

# Quarterly Report from the Board



## AN UPDATE FROM THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD TO AREA DELEGATES

*This is a confidential bulletin, for use only within A.A.*

December 2022

### General Service Conference

Conference this year on 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November held via the online platform went remarkably well. Thanks to the efforts of the General Service Office staff and to all who attended and participated. Reading through the reports of each of the Area Delegates in the Conference folder was an informative and uplifting experience. AA is alive and well in Australia!

The discussions and voting procedures were informative and facilitated decisions on some dynamic and beneficial undertakings which will enhance our primary purpose. The full outcome of each of the topics will be published and distributed presently. Some of the standout items from conference this year for me were;

- Underwriting an Auslan interpreter at a meeting for a year, (efforts to have the Big Book translated into Auslan proceed)
- The inclusion of a Virtual Area enabling General Service representation and participation from online groups.
- A Skills register has been developed to enable members, under our legacy of service, to use their skills to do work that AA would otherwise need to pay for.
- A Sub- committee will be established to publish stories and create multimedia suite of AA Resources for the First Nations AA still suffering Alcoholic.
- A working group to be formed to support the need for less formal and easy to read materials for Correctional Facilities
- Class A Trustee Project is making progress toward filling these vital roles.
- Andrew Taylor was appointed as General Service Trustee, effective 1st January 2023 and this appointment was ratified by the General Service Conference
- John O'Leary was elected as North Eastern Regional Trustee. Dominic Hyde was elected as Western Regional Trustee, Garry Scott was elected as Eastern Regional Trustee.

### A parting word from our Chair

*(excerpts from Judy's Conference report)*

During the year the GSB had 3 formal Board meetings. In February and September, the meetings were held on-line. In July we had a face-to-face meeting in Sydney with one Board member joining us on-line. Although I joined the GSB with some trepidation, the last 4 years has been an experience I would not have wanted to miss. I believe I have grown. I have learnt a lot. I have seen the Group Conscience truly in action and seen how broken bridges can be mended with patience and understanding.

AA in many ways is a conservative group. We are protective of our program and rightly so. We tend to be cautious, and things move slowly.

Sometimes rotation pulls us back as a new Board member considers how to move ahead. Our program I believe won't change because it contains what are called truths. However the way we deliver the program will need to if we are to engage with young suffering alcoholics.

So please be patient with the Board. We are ordinary members who love the Fellowship that saved our lives. We also in general have many commitments, family, community, 12th step work and our AA groups to name a few. We work hard, we are committed and like you do our best, a day at a time. So Delegates, please keep it in mind for the future and consider putting in for the Board as vacancies arise in your region.

Thank you once again to the Delegates, my fellow Board members, the Office staff and the Fellowship as a whole. Words cannot explain the gratitude I feel for the last four years of service. So I shall see you all on the happy road and may God Bless you. Yours in love and service,

Judy Woolstencroft Chair GSB of AA Australia

We welcome Cheryn Porter, General Service Trustee, to the role of GSB Chair and Geoff Smith, will be our deputy Chair.

For comments or questions write to:

Chairman, General Service Board, 48 Firth St, Arncliffe, NSW 2205

## Members Survey

Results from the members survey are in. An official report will be published directly, but here are a few interesting statistics.

**Age** Most respondents were 40 to 69 years of age. Very few under 20 (0.31%). 38% were over 60, indicating an ageing fellowship. Only 2.3% of respondents were under 30.

**Gender** This was pretty evenly split with 50% male, 49% female with 1% identifying as other gender.

**Location** 46% of respondents were located in metro areas, followed by cities at 30%. 24% reported living in rural or remote areas.

**Disability** 6% reported a disability making it hard to attend meetings. There were a number of respondents reporting that mental health issues such as depression and anxiety were an issue. Eyesight was another reported by a number.

**Occupation** About 26% of respondents reported being retired, reflecting our ageing fellowship. Professionals made up 24%. Just over 5% reported being unemployed.

**Length of Sobriety** 18% reported continuous sobriety of 10 to 20 years. The spread on either side was pretty even. 15% reported less than 12 months.

**Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander** 2.5% of respondents reported being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

**Introduction to AA** 31% reported being self-motivated to come to AA, followed by through a Treatment Centre or an AA friend. A number came in through counselling, a health professional or by seeing an article about AA in the media. Correctional Centres also featured, with 0.25% coming into AA that way.

**Counselling** This was a pretty even split with 52% reported using counselling before coming to AA and 48% after coming to AA.

**Number of meetings** Most members reported attending between 2 to 4 meetings per week. 28% reported 3 per week. 6.7% reported attending 7 or more. Interestingly 3% reported attending no meetings per week.

**On-line Meetings** 88% of members reported attending on-line meetings during the pandemic. However almost 48% reported attending a mix of on-line and face to face meetings. Of those attending on-line meetings 60% reported it was because of ease of attendance.

## 57th National Convention of AA with AI-Anon and Alateen Participation in Perth W.A. Thursday 6th April to Sunday 9th April 2023



<https://www.aanatcon2023.com.au>

“The Turning Point” 2023 National Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous with AI-Anon and Alateen participation will be held at the Rendezvous in Scarborough. The location is a fabulous beachside resort close to CBD with many attractions nearby (if you can tear yourself away from the meetings, fellowship and service opportunities). Checkout the website for registration and hotel details & “promo code”. Easter can be a busy time, so book early and don’t miss this one!

The 2024 National Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held in Adelaide over Easter. Full details will be released and registrations open after the 2023 convention in Perth.

The 2025 National Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous will be held in Sydney as the centrepiece of celebrations to mark 80 years of AA in Australia. Stay tuned for more details.

## New GSO location

The General Service Office is on the move to more suitable premises at 1/1 Garnet Street, Rockdale. Move expected to be completed early January.

## Joke of the Day

A scientist interrupts an AA meeting.

“I’ve just invented a cure for alcoholism! Take one of these pills and you’ll never be a problem drinker again!”

An AA asks, “What happens if you take two?”

## Finances

### Income

Overall income down by \$58K (7%)  
Literature Sales increased by 13%.  
Slight increase in donations by 2%  
Convention Income down as 1 convention held in FY2022 vs 2 in FY2021  
Major increase in conference levy compared to FY2021 as multiple refunds in FY2021  
No Covid assistance in FY2022 compared to FY2021

### Gross Profit

Cost of sales up from previous year. This is in line with the increase in the overall income  
Gross Profit % consistent with prior year.

### Expenses

Major increase in conference costs due to refunds in FY2021  
Travel recommenced in FY2022. No travel in FY2021 due to COVID restrictions  
Greater use in web development and full year costs in FY2022 compared to part year costs in FY2021  
Expenses added to the work done to reduce cost base.

Description	2022	2021
Total Revenue	828,972	886,769
Total Costs	(580,857)	(518,604)
Surplus / (Deficit)	248,115	368,165
Net Assets	1,134,211	886,096
Cash at Bank	963,405	712,820
Total Cash	1,060,082	809,400

Let us not be complacent regarding our seventh tradition. Our aim continues for the General Service Office to be self-supporting through our own contributions. Please give generously and support the primary purpose of AA as it is expressed through the group conscience of the fellowship.

Current fiscal position supports the funding of some already approved projects, but also opens the viability of plans and projects in line with our primary purpose. Please submit your ideas. We are in a position to take action and make some good ideas realities!

We would like to thank those members and groups who have and continue to contribute to generously.

### 2025 – AA Australia's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

AA80 Plans to celebrate this milestone are underway and there is a place for you to get involved! Share your ideas or contribute via link.



<https://aa.org.au/category/aa80/>

Have a look at some of the concepts and undertakings already suggested and brainstorm with your friends and group members some initiatives to make 2025 a year to remember...

### Rotating Off!

Along with our chair, Judy Woolstencroft, the General Service Board farewells, Stephen Roche (North Eastern Regional Trustee) and Lachlan Botticchio (GS Trustee) with great thanks and respect for years of effort and achievement in service for Alcoholics Anonymous.