for Help</p>	Advisory Action #027/2016
028	<p>Conference Approved Lit 4th Edition BB Pocket BB Abridged 4th Edition BB 1st Edition BB</p> <p>Members are requesting to <i>NOT</i> be limited to access of recovery literature. IF members wish to use the 4th Edition and the stories in large print (abridged and unabridged), the current version, the reproduction 1st Edition for reference to particular recovery solutions the choice should be the individual member/s or group/s.</p>	Rejected. Limited edition print.

029	<p>Conference Topic Form Reformat Change to the Topic for Conference submission FORM for conference topics. When trying to encourage members to participate and submit Topics for Conference it has been experienced that there is resistance to to the current form being too confusing.</p>	Advisory Action #029/2016
030	<p>Financial Reporting for GSO Shareholders of Alcoholics Anonymous (Members of AA) request a copy of the Annual GSO Financial Report to Conference to be made available in the second yearly edition of "AA Around Australia" newsletter. This would include a detailed breakdown of the yearly expenses incurred by GSO.</p> <p>See Attachment # 1 – List of expenses</p>	Voted on but not Advisory Action
031	<p>Teleconferencing Around Australia Considering the costs of travel and accommodation for GSB, Delegates and GSO staff to attend events around Australia and Asia Oceania, where possible, teleconferences to be used in the future.</p> <p>Be more practical with finances so more suffering alcoholics can be reached. Excessive expenditure on staff wages, air across the country and overnight/weekend accommodations for meetings lasting 2-3 hrs should be reduced.</p> <p>See Attachment #1 – Example See Attachment # 2 – 2015 Special Committee Financial Report</p>	Voted on but not Advisory Action
032	<p>Rotation of Conference Committee Co-ordinators To bring the role of Conference Committee Co-ordinator in line with other service positions within the General Service structure, Conference resolves to introduce at the completion of the 2016 General Service Conference, a method of rotation for all Conference Committee Co-ordinators that ensures that no Conference Committee is co-ordinated by the same individual for any more than four consecutive years.</p>	Voted on but not Advisory Action

033	<p>Primary Purpose of AA Australia IN Australia AA Australia is bound to upholding the 5th Tradition first and foremost with its own people Renewed focus is urgently required on our own struggling Remote Aboriginal Communities, through national 12th Step work and appropriate distribution of group funds. See attachments #1 #2 #3</p>	Voted on but not Advisory Action
034	<p>In the interest of accountability and transparency we want a detailed breakdown of ALL expenditure (wages, airfares, travel, accommodation etc) by GSO to be published in the first issue of "AA Around Australia" This report can be expanded from the financial report printed in the Conference Report</p>	Voted on but not Advisory Action
035	<p>Continued inclusion of the reproduced 1st Edition BB in the Australian conference approved Literature selection See Attachment 1</p>	Rejected. Limited edition print.
036	<p>The attached corrections need to be made to the Australian Edition BB before next printing or consider a recall of the ones already printed See attachment #1</p>	Advisory Action #036/2016
037	<p>GSO staff and GSB members would benefit from undertaking Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training See attachment #1</p>	Voted on but not Advisory Action
038 ATTACHMENT	<p>Production of a booklet/pamphlet on the Steps for Indigenous Australians</p>	Advisory Action #038/2016
039	<p>The format of "<i>The 12 Steps and What They Mean To Us</i>" DVD submitted and approved at Conference in 2010, had been changed without further consultation. a.Change the DVD back to its original format. b.Change the title of the dvd to : "AA for the Indigenous Australian" c.Use a label that is Aboriginal oriented without any reference to the artist (Re: anonymity)</p>	Advisory Action #039/2016

<p>040</p>	<p>There are three parts to this Topic for Conference which has been created by Qld Remote Community Committee.</p> <p>Part 1. Advisory Action #037/2015 That the current definition of Remote Communities in the AA Service Manual page 105 be changed in accordance with Advisory Action #037/2015¹ and be defined as: “by any individual or group isolated by geographic remoteness or cultural isolation”. This then also changes the scope of the role as carrying the message to people living in geographically remote communities and/or cultural isolation within Australia. These changes may then impact on the roles of the National and State/Territory Coordinators.</p> <p>Part 2. That the role of Remote Community Coordinator/Committee Members be included in the Area Structure in the Australian AA Service Manual. This could be achieved by an addition to page 48 number 8, which could read as per the example below:</p> <p>8. Public Information and Remote Communities report. The inclusion of the Remote Community Committee members into Area can provide the committee members with voting rights at Area meetings and also the ability to combine activities with Public Information, Co-operation with the Professional Community, Treatment and Correctional Facilities and the ability for Area to agree and fund Remote Community Projects. There should to be a caveat that only One Remote Community Committee per Area attend the Area Assemblies these persons are to be nominated by the State/Territory Remote Community Committee as there representative.</p> <p>Further inclusion of Remote Communities could be incorporated into</p>	<p>Parts 1 and 2 Voted on but not Advisory Action.</p> <p>Part 3 Advisory Action #040-3/2016</p>
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	<p>GL-30 PI&CPC and T&CF Coordinators & Forums. This inclusion would reduce duplication of other Forums and prevent draining of limited service resources and service members which would be required to run separate functions.</p> <p>Part 3. That the following draft workbook be reviewed by Conference and if agreed be available as a resource offering suggestions on how to carry the message to members/groups and professions in a remote setting.</p>	
041	<p>We ask Conference to consider holding a Convention in the Northern Territory in 2020. This would be a 12th Step call to suffering alcoholics in 'a Remote Region of Australia', which is 'Isolated by distance and language.' This region needs AA's help.</p>	Voted on but not Advisory Action
042	<p>The General Service Board is a Spiritual Entity as well as a Corporate Body (Legal Structure of the Board. The Australian Service Manual pp. 107, 108). 'Spiritual Core' consists of The Steps, The Traditions, and The Concepts woven deep within the legal documents of the Company.</p> <p>Silencing Trustees contradicts these principles, Traditions 2 and 9. Concept 10.</p> <p>Could Conference consider reversing the decision to silence their Trustees and restore to us the Spiritual Core, the legacy of Concept 3 "Right of Decision".</p>	Rejected. Inaccurate information in topic.
043	<p>Address the imbalance between Delegates and other voting members of conference</p> <p>"Who Conference Members Are At the annual meeting of the Conference in November, Area Delegates should ideally constitute more than two-thirds of the voting members. Other voting Conference members are Trustees, International Delegates and the National Office Manager." (service manual Page 72)</p>	Voted on but not Advisory Action

044	That Conference look at the viability of holding Australasian Conventions in the Asia/Oceania Zone in a developing country on a five year rotational basis. EG East Timor, Solomon's, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Cambodia, Laos and New Guinea. This would assist us as part of our responsibility to carry the message to developing countries and to encourage the development of service structures.	Advisory Action #044/2016
045	That Conference consider adopting Area E Eastern Region's new document on the General Service Conference (GSC) process that visually displays in a simple and clear way the annual timeline and various stages as AA's collective group conscience is expressed through our service structure each year and make it available to all AA members.	Advisory Action #045/2016
046	Producing The Twelve Step banners that have the same punctuation and emphasis as those used in the Big Book. Specifically: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Use of an m-dash in Step One (an m-dash is a large dash) 2) Emphasis on the words 'as we understood Him' by italic font (or underline) in Steps Three and Eleven. 3) Use a comma in Step Eleven, not a dash. 4) Place a comma after the word 'steps' in Step Twelve. 5) Use of lower case to be used for the banners, this then shows the emphasis, by use of a capital letter, in the words 'Power', 'God' and 'Him'. 	Advisory Action #046/2016
047	The name of the National Co-ordinators to be changed to National Advisors. These positions to be rotated between each other, eg. Treatment Facilities, Correctional, PI, CPC and Remote Communities.	Voted on but not Advisory Action

048	<p>The General Service Board recommends to Conference that the attached guideline be accepted as per the request made in Advisory Action 055/2015 Conference resolved that Remote Communities Guidelines be produced including information on: Why the Remote Communities fund was set up</p> <p>The process for application for funding</p> <p>Full details of the administration of the Remote Communities Fund, including funding approval guidelines</p> <p>Clarification of the processes for appointing and reporting for Remote Communities Co-ordinator positions</p> <p>A description of the linkage between Regional Co-ordinator roles and Areas in the Service Structure.</p>	Advisory Action #048/2016
049	The number of topics to each Conference Committee be limited to a maximum of three per committee.	Voted on but not Advisory Action
050	At General Service Conference the Delegates be given a presentation of the 12 Concepts similar to the Delegate information sessions before Conference. This is to be a visual presentation that the delegates can then take back to their Areas. This will help them better carry the message to the members there.	Voted on but not Advisory Action
051	Each Area in Australia to set up a corrections sub-committee similar to Area C North Eastern Region. This is similar as outlined in the Service Manual.	Voted on but not Advisory Action
052	Numbering Areas across Australia because Regions and States are not part of our Fellowship Structure.	Not discussed. Recommendation will be made by Structure Review Committee.
053	Consider whether Trustees and the GSO Manager should be allowed to vote in Conference Committees in addition to their current right to vote on the floor of Conference.	Not discussed. Recommendation will be made by Structure Review Committee.

054	The Board requests an addition to the Australian General Service Manual, to replace the Section on page 98 under the heading "Regional Trustees and Representation". See attached text.	Advisory Action #054/2016
055	That Conference consider the Structure Review Committee's attached Investigations and Structure Review Plan for the Australian AA Structure.	Advisory Action #055/2016

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

Advisory Action #056/2016 to Advisory Action #070/2016 inclusive.