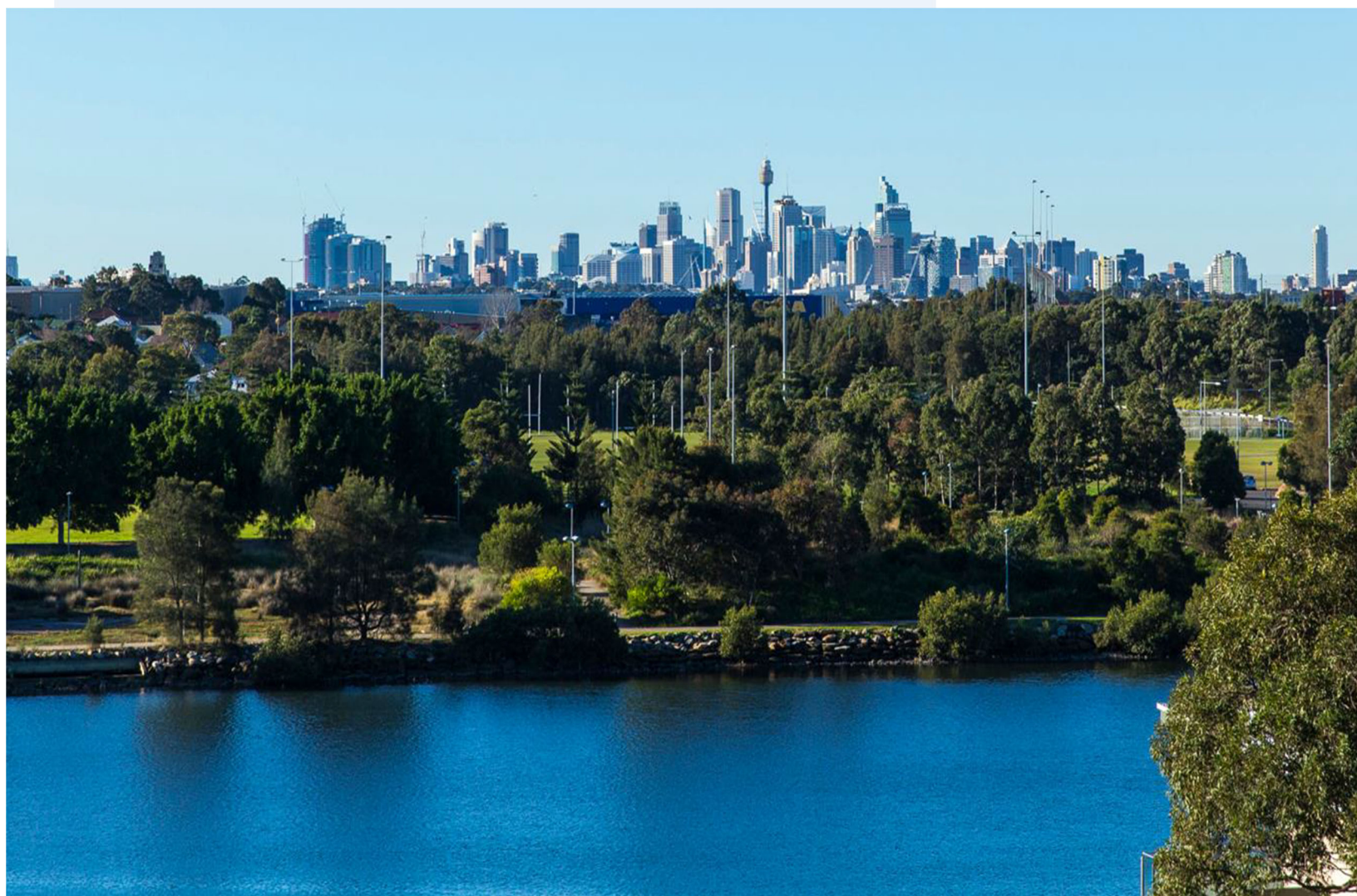


# 66<sup>TH</sup> AUSTRALIAN GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

## CONFERENCE REPORT

9-10 NOVEMBER 2024 NOVOTEL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SYDNEY



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## **INTRODUCTION**

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.

# **SECTION 1**

## **INFORMATION**

# AGENDA

Date & Time	Session
<b>Saturday 9 November</b>	
8.30am-8.45am	Opening address – Chair, General Service Board – Geoff Smith
8.45am-9.00am	Roll Call – Conference Chair – Terresa Allen
9.00am-10.30am	Committee – voting on topic recommendations
10.30am-11am	Morning Tea
11.30am-1.00pm	Committee – voting on topic recommendations
1.00pm-2.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm-3.30pm	Committee – voting on topic recommendations
3.30pm-4.00pm	Afternoon Tea
4.00pm-5.30pm	Committee – voting on topic recommendations
5.30pm-6.30pm	Trustee Service Committee – voting on Guidelines 75% Trustee Communications Committee Trustee Nominations Committee Trustee Document Review Committee Management Group
6.30pm-7.30pm	Dinner
7.30pm-10.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q&amp;A from reports by Delegates, World Service Delegates, General Service office and National Coordinators</li> <li>• Committee recommendations not finalised</li> <li>• CSC report and updates</li> </ul>
<b>Sunday 10 November</b>	
8.30am-9.00am	What's on your mind <i>Includes an opportunity to review or revisit anything new that has come up in prayer &amp; meditation in relation to the previous day's decisions.</i>
9.00am-9.15am	Bids
9.15 am-10.00am	Ratification of Class A Trustee appointments.
10.00am-10.30am	Floor Actions
10.30am-11.00am	Morning Tea and check out
11.00am-12.00pm	Presentation of Financial Report and acceptance
12.00pm-12.30pm	Farewells from outgoing Delegates and Trustees and Group photo
12.30pm-1.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm-2.15pm	Ask It Basket
2.15pm-2.30pm	Conference Close
2.30pm-3.30pm	Post Conference Delegates Meeting – elect Conference Chair 2025 General Service Board Meeting

## AREA DELEGATES

	Area	Panel Number	Year
<b>EASTERN REGION</b>			
Lisa Sindell	A	66	2024
	B		
Mary Heard *	C	64	2022
Darren Davis	D	65	2023
Andrew Scott	E	65	2023
	F		
Cat Thomson	G	66	2024
Lauren Attard	H	66	2024
John Hooper	I	63	2021
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>			
Anthony Carroll (Absent)	A	65	2023
	B		
Lindsey Motteram	C	65	2023
Kimina Lyall	D	66	2024
<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>			
Avril Brown *	A	64	2022
Kate Abrahms Alt	B	65	2023
<b>WESTERN REGION</b>			
Marjo Nissenen *	A	64	2022
Lesley Ferguson *	B	64	2022
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>			
Doug Wade	A	65	2023
<b>NORTH EASTERN REGION</b>			
Dann Bailey	A	65	2023
Rick Cottrell	B	65	2023
Terresa Allen *	C	64	2022
<b>VIRTUAL</b>			
Andrew McNee	A	65	2023

\*Denotes rotating out

# GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

<b>CLASS A TRUSTEES</b>			
Narelle Buchanan (Absent)		62	2020
Rochelle Davenport		65	2023
Neil Schafer (Absent)			
<b>GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES</b>			
Andrew Taylor		62	2020
Gabrielle Nicholson			2023
<b>REGIONAL TRUSTEES</b>			
Geoff Smith *	Southern – Chair		2021
Grant Tucker	Central		2022
Dominic Hyde	Western		2023
John O’Leary	North Eastern		2023
Garry Scott	Eastern		2023

<b>OTHER VOTING MEMBERS</b>		
Brian Ferguson	World Service Meeting Delegate	2022
Andy Poad	World Service Meeting Delegate	2024
Patrick Scherf	General Service Office staff	2021

<b>NON-VOTING</b>		
Tiani Rubal	General Service Office Manager	2024
Cheryn Porter	Board Secretary – General Service Board	2024

# CONFERENCE 2024 COMMITTEES

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE #1

	<b>Area</b>	<b>Year</b>
Mary Heard (Chair)	C Eastern	3
Avril Brown	A Central	3
Ric Cottrell	B North Eastern	2
Doug Wade	A Northern	2
Cat Thomson	G Eastern	1
John Hooper	I Eastern	1
Andy Poad	Word Service Delegate	
Dom Hyde	Western Region Trustee	
Narelle Buchanan (Absent)	Class A Trustee	

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE #2

	<b>Area</b>	<b>Year</b>
Lesley Ferguson (Chair)	B Western	3
Kate Abrahms (Alt)	B Central	3
Andrew Scott	E Eastern	2
Darren Davis	D Eastern	2
Lisa Sindell	A Eastern	1
Lindsey Motteram	C Southern	1
Garry Scott	Eastern Region Trustee	
Rochelle Davenport (Absent)	Class A Trustee	
Brian Ferguson (Absent)	World Service Delegate	

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE #3

	<b>Area</b>	<b>Year</b>
Marjo Nissinen (Chair)	A Western	3
Terresa Allen	C North Eastern	3
Andrew McNee	A Virtual	2
Dann Bailey	A North Eastern	2
Kimina Lyall	D Southern	1
Lauren Attard	H Eastern	1
Grant Tucker	Central Regional Trustee	
Neil Schafer (Absent)	Class A Trustee	
Patrick Scherf	Office Representative	

## 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 propose 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.

# THE TWELVE TRADITIONS

## (Long Form)

*Our A.A. experience has taught us that:*

**One** – Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

**Two** – For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience.

**Three** – Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence, we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought A.A. membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an A.A. group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation.

**Four** – With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

**Five** – Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity *having but one primary purpose* – that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

**Six** – Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A. – and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

**Seven** – The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

**Eight** – Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.

**Nine** – Each A.A. group needs the least possible organisation. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York<sup>\*</sup>. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine<sup>\*\*</sup>. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

**Ten** – No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues – particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters, they can express no views whatever.

**Eleven** – Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.

**Twelve** – And finally, we of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all.

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# THE TWELVE CONCEPTS FOR WORLD SERVICE

## CONCEPT I

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for AA world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

## CONCEPT II

When, in 1955, the AA groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference - excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article 12 of the Conference Charter - the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society.

## CONCEPT III

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relationship between the groups, the Conference, the AA General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision".

## CONCEPT IV

Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation", taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

## CONCEPT V

Throughout our world services structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

## CONCEPT VI

On behalf of AA as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognises that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

## CONCEPT VII

The Conference recognises that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the AA purse for its final effectiveness.

## **CONCEPT VIII**

The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (1) With respect to the larger matters of overall policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.

## **CONCEPT IX**

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of AA must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholic Anonymous.

## **CONCEPT X**

Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority - the scope of such authority to be always well defined whether by tradition, by resolution, by specific job description or by appropriate charters and Bylaws.

## **CONCEPT XI**

While the trustees hold final responsibility for AA's world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Therefore, the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.

## **CONCEPT XII**

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the AA Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others: that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that through the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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## THE TWELVE STEPS

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol - that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

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## **GENERAL SERVICE BOARD RESOLUTIONS 2024**

The Board resolved to form a Working Group to look at the Members website and come up with various options re moderation. Grant Tucker, Gabrielle Nicholson and Andrew Taylor to be on this Committee. The Committee will recruit more members to help.

The Board resolved to adopt a standard response for unsolicited emails. This was written by Gabrielle Nicholson to ensure senders are aware their email has been received and will be acted on appropriately.

The Board resolved to adopt the process for keeping Incident reports as developed by Gabrielle Nicholson and Andrew Taylor.

The Board resolved to accept changes to the Safeguarding Policy and Incident Report process as presented to the Board by Andrew Taylor. The member is to call and speak to the Office Manager to ask for the Incident Report. The Office Manager can then triage. These changes will be implemented immediately.

The Board resolved that the position of Board Secretary become a permanent adjunct to the Board. The role is a non-voting 2x2 rotation and will include the Conference Secretary, taking Board and Conference minutes. The Board Secretary will work with the CSC Chair and the Office Manager to organise Conference.

The Board approved the Office Manager Job Description and resolved that a panel of Andrew Taylor, Gabrielle Nicholson and Cheryn Porter recruit and interview for a General Service Office Manager immediately.

The Board voted in Cheryn Porter as Board Secretary for 2025. Trial year (2024) included in 2x2.

The Board resolved that Patrick Scherf would vote at Conference this year on behalf of the Office.

The Board resolved that Neil Schafer be appointed Class A Trustee as of July 2024 for a five-year period.

The Board resolved Rochelle Davenport be appointed as Class A Trustee as of July 2024 for a five-year period.

The Board resolved that David McOrist be appointed as Southern Region Trustee starting 1 January 2025 for a four-year period.

The Board resolved that Wayne Petersen be appointed as National Corrections Facilities Coordinator from 1 January 2025 for a four-year period.

The Board resolved Michael Bray be appointed National PI&CPC Coordinator from 1 January 2025 for a four-year period.

# **SECTION 2**

## **OUTCOME OF TOPICS**

## TOPIC #001/2024: Creating a 2/3 Delegate voting majority at Conference

Creating a 2/3 Delegate voting majority at Conference while respecting Concept IV (Right of Participation)

In any future AA Australia General Service Conference where Delegates make up less than two thirds majority of overall voting members:

- On any vote where all delegates vote the same way, this is to be considered the equivalent of a mathematical 2/3 voting majority.

2/3 voting majority of Area Delegates at Conference is a long-held desire of the Australian fellowship, with multiple topics being put up in previous years to achieve it; all of which have failed. Why? Commonly, the suggestion is to remove votes from the other voting members of conference, which of course conflicts with Concept IV, AA's Right of Participation. Bill W himself warns against this:

*'Certainly, our Trustees and service workers are no less conscientious, experienced, and wiser than the Delegates. Is there any good reason why their votes are undesirable? Clearly there is none. Hence, we ought to be wary of any future tendency to deny either our Trustees or our service people their Conference votes'* – C4 Essay.

As such, to achieve a 2/3 Delegate majority, a fresh and more spiritual approach is required; one that doesn't erode C4 – one of AA's foundation principles.

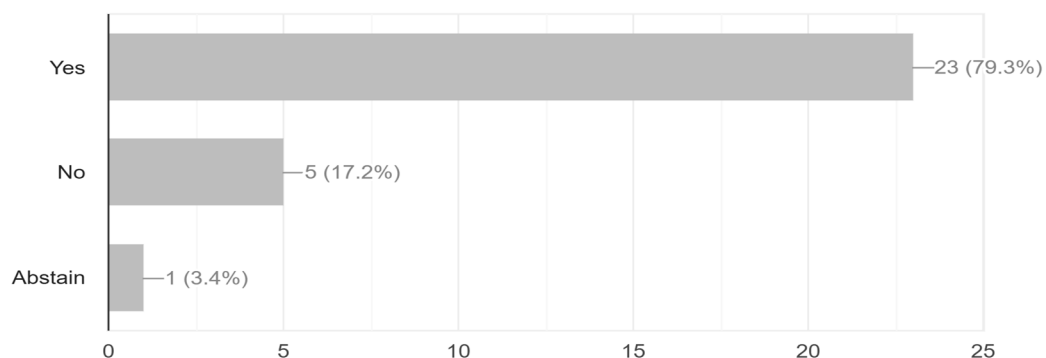
Note: It was decided by Conference to defer all Topics related to the 2/3 Majority until the end of the Topic discussions so all 2/3 Majority Topics would be considered separately on their own merit as well as collectively to allow Conference to make the best decision for the fellowship. The Topics deferred were #001/2024, #002/2024, #007/2024, #008/2024, #013/2024 and #014/2024.

Conference Committee #1 recommended that Topic #001/2024 be rejected.

There was a concern about how accepting/not accepting this topic will affect other related topics. The sense of the committee regarding the necessity of 2/3 majority for Conference was unanimous.

Vote YES to accept the Committee recommendation to reject the Topic. Vote NO to reject the Committee recommendation.

0 / 29 correct responses



Conference rejected this Topic.

**TOPIC #002/2024: 2/3 Majority.**

The 2/3 majority Area Delegate issue again – can we be inclusive and democratic?

Use this Topic to consult the fellowship in Alcoholics Anonymous Australia to see if there is need for a National Group Conscience on this again at Conference.

Permit all AA members the chance to be informed rather than being told that it is needed. Find out if is a need to proceed with divisive discussion on an issue that may not be viewed as an issue when the fellowship are allowed a chance to consider and view our literature for themselves.

If a bigger topic needs to be created to fully inform and we must wait until 2025 to do it right then that is good thing and best for AA as a whole to make sure everyone is having opportunity to consider it.

If the delegates return with a no vote, then conference can move on from time consuming nitpicking process debates and get focused on helping develop things that will save alkie.

The Concepts exist to guide us. Let's use this one.

From Concept 12

The Conference shall observe the spirit of AA Tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power....that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, sustainable unanimity,....that it never perform acts of government, that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain **democratic** in thought and action.

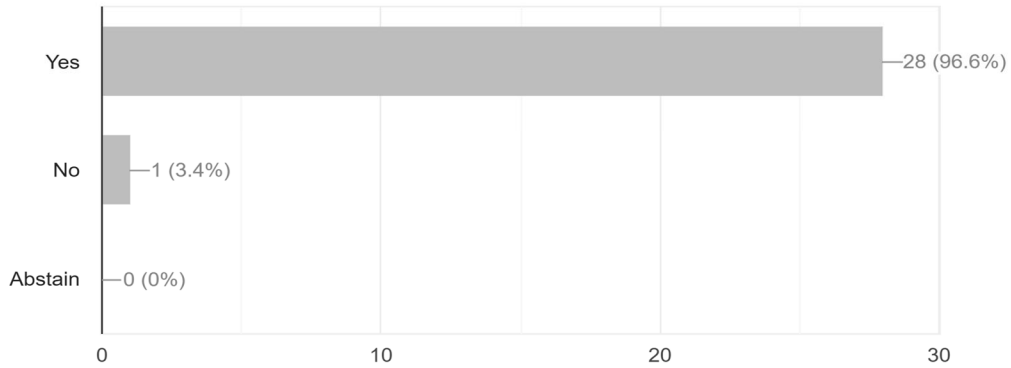
As a former delegate I have seen for myself the time-consuming and disunity effects of this topic when it gets brought to conference when the topics ask for it to be solved. Never have we the members actually been asked as a whole if it is even something we all want addressed.

I think that if this topic is discussed through the proper channels of communication via delegates and GSRs and groups conference will know if the members of AA want the time of their trusted conference servants spent on this. Isn't that truly democratic?

Conference Committee #1 recommended that Topic #002/2024 be rejected.

Vote YES to accept the Committees recommendation to reject the Topic. Vote NO to reject the Committee recommendation.

0 / 29 correct responses



Conference rejected this Topic

### TOPIC #003/2024: Cost Equalisation Guideline

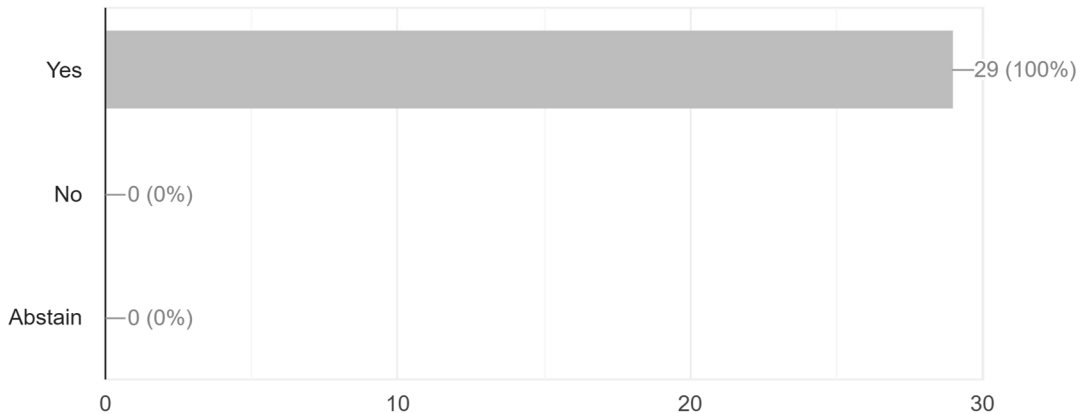
The General Service Board suggests creating a Cost Equalisation Guideline.

The Board suggests that a Cost Equalisation Guideline is agreed on to ensure that the expenses of Conference and Board meetings are fairly divided among Areas in a clear and consistent and equitable way.

Conference Committee #1 recommended that Topic #003/2024 be accepted.

Vote YES to accept the Committees recommendation to accept the Topic. Vote NO to reject the Committee recommendation.

0 / 29 correct responses



**Advisory Action #003/2024**

A Cost Equalisation Guideline to be developed and agreed on to ensure that the expenses of Conference and Board meetings are fairly divided among Areas in a clear and consistent and equitable way.

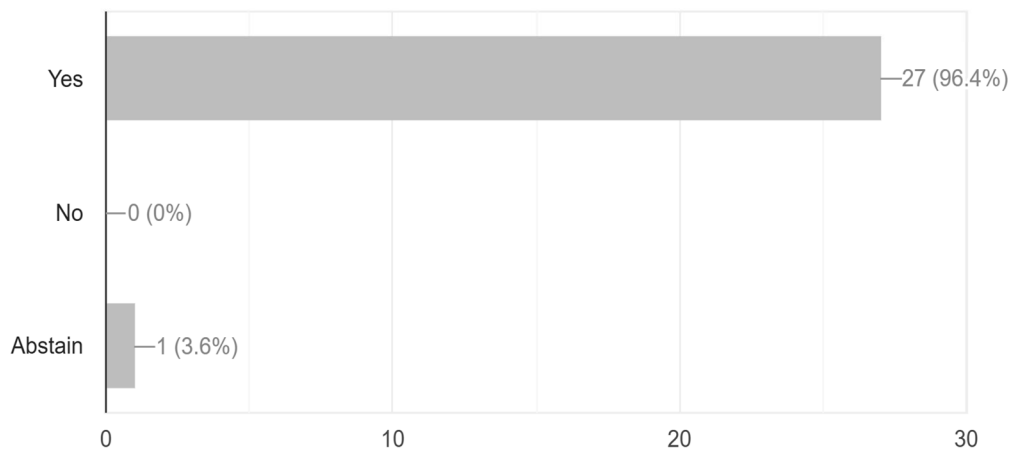
**TOPIC #004/2024: Update GL-07 PI/CPC in the Guidelines**

There is scope for sections to be added on Professional Awareness, the Internet (Facebook), where to find information and general updates from information raised at the 2024 Public Awareness Forum and PI/CPC newsletters and Professional Conferences and Luncheons

Conference Committee #1 recommends that Topic #004/2024 be accepted.

Vote YES to accept the Committees recommendation to accept the Topic. Vote NO to reject the Committee recommendation.

0 / 28 correct responses



**Advisory Action #004/2024**

Collate from coordinators and those doing all the PI/CPC and add to the Guidelines through forming a Working Group from Conference and our National Forum in November 2024.

Sections to be added on Professional Awareness, the Internet (Facebook), where to find information and general updates from information raised at the 2024 Public Awareness Forum and PI/CPC newsletters and Professional Conferences and Luncheons.

Process Note: Working group to be formed. Changes to Guideline to come back to Conference for ratification.

**TOPIC #005/2024: Change name from CPC to PA**

Change name of 'Cooperating with the Professional Community' to 'Professional Awareness' (CPC to PA).

The Board is in agreement for the Topic to be decided at Conference and if accepted by conference will be conducted in accordance with GL-27. Other guidelines will be updated during the upcoming Document Review process.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is simplifying its terminology by replacing the term 'Cooperating with the Professional Community' with Professional Awareness'

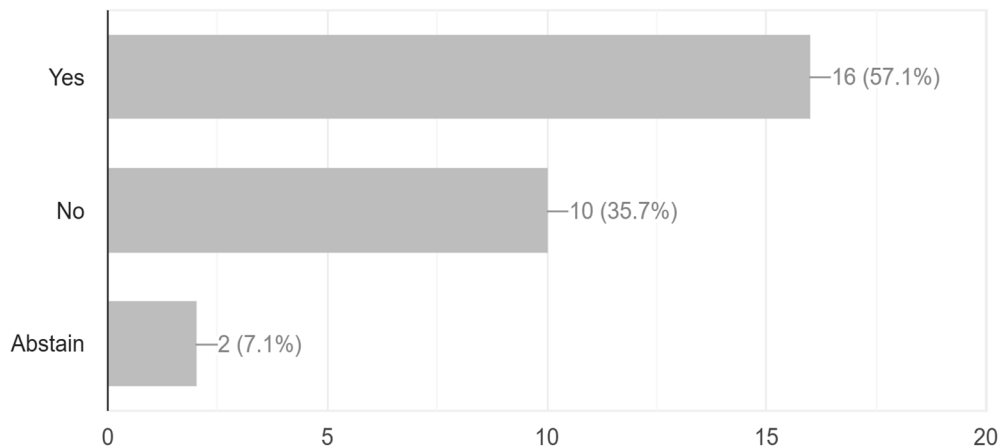
This can emphasise mutual understanding, education, and destigmatisation of alcohol addiction.

By promoting transparency and respect for professional boundaries, AA aims to enhance support for individuals seeking recovery.

Conference Committee #1 recommends that Topic #005/2024 be accepted.

Vote YES to accept the Committees recommendation to Accept the Topic Vote NO to reject the Committee recommendation

0 / 28 correct responses



**Advisory Action #005/2024**

Change name of 'Cooperating with the Professional Community' to 'Professional Awareness' (CPC to PA). The change will be conducted in accordance with GL-27. Other guidelines will be updated during the upcoming Document Review process.

Process Note: General Service Office to ensure change to all documents and literature.

**TOPIC #006/2024: Flow Chart for PI Material**

Public Information (PI) and Professional Awareness (PA) flow chart for development and approval of PI/PA material.

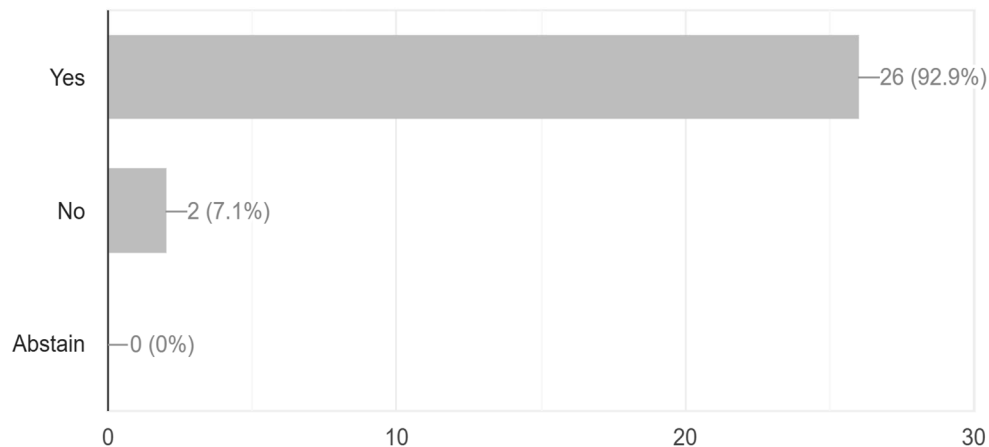
For groups, districts and areas to be given a clear flow chart for the development and approval of new PI/PA material.

A conference working committee to develop a flow chart for development/approval for PI/PA material. The flow chart to be in the spirit of 'Flow Chart for Development of an AA Pamphlet' from Section 11 'AA Literature' of the Service Manual.

Conference Committee #1 recommended that Topic #006/2024 be accepted.

Vote YES to accept the Committees recommendation to Accept the Topic. Vote NO to reject the Committee recommendation.

0 / 28 correct responses



**Advisory Action #006/2024 – Flow Chart for PI/PA Material**

Develop a flow chart for development/approval for PI/PA material. The flow chart to be in the spirit of 'Flow Chart for Development of an AA Pamphlet' from Section 11 'AA Literature' of the Service Manual.

Process Note: Working group to be formed

## TOPIC #007/2024: World Service Delegate's vote

Ratio of Delegate to non-Delegate Conference Members - World Service Delegate's vote.

The General Service Board recommends revising our structure and updating our service manual and all other relevant service documents to align with our founders' original intent, and our own long stated ideal that delegates comprise at least two-thirds of Conference members.

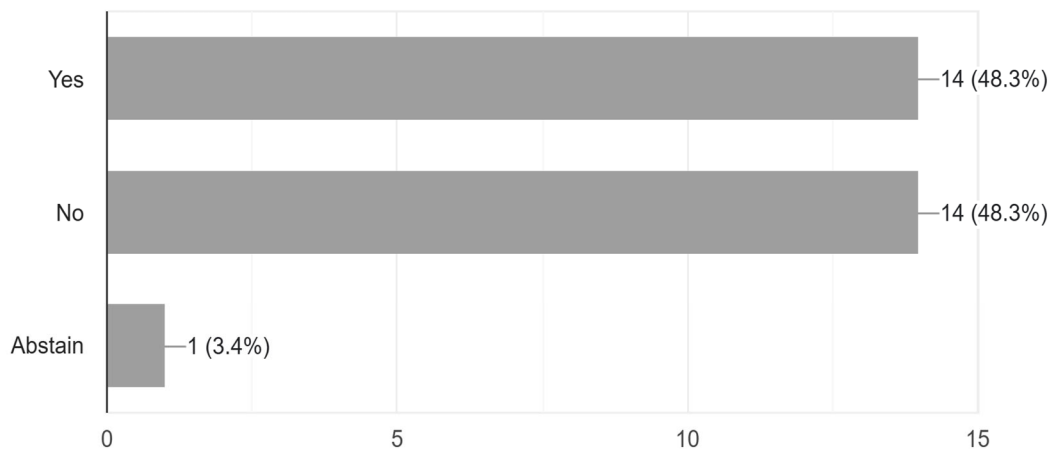
To help achieve this the Board further recommends that while continuing to welcome with gratitude the ongoing participation and valuable contributions of the World Service Delegates at Conference, we transition away from the two World Service Delegates continuing to have vote at Conference (to take effect after the current WSDs appointees rotate out, as they accepted their positions under the current arrangement).

Conference Committee #2 recommended that Topic #007/2024, to remove the World Service Delegates vote at Conference, be referred to the General Service Conference for discussion and debate. The Conference Committee was unable to reach a 2/3 majority to determine a recommendation on the topic.

The original topic to be voted on.

Vote YES to accept the Topic Vote NO to reject the Topic

29 responses



Conference rejected this Topic.

**TOPIC #008/2024: Class A Trustee numbers**

Ratio of Delegate to non-Delegate Conference Members - Class A numbers.

The General Service Board recommends revising our structure and updating our service manual and all other relevant service documents to align with our founders' original intent, and our own long stated ideal that delegates comprise at least two-thirds of Conference members.

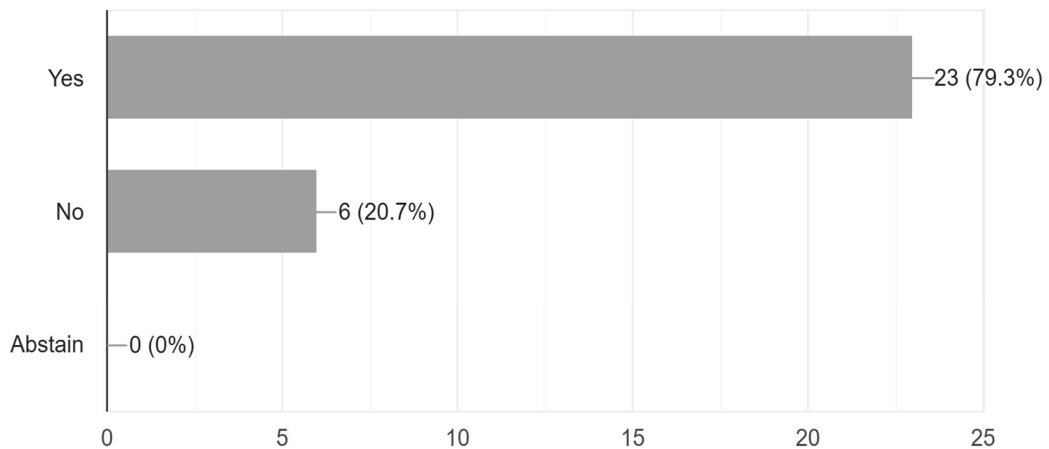
With deep gratitude for the dedication and invaluable contributions of our esteemed Class A Trustees, the Board proposes an adjustment to our Service Manual and Charter and other relevant documents, reducing the maximum number of Class A Trustees from 4 to 2.

Conference Committee #2 recommended that Topic #008/2024, to reduce the number of possible Class A Trustee's, be referred to the General Service Conference as the committee unanimously determined that this topic should be discussed and debated by the full Conference.

The original Topic to be voted on.

Vote Yes to accept the Topic Vote No to reject the Topic

29 responses



**Advisory Action #008/2024**

The number of Class A Trustee's be reduced from 4 to 2. Changes to the Service Manual and associated literature to be undertaken.

Process Note: General Service Office to ensure change to all documents and literature.

## TOPIC #009/2024: Accessibility Guideline for AA Australia

Conference to create an accessibility guideline.

Conference to create or adapt from the US version, an Australian guideline for accessibility, to help inform AA Australia of this important aspect of carrying the message.

Conference Committee #2 recommended that Topic #009/2024 is accepted in an amended form as follows:

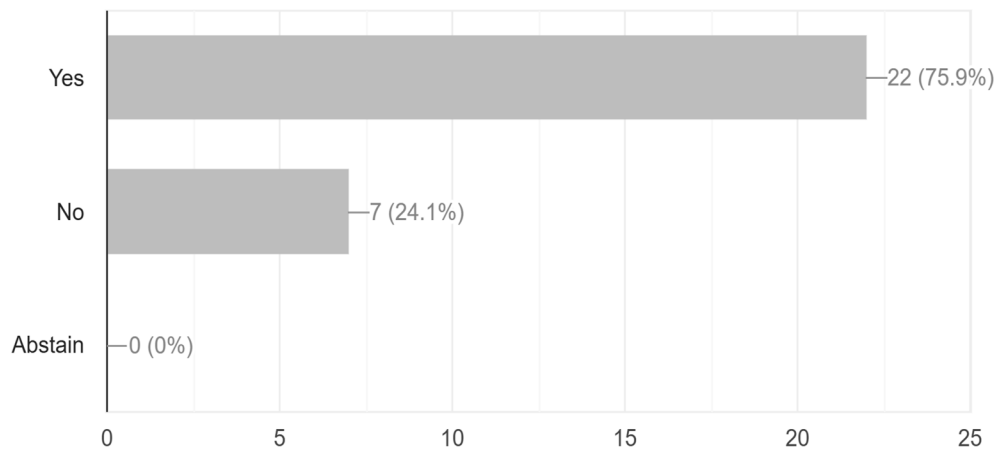
Conference to create or adapt from the US version, **defining what is meant by 'accessibility' and to set up a working group to create** an Australian guideline for accessibility, to help inform AA Australia of this important aspect of carrying the message.

Comments:

- This would be in addition to, or incorporating Guideline #18- Carrying the message to the Hearing Impaired Alcoholic

Vote YES to accept the Committees recommendation of the amendment. Vote NO to reject the Committees recommendation of the amendment.

0 / 29 correct responses



### Advisory Action #009/2024 – Accessibility Guideline

Create or adapt from the US version, defining what is meant by 'accessibility' and to set up a working group to create an Australian guideline for accessibility, to help inform AA Australia of this important aspect of carrying the message. This would be in addition to or incorporating Guideline #18- Carrying the message to the Hearing Impaired Alcoholic.

Process Notes: Working Group to be formed

### Topic #010/2024: Add upside-down triangle

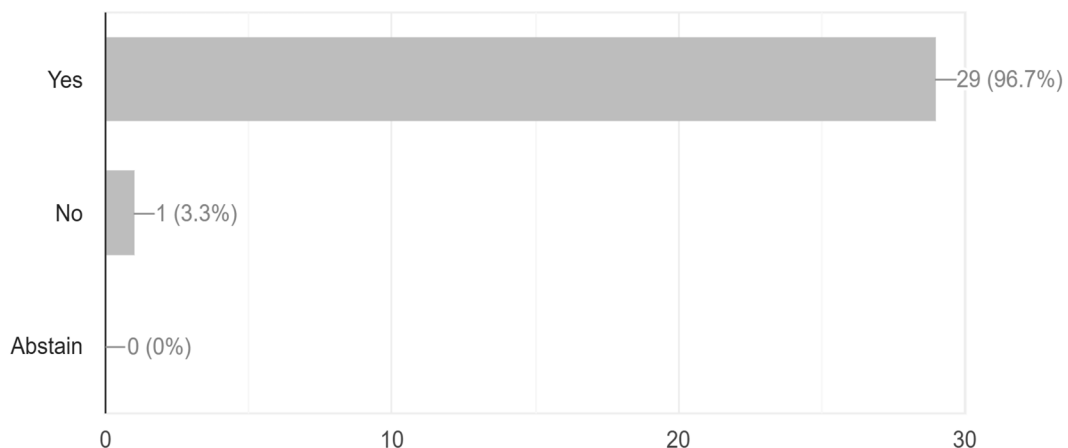
Structure chart of the upside-down triangle be put back in the Service manual with the Groups at top of chart followed by the Districts, Area Assemblies, Delegates at Conference and the GSB at the bottom to show that groups have complete Authority at Conference as written in Concept 1.

Alcoholics are visual people and seeing the diagram of the upside down triangle can help our members see our structure much clearer and the path for topics and the Authority the groups have for Conference.

Conference Committee #2 recommended that Topic #010/2024 be accepted.

Vote YES to accept the Committees recommendation to Accept the Topic. Vote NO to reject the Committee recommendation

0 / 30 correct responses



### Advisory Action #010/2024

The structure chart of the upside-down triangle to be put back in the Service manual with the Groups at top of chart followed by the Districts, Area Assemblies, Delegates at Conference and the GSB at the bottom to show that groups have complete Authority at Conference.

**TOPIC #011/2024: Accepted Literature**

Having a new category of Conference 'Accepted' Literature.

Conference to consider a new category of literature to stand beside *Conference Approved* literature. A category that indicates literature has been assessed by a conference committee and accepted or designated as "official".

We need the ability to endorse or accept literature (posters, PI, cards etc.) for national use and circulation without everything needing to go to conference and take a year.

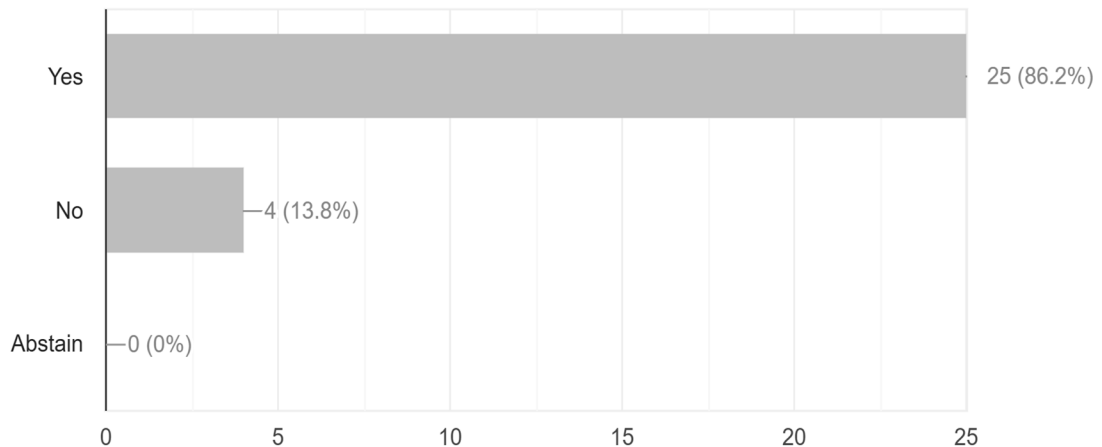
A Conference Committee could be given the authority to effectively sign off on submitted materials ensuring they meet guidelines, traditions etc. and allow them to be shared nationally with AA backing on the members website or GSO website.

Conference Committee #2 recommends that topic #011/2024, be rejected by the Conference.

Comments: The creation of another category of literature to stand beside *Conference Approved* literature will not be clearly understood by our target audience when carrying the message outside AA.

Vote YES to accept the Committees recommendation to reject the Topic. Vote NO to reject the Committee recommendation.

0 / 29 correct responses



This Topic was rejected by Conference.

## TOPIC #012/2024: Online Meeting Guideline

Supporting the growth and effectiveness of the Australian AA Fellowship through authentic online meetings listings.

The Board to refine the criteria for listing online meetings on the national website to ensure it fulfills its intended purpose of supporting the growth and effectiveness of the Australian AA fellowship.

The issue is that alcoholics use meetings.aa.org.au to find Australian meetings, both in-person and online. However, the national website includes international and overseas online meetings.

These international meetings reduce the incentive to create Australian meetings, as they compete for attendees, listing times, and often request 7th Tradition contributions from Australian members, diverting resources away from local services.

The idea is to establish a workable, clear and objective criteria for listing online meetings, to ensure that meetings on the national website are genuinely part of the Australian fellowship. This will support the growth and effectiveness of the Australian AA community to help alcoholics get sober and stay sober.

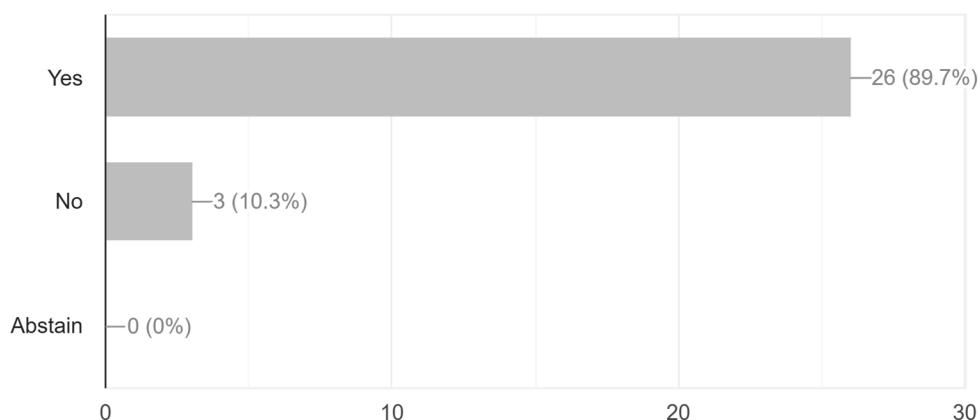
Conference Committee #2 recommends that topic #012/2024, to establish criteria for online meeting listings on the National Website, be referred to the General Service Conference for discussion and debate.

Comments: The subject of online meetings is broader than this topic covers and is of significant concern to the AA fellowship. The committee felt that determinations on how to move forward in the online space would benefit from the input of the full conference.

The original Topic to be voted on.

Vote YES to accept the Recommendation Vote NO to reject the Recommendation

0 / 29 correct responses



### Advisory Action #012/2024

A Working Group is formed to investigate the responsibilities and guardrails (Traditions and common welfare) around online meeting listings on aa.org.au. This will include the responsibilities of different service entities and trusted servants.

Process Note: Working group to be formed.

### TOPIC #013/2024: Ratio of Delegate to non-delegate Conference Members

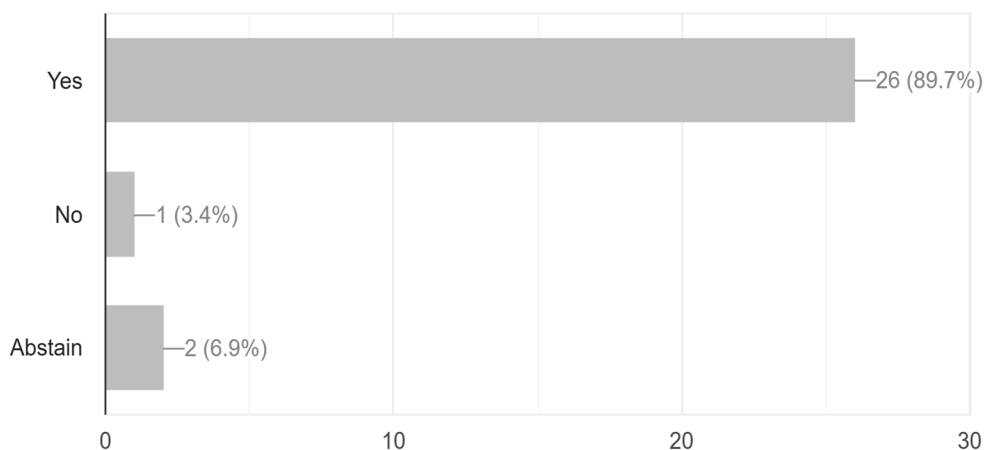
The General Service Board recommends revising the wording in our service manual and all other relevant service documents to align with our founders' original intent.

The Board recommends that we make amendments to our Service Manual and other relevant service documents, including to the first paragraph under the heading "Who Conference Members Are" by replacing the words "more than two thirds" with "at least two thirds". This would bring it into alignment with the original wording in the source documents written by our founders.

Conference Committee #3 recommended that Topic #013/2024 is accepted.

Vote YES to accept the Committees recommendation to Accept the Topic Vote NO to reject the Committee recommendation

0 / 29 correct responses



### Advisory Action #013/2024

Amend the Service Manual and other relevant service documents, including to the first paragraph under the heading "Who Conference Members Are" by replacing the words "more than two thirds" with "at least two thirds".

**TOPIC #014/2024: Trim the numbers of Trustees on the Board**

The Conference and the Board should look into sticking to Article 18 of Articles of Association of GSB, returning the General Service Trustee Role back to what is its main function – being responsible to the Board for running the GSO from a business point of view and that’s it. AA recovery work and carrying the message issues work on behalf of the fellowship can then be done by trustees the membership selects to do them.

Return management group and the GSTs to the status of sub-committee reporting to the Board.

GSTs no longer on the Board as full members.

GSTs no longer vote at conference.

GSTs are self-nominating and not selected by the members like Regional Trustees are, they are supposed to be dedicated to this one job, and no more.

Because they have to be in Sydney allowing GSTs full Board memberships gives Eastern Region, Sydney over proportion of representation at Board level and conference.

Reducing this concentration of authority will be more equitable across the country and encourage people elsewhere to join services and not be run by Sydney.

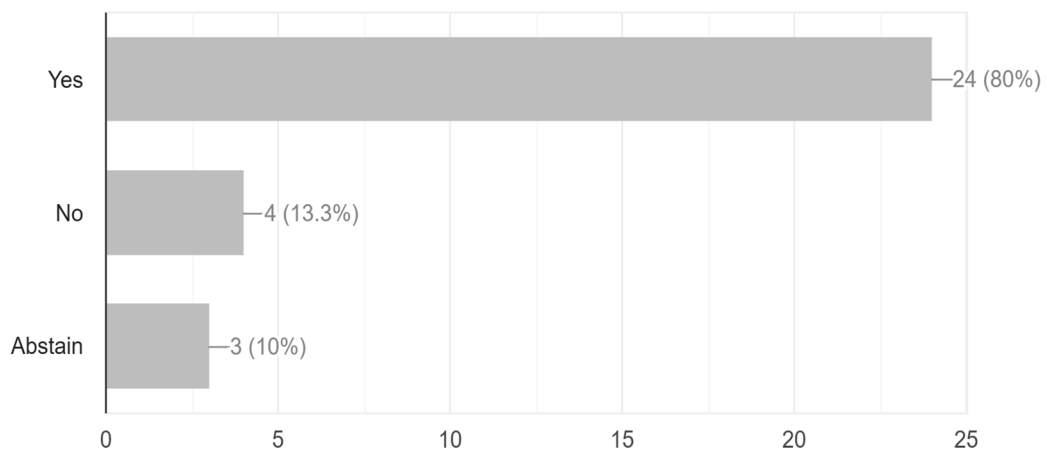
Give people in other regions an equal chance to serve as trustee, not give Sydney a 3 times greater chance.

Reduce the numbers of Board members to delegates at conference.

Conference Committee #3 recommended that Topic #014/2024 be rejected.

Vote YES to accept the Committees recommendation to Reject the Topic Vote NO to reject the Committee recommendation

0 / 30 correct responses



This Topic was rejected by Conference.

### TOPIC #015/2024: Alcoholics Anonymous Australia, one united Structure

The Conference task a Working Group to ascertain the need, relevance and support for uniting the Two Service Structures of Alcoholics Anonymous into one Structure.

The Working Group is a starting point to investigate the need, relevance and support of the idea of joining the current two service structures, CSO Structure, and General Service Structure as one united Alcoholics Anonymous, Australia Service Structure.

The Working Group would encourage participation of members of both Structures.

In the Spirit of Cooperation, engagement and consultation with CSO Committees, employees and Service members, similarly with all members of the General Service Structure and the greater Fellowship would be a given.

Based on the findings of the Working Group, a Report reflecting a Negative result to be presented to Conference 2025.

Should there be sufficient relevance, need and support, a report should be tabled at Conference 2025 outlining the proposed next steps with the idea of presenting a Topic to Conference 2026.

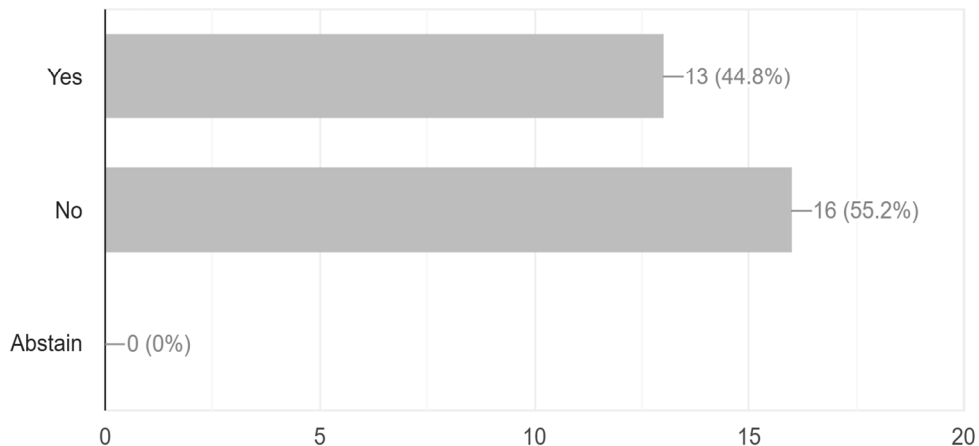
The outline of that Topic to be distributed to all parties for further discussion and ratification.

Conference Committee #3 were unable to come to a decision and is referring topic #015/2024 to conference for their consideration.

The original Topic to be voted on.

Vote YES to accept the Topic Vote NO to reject the Topic

0 / 29 correct responses

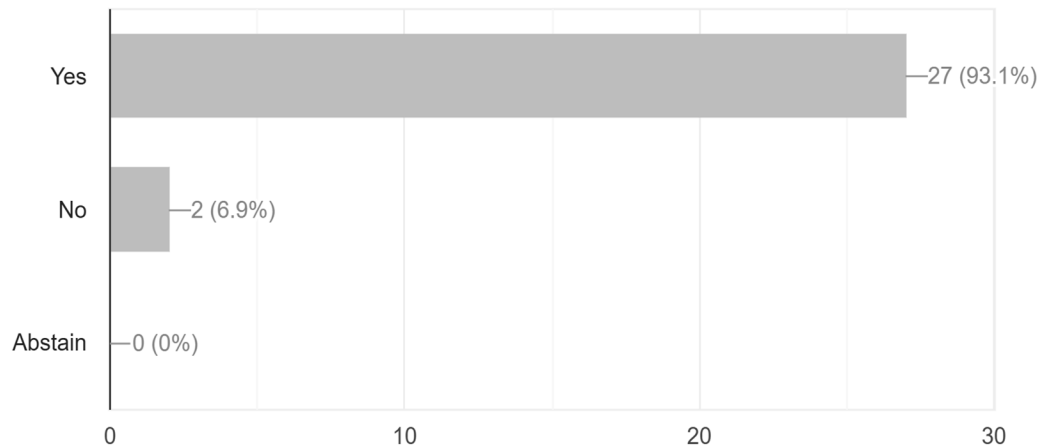


Minority Voice – Recommendation was put forward that the Topic be revised to form a Working Group to investigate the appetite and logistics of integrating the 2 structures and that the results of this come back to Conference for discussion.

Conference recommends that the Board investigates the appetite, mechanisms and potential implementation of uniting the general service and central service structures in Australia to uphold our primary purpose.

Vote Yes to accept the Committees recommendation to reject the Topic Vote No to reject the Committees recommendation to reject the Topic

0 / 29 correct responses



**Advisory Action #015/2024**

The Board investigates the appetite, mechanisms and potential implementation of uniting the general service and central service structures in Australia to uphold our primary purpose.

Process Notes: Working Group to be formed.

## TOPIC #016/2024: Correctional Facilities Book

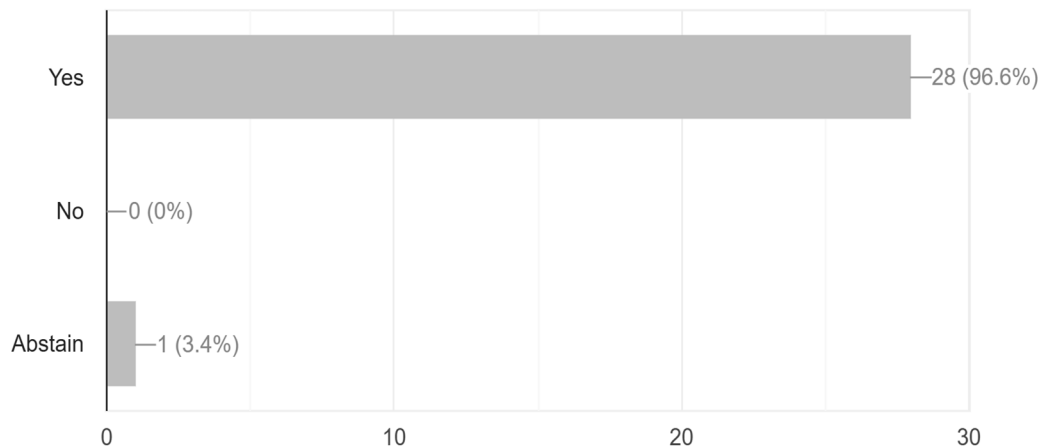
An anthology of stories from Australian members about Correctional Facilities. Following on from the success of The Message Stick, a committee be formed to gather stories from members who have Correctional Facilities as part of their recovery story. Like our 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Big Book and the Message Stick, the stories would have a distinctly Australian flavour.

Our GSO stocks books from the Grapevine who have successfully harvested the pages of the Grapevine to publish theme-based books. We have already proven we can also publish theme-based books.

Conference Committee #3 recommended that topic #016/2024 be accepted.

Vote YES to accept the Committee recommendation to Accept the Topic Vote NO to reject the Committee recommendation

0 / 29 correct responses



### Advisory Action #016/2024

An anthology of stories from Australian members about Correctional Facilities be developed, similar to the Message Stick.

Progress Notes: Working Group to be formed.

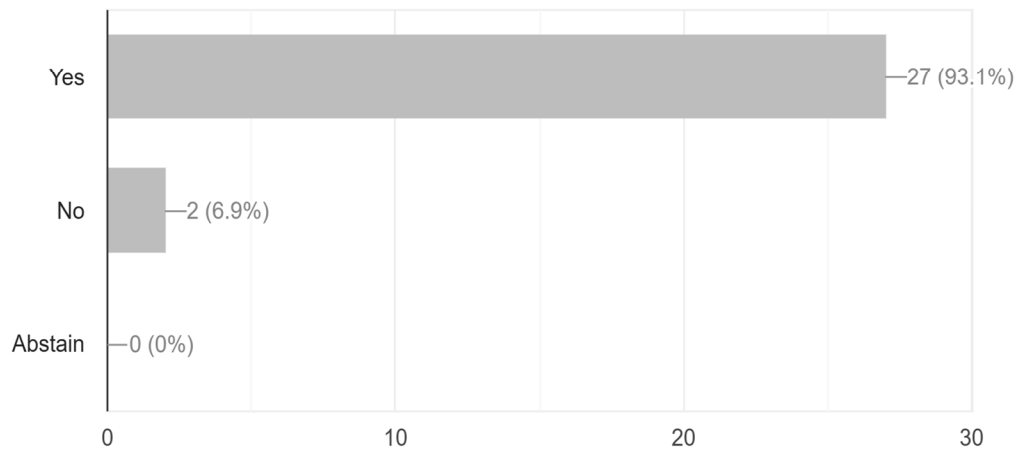
**TOPIC #017/2024: Past Delegates and Trustees – Service Manual**

Suggested rewrite for the section on Past Delegates and Trustees in the Service Manual THE AREA PART 2 pg 15. See attachment.

Conference Committee #3 recommended that Topic #017/2024 be rejected. The Committee agreed with the sentiment of the topic - that provisions be put into the service literature regarding appropriate roles for past trustees and delegates, given our spirit of rotation – but refer the final wording to a working group.

Untitled Question

0 / 29 correct responses



Voted on But No Advisory Action - Referred to the Trustees Document Review Committee to progress as part of the Service Manual rewrite.

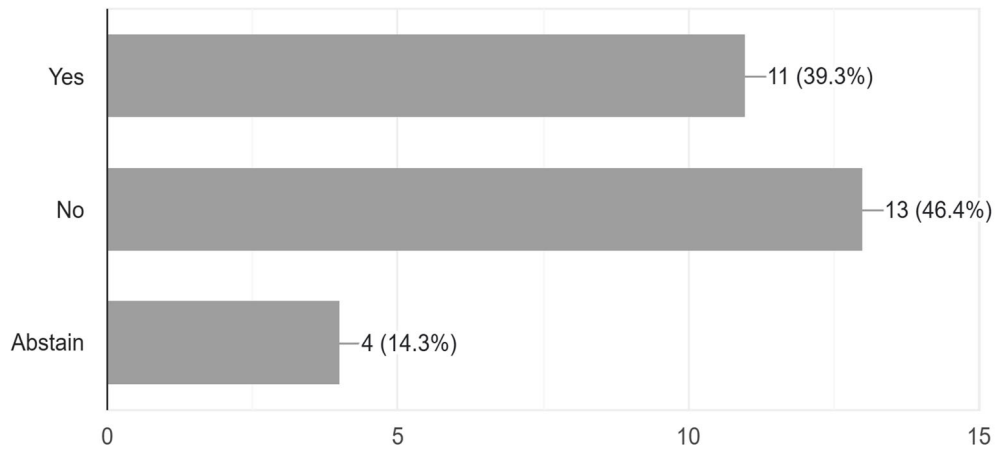
# TRUSTEE COMMITTEES LEGACY ITEMS

## TRUSTEE COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #015/2023	Conference resolved that the GSB create a modern leaflet covering the inclusion of people of secular beliefs in the AA fellowship.
Working Group produced new leaflet for Conference approval.	

Vote YES to accept the pamphlet Vote NO to reject the pamphlet

28 responses



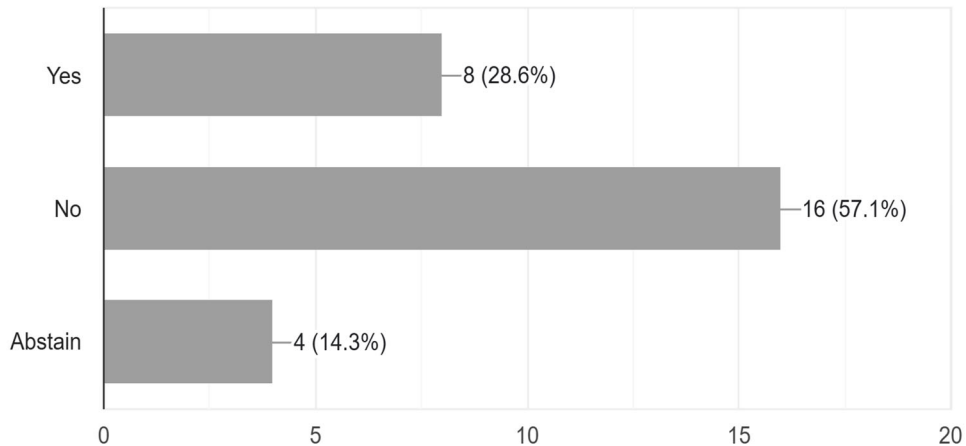
The leaflet was rejected and the Topic put back to the Committee and Working group.

## TRUSTEE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Advisory Action #006/2021	Conference resolved to accept the proposal that radio community service announcements targeting indigenous and LGBTIQ+ communities be accepted.
A CSA for the LGBTIQ+ community was presented to Conference	

Vote YES to accept Vote NO to reject

28 responses



The CSA was rejected by Conference.

### **Change to Guideline #30**

Change the following paragraph in Guideline #30 to bring the amount of expenses funded by the General Service Board in line with today's CPI.

The paragraph to change as follows:

#### **FUNDING OF CO-ORDINATOR ACTIVITIES**

The Co-ordinator may claim up to \$800.00 per annum (2007) to cover expenses incurred in carrying out the duties for which he/she was appointed. An amount currently (2007) of up to \$800 pa is available from General Service Office on a receipt-refund basis. Requests for additional funds should be made to the General Service Board, with details supplied.

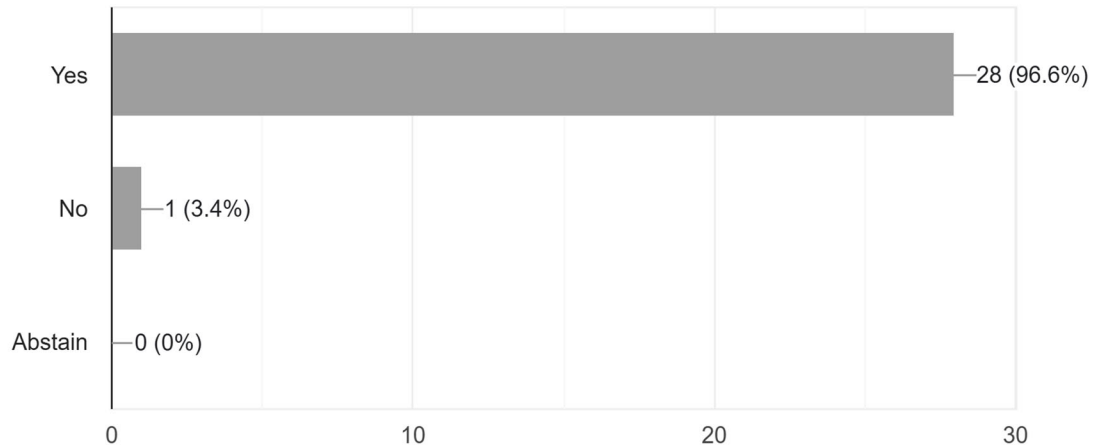
The General Service Board may pay for the relevant Chairs of Trustee Committees and the relevant National Coordinators to attend Forums. The Forum is responsible for funding any other invited guests to attend.

The new paragraph to be as follows:

#### **FUNDING OF COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES**

The Coordinator may claim up to \$1200 per annum to cover expenses incurred in carrying out the duties for which they were appointed. This amount to be increased yearly in line with the CPI index. This claim is to be made to the General Service Office on a receipt refund basis. Requests for additional funds should be made to the General Service Board via the Trustee Services Committee, with details supplied. The General Service Board also pays expenses (through the Board Secretary) for the relevant Chairs of the Trustee Committees, and the relevant National Coordinators to attend National Forums. The Forum is responsible for funding any other invited guests to attend.

FUNDING OF COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES The Coordinator may claim up to \$1200 per annum to cover expenses incurred in carrying out the duties... accept the changes Vote NO to reject the changes  
29 responses



**Advisory Action #017/2024**

Change Guideline #30 as per the recommendation.

**FUNDING OF COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES**

The Coordinator may claim up to \$1200 per annum to cover expenses incurred in carrying out the duties for which they were appointed. This amount to be increased yearly in line with the CPI index. This claim is to be made to the General Service Office on a receipt refund basis. Requests for additional funds should be made to the General Service Board via the Trustee Services Committee, with details supplied.

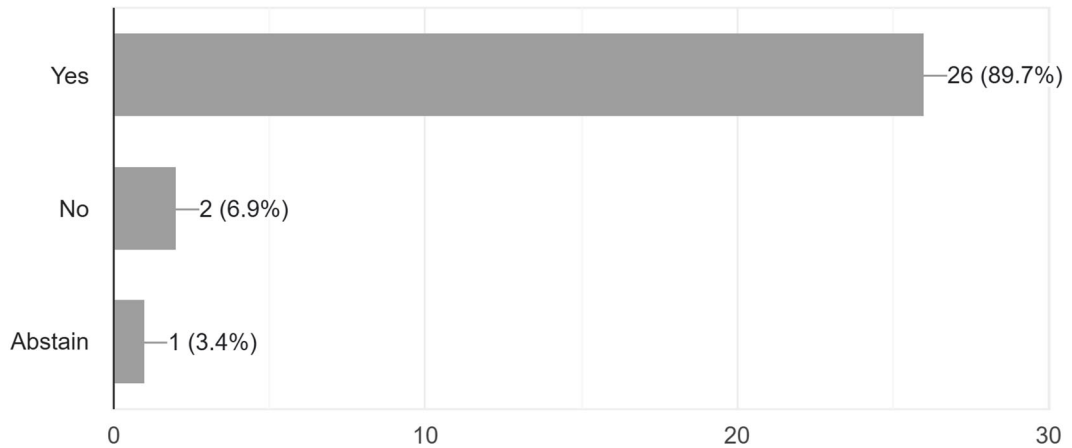
The General Service Board also pays expenses (through the Board Secretary) for the relevant Chairs of the Trustee Committees, and the relevant National Coordinators to attend National Forums. The Forum is responsible for funding any other invited guests to attend.

**TRUSTEES DOCUMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

<p>Advisory Action #018/2023</p>	<p>Conference resolved that the questions in the Topic #018/2023 regarding the use of outside materials that are pro AA i.e. 'Cochrane Report' be assigned to a GSB Working Group for thoughtful response and to update PICPC guideline GL-7 and the service manual "section eleven" to help provide clarity to the fellowship. Questions in the Topic are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How is this problematic with regards to affiliation and endorsement?</li> </ol> <p>How if at all, might this information be communicated to professionals by AA members that is in alignment with our traditions, specifically traditions 6 and 10</p>
<p>Guideline presented to Conference</p>	

Vote YES to accept this guideline Vote NO to reject this guideline

29 responses



The Guideline was accepted by Conference.

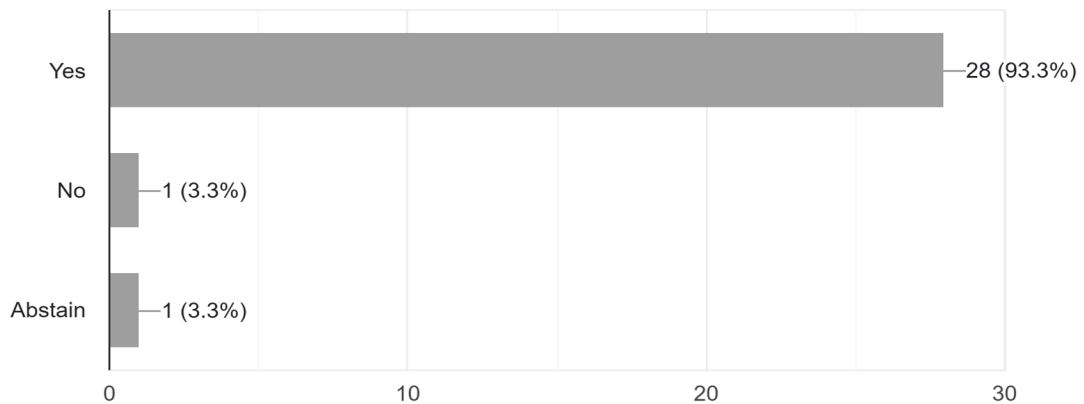
Advisory Action  
#023/2022

Conference resolved to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that a limited run of an 80th Anniversary Australian Big Book be published, with the provision that a robust process is undertaken to ensure known page numbering issues and any typographical errors are reviewed and fixed as part of this process. It was further resolved that the submitted Foreword to be accepted, on the proviso that the Preface of the 50th Anniversary Edition is also included.

80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Australian Big Book dust jacket presented to Conference.

Vote YES to accept the design Vote NO to reject the design

30 responses



The dust jacket was accepted by Conference.

# CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

## CONFERENCE DATES

The Conference Steering Committee recommends that the dates of the 2025 Annual General Service Conference be 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> November 2025.

Conference resolved that the dates for the 2025 Conference be 1-2 November 2025 and that the General Service Board investigate the costs involved with starting Conference on the Friday afternoon rather than working into the Saturday night.

## 2025 MEETING AND DEADLINE SCHEDULE

The Conference Steering Committee recommends that the incoming CSC review the dates of the following important milestones/ meetings as soon as possible with the view of scheduling these items earlier in the year.

- Topics for Conference Receipting Deadline
- Topics for Conference Release Deadline
- Conference Committee Meetings
- Delegates and Observers Meeting
- Delegate, Trustee Committee and Working Group Reports
- Conference Folder Release Deadline

### Rationale:

It is suggested that moving the date of these items forward will allow for better planning on behalf of Conference participants, provide adequate time for the wider fellowship to review and provide feedback on the topics and assist in the timely collation and distribution of Conference folders.

Conference resolved for the 2025 CSC review the schedule of important dates listed in the recommendation in order to improve the time for the wider fellowship to review and provide feedback on the topics and assist in the collation and distribution of Conference Folders.

## 2025 MEETING AND DEADLINE SCHEDULE COMMUNICATION

The Conference Steering Committee recommends that the incoming CSC schedule and communicate the date and time of the above items to all 2025 conference participants as soon as possible to assist with participant planning and saving of dates.

Conference resolved that the 2025 CSC communicate the date and times of the above items as soon as possible to assist with planning.

## DELEGATE AND OBSERVERS' MEETING

The Conference Steering Committee recommends that the 3rd Year Delegate members of the incoming CSC consider scheduling the Delegates and Observers' meeting prior to the Conference Committee meetings.

Rationale:

It is suggested that the information provided at this meeting will better prepare delegates for participation in the Conference Committees.

Conference resolved that the Delegate and Observers meeting be scheduled to meet prior to the Conference Committee meetings to better prepare delegates for participation in the Conference Committees.

### **TOPIC FORM REVIEW**

The Conference Steering Committee recommends that the incoming CSC conduct a thorough review of the topic form, processes and means for submitting topics with reference to the following:

- Form be reviewed and edited as required (e.g. web-based copy already in use).
- Topics can be submitted all year round - communicating this to the fellowship.
- Web based topic forms do not allow for attachments - follow up with the Trustees Communications Committee for a solution asap.
- Consider including an example of a well written topic.

**Note:** Topic forms are currently available as downloadable and web-based forms.

Topics are currently accepted for review via post, emailed forms and web submissions

Conference resolved that the 2025 CSC conduct a thorough review of the Topic form, processes and means for submitting topics.

### **CSC TRACKING ADVISORY ACTIONS**

The Conference Steering Committee recommends that beginning this year the incoming CSC commence a process of documenting a link between the initial topic and the resulting advisory action.

Rationale:

It is suggested that this will enable the CSC to review progress of the advisory action, acknowledge the outcome or resolution of the advisory action and allow for a clear line of accountability and communication back to the fellowship as to how and when the advisory action has been completed.

Conference resolved that the incoming CSC commence a process of documenting a link between the initial topic and the resulting Advisory Action.

### **CSC HANDOVER MEETING**

The Conference Steering Committee recommends that the 2024 CSC meet with the incoming 2025 CSC and Conference Secretary/ GSO Representative as soon as

possible to complete a concise handover including explanatory notes and documents in order to assist the incoming CSC to understand their scope and address the additional recommendations allocated to them by the outgoing CSC.

Conference resolved that the 2024 CSC meet with the incoming 2025 CSC and GSO staff member to have a handover.

### **KEY CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS DOCUMENT**

The Conference Steering Committee recommends that the GSB engage the appropriate Trustee Committee to review the Key Conference Resolutions document and address index and page number discrepancies as soon as possible to assist with utilisation of the document.

#### **Advisory Action #018/2024**

Conference resolved that the General Service Board engage the appropriate Trustee Committee to review the Key Conference resolutions document and address the index and page number discrepancies as soon as possible.

### **DELEGATES ORIENTATION PACK**

The Conference Steering Committee recommends that a Delegates' Orientation/ Starter Pack be created (recommendation to the GSB) and that the pack contains a link to Key Conference Resolutions.

#### **Advisory Action #019/2024**

Conference resolved that the General Service Board develop a Delegates Orientation/Starter Pack and that the pack contains a link to the Key Conference Resolutions.

# FLOOR ACTIONS

## FLOOR ACTION #1

### Recommendation to create 2/3 Majority

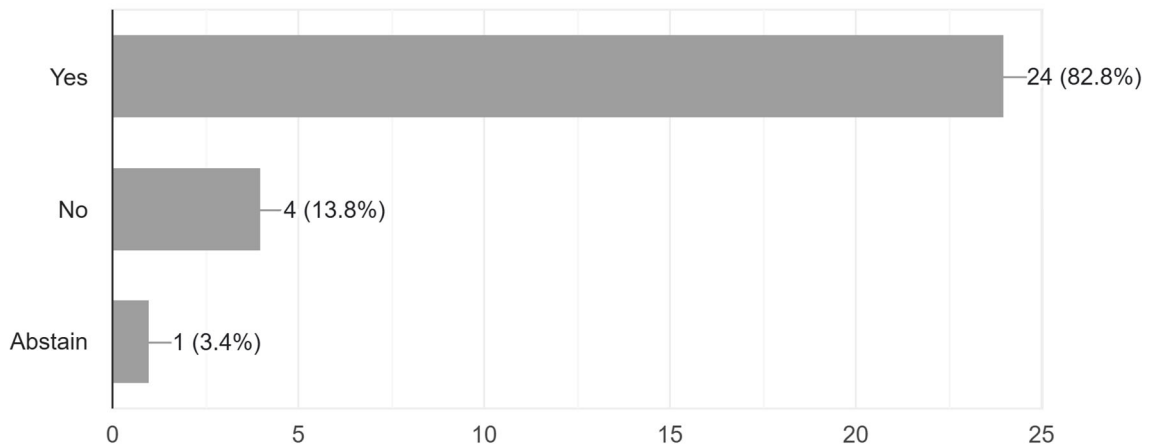
Conference decided to entertain a Floor Action on the Saturday afternoon after all discussion regarding 2/3 Majority Topics had been had.

A new proposed wording as follows:

*At the commencement of each General Service Conference a count of delegates be taken. In the case that delegates make up less than 2/3 of the voting members of the conference, delegate votes are to be weighted so that the total of delegate votes is equivalent to 2/3 of the total votes. If the number of delegates is equal to 2/3 or greater, there is no weighting of votes.*

Vote YES to accept this Floor Action    Vote NO to reject this Floor Action

29 responses



This Floor Action was accepted by Conference and will be used to create a 2/3 delegate voting majority for future Conferences.

### Advisory Action #020/2024

At the commencement of each General Service Conference a count of delegates be taken. In the case that delegates make up less than 2/3 of the voting members of the conference, delegate votes are to be weighted so that the total of delegate votes is equivalent to 2/3 of the total votes. If the number of delegates is equal to 2/3 or greater, there is no weighting of votes.

## FLOOR ACTION #2

The section on "Conference Committees" on page 12 of Section 7 of the Service Manual be stamped with 'under review' until the service manual is updated as the Conference Committees no longer exist in that form.

Conference decided to entertain this Floor Action.

### **Advisory Action #021/2024**

Section on 'Conference Committees' on page 12 of Section 7 of the Service Manual be stamped with 'under review'. The General Service Office to facilitate.

## FLOOR ACTION #3

**Advisory Action #009/2020 renders Advisory Action 2011/043 obsolete.**

**It is recommended that conference make a formal statement to this effect, acknowledging that Australian online meetings and groups are considered full members of AA, including the General Service Structure in Australia. That this decision be reported in the Key Conference Resolutions.**

**For reference, please see previous Advisory Actions**

***Advisory Action #009/2020: Conference resolved that the creation of a virtual Area be included as part of the review of the General Service Structure by the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee. All Conference members are requested to advise of any concerns so they can be addressed in a guideline for creating a virtual Area. A draft of this guideline will be circulated to Conference members for input, following which a mail poll will be conducted for approval of the guideline prior to Conference next year.***

**Advisory Action 2011/043 adopts a policy for online meetings: they are autonomous but not a direct part of the General Service Structure. The policy encourages AA members to also participate in local Group Consciences and service.**

Conference decided to entertain this Floor Action.

### **Advisory Action #024/2024**

Advisory Action #009/2020 renders Advisory Action 2011/043 obsolete. It is recommended that conference make a formal statement to this effect, acknowledging that Australian online meetings and groups are considered full members of AA, including the General Service Structure in Australia. That this decision be reported in the Key Conference Resolutions.

## FLOOR ACTION #4

**Is it possible to extend conference to start on Friday. Having meetings late into the night makes it difficult for members to give their best.**

**This proposal will be subject to further investigation regarding costs and scheduling and will come back to conference via extraordinary meeting or by mail poll.**

Conference decided to entertain this Floor Action.

**Advisory Action #022/2024**

GSO to undertake a review of total costings for extending the duration of the conference on the basis of actual costs this year and prior years where it has been an in person event (not zoom). This information to come back to Conference as an extraordinary meeting to be decided on for next year.

**FLOOR ACTION #5**

**To create a Working Group to examine ways of promoting and encouraging the establishment of new areas to reach 30+ Areas by the year 2030.**

**The Working Group would be charged with methods of identifying new Areas, supporting their start up and providing ongoing support during the process.**

Conference decided to entertain this Floor Action.

**Advisory Action #023/2024**

A Working Group to be formed to promote service at delegate level and assist districts to form areas.

**FLOOR ACTION #6**

**New Script for Radio Ad – Advisory Action #006/2021**

*When I admitted I needed to stop drinking, I didn't want to go to AA because I'm queer and I didn't think anyone there would be like me. But then I discovered that AA has pretty much as much diversity as can be found anywhere! By exploring different meetings and sharing with other alcoholics, I found a place I could be myself – an LGBTIQ+ alcoholic. And now I'm proud of being both! Reach out to [aa.org.au](http://aa.org.au) or call 1300 222 222*

Conference decided to entertain this Floor Action.

New script for Advisory Action #006/2021 to go back to the Trustee Communications Committee for recording.

**FLOOR ACTION #7**

**Reconsider topic #008/24 to reverse decision on reducing number of Class A trustees.**

Conference decided to entertain this Floor Action

This Floor Action was rejected by Conference.

## **BIDS**

### **REGIONAL FORUMS**

Eastern Region – Area E bid for the Regional Forum for 2025, Conference resolved to accept this bid.

## **TRUSTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Conference resolved to accept the appointment of Neil Schafer by the General Service Board as Class A Trustee for a five-year period commencing July 2024.

Conference resolved to accept the appointment of Rochelle Davenport by the General Service Board as Class A Trustee for a five-year period commencing July 2024.

Conference resolved to accept the appointment of David McOrist by the General Service Board as Southern Region Trustee for a four-year period commencing January 2025.

## **NATIONAL COORDINATORS**

Conference resolved to accept the appointment of Michael Bray by the General Service Board as National PI&CPC Coordinator for a four-year period commencing January 2025.

Conference resolved to accept the appointment of Wayne Petersen by the General Service Board as National Corrections Facilities Coordinator for a four-year period commencing January 2025.

## **ASK IT BASKET**

1. Notification if additional documents are added to the conference folder. There were materials being added to conference just days before attendance, some things need more time to review and there should be a cut off.

Addressed at the time that the CSC have proposed a shift in the preparation time frames to allow more time for review, cut off will be earlier.

2. Are there instructions for how each vote is taken and what numbers are needed depending on topic, and if there's guidelines for show of hands votes.

Addressed at the time, printed and laminated guideline was available on the table.

3. Can we have a new ask it basket for next year.

Yes.

# GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE 2024

## 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. 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.

Advisory Actions are directly allocated to the appropriate Trustee Committee where if necessary, a Working Group will be formed by the Chair of the Committee. This Working Group will consist of Conference Delegates, Trustees, Alumni and any member of the fellowship that has been vetted by the Nominations Committee with a specific skillset relevant to the Advisory Action subject.

### GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

Chair for 2025 - Grant Tucker [centralregiontrustee@aa.org.au](mailto:centralregiontrustee@aa.org.au)

Deputy Chair for 2025 – Andrew Taylor [generalservicetrustee1@aa.org.au](mailto:generalservicetrustee1@aa.org.au)

Board Secretary for 2025 – Cheryn Porter [boardsecretary@aa.org.au](mailto:boardsecretary@aa.org.au)

2024 Advisory Actions allocated
<b>Advisory Action #015/2024 – United Structure</b> The Board investigates the appetite, mechanisms and potential implementation of uniting the general service and central service structures in Australia to uphold our primary purpose.
<b>Advisory Action #019/2024 – CSC Recommendation</b> Conference resolved that the General Service Board develop a Delegates Orientation/Starter Pack and that the pack contains a link to the Key Conference Resolutions.
<b>Advisory Action #023/2024 – 30 Areas by 2030</b> A Working Group to be formed to promote service at delegate level and assist districts to form areas.

### Working Group

Advisory Action #015/2024 – United Structure

Advisory Action #023/2024 – 30 Areas by 2030

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### TRUSTEES COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee covers internal communications, and Public Information, Technology and Social Media. Board members responsible for this Committee for 2025 are:

Grant Tucker [centralregiontrustee@aa.org.au](mailto:centralregiontrustee@aa.org.au)

John O’Leary [northeasternregiontrustee@aa.org.au](mailto:northeasternregiontrustee@aa.org.au)

**2024 Advisory Actions allocated**

**Advisory Action #012/2024 – Online meetings list**

A Working Group is formed to investigate the responsibilities and guardrails (Traditions and common welfare) around online meeting listings on aa.org.au. This will include the responsibilities of different service entities and trusted servants.

**Working Groups allocated**

Advisory Action #012/2024 – Online meetings list

**TRUSTEES DOCUMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

This committee covers Literature and Archives and Policy Guidelines and Service Manual. Board members responsible for this Committee for 2025 are:

Gabrielle Nicholson [generalservicetrustee2@aa.org.au](mailto:generalservicetrustee2@aa.org.au)

Board member to be allocated.

**2024 Advisory Actions allocated**

**Advisory Action #005/2024 – Change CPC to PA**

Change name of ‘Cooperating with the Professional Community’ to ‘Professional Awareness’ (CPC to PA). The change will be conducted in accordance with GL-27. Other guidelines will be updated during the upcoming Document Review process.

**Advisory Action #008/2024 – Class A Trustee changes**

The number of Class A Trustee’s be reduced from 4 to 2. Changes to the Service Manual and associated literature to be undertaken.

**Advisory Action #010/2024**

The structure chart of the upside-down triangle to be put back in the Service manual with the Groups at top of chart followed by the Districts, Area Assemblies, Delegates at Conference and the GSB at the bottom to show that groups have complete Authority at Conference.

**Advisory Action #013/2024**

Amend the Service Manual and other relevant service documents, including to the first paragraph under the heading “Who Conference Members Are” by replacing the words “more than two thirds” with “at least two thirds”.

Referred to the Document Review Committee from Conference - Suggested rewrite for the section on Past Delegates and Trustees in the Service Manual THE AREA PART 2 pg 15. See Topic #017/2024 attachment.

## TRUSTEES NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

This committee acts to see that all vacancies for Class A Trustee, General Service Trustee, World Service Delegates, sub-committees and working groups are properly filled with members and workers of the greatest possible competence, stability and industry.

Board members responsible for this Committee for 2025 are:

Andrew Taylor [generalservicetrustee1@aa.org.au](mailto:generalservicetrustee1@aa.org.au)

John O'Leary [northeastregiontrustee@aa.org.au](mailto:northeastregiontrustee@aa.org.au)

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## Trustees Services Committee

This committee covers Professional Awareness, Remote Communities/Accessibility, Health/Treatment, Corrections/Criminal Justice System and World Services/International.

Board members responsible for this Committee for 2025 are:

Garry Scott [easternregiontrustee@aa.org.au](mailto:easternregiontrustee@aa.org.au)

Dominic Hyde [westernregiontrustee@aa.org.au](mailto:westernregiontrustee@aa.org.au)

Brian Ferguson [worldservicedelegate1@aa.org.au](mailto:worldservicedelegate1@aa.org.au)

Andy Poad [worldservicedelegate2@aa.org.au](mailto:worldservicedelegate2@aa.org.au)

<b>2024 Advisory Actions allocated:</b>
<b>Advisory Action #004/2024 - Update GL-07 PI/CPC in the Guidelines</b> Collate from coordinators and those doing all the PI/CPC and add to the Guidelines through forming a Working Group from Conference and our National Forum in November 2024. Sections to be added on Professional Awareness, the Internet (Facebook), where to find information and general updates from information raised at the 2024 Public Awareness Forum and PI/CPC newsletters and Professional Conferences and Luncheons.
<b>Advisory Action #006/2024 – Flow Chart for PI/PA Material</b> Develop a flow chart for development/approval for PI/PA material. The flow chart to be in the spirit of 'Flow Chart for Development of an AA Pamphlet' from Section 11 'AA Literature' of the Service Manual.
<b>Advisory Action #009/2024 – Accessibility Guideline</b> Create or adapt from the US version, defining what is meant by 'accessibility' and to set up a working group to create an Australian guideline for accessibility, to help inform AA Australia of this important aspect of carrying the message. This would be in addition to or incorporating Guideline #18- Carrying the message to the Hearing Impaired Alcoholic.
<b>Advisory Action #016/2024 – Corrections Facilities Stories</b> An anthology of stories from Australian members about Correctional Facilities be developed, similar to the Message Stick.
<b>Advisory Action #015/2023 – Secular pamphlet</b> Pamphlet rejected and referred back to the Working Group.

## Working Groups

Advisory Action #004/2024 - Update GL-07 PI/CPC in the Guidelines

Advisory Action #006/2024 – Flow Chart for PI/PA Material

Advisory Action #009/2024 – Accessibility Guideline

Advisory Action #016/2024 – Corrections Facilities Stories

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## Management Group

The purpose and function of the Management Group is to facilitate every aspect of efficient and effective office management, as specified by Article 19 of the Articles of Association as contained in *The AA Service Manual*.

It is also this committee's responsibility to review all minutes and reports from National Convention Planning committees and to encourage their use of the guidelines for National Conventions (as drawn up by the Australian General Service Conference) in company with the US/Canada Guidelines on Conference and Conventions.

Andrew Taylor [generalservicetrustee1@aa.org.au](mailto:generalservicetrustee1@aa.org.au)

Gabrielle Nicholson [generalservicetrustee2@aa.org.au](mailto:generalservicetrustee2@aa.org.au)

Tiani Rubal – General Service Office Manager [officemanager@aa.org.au](mailto:officemanager@aa.org.au)

Patrick Scherf – General Service Office Staff [patrick@aa.org.au](mailto:patrick@aa.org.au)

2024 Advisory Actions allocated
<b>Advisory Action #003/2024 – Cost Equalisation Guideline</b> A Cost Equalisation Guideline to be developed and agreed on to ensure that the expenses of Conference and Board meetings are fairly divided among Areas in a clear and consistent and equitable way.
<b>Advisory Action #005/2024 – Change name of CPC to PA</b> Change name of 'Cooperating with the Professional Community' to 'Professional Awareness' (CPC to PA). The change will be conducted in accordance with GL-27. Other guidelines will be updated during the upcoming Document Review process.
<b>Advisory Action #008/2024 – Change to Class A Trustees</b> The number of Class A Trustees be reduced from 4 to 2. Changes to the Service Manual and associated literature to be undertaken.
<b>Advisory Action #017/2024</b> Change Guideline #30 as per the recommendation.
<b>FUNDING OF COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES</b> The Coordinator may claim up to \$1200 per annum to cover expenses incurred in carrying out the duties for which they were appointed. This amount to be increased yearly in line with the CPI index. This claim is to be made to the General Service Office on a receipt refund basis. Requests for additional funds should be made to the General Service Board via the Trustee Services Committee, with details supplied. The General Service Board also pays expenses (through the Board Secretary) for the relevant Chairs of the Trustee Committees, and the relevant National Coordinators to

attend National Forums. The Forum is responsible for funding any other invited guests to attend.

**Advisory Action #018/2024 – CSC Recommendation**

Conference resolved that the General Service Board engage the appropriate Trustee Committee to review the Key Conference resolutions document and address the index and page number discrepancies as soon as possible.

**Advisory Action #021/2024**

Section on 'Conference Committees' on page 12 of Section 7 of the Service Manual be stamped with 'under review'. The General Service Office to facilitate.

**Advisory Action #022/2024**

GSO to undertake a review of total costings for extending the duration of the conference on the basis of actual costs this year and prior years where it has been in person event (not zoom). This information to come back to Conference as an extraordinary meeting to be decided on for next year.

**Advisory Action #024/2024**

Advisory Action #009/2020 renders Advisory Action 2011/043 obsolete. It is recommended that conference make a formal statement to this effect, acknowledging that Australian online meetings and groups are considered full members of AA, including the General Service Structure in Australia. That this decision be reported in the Key Conference Resolutions.

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**Conference Steering Committee 2025**

John O'Leary [northeastregiontrustee@aa.org.au](mailto:northeastregiontrustee@aa.org.au)

Dom Hyde [westernregiontrustee@aa.org.au](mailto:westernregiontrustee@aa.org.au)

Chair - Andrew McNee, Virtual Area Area A Delegate [vareaadelegate@aa.org.au](mailto:vareaadelegate@aa.org.au)

Alt Chair – Lindsey Motteram, Southern Region Area C [srareacdelegate@aa.org.au](mailto:srareacdelegate@aa.org.au)

Doug Wade, Northern Region Area A [nrareaadelegate@aa.org.au](mailto:nrareaadelegate@aa.org.au)

Dann Bailey, North Eastern Region Area A [nerareaadelegate@aa.org.au](mailto:nerareaadelegate@aa.org.au)

Ric Cottrell, North Eastern Region Area C [nerareacdelegate@aa.org.au](mailto:nerareacdelegate@aa.org.au)

**SECTION 3**  
**AUDITED REPORT 2023-2024**

**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia**

**ABN: 77 001 417 125  
Financial Report  
For the year ended  
30 June 2024**

**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 2024 and auditor's report thereon. This financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australia Accounting Standards.

**Information on directors**

<b>Dominic Hyde</b>	Western Regional Trustee (Non Executive Director) - Appointed 1st January 2023
Qualifications	N/A
Experience	Several service positions in AA
Special responsibilities	(Committees on): Trustee Services Committee, Chair of the Message Stick working group
<b>Grant Tucker</b>	Central Regional Trustee (Non Executive Director) - Appointed 1st January 2023
Qualifications	Certificate III Disability Support
Experience	32 years General Manager National Timber Wholesaler
Special responsibilities	(Committees on): Chair Hosting Planning Committee for National Convention 2024, Chair Technology and Social Media Working
<b>Andrew Taylor</b>	General Service Trustee (Non Executive Director) - Appointed 1st January 2023
Qualifications	Bachelor of Laws (ANU), Graduate Diploma in Professional Legal Practice (ANU), Graduate Diploma in Communications (University of Canberra), Bachelor of Arts (Monash University)
Experience	Solicitor 1996-2021
Special responsibilities	(Committees on): Management Group, Safeguard Committee, Nominations Committee, AA80 HPC, General Service Office Recruitment Working Group
<b>Garry Scott</b>	Eastern Regionals Trustee - Appointed 1st January 2023
Qualifications	N/A
Experience	Sole Trader, Finance Broker, St George Customer Service Specialist
Special responsibilities	(Committees on): Trustee Services Committee Chair, AA 80 HPC Chair
<b>Narelle Buchanan</b>	Class A Trustee (Non Executive Director) - Director since February 2020
Qualifications	N/A
Experience	Corrections Officer
Special responsibilities	(Committees on): Trustee Service Committee
<b>Cheryn Porter</b>	General Service Trustee until 2023, Chair 2023 (Non-executive Director), Board Secretary 2024 (non-voting member) - Trustee resigned 31 December 2023
Qualifications	Certificate IV in Career Development
Experience	Board Member since 2019, Chair - 2023, Member of the fellowship since 2009, various position Office Manager, NSCSO, Roster Coordinator Diverter
Special responsibilities	Corporate Experience: Own business for 12 years, Human Resource Manager for various organisations for 8 years, Board Member - NFP (Committees on): Finance Committee for 4 years, Management Group for 4 years, Safeguarding Committee, Chair, National Archives Committee, Chair AA80 Committee, Chair AA80 Host Planning Committee 2023, Depute Chair AA80 HPC 2024, Board Secretary from 2024, General Service Office Recruitment Working Group, Class A Trustee Recruitment Working Group, 1300 Working Group
<b>Geoffrey Smith</b>	Southern Regional Trustee - Director since April 2021
Qualifications	PhD, Cognitive Aedeing, MSc. (Research Methods in Psychology), Masters of Arts (Hons) Psychology
Experience	All home group commitments, GSR, DCM, Area Delegate (and Alt) now Trustee, 15 years in Senior Management at NFP's, 10 years in academics
Special responsibilities	(Committees on): Deputy Chair of Board, Conference Steering Committee, Safety Team, 2025 HPC
<b>John O'Leary</b>	North Eastern Regional Trustee (Non-Executive Director) - Appointed 1st January 2023
Qualifications	Diploma of Business Management, Diploma of Professional Counselling, Cert 2 Security Industry, Cert IV Workplace Training Assessment
Experience	Director - ROLE/Bali Wise [Aust] - Not for Profit
Special responsibilities	(Committees on): Conference Steering Committee, Trustees Nomination Committee Chair, Class A Trustee Recruitment Working Group, General Service Office Recruitment Working Group
<b>Gabrielle Nicholson</b>	General Service Trustee (Non-Executive Director) - Appointed 1st January 2024
Qualifications	Master in Information Technology
Experience	Manager - Data and Analytic Teachers Health Fund - NFP Finance Coordinator - Alfalfa House
Special responsibilities	Management Group, Signatory of bank accounts, Chair - Document
<b>Matthew Church</b>	Class A Trustee until 2024 (non-Executive Director) - Appointed July 2023: Trustee resigned July 2024
Qualifications	MBA
Experience	Founder CEO Lab, 7 Figure Coach, General Manager of Global Coaching & Speaking Authority, General Manager of The Coaching Institute
Special responsibilities	(Committees on) Trustees Document Review Committee

**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia**  
**ABN 77 001 417 125**  
**Directors' Report**

**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 derived a surplus for the year of \$220,254. (2023 surplus \$91,965)

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.

**Directors' meetings**

The number of Directors' meetings attended by each of the Directors of the company during the year were:

Gabrielle Nicholson  
Matthew Church  
Narelle Buchanan  
Cheryn Porter  
Geoffrey Smith  
Grant Tucker  
Dominic Hyde  
Garry Scott  
John O'Leary  
Andrew Taylor

Director meetings	
<i>Eligible</i>	<i>Attended</i>
1	1
2	2
3	0
3	3
3	3
3	3
3	3
3	3
3	3
3	3

**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 outstanding obligations of the company. At 30 June 2024 the number of members were 10. The combination total amount that members of the company are liable to contribute if the company is wound up is \$500

**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

Signed on behalf of the board of Directors



---

Andrew Taylor

Director



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Gabrielle Nicholson

Director

Dated this 13 day of October 2024

# Graeme Kay CA

Registered Company Auditor

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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 2024 there have been:

- i. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.
- ii. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

This declaration is in respect of General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia.

---

GRAEME KAY CA  
Registered Company Auditor

Signature:.....

Dated:.....

Page 4

ABN 91 852 121 401 – 77/192 Vimiera Road, MARSFIELD NSW 2122 – Mob: 0409 066 515

Email: [graemekayauditor@outlook.com](mailto:graemekayauditor@outlook.com)

Liability Limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia**  
**ABN: 77 00 417 125**  
**Statement of Comprehensive Income**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2024**

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Sales Revenue	2	386,285	357,991
Other Revenue	2	573,332	548,141
	2	<u>959,617</u>	<u>906,131</u>
<b>Less Expenses</b>			
Changes in inventories of finished goods and work in progress	3	68,232	(44,153)
Cost of Goods Sold	3	(286,839)	(133,379)
Depreciation / Amortisation	3	(38,562)	(44,115)
Employee benefits expense		(199,078)	(298,956)
Rent expenses		(10,432)	(4,097)
Doubtful Debts	3	(1,123)	(1,429)
Insurance expenses		(22,967)	(21,644)
Interest paid		(16,349)	(13,024)
Telephone expenses		(28,356)	(6,882)
Public information expenses		(6,032)	(7,093)
Conference / Seminar / Convention costs		(43,584)	(27,326)
Travelling expenses		(36,345)	(97,125)
World service levy		(7,764)	(2,677)
Donations		-	(2,475)
Relocation Expense		(720)	(24,791)
Other expenses		(109,443)	(85,001)
		<u>(739,363)</u>	<u>(814,166)</u>
<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>		220,254	91,965
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<u><b>220,254</b></u>	<u><b>91,965</b></u>

The accompanying noted form part of these financial statement

**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia**  
**ABN: 77 00 417 125**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**as at 30 June 2024**

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	1,262,865	1,072,465
Receivables	6	11,507	50,454
Inventories	7	206,556	138,324
Other financial assets	8	96,871	96,774
Other assets	10	17,547	8,205
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>1,595,346</u>	<u>1,366,222</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Receivables	6	22,000	22,000
Property, plant and equipment	9	315,120	353,682
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u>337,120</u>	<u>375,682</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>1,932,465</u>	<u>1,741,905</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	11	116,923	75,554
Provisions	12	52,515	35,311
Lease	11	27,082	24,564
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>196,520</u>	<u>135,429</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	12	-	63,701
Lease	11	289,516	316,598
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<u>289,516</u>	<u>380,299</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>486,035</u>	<u>515,728</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>1,446,430</u>	<u>1,226,176</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained earnings	13	1,446,430	1,226,176
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>1,446,430</u>	<u>1,226,176</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statement

**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia**  
**ABN: 77 00 417 125**  
**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
**for the year ended 30 June 2024**

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Total Equity</b>		
Balance at the beginning of the year	1,226,176	1,134,211
Movement in equity from:		
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	220,254	91,965
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<u>1,446,430</u>	<u>1,226,176</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
 ABN: 77 00 417 125  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
 for the year ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from customers		973,108	859,425
Payments to suppliers and employees		(807,041)	(751,262)
Interest received		24,333	897
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	14	190,400	109,060
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		190,400	109,060
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		1,072,465	963,405
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>	5	1,262,865	1,072,465

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia**  
ABN: 77 00 417 125  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

The financial statements cover General Services Board of Alcoholics Australia as an individual entity, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. General Services Board of Alcoholics Australia is a company limited by guarantee.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on October 2024 by the directors of the entity.

**NOTE 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(a) Basis of Preparation**

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standard Board. The entity is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

**(b) Revenue**

Revenue from sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have passed to the customer 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 customer at the time of delivery of the goods to the customer.

Interest revenue is recognised when received 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 2023, Revenue is 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.

**(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.

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
 ABN: 77 00 417 125  
 Notes to the Financial Statements  
 for the year ended 30 June 2024

**NOTE 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(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

**(g) 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.

**(h) 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.

**(i) Leases**

At inception of a contract, the entity assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the Entity where the Entity is a lessee. However all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (lease with remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Initially the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments still to be paid at commencement date. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the Entity uses the incremental borrowing rate

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are as follows:

- fixed lease payments less any lease incentives;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date;
- the amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- the exercise price of purchase options if lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options;
- lease payments under extension options if lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options; and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability as mentioned above, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date as well as any initial direct costs. The subsequent measurement of the right-of-use assets is at cost less accumulated depreciation over the useful life of the underlying asset

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset whichever is the shortest. Where a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Entity anticipates to exercise a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

**Concessionary Leases**

For leases that have significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the Entity to further its objectives (commonly known as peppercorn/concessionary leases), the Entity has adopted the relief under AASB 2019-8 and measures the right-of-use assets at cost on initial recognition.

**NOTE 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**(j) 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 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.

**(k) 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.

**(l) 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.

**(m) Comparatives**

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

**(n) Event occurring after the reporting date**

No other matters or circumstances has arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the entity, the result of those operations or the state of affairs of the entity in future financial years.

NOTE 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(o) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the Entity.

**Key Estimates**

(i) *Impairment*

The receivables were valued at 30 June 2024. The valuation was based on fair value less doubtful debts provision. The critical assumption adopted in determining the value included the supplier and ageing of the debt. The value resulted in a revaluation decline of \$2,317 being recognised in the year ended 30 June 2024.

The inventories were valued at 30 June 2024. The valuation was based on fair value less cost of stock obsolescence. The critical assumption adopted in determining the value included consumer demand, deterioration, damage in transit. The value resulted in a revaluation decline of \$10,871 being recognised in the year ended 30 June 2024.

At 30 June 2024, the directors reviewed the key assumptions. They have concluded that these assumptions remain materially unchanged and are satisfied that the carrying amount does not exceed the recoverable amount for receivables and inventories.

(ii) *Useful lives of property, plant and equipment*

As described in Note 1(f), the entity reviews the useful lives of the property, plant and equipment at the end of each annual reporting period.

**Key Judgements**

(i) *Performance obligations under AASB 15*

To identify a performance obligation under AASB 15, the promise must be sufficiently specific to be able to determine when the obligation is satisfied. Management exercises judgement to determine whether the promise is sufficiently specific by taking into account any conditions specified in the arrangement, explicit or implicit, regarding the promised goods or services. In making this assessment, management includes the nature / type, cost / value, quantity and the period of transfer related to the goods or services promised.

(ii) *Lease term and Option to Extend under AASB 16*

The lease term is defined as the non-cancellable period of a lease together with both periods covered by an option to extend the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain that option; and also periods covered by an option to terminate the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain not to exercise the option. The options that are reasonable going to be exercised are a key management judgement that the entity will make. The entity determines the likelihood to exercise the option on a lease-by-lease basis looking at various factors such as which assets are strategic and which are key to future strategy of the entity.

(iii) *Employee benefits*

For the purpose of measurement, AASB 119: *Employee Benefits* defines obligations for short-term employee benefits as obligations expected to be satisfied wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. The Entity expects most employees will take their annual leave entitlements within 24 months of the reporting period in which they were earned, but this will not have a material impact on the amount recognised in respect of obligations for employees' leave entitlements.

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
 ABN: 77 00 417 125  
 Notes to the Financial Statements  
 for the year ended 30 June 2024

NOTE 2: REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Sales revenue		
- Sale of goods	386,285	357,991
Total revenue from operating activities	<u>386,285</u>	<u>357,991</u>
Other Revenue		
- Interest income	24,333	897
- Donations and grants	468,690	478,446
- Conventions	62,127	34,297
- Other revenue	18,182	34,500
Total revenue from non-operating activities	<u>573,332</u>	<u>548,141</u>
Total revenue and other income	<u>959,617</u>	<u>906,131</u>

NOTE 3: SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		
- Cost of Sales	218,607	177,532
- Depreciation / Lease Amortisation	38,562	44,115
- Doubtful Debts	1,123	1,429
- Audit Fee - Audit Services	14,172	13,156

NOTE 4: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION		
Compensation received by key management personnel of the company		
- short-term employee benefits	86,343	105,123
- Post-employment benefits	8,613	9,749
	<u>94,956</u>	<u>114,872</u>

NOTE 5: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash at bank and on hand	1,262,865	1,072,465
	<u>1,262,865</u>	<u>1,072,465</u>

NOTE 6: RECEIVABLES		
CURRENT		
Trade Debtors	12,624	41,034
Impairment Loss	(2,317)	(1,780)
	<u>10,307</u>	<u>39,254</u>
	<u>10,307</u>	<u>39,254</u>
NON CURRENT		
Amount receivable from:		
- other related body corporates	23,200	33,200
	<u>23,200</u>	<u>33,200</u>
	<u>33,507</u>	<u>72,454</u>

NOTE 7: INVENTORIES	2024	2023
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
At Cost		
Finished goods - at cost	217,427	145,604
Provision for impairment	(10,871)	(7,280)
	<u>206,556</u>	<u>138,324</u>

NOTE 8: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Held to maturity financial assets		
Term Deposit	96,871	96,774
	<u>96,871</u>	<u>96,774</u>

The term deposit has an interest rate of 0.10% p.a and a maturity date of 20th March 2025

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
 ABN: 77 00 417 125  
 Notes to the Financial Statements  
 for the year ended 30 June 2024

**NOTE 9: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

<b>Leasehold improvements</b>		
At cost	15,120	15,120
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,512)</u>	<u>-</u>
	13,608	15,120
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost	12,364	12,364
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(6,316)</u>	<u>(5,080)</u>
	6,048	7,284
<b>Lease</b>		
Right of Use Asset	358,138	358,138
Less: accumulated amortisation	<u>(62,674)</u>	<u>(26,860)</u>
	295,464	331,278
Total Property, plant and equipment	<u>315,120</u>	<u>353,682</u>

**(a) Reconciliations**

<i>Leasehold improvements</i>		
Opening carrying amount	15,120	-
Add: New improvements	-	15,120
Less: amortisation expense	<u>(1,512)</u>	<u>-</u>
Closing carrying amount	13,608	15,120
<i>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</i>		
Opening carrying amount	7,284	-
Add: New furniture, fittings & fixtures	-	12,364
Less: disposal	-	-
Less: depreciation expense	<u>(1,236)</u>	<u>(5,080)</u>
Closing carrying amount	6,048	7,284
<i>Leases</i>		
Opening carrying amount	331,278	8,537
Add: New Leases	-	358,138
Less: disposal	-	(8,537)
Less: amortisation expense	<u>(35,814)</u>	<u>(26,860)</u>
Closing carrying amount	295,464	331,278

**NOTE 10: OTHER ASSETS**

<b>CURRENT</b>		
Prepayments	17,547	8,205
	<u>17,547</u>	<u>8,205</u>

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
 ABN: 77 00 417 125  
 Notes to the Financial Statements  
 for the year ended 30 June 2024

NOTE 11: PAYABLES	2024	2023
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Trade Creditors	1,093	11,653
Sundry creditors and accruals	115,830	63,901
Lease Liability	27,082	24,564
	<u>144,005</u>	<u>100,118</u>
NON CURRENT		
Lease Liability	<u>289,516</u>	<u>316,598</u>
Total Payables	<u>433,521</u>	<u>416,716</u>

NOTE 12: PROVISIONS		
CURRENT		
Employee benefits	(a) 52,515	35,311
	<u>52,515</u>	<u>35,311</u>
NON CURRENT		
Employee benefits	(a) -	63,702
	<u>-</u>	<u>63,702</u>
(a) Aggregate employee benefits liability	<u>52,515</u>	<u>99,013</u>

NOTE 13: RETAINED EARNINGS		
Retained Earnings at beginning of year	1,226,176	1,134,211
Surplus / (deficit)	220,254	91,965
Retained Earnings at end of year	<u>1,446,430</u>	<u>1,226,176</u>

NOTE 14: CASH FLOW INFORMATION		
<b>Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities with profit after income tax</b>		
Profit after income tax	220,254	91,965
Non-cash flows in profit		
- bad and doubtful debts	1,123	1,429
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of the effects of purchase and disposal of subsidiaries		
- (increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	37,825	(45,809)
- (increase) / decrease in other assets	(9,341)	71
- (increase) / decrease in inventories	(68,232)	44,153
- (increase) / decrease in Right of Use Asset	35,814	(345,146)
- increase / (decrease) in Lease Liabilities	(24,564)	332,625
- increase / (decrease) in trade and other payables	44,202	20,583
- increase / (decrease) in tax liabilities	(2,833)	2,161
- increase / (decrease) in provision	(46,498)	7,124
- increase / (decrease) in Sundry	2,651	(97)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>190,400</u>	<u>109,060</u>

**NOTE 15: 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

**General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia**  
**ABN: 77 00 417 125**  
**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 2024 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 2012*
- (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.



Andrew Taylor

Director



Gabrielle Nicholson

Director

Dated this 13th day of October 2024

# Graeme Kay CA

Registered Company Auditor

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GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

ABN 77 001 417 125

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

## 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 2024, 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 directors declaration.

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 2024 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 conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described as 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 audit or 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.

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Email: [graemekayauditor@outlook.com](mailto:graemekayauditor@outlook.com)

Liability Limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

# Graeme Kay CA

Registered Company Auditor

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## 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 the management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the 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 the management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

## 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 is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's 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:.....

Dated:.....

# Graeme Kay CA

Registered Company Auditor

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## 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 2024, as presented on pages 20-21. The additional information has been prepared to satisfy the information with the Accounting Policies adopted in the preparation of the annual financial statements of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia for the year ended 30 June 2024 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 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 of 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:.....

Dated:.....

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General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN: 77 00 417 125

**Additional Information**  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Private information for the Directors  
On the 2024 Financial Statements

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Sale of Goods	386,285	357,991
<b>Less Cost of goods sold</b>		
Opening Inventory	138,324	182,477
Purchases / Materials used	286,839	133,379
	<u>425,163</u>	<u>315,856</u>
Less closing inventory	206,556	138,324
<b>Total cost of goods sold</b>	<u>218,607</u>	<u>177,532</u>
<b>Gross profit</b>	<u>167,678</u>	<u>180,459</u>
<b>Other operating income</b>		
Interest Income	24,333	897
Conference levies	18,182	34,500
Convention	62,127	34,297
Donations	468,690	478,446
<b>Total other operating income</b>	<u>573,332</u>	<u>548,141</u>
<b>Contribution Margin</b>	<u>741,009</u>	<u>728,600</u>
<b>Less Expenses</b>		
Archival expenses	(18,304)	(15,385)
Audit and accountancy	(30,486)	(24,549)
Bank charges	(3,350)	(3,870)
Computer support	(3,425)	(2,487)
Conference / Seminar / Convention costs	(43,584)	(27,326)
Depreciation and amortisation	(38,562)	(44,115)
Donations	-	(2,475)
Doubtful Debts	(1,123)	(1,429)
Electricity and gas	(2,456)	(2,096)
Foreign Currency Gains / (Losses)	(5,359)	(4,138)
Holiday pay	2,123	(1,279)
Insurance expenses	(22,967)	(21,644)
Interest Expenses	(16,349)	(13,024)
Legal and trademark expenses	(196)	(3,263)
Long service leave	44,376	(5,845)
Office expenses	(14,461)	(16,280)
Public information expenses	(6,032)	(7,093)
Relocation expenses	(720)	(24,791)
Rent expenses	(10,432)	(4,097)
R & M	(1,699)	(2,774)
Salaries and wages	(228,550)	(267,400)
Superannuation	(17,027)	(24,431)
Telephone / Communication	(28,356)	(6,882)
Travelling expenses	(36,345)	(97,125)
Website Development	(29,707)	(10,159)
World service levy	(7,764)	(2,677)
	<u>(520,755)</u>	<u>(636,634)</u>
<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>	220,254	91,965
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<u>220,254</u>	<u>91,965</u>

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia  
ABN: 77 00 417 125

Additional Information  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Private information for the Directors  
On the 2024 Financial Statements

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 11: Payables</b>		
Collection due to others	60,066	51,900
GST Payable	(8,863)	(8,022)
PAYG withholding tax	2,150	4,141
Superannuation payable	1,289	1,882
Provision for audit	14,000	14,000
Lease Liability - Current	27,082	24,564
Lease Liability - Non Current	289,516	316,598
Trade Creditors	1,093	11,653
Deferred Income	47,188	-
	<u>433,521</u>	<u>416,716</u>
 <b>NOTE 12: Provisions</b>		
Current employee benefits		
Annual leave	33,189	35,311
Long service leave	19,326	-
	<u>52,515</u>	<u>35,311</u>
 Non-current employee benefits		
Long service leave	-	63,702
	<u>-</u>	<u>63,702</u>

# **SECTION 4**

## **REPORTS**

# AREA DELEGATES REPORTS

## EASTERN REGION

### AREA A

Lisa Sindell

Hello, my name is Lisa Sindell and I am an alcoholic, I have a home group and a sponsor and I am the Area A Delegate.

We have 5 Active Districts, Byron Shire, Banana Coast, Hastings, Manning Great Lakes, and Northan Rivers Central.

Area A has 122 Groups Active, Online Groups 23 including 2 Hybrid In person 99. There are 5 women's Groups, and 2 men Groups.

49 I.D

14 Steps and Traditions

9 Speaker/ Topic

9 As Bill Sees It

6 Spiritual Concepts

9 Daily Reflections

10 Big Book. The others are Meditation and Promises meetings.

Area A is an active Area in helping the still suffering alcoholic. Northan Rivers Central have regular visits to Balunda near Tabulam), they also visit Riverlands Detox Center, twice a month with Byron Shire visiting the same Facility twice a month. Hasting District is actively involved with Kempsey Correction Facility through the T&CF initiative. P.A is also having worthwhile results with posters, pamphlets that are now in medical and law practices. Byron Shire has elected a new P.A Coordinator who they have funded to attend the Adelaide Forum in November. Our T&CF Co-Ordinator has just rotated off she has been doing a great job especially with Corrections in NSW.

I have had the privilege to attend Forums and one day Events as the Alt Delegate, I was elected in 2024 as the Delegate for Area A. I have spoken as Guest Speaker at some events and have been asked to visit Groups to talk on the Topics for Conference. I have had the support from past Delegates of Area A which I am extremely grateful, they have been willing to answer all my questions of which I have many.

At our last Area A Assembly we introduced a new form similar to the Topics form for members of Area A to complete before a project is considered, considerations to be given to cost, resources and how the project will help the fellowship. We also have Area A 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Booklet which should be ready end of October, it is based on the history of Area A. Some Districts are getting into the swing of things arranging events for the 80<sup>th</sup> 2025,

I look forward to meeting everyone and being a part of the National Group Conscience at Conference.

### AREA B

No attendee.

## AREA C

Mary Heard

We have 4 districts and 46 meetings altogether. Newcastle is the most active district due to density of population, but all districts have DCMs attending area. Lower Hunter and Lake Macquarie have district meetings, but Port Stephens does not.

We have regular H&Is at Belmont Hospital. There are currently 2 jail meetings one weekly at Cessnock and one Monthly at Musswellbrook. The Cessnock jail is negotiating more AA meetings, and we currently have a campaign to encourage people to go on the roster. These are all daytime visits. Some districts and many our groups are actively involved in PI with pamphlet distribution at surgeries, libraries, public events etc. as well as putting little big books in street libraries.

We had a PI forum in March with over 100 people attending both from AA and from the professional community. Dr Jurd gave his talk on the Cochran report and several members spoke on their experience, strength and hope. We currently have a committee organising a Newcastle Rally for March 1&2 2025.

In 2023 our Area organised the ERSF. As I now live in Sydney, I attend the Area C assemblies regularly and have also attended Area E assemblies.

The biggest challenge is keeping the districts afloat. We have some active groups in the Newcastle district with GSR representation and, although we rotate the assemblies through the different districts, there is understandably not as much representation in the less populated areas. Our assemblies have been very well attended and always interesting and inspiring plus we always put on a lunch afterwards which is great for fellowship.

## AREA D

Darren Davis

Over 100 meetings in Area D Eastern Region - 3 districts being Macarthur, South Coast and Southern Sydney. Also includes a CSO in Wollongong.

We have one correctional facility within Area D in Nowra and the Nowra There is a Solution is the coordinator of the roster and assists by providing literature into the facility. The Southern Sydney District performs PI/CPC and is actively providing banners at sporting fields in the District to let public know AA is there to help. District supports the phone line and new chat plus also attends H&I at a hospital in Hurstville after the Kogarah facility closed.

In my time as Delegate, I have attended Sydney Roundup, Sydney Mens Weekend, Eastern Regional Forum, National Convention in Adelaide, National service conference, Traditions and concepts weekend.

Moving back to 2 face to face assemblies a year from Feb 2025. A full day is planned in StG/Sutherland geo to encourage members to attend workshops on the 3 legacies and a BBQ lunch plus assembly to include area elections.

## AREA E

Andrew Scott

24 hr helpline

St Ives Office with literature for sale m-f

H&I X 5 Northside STH Pacific Henley Douglas Centre RNSH Northern Beaches Hospital Drug and Alcohol unit managed by diff groups Adhoc PI initiatives Oooh Media boards, Cinema

advertising.

Chelly P - Alt Delegate went to Sydney Roundup last week Sept

I went to Eastern Region Service Forum hosted by Area H in August, I went PI/CPC online seminar hosted by Adelaide, I went to the National Convention in Adelaide in April

Number of Groups 87

"Virtual" Districts 11

Groups with Registered GSRs 15

Groups with contacts (unconfirmed GSR status) 7

Sept Aug July June AVERAGE

Committee Meeting Attendance - GSRs 6 8 4 3 5

Assembly Meeting Attendance - GSRs 13

Only other comment is that we can't fill PI & CPC role for many years now maybe 4.

We managed to get assemblies started again after many years, why did they stop I don't know but assume there wasn't a good handover at some point.

From 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 there were only two assemblies held that Area E financed. The AGM in February was funded by NSCSO. The current balance of the Area E NAB Account as at today 08/10/24 is \$6,165.64. Since June 2024 the NSCSO has made a further payment to Area E & there have been other donations made to Area E from other groups, which have helped the financial situation of Area E.

## AREA F

No attendee

## AREA G

My name is Catherine Thomson and I'm an alcoholic, privileged to be serving as a first-year Delegate for Area G, Eastern Region. My homegroup is the Kings Cross Sunday night group in Sydney, NSW.

Area G hosts approximately 90 meetings per week. The Area operates without districts and benefits from strong support from local groups, both in terms of financial contributions and active involvement across all subcommittees and activities. Upon assuming their roles, GSRs and alternate GSRs can register with our email group to receive a welcome pack that includes essential information for the position. Currently all steering committee and subcommittee roles are filled, except for Registrar. Area G convenes four Area Assemblies annually, along with an additional extraordinary assembly dedicated to voting on Topics for Conference. At two of our four assemblies this year, we welcomed members of the General Service Board, providing the assembly with valuable opportunities to engage with our board.

Here is a snapshot of activities taking place within the Area:

### **PI & CPC**

The ER Area G PI Sub-Committee:

- Have updated awareness booth set for attending events (e.g., pull up banner, flyers/business cards, newcomer packs and professional packs)
- \$550 new Meta ads (~\$40/fortnight for 6 months)
- Recovery stall at the Bill Crews Foundation Recovery festival in September.
- Aug/Sept Ideation session on new campaigns to raise awareness

- Ongoing - Identification of Indigenous organisations in Area G where we can do outreach. First Nations People's outreach kit - Message Stick book and indigenous pamphlets to organisations in Area G.

For details or further information please contact the chair of the Area G PI and CPC sub-committee: [areagpublicinfo@gmail.com](mailto:areagpublicinfo@gmail.com)

### **Treatments**

Over the last 12 months, Area G has maintained an active relationship with various facilities in the area, including but not limited to: William Booth, St. Vincent's Hospital Gorman Unit, Kathleen York House, Glebe House, The Sydney Retreat, The Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, WHOS, Concord Hospital Ward 69, Foundation House and the Bourke Street Program. Area G facilitates and coordinates H&I meetings in some of these services.

The Bridging the Gap program continues to be used by facilities connecting people leaving treatment with an A.A. member to help them integrate into A.A.

Development of a sponsorship directory continues with the aim to assist people in treatment working the A.A. program, and Treatments has worked alongside Corrections to connect sponsors with members in prisons.

For details or further information, please contact the chair of the Area G Treatment sub-committee: [areagtreatments@gmail.com](mailto:areagtreatments@gmail.com)

### **Corrections**

#### **Long Bay Correctional Centre - meetings**

- An AA meeting continues in Area 3 every Wednesday at 1:45pm.
- Long Bay sends meeting notifications to the inmates via the inmate tablets. On average, there are between 7-10 attendees each week.
- A member facilitates three back-to-back meetings at the Statewide Disability Services (SWDS) in Area 1 some Tuesdays and in other Wings in Area 1 when NA does not have volunteers to facilitate these meetings.

#### **Long Bay Correctional Centre – Sponsoring Offenders**

Area G Corrections Chair is taking two men through the Steps in Area 3, Long Bay, on a Wednesday before and after the meeting. She continues to sponsor men and women who have been released from custody, now in the community.

#### **Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre**

An AA meeting continues at Silverwater WCC, 3 Fridays of the month from 12 noon to 1:00pm. On average, there are between 7-10 attendees each week.

Most women are processed here and sent to either Dillwynia Women's CC or Mid North Coast CC, West Kempsey, so sponsorship is not possible.

#### **Potential new meeting - Silverwater Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre (MRRC)**

The Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre (MRRC) is a maximum-security correctional facility for male offenders. Currently being explored with this facility whether AA meetings can commence there this year.

#### **Mary Wade Correctional Centre**

An AA meeting continues at Mary Wade CC every Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:00pm and is always well-attended. On average, there are between 7-10 attendees each week. This facility is very supportive of the AA program.

## **Chaplains**

A member of the corrections subcommittee has arranged with the organisers of Sydney Round-Up to offer a limited number of free tickets to NSW Prison Chaplains in an effort to strengthen the relationship between chaplains and AA. AA and the chaplaincy cross-refer inmates to each other.

## **Suite of corrections documents**

The corrections subcommittee is exploring with the Eastern Region Corrections Committee (ERCC) whether the following suite of documents could comprise an ERCC Correctional Facilities Guidelines booklet or be stored in a shared drive/document file:

- '10 Tips to Stay Sober on release from a Correctional Facility,' (published)
- AA in Correctional Facilities Sponsorship Guidelines (published)
- AA in Correctional Facilities Risk Management Protocols (published)
- AA in Correctional Facilities Meeting Formats (published)
- AA in Correctional Facilities Volunteer Recruitment flyers (published)
- How to Apply for Authority to Enter -VIN Application paperwork (published)
- Recommended literature to use in AA Correctional Facilities Meetings (published)
- Working Step 4 with inmates (not published)

For details or further information please contact the chair of the Area G Corrections subcommittee: [areagcorrections@gmail.com](mailto:areagcorrections@gmail.com)

## **Sydney City CSO**

Address: Offices 1&2, Kings Cross Parking Station,  
9a Elizabeth Bay Rd, Elizabeth Bay, NSW, 2011.

Email: [sydneycitycso@bigpond.com](mailto:sydneycitycso@bigpond.com)

Phone: 02 9389 6333 (office)

02 9387 7788 (24-hour help-line)

Hours: Monday - Friday - 9:30am-5:30pm

Saturday - 10am-2pm

Sunday – closed

## **Services:**

- 24-hour phone service for AA enquiries, AA member and Group support
- 12th step roster to facilitate sponsorship and support visits to alcoholics
- Support for Area G sub-committee activities (PI, Treatment, Corrective Services, LGBT)
- AA Literature sales; on-site and via post

## **Volunteers:**

Monday to Friday: Eleven volunteers sharing in-person shifts.

Saturdays: Coverage shared by four local AA groups.

24-hour phone line: Approximately thirty volunteers support this service

## **Unification of Area G and Sydney CSO.**

In 2018/19, Area G voted to merge with the Sydney CSO; however, the process remained incomplete. In November 2023, the Area Assembly approved the establishment of a committee tasked with finalising the merger and conducting an inventory of the CSO. Following the resignation of the long-term CSO manager in early 2024, the position has since been filled. The committee has determined that the role of CSO manager will operate on a two-year rotational basis, with an option for an additional two years. They have evaluated office operations, updated the computer system, acquired a contactless payment system, reorganised the

volunteer roster, and assessed the functionality of the 24-hour phone line. The committee is examining the ongoing productivity and relevance of the CSO. The new CSO coordinator is now a designated office holder for Area G.

### **Financial overview**

- The finances of Area G and the Kings Cross CSO have merged. The treasurer of Area G will oversee both the Area and CSO finances. The newly established steering committee of the CSO is currently reviewing the prudent reserve, with plans to make recommendations aimed at releasing additional funds for Area G initiatives.
- On average Twenty AA groups in Area G make regular financial contributions to CSO, with some continuing contributions from individual AA members.
- Surplus funds are managed at the Area Assembly and are directly allocated to Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI&CPC), Treatments and Corrections initiatives.
- Additionally, each operating subcommittee is provided access to a literature reserve ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000, ensuring that resources are available on time across Assemblies.

After several years of online meetings, Area G have recently transitioned back to in-person assemblies, with an attendance of 20 GSRs, subcommittee chairs, and the assembly steering committee. I would like to thank all members for their dedicated service. Our next Area Assembly is scheduled for November 24th.

## **AREA H**

Lauren Attard

There are currently 59 Meetings held within Area H each week. There is one online meeting that participates in Area H committee meetings and 5 that hold hybrid meetings. There are no current active Districts within Area H. At each quarterly Area H Committee meeting we have 8-12 GSR represented from the various Groups within the Area. The GSR's do not hold service positions within the Area Steering Committee or Committee Members.

We currently have a Steering Committee that is made up of: Area Chair - Natasha S, Area Secretary - Natalie A, Area Treasurer - Jennifer C, Area Group Registrar - Damien G, Area Alt Delegate – Vacant, Area Delegate - Lauren A. The Steering Committee (SC) meets every 4-6 weeks online or at extraordinary need basis, where regular business is discussed such as safety issues within the Area, planning of workshops, understanding the history of local service bodies. By the SC meeting regularly this frees up time for our committee meetings to discuss the most important thing, what are Groups and Service Committees doing within our Area. This emphasises the importance of the GSR and their contributions discussing how can we effectively carry the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic. Committee Members Corrections - Cherrie G, Hospitals & Institutions- Sophie M, PI & CPC – Vacant.

### **Corrections:**

Meetings within various local correctional facilities and detox have been on hold and over the last few months there has been some really exciting activity within the Area. There is a new manager at Bolwara transitional centre Emu Plains and currently there is space for online and in person meetings. A roster is underway for female volunteers. Dilwynia Correctional Facility at Windsor are keen to activate a meeting on the first Friday of the month. Emu Plains Correctional Centre is now men only inmates and will be commencing over the coming month. Our Correction Representatives are active members on the Eastern Region Corrections Committees.

## **Hospitals & Institutions:**

Currently Area H holds meetings in St John of God Richmond which has 2 rotating AA members that attend weekly and talk to the patients. Regular literature supplies are provided at St John of God.

A regular weekly AA meeting in Northside are being attended by rotating members of local group this roster is maintained by them. In January 2024 our H&I Representative contacted all 10 (ten) treatment centres / rehabs / detox's in Area H by telephone or email.

Cumberland Detox Hospital interest was sparked, Big Books and Newcomers Packs were delivered in person. Persistence and maintaining consistency pays off with communication of these facilities.

Recent conversations and meetings have been happening with the Nepean Detox Unit Nurse Manager. It has been 4 (four) years since we have held any meetings or had AA members attend the detox. The meetings with the Detox Nurse Manager have been productive and informative and the setup of the meeting is in full swing.

Most recently Mount Druitt day clinic outpatient unit has requested a range of literature be delivered along with posters and pamphlets to include in the packages for patients.

Local long-term Rehab One80TC has recently made contact with local BMWS CSO asking for literature and further contact is anticipated.

## **Public Information:**

AA members in Area H are holding an information night for the Turkish Community in South Granville in October 2024. They have requested and purchased Turkish literature from the GSO. There will be 2 AA members sharing at the night along myself as delegate that will attend for support and encouragement.

## **Eastern Region Service Forum**

In 2023 the Area H Delegate made a bid with the support of Area H Steering Committee to host the 2024 Eastern Region Service Forum. Our Committee was made up of members from Area H Steering Committee and local group members, we met for 7 months regularly to plan the Forum.

The theme this year was Responsive & Responsible and we feel this reignited a fire within the Area (and beyond) for a real interest in General Service. The forum has led to FOUR groups presenting GSR's at our Area committee meetings. We held the event at the Castlereagh Conference Centre which was one of the most beautiful locations our total costs for the weekend were \$11,125 with a surplus of \$2200. This was split equally back to Area H and Blue Mountains Western Sydney CSO whom both contributed \$2000 to the costs originally for the forum to enable registrations to remain affordable for anyone who wished to join. Area H contributed \$2000 toward the setup of the weekend and paid for the Committee to attend the weekend, we felt this was a useful allocation of funds to inspire the various service positions. As a first-year delegate I couldn't think of a better way to have spent my time working on the ERS Forum. It is a privilege to do any Service in Alcoholics Anonymous, the fellowship that saved my life. However, to work with a united cohesive and dedicated committee makes the task really enjoyable. You can read my report

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zfLORlWOtDg033OAstj4hXB5x2sBvnJV/view?usp=sharing>

The events this year within Area H have been free flowing. It has been wonderful to connect with the local fellowship in many ways after a period of activities being on hiatus. Many local meetings celebrated huge milestones, and it was brilliant to participate in all of them. To name a few: Sunlight of the Spirit Penrith 20 years Glenbrook 48 years Springwood 64 years.

Founders Day was held by a group of enthusiastic members in the Area in Penrith this year. The meetings were hosted individual Groups within the Area following their usual meeting structure. The event had over 100 people register over the day. BMWS CSO had a literature table set up with ample sales on the day. The day was catered for my local members and was a success. Attending as delegate and speaking to some of the history of our fellowship was a privilege.

NewyPAA was held this year within Area H at Granville. This was a successful and fabulous event. There was nothing better than witnessing the fine future trusted servants of Alcoholics Anonymous. With the message of recovery being delivered so fine that I have confidence, that AA is in great hands.

With AA and Al-Anon speakers visiting from Overseas for the Sydney Round Up local Groups hosted some of these speakers, making it possible for members unable to attend the weekend to connect with these speakers on a local and intimate basis. These events were well really attended.

As current Delegate I attended 5 local groups to support and encourage voting for the Annual Conference Topics. Area H did not submit any Topics for conference this year, but these conversations sparked some interest in the need to submit Topics that will really benefit AA as a whole. The feel was that Groups appreciated the demonstration of my Service attending their meetings and the importance of understanding that Groups have the ultimate and final responsibility and their desire to participate in voting plays the most part of that. And of course, our 2024 Eastern Region Service Forum which was a huge success mentioned previously.

In its almost 24 years Area H is continuing to evolve without the attitude of "its always been done this way". Area H is committed to really being able to make Service work possible and supported in any way. Thereby reaching more members and providing a safe useful place when a new Alcoholic arrives at a local group. Currently we meet online, there has been good conversations with GSR's on the convenience and accessibility for all members. This seems to be a real win for the Area - the more participation the better. My real focus as Delegate is encouraging this enthusiastic participation and connectedness.

Area H committee maintains a close relationship with our local Blue Mountains and Western Sydney (BMWS) Central Service Office (CSO) located in Kingswood. With their recent office changes Area H has participated in providing support and encouragement, being available to attend committee meetings and guidance where requested. BMWS CSO participates in our quarterly committee meetings providing groups another way to deliver the message to local groups of their role and services and possible 12 Step Work available to participate in.

Over the course of the last year Area H welcomed another CSO located in Parramatta, both CSO have connected, and we look forward to future developments working cohesively together in any way possible.

We host regular Workshops quarterly in the Area which seem to really benefit the members encouraging service and connecting the local groups to AA as a whole. To name a few successful ones from this year: General Service Trustee - Chair of the Board, Safeguarding AA Class A Trustee - Non Alcoholic, National PI & CPC - Chair We don't currently have a PI & CPC Committee representative but we hope with the upcoming elections there will be some enthusiasm from the current National PI & CPC Chair Rob. That workshop that was informative and helpful. PI is being conducted all over the Area with the various group ranging from Newspaper advertisements to local Street Libraries and visiting Dr Surgeries.

## AREA I

John Hooper

Area I is a new Area and was established following the approval of a submission to create it, at the Conference in November 2020. Area I includes the geographical area contained by the former Wyong Shire and Gosford Shire Councils, now combined to form the Central Coast Council. The first Area I Committee's efforts were hampered by the onset of Covid 19 in 2020 and the subsequent closure of most of the face-to-face meetings, which made access to hospital, institutions, care facilities and businesses near-on impossible. Towards the end of the first Committee's period of tenure, ill health beset the Area I Delegate and this also impaired Area I's activities. Even so, a lot of excellent work was undertaken in carrying the message of AA to the Central Coast community, including presentations in schools, with the Local Federal Member and with the Central Coast Local Health District.

On the 20th of April 2024, an Area Assembly was held to elect a NEW Committee. This meeting was attended by GSR's from sixteen of the forty-five groups on the Central Coast and most jobs were filled, including that of Delegate, Alternate Delegate, P.I. Coordinator, Treasurer, and Literature Officer. Since then, the job of Secretary has been filled and we are currently looking for someone to take on the role of Chairperson. The new Committee is very enthusiastic and has been highly active since being appointed, as described later in this Delegates Report. At this point-in-time we do not have Districts in our Area, but we will be encouraging groups to form them so that they can play an active role in Area I's activities going forward.

Considering that we are a new Committee and a new Area, it is still early days regarding our activities, but these are some of the things that have been initiated over the past five months.

- We have managed to reinstate weekly meetings for the Central Coast Clinic at the Brisbane Water Private Hospital and establish a service roster for AA attendees.
- Shortly before the election of the new Committee, our current Delegate and the past Delegate held a meeting with the Wyong District Hospital, which resulted in the reinstatement of weekly meetings their Detox Unit. These meetings have now been running for around six months with a roster coordinated by the current Committee Treasurer.
- We have two members who have taken on the jobs of P.I. and T.&C.F. Coordinators and are still finding their feet. Both will be attending the Service Forum, in Adelaide, in November, and we expect that they will come back filled with enthusiasm and with ideas about what we can do in our Area.
- Our P.I. Coordinator is currently drafting a letter to go out to schools across the Central Coast which will hopefully be followed with in person meetings and opportunities to make student presentations. The past Committee ran a presentation at the St Peter's High School, in Tuggerah, which we hope to revive and copy the format elsewhere.
- Whilst not a part of our Area, several of us have submitted applications to be able to visit the Cessnock Correctional Centre, following a request from Len S. At this time, we are still awaiting and will form a Central Coast roster when this happens.

Given the history I have already explained, there existed little understanding of what an Area does and why it was needed on the Central Coast. Therefore, our Committee made a brave decision to hold an event, early on, which would enhance member's understanding of what we do, foster fellowship, and encourage financial support. This event, the "12 Traditions and 12 Concepts Workshop" was held on the 14th of September, in Gosford, and was conducted by David M. and Chris L., who travelled up from Melbourne to do the one-day presentation. More than sixty-five members, from the Central Coast and Sydney, attended and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with requests for David and Chris to return to do the "12 Steps Illustrated" next year. It was not our aim to make money from the event, and we estimate that

we will go into the red by around \$400. As a Committee, we learnt a great deal and will use this experience when we conduct future Fellowship activities. We have continued to strengthen our relationship with the Gosford CSO and, most recently, invited them to set up and sell literature from a desk at our workshop. We also regularly attend their Intergroup and they have a representative who attends our Area Assemblies.

As Area I Delegate, I attended the Service Forum held by Area H in August, staying the whole weekend. Our Alternate Delegate also attended, and we both got a great deal out of it, which certainly assisted us when organising and running our workshop a few weeks later.

We are planning to run several workshops, over the next two years, to educate and inform members about service opportunities available to them and to widen their understanding of the General Service Structure. When we mentioned this idea at the recent Area Assembly, it was well supported by the GSR'S. We have two such events in the planning stage, including a BBQ on New Years Eve and a GSR Workshop to be held in February 2025. This last suggestion, to run a GSR workshop, was also well received at our last Area Assembly.

## SOUTHERN REGION

### AREA A

No attendee.

### AREA B

No attendee.

### AREA C

Lindsey Motteram

Area C SR covers a large geographical area, from central Melbourne down to the eastern tip of Victoria. Two districts currently participate in the Area, Inner City District which represents inner Melbourne, and Outer Eastern District which represents Melbourne's eastern suburbs. We also have participation from groups in Melbourne's Mornington Peninsula, and some engagement with groups further afield. We are working to build relationships with groups outside the metropolitan area, however the big geographical distances and lack of contacts on the ground is a challenge. Our city districts represent a large and diverse range of active AA groups, and both districts undertake significant initiatives in PI/CPC. As our Area is only in its second year after being reconstituted in 2023, we are still beginning to develop institutional knowledge and experience, and hoping to build our activities out further in 2025 to provide greater support to groups and engage further with those who have not yet had much contact with the Area. Both Districts are highly active in service.

Inner City District (ICD) conducts PI activities, including advertising campaigns (billboards, internet, print and radio) as guided by the Committee each year. The District also has a Rehab Coordinator who maintains a list of H&I opportunities throughout the district, which are mostly individually managed by groups, to ensure a cohesive relationship and fill gaps in service positions/speakers. The coordinator oversees approximately 70 rehabs/institutions through this role. The District also attends CPC events, participating in GPCE (General Practitioners' Convention and Exhibition) and presenting AA information and developing networks with doctors and medical professionals through this forum - this occurred in 2023 and ICD are returning in October 2024. The District was also invited to participate in the World Congress on Alcohol and Other Addictions conference in a similar capacity. Exploration of how the District can engage in Court settings is also underway, with AA postcards and business cards being distributed throughout certain courts in the District's local area.

The Outer Eastern District (OED) also conducts significant PI activities and is collaborating with ICD on initiatives, including distributing AA information to courts in the Eastern Suburbs area. OED has also held unity events to fundraise for billboards which have been displayed in the local area and are developing plans to run a PI drive targeting doctors and other professionals in October 2024. OED also runs a manned phone line which serves the local area to support alcoholics to get in contact with local AA members. The Area and Districts also maintain contact with the Victorian Central Service Office, which has assumed responsibility for the Victorian Prisons Intergroup as of this year. This intergroup (now CSO) coordinates prison rosters for the entirety of Victoria. The Area Committee has developed a number of materials to support Districts and Groups, including digitised brochures targeted at various audiences which

contain AA information. These have become a useful tool for people wanting to share information about AA without relying on paper brochures.

The Area has also developed and run workshops and tools to support Groups with engaging with the Conference process, including how to develop and submit topics and how to understand and participate in the service structure of AA. To date there have not been specific Area-led events in the PI/CPC space. As a “young” Area, reconstituted in 2023, we don’t have significant institutional experience - however we do have engaged members and enthusiasm and we are seeking to broaden our activities beyond reporting and Conference participation. To this end, the Area Committee are engaging with interested members, the Districts and Groups to discuss potential useful initiatives to assist with PI/CPC activities in the Area and to grow our engagement and usefulness to the suffering alcoholic.

Over the past 18 months, Area C Southern Region has focused on developing capability to represent the Area’s groups at National Conference. Our engagement with groups has grown and a significant proportion of metropolitan groups are involved in the Area, both directly and indirectly through the two active Districts. Growing engagement and relationships have been a highlight of the past 18 months. We’ve also delivered training on Conference topics and held successful workshops and events, including Area assemblies, and provided a forum for Districts and Groups to share knowledge and skills and to discuss issues.

In my time as Area Delegate, I have attended the General Practitioners’ Conference and Exhibition National Convention - Adelaide 2024 VICYPAA Convention.

Our greatest challenges are:

1) building institutional knowledge - many of our GSRs, Committee and other stakeholders have not had years of experience engaging with/through an Area and therefore we don’t have a lot of suggestions on the ground for initiatives to run or ways the Area can be helpful. This can lower engagement by making the Area focus on its basic function - attending Conference - and not on initiatives which would make a positive difference on the ground and support Groups all year round. We do, however, have strong effective Districts and many highly effective Groups as well as a network of contacts to help build knowledge and experience, and we expect to continue to grow the Area’s effectiveness in line with the Groups’ expectations over time.

2) geographical sprawl - our Committee and active Districts/Groups are concentrated in the Greater Melbourne area. We’ve worked to engage with groups outside the city through telephone campaigns and limited group visits, but resources to do this in a sustained way have been limited. The relative lack of major population centres east of Melbourne means there are few established Districts/large Groups with whom we can engage to build relationships locally in those areas. Continued effort will be required to better engage and support Groups outside the city, and we welcome assistance and support in building these relationships.

## AREA D

Kimina Lyle

Area D covers western and northern Melbourne, Ballarat and Geelong areas in Victoria. There are 3 active districts — Geelong, Ballarat and western Melbourne. The western Melbourne one has recently restarted after a hiatus. At Area Assemblies we get around 20-25 GSRs spread across the region. I don’t know how many meetings there are in Area D, but I think there would be about 200 groups at least.

In our Area there is a prison intergroup that conducts meetings in prisons. This is not directly part of Area D but many members and groups in Area D are involved in this service. H & I is done at district level and the Geelong district are very active in this space.

Area D is financially strong. We do not forward funds to other groups or parts of the service structure as we believe groups choose to give us funds to use in the Area. Our primary expenditure in recent times has been on billboards etc for providing information to alcoholics. In my time as Area Delegate I have attended Area D assemblies, district meetings and groups consciences.

We have all service positions on Area D committee filled except for PI coordinator. Service positions in the three districts in our Area are also largely filled. We do have difficulty attracting new groups and GSRs to attend assemblies and district meetings. For conference topics, for example, I have received feedback from about 10 groups, despite many emails and me offering to attend group consciences.

## CENTRAL REGION

### AREA A

#### Avril B

The Area A consists of meetings from the city to far and wide in the country from Two Wells, Kapunda, Riverton to Coober Pedy, Ceduna and Pt. Lincoln, just to name a few. Our districts in Area A are Para Districts (Central Districts), Northern Districts (Inactive) and Western District (Inactive) at the moment. The Area holds zoom meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.00pm. There are approximately 40 f2f city meetings and a new one starting up; 7 on-line meetings and 1 hybrid. There are 10 country f2f meetings with 1 being hybrid.

Area A has been active this year on the social front and fundraisers for CSO and the Adelaide Convention 2024. There has been a few rallies this year with great attendances. There have been 2 camps in Pt. Lincoln, 1 being a step study. There is also a few rallies on the horizon, Napperby on the October long weekend and Pt. Hughes in early December. There will also be another Pt. Lincoln camp at Tharuna in January 2025. The auction at the camps have also been well received with the donations going to CSO and future rallies. The Area was in a position to send donations to various group for literature, pamphlets and Big Books for Corrections including men's and women's prisons in the city as well as country prisons from Pt. Lincoln and Pt Augusta.

Para Districts has been holding a public information stall at a major shopping centre, this has been successful with some members or the public showing interest. Members of Para Districts were manning the stall on a roster basis and gave out information, literature and pens to members of the public. AA has been invited by the Playford City Council to attend functions in the Greenville Centre.

Men's Health week was attended by members of AA, it was very well attended by members of the public. Dennis F and Chris W have started up a radio show on PBAFM; a small local radio station in Salisbury, where members of AA share their stories. Sober Talk SA has reached people from overseas as well as all over Australia. Sober Talk SA can be found on AA SA website and Spotify, A new speaker, speaks on the third Thursday of the month. If anyone would like to share their story on Sober Talk SA you can contact Dennis on 0421 223 149. Dennis is always looking for new speakers. Dennis informs me new cards are being made with the QR code.

Pt. Lincoln group have been doing a PI drive to various locations where they have placed AA literature; Police Stations, Hospitals, Women's and Men's shelters, Lawyer's offices and courts etc. The Pt. Lincoln group were invited by ADEC (Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council) to attend men's mental health week in Ceduna, this was very well received by members of the public. The Pt. Lincoln Jail has invited AA to start up meetings in the Jail, this will be starting in the coming weeks. Members from the Area attends the Cadell Prison and holds a meeting every week. There is about 5 inmates that attend this meeting regularly, inmates have short term sentences and move on. An inmate recently got released and found a meeting to attend and ran into Henry who ran the Cadell meeting, he is now 2 months sober and attends a variety of meetings. His story is on Sobertalk, an interesting story to tell. It is a transient community, and members of AA that attend Cadell have a good rapport with Staff. Henry from Area A is the main contact for this Prison, it is closer for members from Area A to attend every week as the

prison is in Area B. We have received valuable feedback, and the Staff are glad AA are in the prison.

The Area has provided funding to various groups for PI work. The Area has donated money to the Pt. Piries group for banners, literature and pamphlets for an open day for Indigenous people held in Pt. Pirie. The Area provided funding for literature, pamphlets and big books to men's and women's prison. The Area provides funding for the rallies and fundraising for the CSO. The Area will be providing funding for the National Forum 2025 in Adelaide.

As Area A Delegate I have attended the Adelaide Convention, Rallies, monthly area meetings. I will be attending the National Forum 2024 held in Adelaide this year, I will also be attending the Conference 2024 held in Sydney.

The biggest challenge we find as an Area is the lack of participation and interest of people doing service within the Area, districts and some groups.

## AREA B

Anna L

Area B covers everything south of the River Torrens and covers a mass of land that extends to the News South Wales and Victorian borders. We currently have three active districts, the Riverland and the Central and Eastern Adelaide District and the newly rejuvenated Southern and Fleurieu District. The Lower South East district is currently not operational. Our Area B committee is very active, with all service positions filled. Regular business meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month.

The annual Area B Assembly was held in February 2024, where guest speakers presented, elections were held, and all service positions were filled, including a new Secretary, Registrar, Treasurer and Treatments & Correctional Facilities Officer. The Riverland district has a new DCM and members attend the Cadell Prison and Mobilong Prison regularly, with support from the Area B Treatment and Corrections Facilities Coordinator, Sam.

The Central and Eastern Adelaide District has up to 13 groups that regularly attend monthly meetings. The focus of each meeting is to discuss opportunities and current/planned initiatives to serve the still-suffering alcoholic. Their DCM attends Area B meetings, and communication is strong between Area and CAED. The district supported a steps and traditions workshop this year, ran a Service Workshop recently and encourages local PI work.

The Southern and Fleurieu District reconvened this year and now has nine groups represented by GSRs attending their monthly meetings. They are holding a 'How to run an AA group' workshop for groups in the district and are focusing on building participation in service and supporting each other by creating a new Social Coordinator role.

Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI & CPC) coordinator is Connor. At the beginning of the year, he visited one of our districts encouraging each group to be active in their own PI work, offering an Area coordinated plan that would provide them with locations and the needed literature and posters. Groups have been slow to get involved but as of now 3 groups are active in this. 3 AA speakers were organised to speak at support groups, one for men and one for women which were facilitated by the Hutt St Homelessness centre in Adelaide. These groups had up to 30-40 people each including several workers. We secured an exhibition table, a keynote AA speaker and created a roster of AA members to be present at the

2024 Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia Conference so that hundreds of health professionals and other attendees were exposed to the message of AA's program of recovery. New PI/CPC banners were designed which were approved by the area and used at this conference and now can be used for future conferences. Reached out to the South Australian Network of Drug and Alcohol Services and on meeting with their executive director, Connor agreed to send out a routine AA public awareness email to over 400 services and professionals within South Australia. Have built a relationship with the Urgent Mental Health Care Clinic in Adelaide and arranged for two AA presentations to take place in their November team meetings. Connor is working with our National PI/CPC Rob and our World Service Trustee Andy in organising the 2024 National Public Awareness Luncheon being held in Adelaide.

The Treatment & Correctional Facilities (T&CF) Coordinator is Sam. He coordinates multiple rosters of groups to attend weekly presentations at a detox facility; weekly presentations at the Woolshed rehab; regular attendance at Mobilong and Cadel prisons; and Tumbelin Farm, a youth rehab facility. He is also looking into the best ways to bring the AA program of recovery to still suffering alcoholics in Mt Gambier and Yatala Labour prisons, exploring options for and feasibility of online meetings. Other opportunities he is pursuing include bringing weekly AA presentations to Salvos Pirie St and Glenside Psychiatric ward, commencing October 2024.

Central Region Area B is in a sound financial position. We were able to fund attendance in an exhibition booth at The Drug And Alcohol Nurses (DANA) of Australasia Conference in Adelaide this year, which was a major outlay. Funding of ongoing commitments to our PI&CPC work and regional T&CF initiatives are budgeted for and we had funds in place ready for delegate to attend conference. Roonka Camp, which is our major fundraiser, was a sensational success which set us up for a successful 2024 and plans are already underway for 2025. Area has contributed support some of our smaller service, steps and sponsorship workshops throughout the year. We work collaboratively with CSO, with the Delegate or Alternate Delegate attend each CEO committee meeting as an observer and to provide a report. The Delegate also attends District meetings when possible. Minutes of all Area B meetings are shared with Area and CSO.

In my role as Area Delegate, I attended one Area Assembly and was part of the Host Planning Committee for the 2024 AA National Convention that was held in Adelaide. I have also presented at a District service workshop, a steps workshop and a sponsorship workshop in the last year.

In our area, what's working is the incredible commitment and active participation of all Area committee members and the increasing involvement of GSRs at district level. It's an exciting time to be part of service in our Area. The PI&CPC and T&CF work is growing, and the reach of AA is expanding to better find and help the still suffering alcoholic.

## WESTERN REGION

### AREA A

Marjo Nissinen

Area A in the Western Region covers a vast area that includes areas north of the Swan River in the city of Perth to the top of the Northwest region of the state, and out to the eastern border area between Western Australia and South Australia. There are two active districts within the area; the Midwest District based in Geraldton and Northwest District in Eighty Mile Beach, Pilbara. We currently have 87 meetings and 65 Groups in the Area. Included in this total are 16 country meetings and 3 meetings held in correctional facilities.

Public Information – Our PICPC efforts this year have been focused on school talks, encouraging group PI involvement, and distributing literature to local services. We have also been running a Facebook ad campaign since 2021. The ad is alternating between various images or 3-second videos and is reaching thousands of people in the area. Our April 2024 the ad reached over 19,000 people with nearly 800 of them clicking the link to take the 20 questions on the AA website. We have recently expanded to run the ads on Instagram as well.

Treatment Facilities - There are currently 8 meetings held at treatment facilities in the area, from withdrawal units to therapeutic communities and mental health units. Each facility has its own AA coordinator along with a roster for visiting members. In addition, our treatment coordinator is liaising with other facilities to provide on-site meetings or speakers.

Correctional Facilities - We have been attending the Bandyup Women's Prison regularly for the past year and a half, with 5 women on the volunteer roster. Our female prison coordinator role has recently become vacant, and we aim to fill this position in the next assembly. However, the challenges at Wooroloo Men's Prison continue and we have been unable to regain access to facilitate meetings for the past year. Casuarina, another male prison in Area A, is also not supportive of AA visits at this stage. We are sending a representative from Area A to the National Awareness Forum in Adelaide this year and hope to come up with ideas to overcome these challenges.

Our funds are focused on helping the still sick and suffering alcoholic through events and literature within our area. In addition, we donate to our local CSO, GSO and to events (such as national convention) where applicable. We are liaising with Area B particularly regarding service opportunities within PICPC, treatment and correctional facilities.

I have attended conventions (national and YPAA) in WA and nationally, roundups, state and country group anniversaries, local events including fundraisers, workshops and area assemblies.

Our area assemblies are held in person once every quarter. On average we have 10 GSR's attending the assemblies, which means that less than 20% of the meetings are represented in the area assemblies. There has been discussion regarding hybrid meeting to allow encourage Zoom participation, particularly for remote groups.

### AREA B

Lesley Ferguson

My name is Lesley Ferguson, and it has been my privilege to serve this area as Delegate since 2021. This is my last year as delegate and John R, my Alternate will be Delegate from 2025.

### **Meetings and Groups**

Area B WR currently has 45 Metropolitan meetings, and 26 Regional meetings registered with CSO. There is 1 online meeting and 1 phone link meeting that runs 7 mornings a week.

Area B meetings are supported by approximately 53 groups, and efforts are ongoing to engage these groups in the Service structure. 2023 saw 15 groups participate in voting on Conference topics.

### **Area**

Area B WR has met every second month online and has just changed to quarterly meetings. Currently in a good financial position, Area income has dropped, and our Treasurer is tracking our position closely. Challenges have arisen in setting up banking and electronic 7<sup>th</sup> tradition. Our newly appointed PI coordinator is excited to be going to the National PI Forum in Adelaide this November.

### **Districts**

There are three active Districts in our Area.

#### **Peel District**

The most active District, engaging in PI, District court attendance and heavily involved in Prison outreach in the Area. Events such as Service workshops, film nights and the yearly "Old-timers Day of Nostalgia" and fundraising are held in the District.

#### **Port District**

Port district distributes literature to libraries' and doctors' offices, attempts to service the Courts have been unsuccessful, but approached regularly. 2 Radio stations have announcements and members telling their stories. Regular AA social events are hosted by Port District at the local Clubhouse, including a NYE party. This Clubhouse was built and made available for use by 12 step fellowships by Dr. Nelson, a previous Class A Trustee.

#### **South West District**

Our newest district is active in pamphlet and business card distribution, and is building links to local Hospitals and Treatment Centers. This district holds an annual weekend roundup in April.

### **Prisons**

MELALUCA: Womens remand center with fortnightly meetings. 5-6 people attend and are engaged.

WANDOO: Fortnightly meeting, mainly to supply literature, with an information day for the whole prison planned.

KARNUP: Mens prison has asked for AA to re open a meeting after a period of recess.

BORONIA: Womens prison, Information day planned.

CASSURINA: Mens prison that holds its meetings internally, literature supplied by Peel District.

ABLANY REGIONAL: A trial of AA zoom meeting has been set up, with the Transitional Manager involved. Tom D outgoing Area Prisons Rep instrumental in this step forward.

BUNBURY: Mens prison, Fr. Brian from SW district is a long time stalwart of this combined meeting.

These are just a few of the Correctional Facilities in Area B, we have a very overloaded system here and the Justice Department is very slow to process over a dozen clearance applications. Staff shortages and lack of staff support also make access difficult.

### **Hospitals**

Regular visits continue to Bentley Hospital continue, Bethesda Private Hospital in Cockburn has closed, with plans for South Metro Health to open a Chemical Dependence Unit.

### **Regional Events**

Albany Roundup held its inaugural campout over the March long weekend, and was a great success, with plans to make this a fixture on the calendar.

Esperance Roundup in January was a hit as usual with numbers well up this year.

## NORTHERN REGION

### AREA A

Doug Wade

Northern Area A cover the entire Northern Territory. Regular meetings are held in Alice Springs, Darwin, Palmerston and Humpty Doo. There are also several online meetings hosted from the Darwin Region. There are AA members living outside the major population centres however there are currently no regular meetings held in smaller centres. There is currently one active District in the Area, the Darwin District Office (DDO) which serves Darwin and surrounding area, it also provides contact and support for Fly In Fly Out workers. The DDO maintains an office, website, 24/7 phone line and literature sales. The DDO is active in visiting Rehab facilities and organising PI activities.

The Area committee is currently considering a proposal for PI activities for outside the area covered by the Darwin District Office and would most likely begin with literature distribution to regional libraries and health centres.

Each year there are several events specifically put on to promote AA and ongoing recovery through working the AA Recovery Program. Notable the Bill W Camp held over three days in the Douglas Daly district and Darwin Unity Weekend held in Darwin. Both events were again very successful this year. Also, the Area committee ran two workshops in Darwin which were also available online. One on The General Service Structure of AA in Australia and the other on The Role of the GSR. These workshops were designed to increase understanding and engagement in Service at all levels.

Perhaps the best highlight is a steady number of newcomers attending meeting and staying in the program consistently. this is good indication that the groundwork done in the past and continued by the DDO is effective. The presence of these newcomers helps the groups to grow and supports the recovery of members who have been in the program for some time. The contribution of older sober members has also been invaluable in maintaining the existing service structures, helping AA move with changes to society and technology. As well they have led by example in a selfless manner.

## NORTH EASTERN REGION

### AREA A

Dann Bailey

Area summary – we have 68 meetings covering roughly 80,000km<sup>2</sup> and a population of roughly 250,000. All bar 3 of the meetings (being Mt Isa, Winton and Rubyvale) either identify with or are in the geographic region of three Districts – Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.

PI/CPC Coordinator position filled on Area Committee for first time in over five years. Corrections FNQ.

Liaison with the Brisbane CSO Pathfinder, maintain database of contact details of Groups to enhance comms between Area and groups not included in a District. Liaison with Cairns CSO for newsletters.

Townsville Living Sober weekend in Oct 2023 and again in Oct 2024 Area A (Cairns 2024) Round-up - profit made of \$2613.30. This was divided between Delegate's Conference levy and sending new PI Coordinator to South Aus PI/CPC.

Conference Area A Inventory - first Area A inventory ever undertaken Sharing Session at Area Assembly in Cairns - first one done in many years and the topic was "Encouraging members into service". \$500 donations to districts for PI/CPC (ongoing annually upon request) Donation to Gold Coast Convention - NatCon 2026 of \$1000 Area Committee meetings once every two months instead of twice per year - focus on support amongst the district and building unity / fellowship amongst districts and area Financial Stuff = we are fully self supporting Financial contributions to Brown Paper Bag Appeal. Financial contributions to GSO.

In my time as Area Delegate I have attended, Group meetings, District meetings in person and via zoom, Area Assembly in Cairns.

One of the Area's challenges is the Secretary, alternate Delegate, Registrar positions have been vacant for last eighteen months.

### AREA B

Ric Cottrell

The Area is North of the Brisbane River to Rockhampton, out west as far as Charleville including Morven, Black All, Barcaldine, Longreach.

135 Meetings in NERAREA B QLD District 9- 49 meetings: Approx 10 groups represented at District BRIS North- 26 Meetings: Approx. 8 Groups represented at District Moreton North- 13 meetings: Approx 6 Groups represented at District District 5- 5 meetings: 4 groups represented at District Fraser Coast- 14 Meetings: 7 Groups represented at District Far Western- 5 Meetings: 4 Groups represented at District.

As OF THE 1/1/2023 when I took over the NERAREA B Delegate Position (QLD), there were two active districts. there are now six. I've attended all District Meetings bar two: One on the Sunshine coast Dist: 9 and One in Caboolture- Moreton North. I'm still working on Gympie, Gladstone and Rockhampton. This year I've travelled in excess of 9,000 kilometers attending District meetings and Rallies.

Numerous hospitals, to my knowledge District 9 services Nambour Hospital, 2 Jails --Woodford (district 9) and Maryborough (Fraser Coast). All districts have approached schools in their areas. Response has been mostly negative.

All libraries have been approached with Big Books and Literature. In all active PI areas, we link in with community organisations such as - Court Houses, community health centers, neighborhood centers, Police stations, Ambulances, Shopping Centers and Medical Centres. Also, in Urban suburbs we provide PI Literature to chemists, Community noticeboards, Gymnasiums and NDIS linked organisations.

No great financial highlights. Area B has made a contribution to the 2026 National Convention at the last month's Assembly leaving a Balance of \$60.00 in the Account.

In my time as Area Delegate I have attended Rallie- Morven : attended 2 Samford: Attended 2, Roma: Attended 2; PI Professional Luncheon: Roma , Charleville, Blackall TAG A LONG- FAR WESTERN: attended 2 National Conventions: Perth & Adelaide Workshops: Relationship Workshops (BN District) Guest Speaker Workshop- Maryborough- Guest Speaker Workshop- Bundaberg Topics for Conference Workshop- BN District Groups: Bray Park, Carseldine HP, Samford and Sandgate Spiritual Concept.

I've received a lot of negative feedback from older members regarding Delegates prior to my predecessor Cliffe (who did a great Job during COVID). So, they have been reluctant to encourage newer members to participate in service at a district level. There were 10 districts in Area B 20 years ago. With God's help it is my aim to get Area b back to where it should be.

## AREA C

Terresa Allen

The area has x 6 active districts - • Northern Gold Coast • Southern Gold Coast • Bayside • Toowoomba • Brisbane (South) • Ipswich

Corrections The subcommittee remains committed to providing resources, information, and assistance wherever and whenever possible. Currently the are 7 prisons in the area with 6 being actively visited. Area C are currently involved in discussion with the other Areas and National Corrections Coordinator regarding the formation of a NER Corrections Committee to handle cooperation with Qld Corrections at a State level and ensure continuity across the State. The Area C Corrections Subcommittee Chair plans to attend the National PI/CPC forum in November in Adelaide.

PI &CPC The subcommittee is active and meets monthly via Zoom. Recent activities include ongoing fundraising, AA material/ posters on Brisbane buses. AA banners as well as drink coasters and bathroom stall posters for licenced venues in and around the Bayside district and a Billboard for Toowoomba. A PI luncheon have been held in Toowoomba and another planned for Ipswich District Information sessions have also been held for Nursing Staff at the Redlands Bay Mental Health Unit, and PI/CPC packs have also been provided to local Police Stations and the Wynnum Magistrates Court. Information sessions have also been held for staff of Services Australia and Qld Police in the Ipswich district. The Area C PI&CPC Subcommittee Chair plans to attend the National PI/CPC forum in November in Adelaide.

Treatment & Accessibility Elections for the new position of Area C Treatment & Accessibility Coordinator are scheduled for next assembly in November 2024 – with a job description currently circulating. At the moment districts coordinate their own treatment and facilities speaker rosters across a mix of private hospitals, rehabilitation and medical detox units in the area. A great amount of work and time has gone into establishing and maintaining relationships

with these facilities and it is a credit to the district coordinators that AA is so well received in these facilities.

QYPAA remains an active part of the Area C Committee with their yearly Rally and fund-raising events well attend. Currently plans are underway for their 2025 Rally.

Area C remains financially viable with additional funds (when available) being distributed the GSO. Our Conference levies are up to date. Area C finances a ZOOM account for all district / subcommittees to utilise free of charge for any general service event or district/area related business. Working relationships with both Brisbane and Gold Coast CSOs are maintained.

Individual Districts have held a number of activities including the GC Rally, Toowoomba Rally, Ipswich Oktoberfest, Service and Safety Workshops, Fun Days, and Information Sessions - I have provided service at and participated as a speaker at many of these activities, The Alternate Area Delegate hosted a Topic Assembly on Sunday the 22nd of September. This assembly is aimed at lifting the profile of the topics within the area with participants having the opportunity to review, discuss and provide feedback to the delegate regarding this year's topics.

Area C is currently considering the position of Area Registrar to be added to the Area C Committee – a job description is presenting being developed and is to be circulated at the next assembly. It is hoped the role will assist in increasing group representation at area. The National Convention Host Planning Committee is well underway with their plans for 2026 Gold Coast National Convention.

# VIRTUAL AREA

## AREA A

Andrew McNee

Virtual Area A consists of a total of 183 groups, hosting 339 meetings, of which 31 are currently actively registered—meaning they have sent, or intend to send, a Group Service Representative (GSR) to the Assembly. Virtual Area A is specifically for Australian online meetings. There are no districts within Virtual Area A, as there are no geographical challenges to overcome in an online format. According to Guideline 39, only online-only groups are eligible for registration with Virtual Area A, excluding hybrid groups. These groups meet exclusively in an online format, providing a broad range of meeting times and formats to accommodate diverse members across various time zones. This Area covers a wide range of online meetings, ensuring accessibility for members who are unable to attend physical meetings, particularly those who may be geographically isolated or have other barriers to in-person participation.

Virtual Area A operates in virtual space, meaning it does not have a physical territory like traditional face-to-face areas. As such, Virtual Area A deliberately avoids taking on services such as Hospitals and Institutions (H&I) or Correctional Facility services, to prevent duplication of the service efforts of existing geographic areas. Instead, the Area focuses its efforts on policy development and active cooperation with the Trustees' Remote Communities Committee. The Remote Communities Coordinator regularly presents a report at Virtual Area A assemblies. Additionally, both the Virtual Area A Delegate and the PI/CPC Coordinator are members of the Trustees' Remote Communities Committee, ensuring strong collaboration. The Public Information (PI) budget is primarily allocated to sending the PI/CPC Coordinator to national PI events and workshops, including the National Public Awareness Forum, to promote AA's online presence and outreach efforts.

Virtual Area A is primarily financed through contributions from registered groups and individual members. In an effort to optimise the use of 7th Tradition contributions, Virtual Area A does not maintain its own Zoom account. Instead, all assemblies and committee meetings are hosted by registered groups, allowing for a more effective allocation of resources. Operating expenses are purposefully minimal, comprising only a modest Public Information (PI) budget and conference-related costs. The substantial remaining funds are distributed among the General Service Office (GSO), Trustees' Remote Communities Committee (TRCC) initiatives, and the National Convention organising committee. By operating virtually, Virtual Area A has successfully reduced overheads, enabling a greater focus on supporting national initiatives aimed at reaching still-suffering alcoholics. A formal financial policy is currently under development, with plans to establish a comprehensive framework that will be reviewed and ratified at the upcoming AGM in January.

As the Area Delegate for Virtual Area A, I attend all quarterly Virtual Area A assemblies, as well as monthly Trustees' Remote Communities Committee (TRCC) working group meetings. In addition to these regular commitments, I remain readily available to online groups for consultation and clarification on general service issues. I also liaise with the Get Into Action Committee, which is exploring the possibility of incorporating a virtual area into the World Service Structure. This ongoing collaboration allows me to share insights from Virtual Area A's operations and structure, contributing to discussions about future service opportunities within the global AA framework.

Challenges: Virtual Area A is transitioning from a first-of-its-kind, newly established service entity to a fully functioning Area. This transition has naturally brought about several challenges: Clarifying Governance: Ensuring a clear balance between ultimate authority and delegated responsibility has been complex, particularly as Virtual Area A continues to grow and take on new functions. Policy Development: The need for a well-structured policy framework is essential to prevent ad hoc decision-making and to provide clear operational guidelines for trusted servants. Double-Headed Management: As Virtual Area A expands, there is a growing risk of double-headed business and policy management, which requires careful coordination and structural clarity to avoid inefficiency. Despite these challenges, the Assembly has been proactive in recognising and addressing these issues, drawing on the lessons of AA history and traditions to inform its approach. Wins: Strong Group Participation: GSR attendance at assemblies has consistently outnumbered office-bearers, demonstrating significant engagement and involvement from the groups in the Area's decision-making process. Increased Collaboration: Virtual Area A has enhanced its national involvement, particularly through its collaboration with the Trustees' Remote Communities Committee (TRCC), contributing to national initiatives and expanding its reach to still-suffering alcoholics. Proactive Solutions: The Assembly has introduced important proposals, such as establishing an Annual General Meeting (AGM) and developing operational guidelines, to ensure future operations are efficient and aligned with AA's Traditions and Concepts.

# GENERAL SERVICE BOARD REPORTS

## CHAIR REPORT

Geoff Smith

It seems like no time at all since we were getting ready for the last General Service Conference – our return to face-to-face Conference meetings after the online years. There was a considerable amount of trepidation last year – new formats, changes to office staffing, no delegates having ever been in person to conference. Yes, there were a few teething problems, but on the whole, it went off really well, with everyone seeming to report that although it was hard work, it was a really great experience. We got through a full agenda, had some robust discussion and put together a very useful list of Advisory Actions to work on.

Many of these Advisory Actions were allocated to Working Groups with Trustees, Delegates and other interested members taking part in doing the work since. Some of these have been completed and return to Conference this year for sign off, but most are well underway – you can read up on these elsewhere in the relevant committee reports.

Reporting on AA's achievements since last year leaves me with the happy task of selecting highlights from a long list rather than covering everything – as that would mean a ridiculously long report.

First, I'd like to welcome our new faces. Class A Trustees Rochelle Davenport and Neil Schafer. Together they bring a wealth of experience in business and not for profit governance and strong personal connections to our work as a fellowship. I'm sure we will all make them welcome and support them as they learn more about their roles and our Fellowship and its funny little ways. We also have more changes at the GSO. A farewell and thank you to Chris Surplice for his years of service, and welcome to Tiani Rubal as she takes over at the helm. Tiani brings great experience of all aspects of office management and not for profit management. Please make her welcome and help her and Patrick to continue to strengthen the GSO into 2025. A thank you to our two GSTs and Board Secretary who did such a great job with the successful recruitment process.

It will be the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AA in Australia (or is it? – ask the Archive Committee). The GSB is the host of the Convention and associated events and activities, which are shaping up to be make remarkable year of celebration, reflection and gratitude. We know many other members and groups are also planning events around the country – from raffles and fundraisers to professional luncheons. A big thank you to Garry Scott (Eastern Region Trustee) and his web of sub-committees for doing a great job in the planning. Looking forward to a great event next year.

The National Convention in Adelaide was a huge success after the previous false start, and congratulations to Grant Tucker (Deputy Chair and Central Region Trustee) and Andy Poad (World Service Delegate) and their Committees for putting on such a memorable event. My personal highlight was the launch of the Message Stick book of Indigenous Australian Stories and the opportunity to meet one of the authors. A really great achievement and a heartfelt thank you to all involved lead by Dom Hyde (WA Regional Trustee).

Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia continues to move with the times and changes in technology. The Chat function on the website is continuing to be a fantastic initiative with many new members finding recovery and a great opportunity for existing members to be of service. The Virtual Area (A) continues to evolve, a thank you to the Delegate for his help with issues over and above his duties as Delegate. Hopefully after Conference this year we can appoint a National Coordinator to work to support online groups into General Service and keep service opportunities for online members evolving as an important part of the fellowship in a positive way.

This year will be the second time we've operated Conference with the updated Committee systems. This year's Conference Steering Committee and Conference Chair (Terresa Allen) and the Steering Committee, and Board Secretary have done an amazing job of reinforcing and documenting the processes and procedures which happen behind the scenes to make Conference happen. For Delegates who don't know what these all are yet (particularly those who will be third years next year) you will have the chance to be members of the Steering Committee and learn on the job! Fear not you will have the stalwart stewardship of John O'Leary (Northeastern Region Trustee) to lean on. Being a member of the CSC for the last two years has been a real privilege for which I'm grateful. The power of work the Committee gets through is astonishing and if we've learned one thing it's John's mantra- hasten slowly. The CSC will be in constant session throughout Conference (apart from ice-cream time) so if you have any queries, please feel free to ask any of us at any time – by us I do of course mean Terresa or John. As Bill W described - Conference will always be an evolving and changing process to ensure that the needs of the fellowship for self-administration are met. Please don't be afraid to suggest things that could be part of positive change.

The Board has continued to work on updating and clarifying the running of the Fellowship and developing systems. I congratulate each Board member for the progress made again this year towards increased transparency, efficiencies and process improvements. We have aimed to support each service commitment at the Trustee, Delegate and GSO levels to have the information and tools available to deliver a modern efficient service to our members. All members have the Right of Participation, and it is my hope that the hard work of the current Board has made participation easier and more attractive.

Participation of course is the main ingredient for sustaining and growing the Fellowship. Without members joining us in the service trenches, then continuing to function will become difficult. We already have one Trustee seat in Northern Region which has been vacant for a while, and several Areas who do not send Delegates. We should ask the question who is responsible for changing that? AA's Responsibility Statement answers that as well as we need it answered. It's on all of us currently in Service. It's on all of us who are leaving or have finished service. We need to find out why service seems unattractive and fix it. We all need to find ways to make participation more attractive. Do we need to consider how we communicate about service? I believe we need to figure out how we communicate our personal experiences of the benefits of participation – how they have improved our recovery both inside and beyond the rooms? Not just in terms of accomplishing things in and for AA, but how we have changed for the better as sober alcoholics. I look back to where I was in my first year as a Trustee and compare that with where I am now. I have learned so much more about me and how I need to work on how I play in the sandpit to get along with others. It was about June this year when I figured out what being a Trustee was actually about, three and a bit years through! Former Trustees I've spoken to tell me that's about right! This is what I will take away and try to share with those not yet on the service roller-coaster.

Thank you all very much for trudging the service road with me, I look forward to seeing where that road leads for us all in the next few years and where it takes our beloved Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

# TRUSTEE REPORTS

## EASTERN REGION

Garry Scott

Bring to the Board a regional point of view: the Region, through the Area Delegates, Area Assemblies and Regional Forums and Workshops to grow in understanding of the Australian Service Structure and how it may better pass the AA message to alcoholics.

I meet on a video call approximately monthly, for one hour, with Eastern Region Delegates so they can share what's happening in their Areas. Alternate delegates also come along when they can, and I think we all find this a rewarding experience.

I also do video meetings with Area Assemblies when I can, and also special committee meetings when I am invited. I do service presentations to the Darwin Wednesday online Service Group on various topics including Service Manual sections including Guidelines. I attended the Area B assembly in Canberra on March 9th and spoke at a workshop in the afternoon. I attended the National Convention in March in Adelaide and helped on the AA 80 table. Attended Area I Assembly in Gosford on April 20 and did a short talk on the Board etc, very well attended 16 of 48 groups were represented Travelled to Newcastle on May 18 and attended Hunter District meeting, did a talk on 'Where does AA get its direction and who runs it', followed by the Area C assembly. Did a video talk to Banana Coast District on Safety in AA on Saturday June 1, it was well attended. June 23 travelled to Gosford and met with new Area I committee and spoke at Terrigal meeting about Service in AA. August attended Area G Assembly and did a talk on 'How does AA get its Direction and who runs it'. Attended the Eastern Region Forum in September and opened the meeting with the same talk. September Service workshop in Area I, sat on Q&A panel. September 21, Area E's Topic Assembly at Dural. Attended an online workshop presented by Better Boards on Director & Board Due Diligence.

I am Chair of the Trustee Services Committee and hold mostly monthly meetings of this committee to monitor progress on Advisory Actions and Working Groups within the scope of this Committee. I assist to convene Remote Communities meetings which are also held mostly monthly where the main focus has been the production of the Message Stick book and now developing the audio version of same.

I have been involved in the ongoing unification of the NSW Service Council with the Board and the separation of this body from the Paramatta CSO which is progressing well.

I do service presentations to the Darwin Wednesday online Service Group on various topics including Service Manual sections including Guidelines.

The Committees I am a part of are as follows the Trustees Services Committee which covers the service areas of Professional Awareness (CPC), Remote Communities, Accessibility, Treatment, Corrections, and World Services/International. I am also the Chair of AA80 HPC for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in Sydney 2025.

The Work Groups that are a part of the Committees are as follows:

#016/2019 Message Stick printed and being sold, Poster designed and in print.

#07/2021 To make a series of engaging videos aimed at Professionals within the health, prisons and Armed Forces sectors.

#06/2021 Radio and community service announcements targeting indigenous and LGBTI+ communities.

#029/2023 – Dyslexic Font exploration Conference resolved to refer the topic of having copies of Alcoholics Anonymous (Big Book) printed for dyslexic people to the Board to seek expert advice to determine the best solution.

The National Coordinators also sit under the Trustee Services Committee and they are as follows:

National Remote Communities Coordinator Cliff Parlett 01/01/2024 30/12/2028

National Correctional Facilities Coordinator Tim O'Sullivan Rotates off 31/12/2024. The election of new Coordinator required.

National PI & CPC Coordinator Rob Cleary Rotates off 31/12/2024. The election of new Coordinator required.

National Treatment Facilities and Accessibility Coordinator Simon Kerr 01/01/2024 31/12/2028

AUSYPAA Coordinator Ed Hall 17 May 2024 17 May 2028

A proposal has been put forward to Conference from the Trustees Services Committee and the GSB that the following changes be made to Guideline 30 (part)

i) PUBLIC INFORMATION & PROFESSIONAL AWARENESS, TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITY, CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: COORDINATORS AND FORUMS COMBINED GUIDELINE FOR CO-ORDINATORS & FORUMS for Public Information and Professional Awareness (PI&PA), or Treatment & Accessibility (T&A) and Correctional Facilities (CF) THE CO-ORDINATORS –APPOINTMENT & TERMS

- The term of office is four years. The 4 years start when appointed, ratified either at the Nov Conference, or mail poll of conference, or one-off online conference meeting
- The new Coordinator is appointed by the Chairman of the respective Trustees' Committee, in consultation with the Board at its meeting immediately after candidates have been assessed by Conference.
- Nominations for the position are invited from the fellowship, and vacancies are posted on Members websites and in AA Around Australia.
- Application forms are available online at [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1m\\_7718PSVK8i8uSFxgQGvp2VwQBCOUON](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1m_7718PSVK8i8uSFxgQGvp2VwQBCOUON)

ii) FUNDING OF CO-ORDINATOR ACTIVITIES The Coordinator may claim up to \$1200 per annum to cover expenses incurred in carrying out the duties for which he/she was appointed. Also, that this amount be increased yearly in line with the CPI index. This claim is to be made to the General Service Office on a receipt-refund basis. Requests for additional funds should be made to the General Service Board, with details supplied. The General Service Board also pay expenses (through the Board Secretary), for the relevant Chairs of Trustee Committees, and the relevant National Coordinators to attend National Forums. The Forum is responsible for funding any other invited guests to attend. This funding increase is in line with RBA inflation calculator

## SOUTHERN REGION

Geoff Smith

A mixed year for Southern Region, some good news and some bad news. I'll let the Area Delegates cover the many achievements of their Areas in their reports. Area D has had another strong year, with Area C consolidating in its second year with plans to increase activity in 2025.

Unfortunately, Area A out West has been unable to send a delegate this year and has stopped functioning for now. Our best wishes go with former Delegate Anthony.

I have been involved trying to support members of the Fellowship in Tasmania as they discuss the re-establishment Area E. Discussions between members from all parts of Tasmania have been ongoing in 2024 with some promising signs. Thanks also to Cliff P (National Remote Communities Coordinator) who is doing his world tour of Australia and has been helping support developments in Tasmania too.

### **Working Groups.**

The Working Group (Advisory Action #33/2023) to review and extend the Guideline (GL-15) covering Conference approved Literature at National Conventions has completed its work. We have sent a suggested short amendment to the Trustees Committee for Conference to confirm completion.

The Working Group (Advisory Action #015/2023) to create a modern leaflet covering the *inclusion* of people of secular beliefs in the AA fellowship has completed its task and the draft leaflet has been sent to the Trustees Committee for Conference to confirm completion.

With the help of the Area Committees, we have been actively trying to generate interest among members to apply for the role of Southern Region Trustee which will become vacant at the end of the year.

## **CENTRAL REGION**

Both areas within the region are functioning well and having monthly area meetings with various Public Information, CPC and Corrections functions operational within the local community. Although there exists a core of enthusiastic and willing participants, in both areas there seems to be a disconnect between groups and districts with participation levels lower than 50%. Some districts are not functioning as such, but there is the opportunity for representation via Area or other functioning districts.

Area A, North of the River Torrens has a young committee with a couple of older hands guiding the developing structure. Avril is the Area Delegate and has been active within the area and in some regional initiatives, such as the Regional Forum planning. Being such a widespread area, issues around distance suit get together at roundup events and zoom for committee meetings are allowing a greater degree of availability and participation. Para District has been the main active entity in the area for many years and continues to function well with much of the daily on the ground initiatives and activities. Northern District covers a vast regional area but remains active and cohesive. Western District is not currently active, though an attempt to bring the groups together this year was made. Meetings in the women's prison, Police Academy talks, shopping centre information days, weekly radio talk broadcasts are among the proactive steps being taken in the area. Area A is currently solvent and financially stable.

Area B, South of the River Torrens has been the primary body historically and continues to function well with a full committee. The Adelaide, Eastern and City District has been a driving force for action and service. Southern & Fleurier District has become active and participating by representing the groups in that locale. Regular meetings are being held in rehabs, Cadell Prison, Detox. Public Information events and presentations to professionals at forums and convention style events, investigation of advertising options and Dr mailouts have been undertaken and continue. Area B is currently solvent and financially stable.

The Central Regional Forum is in the planning stages to be held mid 2025. The program intends to generally focus on promoting understanding and participation in the General Service structure, with topics and speakers slicing up service entities and processes with some participation and involvement designed to engage all participants. The 1-day event will likely conclude with a BBQ dinner and dance.

The Central Service Office in Adelaide is functioning well with Angela now joined by Sarah to share the load of the office manager position. The office has relocated to Level 2, Room 214,

38 Gawler Place, Adelaide SA 5000 just off Rundle Mall in the heart of the shopping district of the city. The Central Service Committee has a full complement of office bearers and the day-to-day business is being handled well. Newsletter, 24 phone lines, local website, literature sales all sound. CSO is currently under financial pressure with incoming funds not covering the outgoing expenses. Some fundraising and awareness of the vital role of CSO in SA is hoped to bring this back into fiscal sustainability in soon.

## WESTERN REGION

Dom Hyde

There are two areas in the western region area A and Area B. I have recently floated the idea of another area. The southwest district is part of Area B and is very active as a district. However, because of geographical distance, they seldom attend area assemblies. So, I intend to go to their next District meeting and encourage them to apply to become an area.

Remote communities:

As Chair of this working group, we meet monthly, and we are currently endeavoring to put together an audio book of Message Stick. It's a slow process we have two of the 15 stories recorded. The national RC coordinator is busy with the national lunches for professionals and putting together announcements for community radio.

Reports from Area A and B.

I recently attended both area assemblies. They are very active in carrying the message and have all service positions filled. A reasonable amount of groups were represented. The institutions, schools and treatment centres and the general public are hearing about AA.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,

## NORTHERN REGION

No Attendee

## NORTH EASTERN REGION

John O'Leary

NER consists of three Areas - A, B and C. Areas A + B are geographically large whilst Area C is more compact. There are approx. 320 meetings. Each area has an active General Service Structure. The Areas are blessed with members who have skills and experience to provide strength to our Fellowship. The Region is also grateful to several Elder Statesmen we can reach out to for guidance and experience.

My primary responsibility is as a Board Member and to the Conference. I regularly am in contact with the three Delegates and Area Chairs to provide an ear. Attending most of Area C Assemblies, attending a minimum of two Area B Assemblies and attending Area A on ZOOM and attending the North Qld Roundup Assembly is a real bonus. Attendance at AA Rallies and Workshops where possible. Attending Local Groups and discussing the benefits of being active in the General Service Structure is another bonus.

The Committees I am a part of are the Trustee Communications Trustees Committee, The Trustee Nominations Committee, The Conference Steering Committee and Chair of NATCON 2026 Gold Coast.

Nominations Committee - Appt of Class A Trustees Appt GSO Office Manager Assist with populating Working Groups Communications Committee.

Press Release Committee with Andrew Taylor and Grant Tucker.

Advisory Action #015/2023 - Secular Pamphlet with Geoff Smith.

Advisory Action #004/2023 - Copyright info for web site with Andrew Taylor.

Conference Steering Committee Ongoing - ensuring the planning of Conference provides and meets guidelines Topics and Advisory Actions are engaged with NATCON 2026 Gold Coast Ongoing - early days All portfolio Chairs are filled and sub committees active.

The Virtual World of AA is growing, and we need to support and encourage, as our Virtual Members apply the General Service Structure and are understanding the Seventh Tradition. There are issues with some Areas finding it difficult to fill important Area Committee positions - secretary, treasurer and Delegate. Whilst there is younger members attending as GSR there is a void in between these years and 5-10 yrs of Sobriety. The old acorns - the value of Contributions and how to carry the message of being part of the General Service Structure to the fellowship [benefits and need to] There appears a surge of newcomers to meetings.

## GENERAL SERVICE TRUSTEES

The General Service Trustees play a very active role on the General Service Board and are typically chosen for their business or professional expertise, as they handle the organisation's business matters.

Additionally, like all the Trustees, they oversee all matters inside and outside of AA that could impact the fellowship's growth. As custodians, their primary responsibility is to protect and ensure the continuation of essential services for the Fellowship. As such, while primarily focussed on the business affairs of the originations the General Service Trustees also serve on a range of working groups and committees which will be reported on below.

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### Management Group

#### Composition

The National Office Management Group will consist of the General Service Board's two General Service Trustees, one or more of office staff and our Accountant by means of monthly updates on AA's finances. Any Trustee is welcome to attend meetings of the General Service Office Management Group, in an advisory capacity. A quorum exists when the meeting of this group consists of at least one Trustee plus one other member of the Management Group.

#### Scope

The purpose and function of the Management Group is to facilitate and oversee every aspect of efficient and effective office management, as specified by Articles 18 & 19 of the Articles of Association as contained in *The AA Service Manual*.

The fuller functions overseen by this Group are detailed in Section Ten of *The Australian AA Service Manual*.

#### Procedure

The General Service Office Management Group will convene as required to meet demands as they arise. The desirable maximum period between regular meetings is one month.

All members of the Board will be notified of any matters requiring consideration and action prior to the next Board meeting, should those matters be of a kind that are not covered by the relevant sections of *The Australian AA Service Manual*.

Management Group documents are kept in the Management Group folder and are available to all Board members.

### **Management Group Report 2024**

Management is currently comprised:

Andrew Taylor – General Service Trustee 2<sup>nd</sup> Year  
Gabrielle Nicholson – General Service Trustee 1<sup>st</sup> Year  
Tiani Rubal – Office Manager  
Patrick Scherf – Office Administrator

Chris Surplice - Senior Office Administrator served on Management Group until July 2024

Meetings are held at the General Service Office in Rockdale each month:

1. The CSP is reviewed
2. Profit and loss and Balance sheet are reviewed
3. The General Service Officer reports on the current month's activities and issues, including anything relating to the business including stock management and distribution
4. Other services are discussed including 1300 number, Insurance

### **Finances**

The General Service Trustees report to the fellowship on a quarterly basis providing a snapshot of current financial position, highlighting any trends.

Financial expenditure of note in 2024 include:

- Chat Now - \$20,639
- New website build \$35,879

Budget expense line items have been reviewed and clarified to ensure they are up to date and makes sense in terms of current expenditure.

### **Performance Reviews**

Performance is monitored by Management Group on an ongoing basis. In addition, the General Service Trustees undertake annual formal performance and salary reviews. These were conducted in June and July 2024.

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### **National Convention Coordination and Review Committee**

Management Group also functions as the National Convention HPC Review Committee

#### **Composition**

Management Group on behalf of the Board also operates as a National Convention HPC Review Committee on behalf of the Board. The Regional Trustees may also be part of the committee and are encouraged to attend whenever possible.

#### **Scope**

This committee's responsibility is to review all minutes and reports from National Convention Planning committees and to encourage their use of the guidelines for National Conventions (as drawn up by the Australian General Service Conference) in company with the US/Canada Guidelines on Conference and Conventions.

This committee is mainly a reviewing committee.

## **Procedure**

The Trustees' National Convention Review Committee will convene immediately preceding Management Group meetings. The desirable maximum period between regular meetings is one month. Coordination and Review documents are kept in the Management Group folder and available to all Board members. It may report to the Board at each of its sittings and to the Australian General Service Conference in November.

## **National Conventions**

Planning for AA80 National Convention in 2025 and Gold Coast 2026 are underway. Banking has been brought into the General Service Boards banking, so that we can use the GSB's accounting software, ABN and auditors.

Planning for both Conventions is underway. The National Convention Coordination and Review Committee will continue to minutes and review the minutes.

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## **Committees, Working Groups, Other activities**

### **Andrew Taylor – General Service Trustee**

#### **Nominations Committee**

- Contributed to the recruitment of the new office manager as part of the recruitment team.
- Developed a temporary service opportunities website, which is linked to the main website. This includes application forms and upcoming service opportunities.
- Assisted in the recruitment casual staff member to support the office during periods of leave
- Participated in the recruitment process for Class A Trustees.
- Updated the skills register form and integrated it into the service opportunities web page.

#### **AA80 Host Planning Committee (HPC)**

- Actively participated in AA80 HPC meetings, contributing to planning for the event.
- Contributed a number of blog posts for the website to help promote the Convention
- Part of the AA80 History Subcommittee planning historical content for the Convention

#### **Safeguarding**

- Assisted in handling several incident reports, providing support and guidance on safeguarding principles to members.
- Reviewed and updated the safeguarding policy to ensure alignment with legal obligations and to clarify issues as we learn more.

#### **Eastern Regional Forum**

- Co presented a talk with Gabrielle at the Eastern Regional forum, focusing on AA's development in Australia and its "coming of age".

#### **Archives**

- Assisted the archivist in collecting and preserving historical AA materials, including unpublished manuscripts from founders, historical AA newspaper articles. Wrote a number of articles and blog posts of AA history.

#### **Members Website**

- Wrote an article for the Members Website on what "right of participation" means in relation to the delegate / non delegate ratio at Conference

## **Gabrielle Nicholson – General Service Trustee**

### **Finance**

Assisted with day-to-day Finances in absence of the Office Manager and cleaned up the General Ledger to write rules around the application of expenses.

### **Document Review Committee**

Chair of Document Review Committee.

Initiated the review of job descriptions and website content, wrote moderation protocol for document and other content for use on AA website.

### **Cochrane Report Working Group**

Drafted response for inclusion in PI guidelines in how materials like the Cochrane Report can be used.

### **Service Manual Rewrite Committee**

- Chairing the Service Manual Rewrite Committee
- Meeting fortnightly with the working group to review and document changes required in the new manual

### **Nominations Committee**

- Contributed to the recruitment of the new office manager as part of the recruitment team.
- Assisted in the recruitment casual staff member to support the office during periods of leave

### **1300 Working Group**

Chair of the Working group tasked with reviewing the 1300 number to gain an understanding, to ensure services offered and effective use of the system.

### **AA publications**

Responsible for the content and publication of Quarterly Board Report

Produced AAAA in lieu of Office Manager.

### **Eastern Regional Forum**

- Co presented a talk with Andrew at the Eastern Regional forum, focusing on AA's development in Australia and its "coming of age".

# NATIONAL COORDINATOR REPORTS

## NATIONAL CORRECTIONS COORDINATOR

Tim O'Sullivan

### **NSW (Eastern Region ER):**

ERCC (Eastern Region Corrections Committee). Meets once a month via Zoom (1st Tuesday night at 8pm). Comprises representatives from 7 of the 9 ER Areas, plus serving Chair, Secretary, Coordinator and System Administrator.

Are conducting AA meetings in Long Bay Forensics Hospital, Long Bay Correctional Centre, Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre, South Coast Correctional Centre (Nowra), Alexander Maconochie Centre (Canberra), Mid North Coast Corrections Centre (Kempsey), Clarence Correctional Centre (Grafton), Cessnock Correctional Centre, St Heliers Gaol (Muswellbrook), Campbelltown Hospital Forensics Unit, Cooma Correctional Centre, Glen Innes Correctional Centre (hosted by chaplain), Bolwarra Transitional Centre (Emu Plains).

Working with the administration with the hope to start a new AA meeting at Dillwynia Women's Correctional Centre, Silverwater Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre, Mannus Correctional Complex (Tumbarumba).

Contact made and AA literature supplied to Broken Hill Correctional Centre and Bathurst Correctional Centre.

### **QLD (North Eastern Region NER):**

All 3 Areas (and most contained Districts where gaols reside) are very active in CF work. There is hope of forming an NERCC similar to what ER have in order to strengthen collaboration and share experience and knowledge, however the AAs in QLD are widely carrying the message to the QLD Corrections system.

### **VIC**

Victoria has the VPI (Victorian Prisons Intergroup) operating which has existed for many years and is another well organised AA entity broadly serving Victorian gaols. They contain a lot of OSMs with many years experience doing CF work.

### **SA**

I haven't communicated with AAs in SA doing CF work as much as I would have liked. But the gaols around Adelaide (which comprise the majority in the state) are by and large being served by AA's in SA.

### **NT**

Significant effort has been made to get AA back into Darwin and Alice Springs gaols with no success (as yet). However, AA is now holding Zoom meetings on Thursday nights for the Venndale Indigenous Rehab in Katherine. The patients at Venndale are sent there as an alternative to gaol. The meeting has been running for about 1 month. We hope this could serve as a springboard for more AA 12th Step work in the NT Corrections system

### **WA**

I haven't communicated with AAs in WA doing CF work as much as I would have liked. But the gaols around Perth (which comprise the majority in the state) are by and large being served by AA's in WA.

## **TAS**

I still haven't breached any contact with AAs in Tasmania. I do not know of the status of AA and Corrections there.

## **NATIONAL PI&CPC COORDINATOR**

### **NATIONAL WHATTSAPP NOTICEBOARD**

158 members, a lot of posts of Professional Conferences, Banners and positive notices from so many young coordinators throughout AUST.AA. Getting a lot of coordinators from Area's, Districts and groups join and it is rolling along on its own path.

### **PI/CPC PATTTER**

Feel very privileged to have been able to start again and put out a lot of Area PI/CPC Events out there, fantastic feedback from so many members who love the Patter to see what is happening, I have kept very simple and call on certain Area's to add what they doing, ICD in Melbourne, Area B NER and Area B Central Region, my last edition will be December which possibly will be the biggest with 2 Professional conferences, Many Banners and the Forum Report. Attached SEPT. PI/CPC Patter.

### **NATIONAL PUBLIC AWARENESS FORUM**

Dates 22-24 Nov.2024, Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hindley street, Adelaide CBD. The Event will start Friday at 5pm and conclude Sunday at 1pm. As everyone would be aware we have been given the Torrens room for a Friday Professional Luncheon 12 -1.15pm with food at 33\$ per person, we will be inviting people we have and are meeting on the Journey. We have a registration site going and a Link for 207\$ rooms.

Code ALCONN when booking online the room link is on the registration site.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/alcoholics-anonymous-2024-national-awareness-forum-tickets-698958201797?aff=oddtcreator>

Registration is \$120 including a buffet dinner with Billy N speaking, I am trying to organize our coffee within that price, all profits will go back to the GSB and PI/CPC ventures.

Can we encourage all coordinators of PI/CPC and TCF from all the regions and all those interested in our 3 Legacies to attend.

Thank you all very much for funding the Luncheon.

The National Convention PI/CPC table in Adelaide was a lot of fun again and gave away plenty of literature and promoted PI/CPC in our fellowship.

Have been invited to a couple of Area assembly's and spoke on zoom, enjoyed immensely.

Attended the DANA conference at Adelaide Oval and spoke as a speaker, made quite a few contacts and has led to speaking to the nurses at our DASSA Detox.

Have had many conversations with new PI/CPC coordinators from Area's in Australia and very happy to pass on any experience.

A future reference for our new coordinator may be in our blood banks, they have been asking for literature on the Sunshine Coast, they can see liver damage in any bloods tested.

My time is over in this role and hopefully someone puts there hand up, I will not be continuing and have put out there in the SEPT. Patter the available position, the GSB will be able to find someone now who knows what they are doing.

Thank you for all the support, trust and fellowship, hope to see some more of you at the Forum in November.

From January 1st, I will be spending more time with my family in 2025. All the best for Christmas and any future AA endeavors.

In Unity and Service

Rob C

## NATIONAL REMOTE COMMUNITIES COORDINATOR

Cliff Parlett

This year the Remote Community Committee has finalised the Message Stick book and held a launch at the Adelaide Convention. There has been many copies of the book sent out to numerous locations across Australia. We were very lucky to have an article on the Message Stick printed in the Koorie Mail. The committee is now in the process of creating an audio version of the Message Stick.

We have put together a Nation-wide project to host a Professional Luncheon in every state in Australia at midday on the 25th of June 2025. There has been working group setup in each state facilitating this project to carry the message of AA to the remote areas of our country.

Remote communities committee is working toward creating a working group to create Indigenous community announcements to be played on various community and Indigenous radio stations.

The remote community committee is always looking for new and innovative ways to carry the message to the remote areas of Australia.

## NATIONAL TREATMENT AND ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR

Simon K

A working group has been put together to work on advisory action #006/2021 *Conference resolved to accept the proposal that radio community service announcements targeting indigenous and LGBTI+ communities be accepted.*

The group consists of myself, four members who are from the LGBTQ+ community and a member who works in radio and sound recording. The below radio ad was created and approved by the board.

*"If you're struggling with alcohol, you're not alone. Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) offers a welcoming, inclusive community where recovery is possible. At A.A., you can share openly about your journey, including how it relates to your sexuality and gender identity. For LGBTQ+ individuals, A.A. provides Rainbow meetings, creating a safe and affirming space for all. Join us to find support, love, and the possibility of a joyful, sober life. Visit [aa.org.au](http://aa.org.au) or call 1300 222 222 to find a meeting near you".*

We are currently in the process of finalising the recording of the ad and are communicating with several stations. We hope to launch a campaign by the end of the year.

I have created a "Treatment kit" which will hopefully be up on the members website under the "tools" page soon. The kit contains links to relevant literature and information on all things treatment related to assisting anyone performing service in that space. I will also be working on a similar kit for accessibility soon.

A working group is being put together to create a national database of treatment and detox centres. A notice has gone out inviting interested members to attend a meeting next month to

kick this off. We hope this tool will assist us in carrying the message into treatment centres as well as being the basis for the creation of a national treatment committee.

Finally, I have submitted a topic requesting an accessibility guideline be created to sit alongside our other guidelines. The most common question I get asked is “what is accessibility? I believe the guideline will be a helpful tool in informing the Australian fellowship.

I thank everyone who has been involved in these arms of service this year and I also thank the fellowship for this opportunity to be of service.

## NATIONAL AUSYPAA COORDINATOR

Ed Hall

On July 7th, the first national meeting of all YPAA groups in Australia was held via Zoom. Representatives from QYPAA, VICYPAA, NEWYPAA, SAYPAA, and WAYPAA attended, marking a significant initial step towards national collaboration among young people in AA. After attending NEWYPAA, I met with members from the ACT who were eager to start a committee. On October 12th, they successfully passed a motion to establish a chair position for ACTYPAA, which is a fantastic step towards hosting a young persons' convention in the ACT. Discussions included the possibility of hosting YPAA meetings at the 2025 National Convention and conducting the election for the 2025 AUSYPAA host committee during the convention. I also attended a planning committee meeting for the Sydney National Convention, where the committee kindly agreed to include a young persons' meeting and to present the winning bid for the 2025 AUSYPAA host committee. Furthermore, I will be attending the 2024 National Public Awareness Forum to represent YPAA interests and promote young persons' involvement in AA activities nationwide.

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### Role Updates

I was appointed as the National AUSYPAA Coordinator on May 17th, 2024, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. The role description for the National AUSYPAA Coordinator has been updated to better reflect the responsibilities and objectives of the position. In addition, I have created a manual for hosting the AUSYPAA convention to assist future host committees in organizing successful events.

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### YPAA Convention Dates for 2024

- **SAYPAA:** February 3rd, 2024
- **NEWYPAA:** August 17th, 2024
- **VICYPAA:** October 26th, 2024
- **WAYPAA:** November 8th–10th, 2024
- **QYPAA:** To Be Confirmed (January/February 2025)
- **ACTYPAA:** To Be Confirmed (2025)
- **TASYPAA, NTYPAA:** Currently inactive

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### Conclusion

These recent developments highlight a growing momentum in uniting young people in recovery across Australia. Establishing a chair position for ACTYPAA and including young persons' meetings in upcoming national conventions are significant steps forward. Attendance at the 2024 National Public Awareness Forum will further promote the visibility of YPAA activities and strengthen collaborations. Updating the role description and creating the AUSYPAA Hosting

Manual aim to provide clarity and guidance for future efforts. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve as the National AUSYPAA Coordinator and look forward to continuing to support and unite the YPAA community across Australia.

# GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE REPORT

## Staffing Update

### Current Staff

- Tiani Rubal - Office Manager
- Patrick Scherf - Administrative Officer

Tiani Rubal was recruited in August 2024 following a competitive process. Tiani comes with a wealth of experience managing business office operations, both in the private and not for profit sectors. We are very happy to have her joining our team.

### Departures:

- Chris Surplice, Senior Office Administrator, has left the team. We would like to once again thank Chris for his many years of service to AA.

## Literature Supplies

We are well stocked with literature, except for issues of "Grapevine". We experienced some delays in obtaining "Grapevine", but the situation has improved, and we expect to have it available in the coming weeks.

The "Message Stick" has been a significant success, with approximately 1,300 copies sold over the past six months. We still have some stock remaining and plan to expand our range of local literature in the future.

AAWS has sent several large shipments recently, and the situation with literature supply is steadily improving.

## Equipment Purchased

- A new staff laptop was acquired.
- The office air conditioning units were replaced.

## Insurance Policies

All insurance policies are up to date.

## Meetings

Staff have attended all Management Group and Coordination and Review Committee meetings as required.

## Finances

- The cost of stock purchases this year has increased to \$183,693, compared to \$24,440 the previous year. This includes the purchase of 10 pallets of "Big Books", half of which have already been sold. The increase reflects a robust inventory level.
- Office expenses (not including wages or equipment) for the year totalled \$14,461, compared to \$16,280 last year.

## Trademarks

All trademarks are current.

## AA Around Australia

AA Around Australia continues to be published quarterly.

# WORLD SERVICE DELEGATES REPORTS

## Andy Poad – First Term

I have been involved in 2 board meetings, numerous service committee meetings and all World Service conference orientation meetings.

I have been getting prepared for the World Service Conference in November attending all zoom meetings and sending reports. Have been assigned to the website and literature committee for the AOSM and have attended Board meetings and been involved with all Board service meetings.

The Trustee Service Committee has met regularly to go through our action lists and advisory actions, and I have also been assigned to Conference Committee 1.

## Brian Ferguson – Second Term

My name is Brian Ferguson, currently the “Second Term World Service Delegate” for Australia. I am a member of the Bulcock Beach Breakfast Group, known as “The Early Birds”, at Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast Queensland. The group meets every Wednesday morning at 7.00am in the Coffee Club on the Esplanade Caloundra, even on Public Holidays. My noted sobriety date is 18<sup>th</sup> August 1985 after a taking a mouth full of alcohol on that date at a Vietnam Veterans Reunion. I first attended AA on Easter Monday 1971 at Auburn where regular attendees were Dr. Sylvester Minogue, Arch Mckinnon and Frank Sturge Harty all true pioneers of Australian AA. My term is four years after being elected at Conference 2021 and commenced my term on the 1st of January 2022 to conclude on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025. Always during the term there will be two WSM's (World Service Meetings) and two OASM's (Asia Oceania Service Meetings).

### **WORLD SERVICE MEETING (WSM)**

The World Service Meeting (WSM) was established in 1969 and serves as a biennial forum for sharing the experience, strength and hope of all the attending Delegates in sharing ideas and information which formulates into an expression of a worldwide group conscience. It is an advisory body only not a decision binding body. In 2022 the WSM was held virtually for the 27<sup>th</sup> WSM Meeting with Japan as the host country, the reason for being virtual was Japan were the last country to “Open after the Covid Pandemic”. There was a record representation of 75 Delegates from 49 Counties and Regional Structures participating.

Due to Covid and changes within our GSO structure the distribution of funds held for AA International purposes (Brown paper Bag Appeal) was overlooked. This has now been rectified and in September 2024 \$30,000.00 (AUD) was sent to the USA known as the World Service Meeting Fund, with \$5,000.00 (AUD) of this to respond to a request from Iran to assist their Delegate in payment of the Delegate fees for the WSM. The fee for each Delegate is “\$2,000.00 (USD) but the true cost is \$5,000.00 (USD) and is underwritten by the USA structure. The fee covers hotel, meals and some other associated meeting costs. There was also an amount of \$12,000 (AUD) sent the OASM to assist less fortunate countries in this region.

The 28<sup>th</sup> WSM will be held in New York from 27<sup>th</sup> October to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 with the theme being “The Three legacies in the Digital Era: Our Great Responsibility to the Alcoholic Being Born Today”. I will be attending this WSM along with our other WSD Andy P and we will report back to Conference points of interest regarding Australia and the AA world.

I will also be attending the third quarterly Board Meeting of the USA General Service Structure from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024. This should be a great learning experience and above all an opportunity to ask / speak about the ongoing concern of some Australian

members as to why other countries including Australia and New Zealand don't have a voice in changes to any important AA literature. I will be taking copies of the Australian Big Book (both editions), One to Another and Message stick for the display table of other country's literature.

### **THE ASIA OCEANIA REGION**

The last Asia Oceania Service Meeting known as the AOSM was held in Fiji from 6<sup>th</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023 with a Public Information Meeting and Luncheon held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July which delegates remained in Fiji so as to attend this event.

The concept of holding the AOSM in Fiji began with a conversation between Australia's World Service Delegates (Greg and Brian) after a host country couldn't be found for the AOSM In 2023. We suggested financially supporting Fiji to be the host country using funds from our International Sponsorship Fund. New Zealand also became part of a joint initiative to fund the 2023 AOSM and costs were shared between the two Countries to enable Fiji to host the event. Australia's co-payment was \$4002.00 with money coming via the "Brown Paper Bag Appeal" to the International Sponsorship Fund. As a side note it was announced the both Japan and New Zealand have adopted the symbol of using a brown paper bag to conduct their own countries appeal to the International Sponsorship and Literature Funds.

The Fijian Fellowship were extremely grateful for the support of Australia and New Zealand for without this assistance the 2023 AOSM would not have happened. Because we were the second country in the world to receive the lifesaving message of alcoholics anonymous Australia is now seen as the "Older Sober Country" in this region so hence has a great responsibility in helping the countries residing in the Asia Oceania Region to develop and grow the fellowship in the individual countries that ask for help. Many times over the four days Fiji publicly thanked us for that support.

Our support of Fiji, as many of you would know, significantly began with the holding of our 2016 National Convention in Fiji. Although AA was present in Fiji before this event, their Fellowship acknowledges the impact that this event had on the growth of AA in Fiji. The hosting of this year's AOSM and the PI Luncheon that followed has further strengthened the Fiji Fellowship and created a much better relationship with the Professional Community in a nation being crippled by Alcoholism and drug abuse. All of the delegates stayed on for the extra day to participate in the PI Luncheon which was a huge success for the Fijian Fellowship.

The Asia Oceania Zone makes up approximately two thirds of the planet's population. Many of these located in this zone are third world countries, so finances are an ongoing problem, and this is where the sponsorship and literature funds come to the fore.

Apart from direct financial assistance Greg (former WSD) and I took six "Australian Big Books", fourteen "Twelve and Twelve" and other pamphlets in different languages in our luggage. A local member, Phylis, known to many in Australia told of how an Indigenous Fijian member burst into tears when reading the Twelve Steps in her own language. Many at the meetings were also impressed that Australia has used its own members stories in the Big Book and were taking this concept back to their homelands.

During the last twelve months contact and dialogue from AA members in the Philippines countries and Indonesia has occurred with both these countries eager to join the AOSM and develop a proper structure. Rather than just hosting the "Bali Weekend" Indonesia is wanting to Unite the AA Groups / meetings with Jakarta to develop a formal structure.

On a more personal note my time in this role has made me aware how fortunate we in Australia are in regards to AA. It is virtually on tap, we can go to any state, city or even (mostly) towns and find meetings whereas most in the Asia Oceania Zone have very limited access to meetings and literature. Barriers such as Culture, Religion, language and lack of structure are

huge obstacles for many of these people seeking answers to their struggle with their alcoholism, in some places even Govt is a barrier. The Brown Paper Bag Appeal is a great aid to assisting these folk.

During this year I have served on two Committees (A) Service Committee (B) Remote Committee. Also participated in two working groups. First to inform the Fellowship about the use of non AA material as a resource when conducting sessions with the wider community IE: "Cochrane Materials" second "The Message Stick Book" (now published) but ongoing to develop audio versions of the stories included in the book.

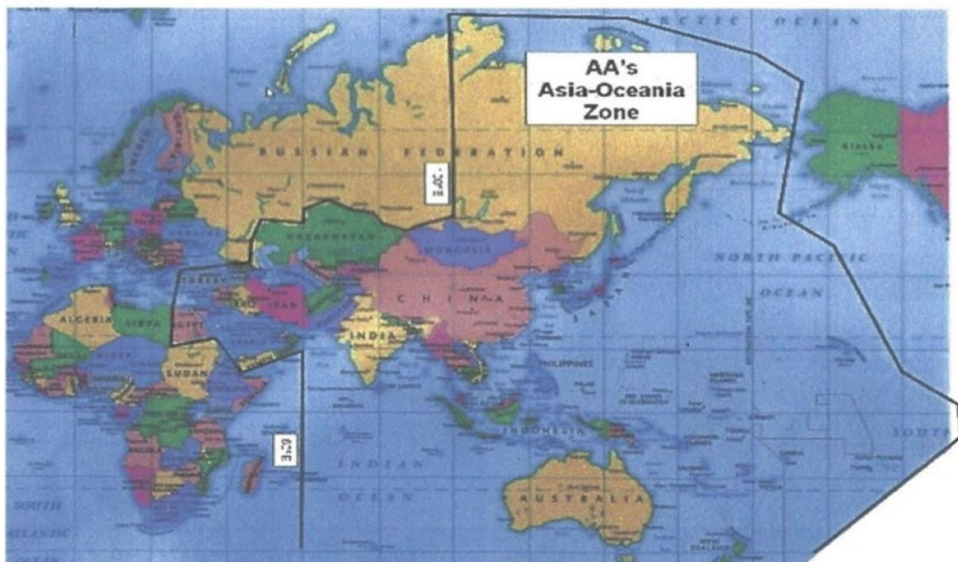
Finally, I once again participated in the Far Western AA District's annual Tag-A-long, I was honored to be the MC for the two very successful "Professional Awareness Luncheons" held in Charleville and Blackall. There were twenty-two allied health guests at the Charleville event which has a population of only 3,000 (includes surrounding districts) and sixteen at Blackall with a smaller population of 1,400 (includes surrounding districts). Fifteen AA members were also in attendance at both these events. The use of the "Cochrane Video" was a great resource in these events.

Andy and I are always available to speak at Service Meetings if invited.

Yours in Service

Brian Ferguson

(See Attached map of the Asia Oceania Zone showing size of the Region we assist)



# WORLD SERVICE MEETING REPORT

## NEW YORK OCTOBER 2024

The meeting was attended by ninety-five people made up of seventy-four World Service Delegates from forty-nine countries and thirty-one languages were spoken of which Andy and me only understood the English version. The extra twenty-one people were the USA staff from their GSO and interpreters. Spanish is the most used spoken language outside of English at these meetings.

I think that the "Big Book" of Alcoholics Anonymous would be the item most referred to within the AA fellowship of Australia, and probably the AA world. Another book, this one, The Plain Language Big Book possibly has caused the most division. It is not a re-write of the big book but rather a resource tool to be used in conjunction with other editions of the big book especially for those in prisons or remote places or little or no access to meetings. Simply to help them understand words and meanings of AA jargon when there is no one else available to assist them. The fifth edition of the big book is well under way with around two thirds of the new stories editing now completed. There are no changes to this book as has been suggested by some folk. The plain language book at our time in USA could only be purchased online and on the first day orders started at 9.00am and by 10.45am 41,844 copies had been ordered.

Orous independent

The great lesson for all of us here is to heed those lines from our book "Contempt prior to investigation". Too many AA ifically proven treatments sent emails with the covering note please send to all your AA contacts without even knowing the original source was false in the information it was sending.

Another issue of concern recently in Australia was the use of the Cochrane Report, many saw this as endorsement so I will read the following from the USA pamphlet "AA in your Community" **Is there evidence-based proof of AA's efficacy?** A rigorous independent study published by the medical journal *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* in 2020 examined 25 previous studies involving 10,565 participants around the world. The meta-analysis found that AA works as well as other scientifically proven treatments for alcoholism, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), outpatient treatment by a doctor, and alcohol education programs. In fact, AA outperformed these methods when it came to longevity of sobriety.

The question when will the AA world be part of the decision making not just the USA was put on the agenda by NZ but withdrawn after discussions with the GSO and other delegates. We also asked and all replies were always the same, each structure is different and has its own autonomy to make their own decisions regarding their literature. The way it was explained in more detail became evident that to have the whole world involved was not feasible and besides would we want other countries having decisions made on our books IE: Australian Editions of Big Books, One to Another and Message Stick? Regarding world decision making this will not happen any time soon.

This is just an overview of some things of importance to Australia and a more detailed report will be forthcoming in the future and the final report from the world service meeting will be supplied in early 2025 and we will ensure all delegates and Trustees receive a copy.

Come and see me in lunch or breaks if you are not sure of what I have stated.

Yours in Service  
Brian Ferguson  
2<sup>nd</sup> term World Service Delegate