

GUIDELINE NO GL-35

REMOTE COMMUNITIES

The Remote Communities initiative is an effort to carry the AA message to people living in geographically remote communities in Australia. This initiative enables us to fulfil the Declaration of Responsibility adopted in 1965: 'I am Responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible!'

THE COORDINATORS

The Remote Communities Committee is made up of a National Coordinator and a network of Regional Coordinators, one for each AA Region in Australia. The term of the appointments is four years.

Appointment of National Coordinator is made by the Chairperson of the Trustees' Remote Communities Committee and ratified by the General Service Board. The National Coordinator reports to the General Service Conference.

Regional Coordinators are appointed by the Chairperson of the Trustees' Remote Communities Committee and report to the National Coordinator.

Application forms for National and Regional Coordinator positions are available from GSO.

SUGGESTED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE FOR ALL COORDINATORS

- Available time
- Basic computer literacy & regular computer access
- Knowledge and experience in AA Service
- Understanding of General and Central Service structures.
- Familiarity with AA Service literature.
- Experience in service other than at group level
- Experience in PI&PA would be most helpful

THE ROLES

National Coordinators are asked:

- To actively encourage and promote the growth of Remote Communities initiatives nationwide, reporting in several directions, such as in writing, email, the Service website, displays and National Forums.

- To make maximum use of modern communication tools, especially the Service website, with the assistance of the Webmaster. □
- To be in regular contact with the Regional Coordinators and the Chairperson of the Trustees' Remote Communities Committee in order to facilitate service opportunities.
- To liaise with the Board and General Service Office in implementing national scale projects.

The National Coordinator may claim up to \$1000.00 per annum to cover expenses incurred in carrying out the duties for which he/she was appointed. The allowance is paid from the Remote Communities Fund.

Regional Coordinators are asked to:

- Provide information to members about Remote Communities and how they can assist in carrying the message.
- Persuade interested members to form a committee and encourage Districts/Areas to include Remote Communities Reports at Assemblies.
- Write reports and articles on Remote Communities through a variety of media such as AA newsletters and AA service website.
- Encourage the Fellowship to provide funds to carry the message.
- Identify resources and strategies that will assist in carrying the message to isolated communities.
- Assist the National Coordinator with organising a Remote Communities Forum.

FUNDING OF REMOTE COMMUNITIES ACTIVITIES

The Remote Communities Fund was set up in 2013, in response to a Conference Resolution 'to accept the General Service Board recommendation "...that a sponsorship fund be set up to assist in carrying the message to remote communities within Australia...".

Members or Groups who wish to make contributions to the Fund need to specify that their donation is for this Fund

As per Conference Resolution SPONSORSHIP FUND 1-7/13: Applications for funding are made to the Administrators of the Remote Communities Fund, i.e., the Chairperson of the Trustees' Remote Communities Committee, the Chairperson of the Conference Remote Communities Committee and the General Service Office Manager. The administration of the Remote Communities Fund is at the discretion of these Administrators.

The funds are obtained nationally, so preference will be given to projects that benefit all regions; e.g., producing more resource material aimed at indigenous Australians, especially DVDs.

With regard to pamphlets and literature needed for Remote Communities initiatives in a particular Region, it is reasonable for the Coordinator to request funds from the Areas within the region, since there is an overlap here with PI&PA work.