



Key Conference

Resolutions

1962 - 2025



Key Resolutions of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, Australia

1962 - 2024

Fifth Edition



December 2025

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Abbreviations

AAAA	AA Around Australia
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSO	Central Service Office
DCM	District Committee Member
GSB	General Service Board
GSO	General Service Office
GSR	Group Service Representative
PI & PA	Public Information & Professional Awareness (formerly CPC - Cooperation with the Professional Community)
T&CF	Treatment & Correctional Facilities
WSD	World Service Delegate



1. Preface

This index of key resolutions of the Australian General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia serves three purposes:

- a. provides AA members and Groups with readily accessible guidance from the Group Conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous, Australia;
- b. informs decision-making at all levels of the General Service structure; and,
- c. shows how AA Australia's thinking evolves to reflect the times.

The principal sources for this index are the Conference Report of the Australian General Service Conference since 1962. It also references some Topics that were rejected at Conferences as these may illuminate the more recent thinking of Conference.

Please note that this document does not cover all Conference decisions, for example, it leaves out procedural Advisory Actions that may be of little interest today. Neither does the index include decisions of the General Service Board, except where these were presented to Conference for endorsement or otherwise.

This document attempts to make it easier for the reader in the following ways:

- a. by using subject headings;
- b. listing matters once only;
- c. using summaries that get to the point; and
- d. writing in Plain English style with modern punctuation.

The Index attempts to assemble these Conference Resolutions under intuitive headings. In cases where an Advisory Action relates to multiple headings, it is placed under the most relevant heading.

Because writing styles from past decades may seem cumbersome to a contemporary reader, this document summarises decisions using the original words as much as possible. This process reduces hundreds, if not thousands, of pages of source documents into a more manageable document. As this document is intended to be a summary of Conference decisions made over time, it is not a complete accounting of all Conference decisions.

Within headings, entries are generally in chronological order. However, in some cases, particularly where Conference varied its guidance, a single entry tracks a matter through the years.

For ease of reading, tables are listed in the appendices and summarise routine Conference decisions.

Over the decades, terminology use has changed. For consistency, this document often standardises terms based on current usage. For the same reason, it avoids some acronyms so as not to mystify readers in decades to come. A list of acronyms that are used are available after the Contents pages.

Since 2005, Conference votes are shown, where known, as (For / Against / Abstain). To avoid confusion, this Index transposes the votes on a few Advisory Actions that Conference heard in the negative but this document records in the positive.

Because this document is a summary and does not contain every Conference decision, you should always check original documents for complete accuracy. Entries include some reference, such as the Advisory Action number, to assist in sourcing the original document if necessary.

This index makes 66 years of General Service Conference deliberations readily available for reference to future generations and trusted servants.

Whatever its destiny, this document hopefully does justice to the legacy of and service done by the Non-Alcoholic Trustees, Area Delegates, Regional Trustees, General Service Trustees, Central Service



Representatives and General Service Office staff who met since 1962 as the Australian General Service Conference.

They number in the thousands but their service over half a century still helps each and every current member share in AA's program of recovery and continues to protect our Fellowship for those alcoholics yet to come. To protect anonymity this document removes members' surnames; Their service must remain publicly unacknowledged, but never unappreciated within the Fellowship.



2. Communications & Technology

2.1 AA Logos

- 1981 Conference adopts the logo (as depicted on road and meeting signs) for Public Information advertising purposes and maintains the international logo based on the Conference seal for internal use.
- Advisory Action 1983/002 seeks to avoid the proliferation of AA logos. It confines AA logos to the accepted international logo and the AA Australian logo as adopted at Conference 1981.
- Advisory Action 1984/026 decrees that AA Door Signs will be known in future as 'National Logo Meeting Signs' and asks Areas to have them for sale to Groups.
- Advisory Action 1987/042 asks that the AA logo not be used on non-Conference approved material.

2.2 AA Around Australia (AAAA)

- Advisory Action 2018/021 resolved to accept recommendation that publishing an electronic copy of AAAA only, be an 'opt out' option.
- Advisory Action 2018/022 resolved to accept the recommendation that AAAA resumes being a quarterly publication to 2020 Conference Committee
- 2019 Conference rejects 2019/006 proposal to provide functionality for members to subscribe to updates on aa.org.au on matters affecting AA members and distribute the electronic version of AA Around Australia as the service structure is the preferred method of communicating to the fellowship.
- 2019 conference resolved to accept 2019/027 that four issues of AAAA be published annually and made available electronically for individuals and groups.

2.3 Community Service Announcements

- 1973 Conference advises that AA may accept media offers of free time or space for AA use.
- Advisory Action 1985/010 recommends that AA investigate the feasibility of producing 60 minute (sic) community service announcements because country TV channels find it easier to place them. Advisory Action 1985/011 recommends that, in the interim, a 30 second community service announcement be made with full utilisation of our non-alcoholic Trustees.
- Advisory Action 1986/015 asks that radio and TV announcements be intensified at State and National levels. Content ought to be revised on a regular basis as an encouragement for the media to use them more frequently.
- Advisory Action 1986/018 urges all Areas and Districts to continue to contact TV stations for the placement of AA community announcements.
- Advisory Action 1991/039 asks the Literature Committee to review the Public Information audio tape for use on community FM radio stations along with its accompanying presentation.
- Advisory Action 1992/025 notes that it is preferable for community announcements to have Conference approval and that AA contributions should not be used for individual production of video or other tapes or advertisements.
- Advisory Action 1992/034 advises through *AA Around Australia* that tapes and videos are available through GSO and notes the potential to access local community FM radio.
- Advisory Action 1993/029 agrees that the seven available Conference approved radio tapes are reasonably priced and recommends that it is not viable to go into production of radio cassettes and compact disks.
- Advisory Action 2002/062 resolves to edit the clearer scenes in the current TV community service announcement and produce new stock on digital tape format with a new Information Sheet *How to get an AA community service announcement on TV and radio*.
- Advisory Action 2003/016 asks to determine the feasibility of producing new radio *Community Service Announcements* to augment the current stock. Consequently, Advisory Action 2004/038 arranges to produce six new Community Service Announcements within a period of six months.
- Advisory Action 2004/046 accepts the 15 and 30 second community service announcement



videos and gives a vote of thanks to the member who prepared them.

- 2005 Conference rejects (14/15//0) a proposal that the GSB report back to 2006 Conference on implementation of a plan to distribute Community Service Announcements to all Australian TV stations.
- 2019 Conference resolved 2019/037 that public service announcement be further edited to ensure anonymity and singleness of purpose and the website address be added. Conference approved a mail poll vote after editing to avoid delay in production.

2.4 Cooperation With the Professional Community

- 1962 Conference asks the Australian Medical Association to declare alcoholism a disease. 1963 Conference asks Delegates to take this matter up with as many doctors as possible in the hope that our combined efforts might gain sympathetic consideration by the AMA.
- 1962 Conference noted the *Doctors in AA* project that has been operating in the USA for some years. It was suggested that a similar effort be made through the auspices of the Australian Service Conference, with particular emphasis on doctors participating in Australian Conventions.
- In 1963, the Secretary told Conference he had written to every State asking for the names and addresses of the known medicos in their States. Only NSW and Victoria replied with the Victorian reply being too late to be useful. Letters were sent to all medicos listed by NSW CSO but the result was nil. Conference decided that a further effort be made for the next Convention to introduce a *Doctors in AA* feature. 1964 Conference repeated its call that every effort be made to incorporate the *Doctors in AA* feature at future Conventions.
- While recognising AA's collective experience about the dangers of alcoholics resorting to the use of mood changing medications, Advisory Action 1985/043 places on record the dangers of AA members recommending to others that they refuse such prescribed medication without some prior consultation with the medical practitioner involved.
- Advisory Action 1985/103 suggests a commitment of co-operation with the professional community by:
 - i. sitting in on their 'In House' meetings;
 - ii. speaking to young doctors before qualifying; and,
 - iii. becoming more active in researching the present situation and feedback.
- Advisory Action 1986/019 asks a non-alcoholic Trustee to approach the Police Commissioner to see if it would be possible to have trainee police attend a number of AA meetings as observers during their training period, or take AA to them at training school. Advisory Action 1990/028 agrees the police may attend open AA meetings but Conference felt it preferable that selected speakers attend sessions for police trainees.
- Advisory Action 1987/011 asks the PI&CPC Committee to prepare a guideline presentation to be used as a basis for presenting to professional people.
- Advisory Action 1994/009 asks the GSO to investigate the costs involved in using 'Doctor TV' for AA public information purposes.
- Advisory Action 2009/058 arranges for the GSB to continue surveying health professionals about their attitudes to AA and report regularly to Delegates.
- Advisory Action 2010/055 arranges to publish a quarterly *Newsletter for Professionals* on www.aa.org.au and email to subscribers. It also establishes a one-year service position of editor.
- 2024 Conference accepts the recommendation to change the name Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) to Professional Awareness (PA), all guidelines and literature changes to follow.

2.5 National Helpline

- Advisory Action 1993/036 suggests investigation of a Twelve Step Phone Service with Lifeline and alternative methods.
- Advisory Action 2000/006 adopts in principle a 1300 National telephone number with the Trustees' PI&CPC Committee to fully investigate before implementation.
- Advisory Action 2002/019 resolves that GSO review telephone network products and costings from major service providers to determine the feasibility of obtaining a nationwide telephone



- number.
- 2005 Conference rejects (1/28/0) a proposal to establish a national 1300 or 1800 number because of the expense.
 - Advisory Action 2008/038 directs the GSB to reinvestigate the cost and operational feasibility of establishing a single national helpline.
 - Advisory Action 2009/085 agrees in principle to the GSB establishing a national helpline.
 - Advisory action 2023/023 Conference resolves to explore options for an expanded model of the 24- hour national helpline.

2.6 National Newsletter & Magazine

- 1970 Conference forms a public relations sub-committee to plan for dissemination of Australian Service Conference activities to Groups (by such means as the use of a newsletter) which will be called the sub-committee on AA Information & Finance. 1971 Conference receives a report from AA Information & Finance (Victoria).
- 1971 Conference congratulates the Secretary on the compilation and presentation of the *News Digest* and asked that it continue in its present form with the title *AA Around Australia*. Ted M., Secretary NSW, said he would have a notice inserted in the *Reviver* appealing to Group secretaries to read the *News Digest* at meetings and to circulate them among members and suggests other States do the same in their monthly magazines.
- 1973 Conference notes that *AA Around Australia* has been circulated quarterly since last Conference.
- 1974 leaves *AA Around Australia* in the hands of the General Services Committee and asks the Committee to immediately provide additional copies to individuals, Groups and CSOs.
- 1980 Conference moves a vote of thanks to the Editors and Production Committee for the pilot issue of a national magazine *AntennA / Stepladder*.
- 1980 Conference discontinues mailing of the publication *Box 459* produced in the US with *AA Around Australia* in favour of distributing it in bulk to Area Assemblies.
- 1980 Conference recommends that AA sell 2,500 issues of a once-only historical edition *This Is AA Australia* prior to Christmas 1980 at a cost of \$5 each. The cash flow from sales of the special historical issue would finance the subsequent production and distribution of the regular national magazine. Subscription forms for future copies of the regular issues of the national magazine will be inserted in the special bumper issue. Conference asks the GSB to allocate \$1,500 to the National Magazine Committee for promotion of this item to Groups.
- 1982 Conference arranges to print the short form of the *Twelve Concepts*, together with the Steps and Traditions, in *AntennA* and other AA publications.
- Advisory Action 1986/008 asks Delegates to urge members in their respective Areas to forward to GSO items of interest for *AA Around Australia*.
- Advisory Action 1986/010 resolves that *AntennA* continue and asks Conference members to become more active in regard to written contributions and subscriptions.
- Advisory Action 1989/040 concludes that those who do not read AA information would not listen to an information cassette either. Consequently, audio cassettes will not be made to augment the printed word in *AA Around Australia* re: Board Meetings, our financial situation, coming events, etc.
- Advisory Action 1992/004 endorses the action of the GSB in suspending publication of our National Magazine *AntennA*. Further it was felt that it is not necessary for GSO to combine our two publications, *AntennA* and *AA Around Australia*, particularly as meetings in print are adequately covered at local level. Conference recommends that we leave *AntennA* in suspension at this time.
- Advisory Action 1992/006 recommends there be no "May Day" Appeal to revive *AntennA*.
- Advisory Action 1998/003 recommends that *AA Around Australia* be made available for sale to members by subscription in addition to the current distribution arrangements.
- Advisory Action 1998/008 recommends that, depending on the resources of the GSO, a page be made available in *AA Around Australia* for sharing information relating to CSOs. The purpose is to enable CSOs to keep in touch with what other offices are doing, so that solutions to common problems are shared.
- Advisory Action 2000/021 asks for the front Cover of *AA Around Australia* to be made more



- attractive to the newcomer.
- Advisory Action 2001/043 seeks articles from alcoholics with disabilities, or otherwise disadvantaged alcoholics, for publication in *AA Around Australia*.
 - Advisory Action 2003/022B resolves that articles be published in *AA Around Australia* when new Groups are set up under the sponsorship of existing groups, so that other Groups can become familiar with the process.
 - 2005 Conference declined (23/3/2) to re-introduce *AntennA* magazine.
 - Advisory Action 2009/001 seeks an upgrade in the appearance of the quarterly newsletter.
 - Advisory Action 2009/002 arranges to publish the newsletter on www.aaservice.org.au
 - Advisory Action 2015/002 resolves that a National fellowship magazine, similar to *AA Grapevine*, be established pending a Board investigation to its viability to be reported back to Conference 2016.
 - Advisory Action 2016/001 resolves (30/1/0) that a one- or two-page financial summary be published in the December Edition of *AA Around Australia* with directions to the Service Website and other options for more detailed information.
 - Advisory Action 2016/007 resolves (30/1/0) that the costs of Conference (flights, accommodation, meals, venue hire) be published in *AA Around Australia* and on the Service Website and that an article about the experience and value of Conference be written by delegates for publication in *AA Around Australia*.
 - Advisory Action 2016/062 resolves to accept the GSBs' recommendation to proceed with a National AA eMagazine.
 - Conference rejects topic 2016/030 as a resolution had already resulted in Advisory Action 2016/001.
 - Conference rejects topic 2016/034 as a resolution had already resulted in Advisory Action 2016/001.
 - Advisory Action 2017/026 resolves to continue *The Mixer* for a further three years and report to the GSB.

2.7 New Media

- As recommended by the 2011 National PI&CPC Forum Advisory Action 2011/055 resolves that Conference and the GSB should urgently develop and implement an Australian policy for carrying the AA message through new media (i.e. social networking on the internet).
- Advisory Action 2012/043 requests that the GSB review the submitted [New] Media Policy document and report back to Conference after the February 2013 Board meeting.
- The GSB advised 2013 Conference that a Twitter account had been set up, but there was low activity. Advisory Action 2013/017 agrees (14/13/3) to:
 - i. establish a non-interactive AA Australia Facebook page with links to official websites such as the National and Service websites; and,
 - ii. set up a social media team to maintain a prudent presence on Facebook and Twitter.
- 2021 Conference rejects topic 2020/010 the proposal to develop and use an AA owned and supported online video conferencing platform.
- Advisory Action 001/2025 resolved that a video safety resource be produced taking into consideration materials already available such as those produced by US Area 93 District 22.
- Advisory Action #010/2025 Conference approve the production and publication of short, AI-generated educational videos by the General Service Office to inform members, newcomers, and the general public about AA's purpose, structure, and principles.

2.8 Public Information

- 1963 Conference decides to think of ways and means to print the following message on labels of alcoholic drinks:

'This liquid contains alcohol and may lead to alcoholism.'
- 1964 agrees to take the necessary steps to have the following text printed on all labels of alcoholic drinks:

'This container contains alcohol, a poison, which may eventually cause a disease called



alcoholism, possibly leading to death or insanity.'

The same year's conference later rescinds the motion. 1965 expunges it from the minutes because it is not in accord with the Traditions.

- 1966 Conference agrees to supply 600 copies of a 'Statement to Media' to CSOs in each State for distribution as they saw fit.
- 1968 Conference notes that the Statement to Media is available to Representatives and State Offices.
- 1969 Conference leaves requests for public relations material in the hands of the Chairman and Secretary who are empowered to appoint any person thought necessary to help them.
- 1970 Conference agrees that Dr. Bill Spence (Non-alcoholic Trustee) go to Perth for the 19th and 20th November and then to Adelaide on 21 and 22 November.
- 1972 Conference leaves the matter of a public relations officer in the hands of the Executive.
- 1974 Conference leaves the matter of a public relations officer to the General Service Committee (previously the Executive Committee) and asks that it report to the next Conference.
- Advisory Action 1982/033 alters the franking of mail from *AA Fights Alcoholism* in favour of *AA Helps Alcoholics*.
- 1982 Conference advises the Fellowship that Public Meetings ought to be called Public Meetings only if they comply with the guidelines for public meetings. Advisory Action 1986/021 asks that consideration be given as to how to attract the public and professionals to Public Awareness Meetings. Advisory Action 1988/019 records that Conference does not consider Public Awareness Meetings a breach of Traditions 11 or 12. Advisory Action 1990/029 feels that AA cannot have too many properly structured public awareness meetings and notes that personal invitations were more effective than written. It was further felt that speaking at clubs (Rotary, etc.) is effective, but that recovery should be emphasised.
- Advisory Action 1983/036 asks to re-examine the wording on the larger community poster and the smaller 'IF' poster and gives the larger poster top production priority following Board approval of the photographs to be used. Advisory Action 1989/013 asks that when contemplating a PI poster for AA, it is mandatory that it carry a positive 'we can help' message and a local contact number.
- Advisory Action 1983/037 sets the month of February aside as PI&CPC month.
- Advisory Action 1983/041 reviews proposed press releases from GSO and asks for further investigation and recommendation to Conference 1984.
- Advisory Action 1983/039 asks all Area Assemblies to include in their agendas:
 - i. Reaction to TV releases; and
 - ii. Reports and action as related to public information.
- Advisory Action 1984/024 arranges to write to town libraries to seek establishment of a section on alcoholism, with AA providing literature such as the Big Book.
- Advisory Action 1984/025 rejects production of a small notice for display in town libraries stating 'Literature on AA provided by that Fellowship is available in section X'.
- Advisory Action 1984/027 makes Areas responsible to target a scheduled list of community Groups during each month of the year. Advisory Action 1991/036 amends the list. Advisory Action 1992/033 comes up with the following schedule and authorises the Trustees' PI&CPC Committee to make future amendments to the Monthly PI Contacts list:

Year	Host
January	Police, Magistrates
February	Hospitals, Doctors
March	High Schools, TAFE, CYSS
April	Clergy
May	Councils, Welfare Organisations

June	Councils, Welfare Organisations
July	Rotary and Rotoract
August	Lions and Leo Clubs
September	Apex Clubs
October	Women's Clubs, Quota
November	Radio, TV, Press
December	Nil

- Advisory Action 1985/012 makes available a discount package suitable for presenting at public awareness meetings.
- Advisory Action 1986/016 suggests that public information at a District and Area level ought to target women and in particular young women and men who are increasingly using alcohol at an earlier age than previously.
- Advisory Action 1986/017 asks to consider the suitability of a segment relating to AA being televised on a show such as the Ray Martin Show, using our non- alcoholic Trustees and/or an AA member.
- Advisory Action 1986/022 arranges for AA's name to be placed in the help reference section and emergency services of telephone directories.
- Advisory Action 1986/023 asks members to continue to place the Big Book in libraries, schools and selected appropriate book shops.
- Advisory Action 1987/010 recommends that October 1988 be Public Information month. Guideline kits to be made available through GSO. All Areas to report on progress of this project at Conference 1988.
- Advisory Action 1988/016 maintains October on a permanent basis as Public Information month.
- Advisory Action 1993/034 endorses October as PI&CPC month. It was recommended that GSO notify all Area Delegates in July of available PI&CPC information and forward a pro forma letter (without GSO letterhead) to be used in their Areas. It was further recommended that Area Delegates advise GSO on the proposed PI&CPC Agenda to be undertaken by their Areas and this information be published in *AA Around Australia*.
- Advisory Action 1987/012 suggests the PI&CPC Committee utilise national TV when possible with newsworthy items, such as press releases detailing results of the recent National survey. All local Areas to keep local media outlets up to date with PI contacts and telephone numbers.
- Advisory Action 1987/013 asks all Areas to utilise road signs so that tourists may know AA is in the locality.
- Advisory Action 1987/038 asks that cooperation at the local level with the Drug Awareness Campaign:
 - i. educate through the placement of pamphlets plus meeting lists;
 - ii. stay forever non-professional; and,
 - iii. stresses non-affiliation.
- Advisory Action 1988/017 asks that every effort be made to ensure that AA is available to all people, particularly those travelling. Notice boards at air, train and bus stations, hotel lobbies, etc to be utilised.
- Advisory Action 1989/010 determines that there is no breach of Traditions in placing advertisements in newspapers, either in the form suggested in the PI Workbook or by listing meeting times and places.
- Advisory Action 1989/011 recommends that AA ought not counter statements that 'alcoholics can resume social drinking after a period of abstinence' as AA could be drawn into controversy.
- Advisory Action 1990/025 feels that funds raised by the proposed government levy on alcohol to pay for the damage it causes has no relevance to encouraging the use of the AA program in detox and rehabilitation programs.



- Advisory Action 1990/068 recommends that, where feasible, AA leaflets designed to inform and attract the general public to AA should be distributed as widely and as freely as possible.
- Advisory Action 1992/035 agrees to the layout of the proposed 'AA Fact File' for PI&CPC work be submitted to the Trustees' for review and Australianising.
- Advisory Action 1993/035 agrees that PI&CPC is covered successfully by the Central Service structure in the major metropolitan areas. However, it seems that the General Service structure, through the Areas, takes over this responsibility outside the major cities. It was suggested that an inventory is needed to determine which arm of service is taking responsibility in each locality.
- Advisory Action 1994/010 recommends that the General Service Structure continues to cooperate, within the Guidelines, Traditions and Concepts of AA, with anybody seeking information about, or working to produce information about AA.
- Advisory Action 1995/032 agrees to print the New Zealand PI Poster in Australia. Advisory Action 1996/012 makes it available at cost price.
- Advisory Action 1995/070 asks the Board to explore what we can do for international AA visitors to Sydney for the Olympic Games. However, Advisory Action 1998/014 agrees that the GSO not be involved in the organising of activities for visitors to the Olympic Games in 2000.
- Advisory Action 1997/022 recommends that the AA Fact File be updated at the next reprint by inclusion of a brief history of AA in Australia.
- Advisory Action 2000/023 rejects a request to produce multi-media presentations of service and public information items for sale as being unnecessary but asks the Fellowship to make existing or future material freely available.
- Advisory Action 2004/006 resolves that AA public information posters, similar to the New Zealand posters, be produced for use in Australia.
- 2005 Conference rejects (0/28/1) a proposal to do national letterbox drops on the grounds that it is the proper business of the Groups, Districts or Areas.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal for a fund to advertise AA in national newspapers and magazines.
- Advisory Action 2015/024 resolves to produce Public Information posters to attract young people with drinking problems as Category 3 literature.
- Advisory Action 2015/014 resolves that a list of contacts, when AA exhibits at a professional event, be passed along to the National PI&CPC Coordinator following the event.
- Advisory Action 2016/017 resolves that the GSB publish, on the Service Website, costs of travel/accommodation at PI&CPC Forums/Events in Australia.
- Advisory Action 2017/003 resolves (25/1/1) to produce two postcards aimed at attracting young people with drinking problems into AA.
- 2018 Conference rejects 2018/011 the request to have an easy-to-read document for PI basics.
- 2018 Conference rejects 2018/009 the proposal to create a national PI Subcommittee. Conference recommends that this suggestion be forwarded to the National PI Coordinator.
- 2019 Conference accepts 2019/008 that colour A4 PI Posters be made available throughout the GSO in hard copy and electronic format.
- 2021 Conference rejects topic 2021/024 that the three videos submitted be adopted as AA conference approved literature.
- 2021 Conference rejects topic 2021/023 the proposal that the fellowship discontinues using gender-based titles for its meetings.
- Advisory action 2021/007 Conference accepts proposal to produce a series of engaging videos aimed at professionals within the health prisons and armed forces sectors.
- Advisory action 2021/006 Conference accepts proposal that radio community service announcements targeting indigenous and LGBTI+ communities be accepted.
- Advisory action 2022/005 Conference resolved to accept that any idea that encourages individuals to participate in PI/CPC should be supported and that the week of 11 December should be 'National Put up an AA Poster' week.
- 2023 Conference resolved that the questions in the topic 2023/018 be assigned to a GSB Working Group for thoughtful response. Request that Conference provide guidance to the fellowship about the use of outside materials that are pro AA - for example, the "Cochrane report". Specifically, its use in locally created digital PI/CPC material, where outside branding, or logos, are used, along with quotes from, and links to, non-AA material when this information is presented alongside conference approved literature as part of an AA PI/CPC kit or document.
 - i. How is this problematic with regards to affiliation and endorsement?



- ii. How, if at all, might this information be communicated to professionals by AA members that's in alignment with our traditions, specifically tradition 6 and 10.
- 2023 Conference rejects topic 2023/020 that an adoption of the Cochrane report be put into AA Literature packs, while the report may be helpful in recommending AA, official use implies endorsement and affiliation, in contradiction to Tradition 6.
- Advisory action 2023/024 Conference accepts this topic for the new PI/CPC poster to be made available for PI/CPC use.
- 2024 Conference resolves to form a working group to develop acceptable changes to Guideline GL-07 to include reference to outside materials that are pro AA, i.e. the Cochrane Report.
- Advisory Action #002/2025 resolved for a new Australian PI workbook to be created and published in digital format and made available for download for free. That advisory actions 1996/008 and 1996/009 be repealed.
- Advisory Action #005/2025 resolved the development and ongoing maintenance of a national standardised press kit, to be created, managed and updated by the General Service Office (GSO). The press kit should be administered and maintained by the GSO and made accessible through the AA Members website. It must comply with AA's legal, branding and communication standards and reflect the organisations core values.

2.9 Publicity For Events

- Advisory Action 1995/018 recommends that it is not necessary to produce a Guideline on the development and construction of flyers on events that concern AA members.
- 2010 Conference decides not (9/21/0) to provide guidance on whether advertising material for AA events should focus on the program rather than the identity of presenters.
- Advisory Action 2012/030 states (20/9/2) that:
 - i. whilst it is acceptable to promote activities originating from within AA, it is contrary to the principles of Tradition 6 to promote activities originating from an outside enterprise;
 - ii. Members are free to choose whether or not to attend these events, but endorsing them within AA creates the false impression that they are AA events; and,
 - iii. Membership of AA does not entitle individual members or groups of members to promote their outside business enterprises within AA, even if the subject matter of their workshops, etc. may appear to be AA related.
- Advisory Action 2013/016 resolves (27/2/1) to print Advisory Action 2012/030 (above) in the next reprint of the AA Australian Group Handbook.

2.10 References

- Advisory Action 1985/014 noted that AA does not provide letters of reference for its members, but individuals may do so on a private basis if they wish.

2.11 Schools

- Advisory Action 1986/020 agrees to distribute a list of pamphlets appropriate to school age groups and in addition look at films and videos and prepare some brief material to accompany them describing their content and where to get them.
- Advisory Action 1987/014 suggests that carrying the message of AA to primary school children ought to be addressed by their teachers.
- Advisory Action 1989/012 asks the Board to develop a unified approach to the education system and refer the recommended method of implementation for further discussions to all levels of service. Advisory Action 1990/023 endorses the resulting advice that a unified approach to all these separate departments is impossible because the Departments of Education in each State are autonomous. Any approach to the State Education Departments would need to draw on the experience which is available only at the State level.
- Advisory Action 1990/024 asks the Conference PI&CPC Committee to produce a kit comprising topics for discussion in schools and a suggested list of Conference approved literature which could be left at schools. In response, Advisory Action 1991/031:
 - i. states that the approach taken to all school PI&CPC activities would be more



fruitfully made to principals of individual schools rather than to State Departments of Education;

- ii. Advises care in the selection of speakers for schools; and,
 - iii. Agrees to produce a draft guideline on school-based PI&CPC activities suitable for inclusion in the PI Workbook and assemble a pamphlet kit for this purpose comprising: *This is AA, Is AA for You, Young People and AA and Too Young*, collated within an envelope bearing a contact phone number and an address for AA.
- Advisory Action 1991/032 decides not to prepare a low-cost flyer for distribution to students.
 - Advisory Action 1993/028 suggests that the pamphlet *Speaking at Non-AA Meetings* is sufficient as the format for speaking at schools and there is no need for another folder. It was further suggested that the *AA Fact File* also be made available.
 - Advisory Action 1997/021 recommends that the Trustees' Literature Committee consider the creation of a new free flyer for schools, with a focus on telling young, school-age people that AA is for them.
 - Advisory Action 2005/004A agreed (25/3/0) to produce a Guideline on visiting schools.
 - Advisory Action 2005/004B agreed (20/7/1) to establish electronic forums for interested members to access and share experience of presenting the AA message in schools.
 - 2005 Conference decided not (19/9/1) to include a section about visiting schools in *AA Around Australia*.

2.12 Treatment & Correctional Facilities (T&CF)

- Advisory Action 1983/045 establishes a quarterly national T&CF bulletin.
- Advisory Action 1984/032 decides that literature now available for Institutions is adequate and to set up an "AntennA Fund" to supply *AntennA* to institutions would only be creating extra work for GSO staff.
- Advisory Action 1987/017 notes that AA, in its dealings with institutions, must observe the institution's rules and regulations. Advice on what AA does and does not do can be obtained from the Guidelines.
- Advisory Action 1989/016 asks Areas to write to Treatment & Correctional Facilities informing them that personal contact can take place with AA at the Area level.
- Advisory Action 1990/052 advises that, as far as Conference knows, the Area committee or its nominee does have access to authorities in Treatment & Correctional Facilities to facilitate easy introduction of AA Groups.
- Advisory Action 1990/053 suggests that all Areas should have a T&CF Committee and put forward the following proposal:
All Areas and Central Service Offices that have a Treatment and Correctional Facilities Committee should supply a short written account of their structure and activity to Conference's Treatment & Correctional Facilities Committee to be prepared by the end of February for Area meetings in March.
- Advisory Action 1991/049 asks CSOs to provide written accounts of their activities concerning T&CFs, as well as reports on what is being done for youth at local Police Station level.
- Advisory Action 1991/053 records that Conference has no opinion on AA members working as professionals in agencies dealing with alcoholism, nor of their holding positions in AA while being engaged in such work nor of any resultant conflict of interest, provided that the Traditions and appropriate Guidelines are strictly adhered to.
- Advisory Action 1992/039 recommends that the GSO contact all CSOs and Area/Service Offices to find out:
 - i. who is doing the Public Information work and what form this is taking;
 - ii. who is looking after making contact with Treatment Facilities, how many Treatment Facilities are there, how many people are involved; and,
 - iii. who is looking after making contact in Correctional Facilities, how many Correctional Facilities are there and how many people are involved.
- Advisory Action 1993/040 agrees that Area Delegates should be responsible for obtaining the information requested in Advisory Action 1992/039, in conjunction with CSOs, and supply it to 1994 Conference.
- Advisory Action 1994/013 recommends that Delegates' Reports in response to Advisory Actions



1992/039 and 1993/035 and 1993/040 be passed on to the Trustees' T&CF Committee in order to establish and maintain a network of communication within Australia.

- Advisory Action 1995/033 recommends that the survey for workers in T&CF be adopted for use within the Fellowship. Where contact exists between Groups and a facility the Group approach the facility with the form to gather the information and, where no contact exists, the form be mailed.
- Advisory Action 1999/024 arranges, for twelve months, a separate one-page insert in *AA Around Australia*, one side for Treatment Facilities news and the other side for Correctional Facilities news. This to be reviewed at Conference 2000.
- Advisory Action 1999/025 recommends that a notice seeking an editor for the *T&CF newsletter* be placed in the December issue of *AA Around Australia* and that applications be forwarded to the Trustees' Treatment and Correctional Facilities Committee in time for the February 2000 Board meeting.
- Advisory Action 2000/057 resolves that the Trustees' T&CF Committee, with the cooperation of the Delegates, is to survey the number and type of meetings held in Treatment and Correctional Facilities. Advisory Action 2001/067 refers the survey back to the Trustees' T&CF Committee with a view to accessing and updating the existing database, and that information continue to be collated and that the database continue to be updated.
- Advisory Action 2001/065 discontinues the one page insert in *AA Around Australia*, covering T&CF news, but that this information be included in *PI Around Australia* under the sub-heading "Treatment & Correctional Facilities News".
- Advisory Action 2003/002 resolves that the position of liaison person in relation to a Treatment & Correctional Centre newsletter be accepted. This position entails the person pro-actively seeking articles from the Fellowship and then forwarding a finished *Treatment & Correctional Facilities* newsletter to GSO for publication in *AA Around Australia*. The position is to be for one year and advertised in *AA Around Australia*. If there is more than one applicant, the Trustees' T&CF Committee should appoint the appropriate person.
- Advisory Action 2014/049 resolves that March be recognised as National Treatment and Correctional Facilities month to raise awareness of these two very important arms of service.
- 2018 Conference resolved that Areas provide feedback on local initiatives to the National T&CF month in March.

2.13 Websites

- Advisory Action 1996/011 recommends that the GSB set up a web site on the Internet and report back to Conference in 1997 any information they have on the website relating to AA in Australia.
- Advisory Action 2000/024 resolves that the Ten Frequently Asked Questions re websites published by New York GSO be made available, and that the progress of production of Guidelines by New York GSO be monitored.
- Advisory Action 2001/027A resolves that the AA website (www.aa.org.au) be reviewed annually at Conference.
- Advisory Action 2001/027B resolves that the Trustees' PI&CPC Committee should make every effort to get meeting directories on the website provided they do not link to any other sites.
- Advisory Action 2002/067 resolves that the Board develop a set of Guidelines and an approval process for information and materials posted on the AA website and that these Guidelines be put to Conference in November 2003 for approval.
- Advisory Action 2003/050 approves the submitted Guidelines and approval process for information and materials posted on the AA website.
- Advisory Action 2003/018 agrees to include a page in the 'Members' page of the national AA website listing Area and District PI&CPC activities (as submitted by those bodies) and in accordance with the National Website Guidelines.
- As there is confusion within the Fellowship as to suitable material for websites, Advisory Action 2004/021 resolves that the following statement be added to existing GSO Website Guidelines. It is recommended that the following material not be published on the National website:
 - i. Poetry
 - ii. Prayers
 - iii. Song lyrics



- iv. Tributes to individuals
 - v. Plays
 - vi. Previously published non-AA material
 - vii. Anything unrelated to AA.
 - viii. It is further recommended that personal telephone numbers or last names of contacts not be published, including those that appear in email addresses.
- Following a review of the website, Advisory Action 2004/040 resolves that the Board:
 - i. prepare a written report to Conference on the website for the 2005 Conference in accordance with Guideline GL-26: Operation of the National AA Website www.aa.org.au
 - ii. investigate further development of the website as a Twelve Step Facility (e.g. by an email enquiry for potential members or a Question and Answer facility with questions about AA).
 - iii. provide a detailed implementation proposal to the next Conference on further development of the website for use as an internal AA communications tool (i.e. not available to the public domain), including, for example:
 - providing forums for exchange of information between the Board and
 - hosting mailing lists for use by the Board, Delegates, Committees, Areas and Districts.
 - Conference Committees, between Districts and Areas, etc;
 - hosting electronic newsletters; and,
 - providing links to Area and District websites.
 - Advisory Action 2007/021 resolves by a show of hands to establish a single AA service website in Australia (www.aaservice.org.au) funded by the GSB.
 - Advisory Action 2007/026 resolves (25/5/2) that the AA service website would provide links to Area websites (but the National website would not).
 - Advisory Action 2007/034 resolves (31/1/0) that T&CF Coordinators could utilise a contact list created from the AA service website.
 - 2008 Conference rejects (12/23/0) links from the national AA website to www.aaservice.org.au and the Al-Anon website.
 - Advisory Action 2009/072 arranges for the national AA website to encourage visitors to ring one of the AA helplines.
 - Advisory Action 2009/060B arranges to put a content disclaimer on the service website.
 - Advisory Action 2009/077 asks for Guidelines be produced on how to create AA websites and run them in accordance with AA principles.
 - 2009 Conference rejects a proposal that the AA service website was outside the Conference structure and should be shut down.
 - 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to include a facility on the national AA website where members could submit ideas for improving AA.
 - 2009 Conference again rejects a proposal to include a link from the national AA website to www.aaservice.org.au
 - 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to include links from the national AA website to all Australian AA Area websites.
 - 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to include a section on the national AA website for 'Service Opportunities'.
 - 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to grant permission to additional members to edit the online meetings database on the national AA website.
 - Advisory Action 2010/020 asks the National Website Management Group to review security on the website and pass on technical information to Area websites.
 - Advisory Action 2010/046 encourages Delegates to ensure meeting changes are updated promptly on the national AA website.
 - Advisory Action 2010/039 provides advice on local AA website content in Guideline GL-32: *Setting up Local AA Websites*.
 - Advisory Action 2012/015 agrees (32/1/0) to the National Website meetings list including details of online meetings such as the Australian Online Intergroup (<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~aog/>) and the International Online Intergroup (<http://aa-intergroup.org/>).
 - The GSB advises 2013 Conference in relation to Advisory Action 2013/017 that it would continue to investigate making www.aa.org.au more usable by mobile phone devices, though



- providing an application programming interface was complicated and costly.
- Advisory Action 2015/034 resolves to publish a calendar of events on the Service and National websites.
 - Advisory Action 2015/053 resolves that the Service Website be updated and upgraded in function and appearance.
 - Advisory Action 2017/027 resolves (27/1/0) that a Duration of Meeting field to the national meeting database.
 - Advisory Action 2017/028 resolves (26/0/1) that the Service Website be redesigned and a committee be formed to review the website and projected costs to be submitted to the GSB February meeting. It was later resolved that Ruby J, Garry S, John O'L and Jody S be the members.
 - Advisory Action 2017/029 resolves that the notes from the National PI&CPC Forum be posted on the AA Service Website.
 - 2018 Conference rejects 2018/032 the direction to enhance meeting search functions to include Area / Region listing or group locations on National Website.
 - Advisory Action 2020/034 resolved via Floor Action and vote to investigate a ChatNow function on the AA website and provide a report to be sent as an attachment with 2021 deferred topics.
 - Advisory action 2021/002 Conference accepts the proposal to create a dedicated first response page on the national website.
 - Advisory action 2021/004 Conference accepts the recommendation that a ChatNow feature on the National website be developed.
 - 2023 Conference resolved that Advisory Action 2023/032 QR code is needed for ChatNow and that this Floor Action be sent to the Social Media and Technology Committee to make sure the QR code works for both the ChatNow and the national website. GSO to get the QR code printed as a sticker to put on existing posters and then ensure that it is added to new posters when reprinting.
 - 2025 Conference rejects topic 026/2025 to revitalise the aaservice.org.au website, as the content on this website has been migrated to members.aa.org.au



3. Finances

3.1 Bank accounts

- Advisory Action 2000/007 asks the GSO to investigate procedures for claiming money in dormant bank accounts originally opened by AA Groups.
- Advisory Action 2008/012A allows GSO to provide a letter for treasurers to take to banks when opening AA bank accounts.
- Advisory Action 2008/012B resolves to produce a guideline of good practice for Groups setting up bank accounts.

3.2 Donations & Bequests to AA Australia

- 1973 Conference sets the allowable gifts from AA members or bequests from estates of persons who were AA members at \$400 in any one year.
- 1980 Conference decides to review the amount of annual contribution from any one member each three to five years.
- Advisory Action 1985/025 agrees to review annual contribution limits in accordance with CPI adjustments.
- Advisory Action 1988/044 advises that when AA members contribute cash, goods or services they are self-supporting within the intended meaning of the term.
- Advisory Action 1988/047 feels that the long form of Tradition 7 is self-explanatory when read in conjunction with the appropriate chapter in the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and the *Twelve Traditions Illustrated*.
- Advisory Action 1989/028 adjusts bequests from AA members to catch up with CPI increases, then annually in line with CPI adjustments and that the restriction of acceptance within one year of death be deleted.
- Advisory Action 1992/008 agrees that hereafter the limits rise by the annual CPI figure. These rates be conveyed to the Fellowship in the next issue of *AA Around Australia*.
- Advisory Action 1999/021 establishes that AA must decline a discount or subsidy that is partly or in total offered because we are Alcoholics Anonymous. However, AA may accept a discount or subsidy which would be offered to any other organisation of similar size requiring a purchased service or produce of similar character and magnitude (i.e. convention rates at hotels). Advisory Action 2000/058 puts this in Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention, the Australian AA Group Handbook* and other appropriate literature.
- Advisory Action 2000/016 arranges for the July meeting of the Trustees' Finance & Budgetary Committee to review limits in light of CPI movements.
- Advisory Action 2001/075 makes the following change to Chapter 9 of the *Australian AA Service Manual* "The General Service Office":

The General Service Office carries this a step further and implements the ceiling per year on individual AA contributions, which is CPI linked, and accepts contributions only from AAs. As at 2001 the figures were \$5000 for individual donations and \$12,500 for bequests.
- Advisory Action 2002/059 notes that increased limits are in line with CPI and are a necessary adjustment to keep pace with inflation. This philosophy is consistent with normal commercial practice.
- Advisory Actions 2005/024 allows (26/2/0) automatic CPI increases each year for the allowable limits for donations and bequests set at \$5,700 and \$14,000 respectively for 2005. These are to be posted in the Member's Section of www.aa.org.au
- Advisory Actions 2007/023 recommends (31/0/1) that the allowable limits for donations and bequests be increased to \$6050 for donations and \$14,850 for bequests and freezes the limit for donations at \$6,050 and \$14,850 for bequests on the grounds that they are already high enough for AA needs. Conference must approve future increases or decreases.
- Advisory Action 2011/032 rescinds (31/2/0) Advisory Action 2005/024 and that allowable limits for donations and bequests be increased or decreased by recommendation to Conference. The current limits of \$6,050 for donations and \$14,850 for bequests are considered to be adequate.
- The GSB advised 2013 Conference (Advisory Action 2013/017) that setting up a mechanism for online donations was in progress.



- 2019 Conference rejects 2019/009 that Guideline GL-12 should include information on how members can leave a nominated CSO a sum of money in their will. This is a better for CSOs to determine.

Refer to Table 2 in the Appendix for a detailed breakdown of Donation Caps by Year.

3.3 Donations from AA Australia to Asia Oceania Service Meeting

- Advisory Action 2004/022 requests that the Board includes an explanation of what the funds will be used for when it recommends a donation to the Asia Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat.
- Advisory Action 2006/029B unanimously resolves to investigate whether \$1,200 a year is sufficient for the needs of Asia Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat.

Refer to Table 3 in the Appendix for a detailed breakdown of Donations from AA Australia to Asia Oceania Service Meeting.

3.4 Group donations

- 1965 Conference arranges for the Secretary of the Australian Service Conference to circularise every Group in Australia re the £1.6s annual subscription, giving at the same time an outline of the Australian Service Conference activities, aims and functions. 1966 Conference heard from the Secretary that a letter had been sent to every Group in the Commonwealth, but the results had barely covered the cost of duplicating and mailing.
- 1966 Conference raises the annual Group subscription to \$4, to be quoted as ten cents a week in future.
- 1967 Conference sets June 30 each year as the date on which Australian Service Conference subscriptions become due, with the rate remaining at \$4 yearly or 10c weekly from each Group. Conference delayed a further letter to all Groups appealing for regular contributions to the Australian Service Conference until the financial statement has been presented.
- 1970 Conference considers the amount of \$5.20 per Group per year to be adequate.
- 1973 Conference increases annual Group contributions to \$10.
- 1974 Conference decides to include a listing of Group contributions in *AA Around Australia*.
- 1979 Conference accepts the 60-30-10 Plan as an approved method of distributing excess Group funds.
- 1979 Conference named June as the National Gratitude Month, commencing 1980.
- 1981 Conference agrees to proceed with a plan for Gratitude Month in June, with each Region or Area organising its own efforts, and the Finance Committee presenting ideas to the Board not later than January. Conference also approved the idea of envelope distribution to Regions and Areas and that the Finance Committee proceed, notifying GSO how many and how much.
- Advisory Action 1983/027 arranges to research a method of supplying Groups with coded deposit books for contributions to GSO, CSOs and Areas so as to assist in obtaining a regular flow of finance.
- Advisory Action 1984/033 asks Delegates to report back to their Areas on the availability of coded deposit books from GSO on request and explain the simple method of making regular contributions via this system.
- Advisory Action 1984/034 agrees to acknowledge Deposit Book contributions by letter and in *AA Around Australia* and publish an annual total of Group contributions in the August issue of *AA Around Australia*.
- Advisory Action 1985/026 asks the GSO to stamp its address on the 60-30-10 pamphlet in the appropriate place prior to distribution.
- Advisory Action 1986/041 asks Delegates to encourage Groups to establish a budget which includes the 60-30-10 Plan.
- Advisory Action 1987/028 asks Delegates to educate members and Groups regarding the 60-30-10 Plan. Advisory Action 1987/035 recommends that the best way to educate members about Tradition 7 was via the pamphlets *The AA Group* and the 60-30-10 Plan.
- Advisory Action 1988/033 asks that a brighter colour scheme be used on the next print run for



- the pamphlet *60-30-10 Plan*.
- Advisory Action 1988/039 encourages more Groups to participate in the 60-30-10 Plan than at present. It is stressed that the Groups make a regular, preferably monthly, contribution. If this is done and prudent reserves are reached then literature prices could be discounted.
 - Advisory Action 1989/032 adopts a Plan of Procedure for attaining true Self- Support as follows:
 - i. that each Region form a committee comprising its Regional Trustee, State Trustee, Area Delegates and CSO Representatives to discuss the implementation of the 60-30-10 Plan and the Challenge of self-support. If this is not possible because of distance and population, then lower the structure to suit that Region or Area;
 - ii. the committee to write to each Group in its Area outlining the reasons for self-support;
 - iii. place the following item on the agenda at next Assembly "The Home Group and Members Responsibility in Regard to Their Groups" (see *Australian AA Group Handbook*);
 - iv. the committee to forward a further letter to Groups suggesting that each Group compose a budget for discussion at next Assembly; and,
 - v. discuss budget and hopefully adopt same.
 - Advisory Action 1990/031 seeks to gauge the attitude of the collective Group conscience toward financially strong and well-resourced Groups who do not support their local central office, District or Area, either financially or with service work. Conference recommends that Groups be continually made aware of the 60-30-10 Plan and the need for help at all levels of structure and that money in the bank is not helping the still suffering alcoholic.
 - Advisory Action 1990/032 recommends that the principles of the 60-30-10 Plan remain in place in conjunction with 1989/032 until such time as stability has been reached. At that time, the Plan can be fine-tuned according to the needs of each arm of service, not forgetting that each Group is autonomous. Also, District expenses should be covered by Area and when the 60-30-10 Plan is working, the District's needs would be met by Area.
 - Advisory Action 1990/033 asks that all Groups be continually made aware of the *60-30-10 Plan* and that the flyer *Tell Them How Important Their Contributions Are* be circulated to all Conference members, with a recommendation for its use at all meetings, especially the following extract:

*There's a fairly painless way to increase the contributions given at meetings. Simply tell people what happens to the money.
Usually the hat is passed out with an off-hand remark that sound something like: 'AA is self-supporting through our own contributions, there are no dues or fees for membership'. It has become a careless ritual. People regard it as if it is as unimportant as the secretary makes it sound - and they give accordingly. But, wait a minute. Those contributions are vital. They're helping to save peoples lives. I've found you get 30 to 100% more when the secretary pauses, looks at the people directly and says in a careful serious voice: 'There's no requirement to give at an AA meeting and we only accept money from AA members. The money you give is used to keep this meeting running by paying rent on the hall and buying the tea and biscuits. We sent the rest to (how it is split up between the various arms of service).*
 - Recognising the need for contributions from members and Groups, Advisory Action 1990/069 recommends that the *60-30-10 Plan* pamphlet be included in all correspondence to Groups. Advisory Action 1990/070 recommends educating the Fellowship about:
 - i. where the money actually goes;
 - ii. what the money achieves;
 - iii. what the money can achieve;
 - iv. the truth about the AA dollar; and,
 - v. recognition for both money and effort.
 - Advisory Action 1991/004 concludes that it is each Group's responsibility to direct the distribution of its funds to the 60-30-10 Plan. This arose from discussion of the proposition that it may be advantageous for GSO to ask all Central/InterGroup Offices to automatically split all contributions 60-30-10.
 - Advisory Action 1991/027 revises the *60-30-10 Plan* pamphlet as a tri-fold pamphlet based on an adaptation of the flyer produced by North Eastern Region Area C.
 - Advisory Action 1992/002 recommends that AA continues to use the word "donation" in our



- literature, reports and receipts, as the tax office requires the word “donation” not “contribution”.
- To encourage Groups to send their donations direct to GSO, Advisory Action 1992/003 agrees that the GSO make available on request prepaid envelopes with its name and address. Direct deposit books are already available for Groups to make their donations through the ANZ Bank to the GSO.
 - Advisory Action 1993/005 asks the Finance Committee to investigate a pamphlet or video on the *60-30-10 Plan* and present the draft plan to Conference 1994.
 - Advisory Action 1994/001 recommends that the draft pamphlet *What Your Donations Are Used For—The 60-30-10 Plan* proceed to the Trustees’ Literature Committee for production with alterations to the illustration as suggested by the Board. The proposed alternative US pamphlet *Self-Support Through Our Own Contributions* was thought to be too confusing.
 - Advisory Action 1995/005 agrees to prepare an article for publication in *AA Around Australia* called “A Simple Approach to Finances”.
 - Advisory Action 1996/001 recommends the proposed pamphlet *It Takes a Few/an Extra Couple of Bucks* include the following wording as a suggestion to be read out at meetings, and be included periodically in *AA Around Australia*:

There is no requirement to give at an AA meeting and we only accept money from AA members. The money you give is not only needed to keep this meeting running by paying rent on the hall and buying the tea and biscuits. AA also needs funds for other parts of AA service to assist AA as a body and carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. The extra money you give tonight will help save people from madness and death.
 - Advisory Action 1996/002 recommends that a letter be drafted saying that Conference has no disagreement with Groups using the pamphlet *It Takes a Few/an Extra Couple of Bucks*.
 - Advisory Action 1996/003 recommends that because Districts currently do not exist in many Areas, the Conference does not think it appropriate that Districts be included at 10% in the general funding structure (60:30:10). Where Districts do operate, Groups may decide to make an appropriate distribution of Group surplus funds to their District before the 60:30:10 distribution.
 - Advisory Action 1999/019 recommends that the current 60:30:10 brochure be revised to show a range of alternatives and that the brochure should state that the final decision is the responsibility of the Group Conscience. Because of this revision, Advisory Action 1999/020 recommends that it is not necessary to include a single sheet lift-out in the existing brochure.
 - Advisory Action 2002/066 changes “60:30:10 Plan” to “Group Donations Plan” in Section 3 of the *Australian AA Service Manual* Chapter “The GSR”.
 - Advisory Action 2003/030 approves production of a video for no charge distribution to Area Delegates for Group education on what to do with surplus funds. The end of the video is to include a flowchart about the utilisation of these surplus funds, e.g. how Groups contribute to CSO, GSO, Area etc. A courtesy letter to be sent to all CSOs informing them of Conference’s decision to produce this video. However, Advisory Action 2004/035 rescinds the decision as the cost of producing this video is not viable and the effect of such a video is not practical in relation to carrying the message.
 - Advisory Action 2014/012 approves production of a video to advise and educate on why we need to be self-supporting and how member contributions are used.
 - Advisory Action 2017/023 resolves that the GSB be requested to research cashless options available and produce an information sheet for groups that wish to become cashless for Conference 2018.
 - Advisory action 2023/022 Conference accepts this topic based on advisory action 2017/023 which resolved that the GSB research cashless options for groups 7th tradition and produce information sheet for groups.
 - Advisory Action 017/2025 Conference resolved for the General Service Board to ensure all references to the “60:30:10” plan are removed from AA service literature, and that the Group Contribution Plan be referenced instead. Further, that the Board make a clear statement that the “60:30:10” plan is not official nor endorsed by the Board, and that group contributions are a matter for each group’s informed group conscience.



3.5 Loans

- 2011 Conference adopts a policy that the GSB seek approval from the Conference Finance Committee for any loans, or series of loans, that amount to more than 5% of the Board's previous year's annual expenses (excluding literature).

3.6 Prudent Reserve

- Advisory Action 1987/027 suggests the target for a prudent reserve for Service Offices be twelve month's running cost.
- Advisory Action 1989/031 adopts a five-year plan for the GSB with the aim of having six month's reserve on hand within that period.
- Advisory Action 1991/005 responds to a request that Conference define the term "prudent reserve" by noting that each Group is autonomous and suggesting:
 - i. General Service Office 6-12 Months
 - ii. Central Service Offices 6-12 Months; and
 - iii. Areas, Districts and Groups 1-3 Months
- Advisory Action 2009/026B stipulates that the formula used to calculate the Prudent Reserve be explained wherever the term appears in AA literature.
- Advisory Action 2010/044 arranges for the Prudent Reserve, along with an explanation of its formula, be included in the Finance Committee section of the Conference Folder.
- Advisory Action 2012/039 resolves to clarify and add the Prudent Reserve calculation to the Composition, Scope & Procedure document of the Conference Finance Committee.



4. General Service Conference

4.1 Advisory actions

- 1981 Conference replaces Minutes by 'Conference Reports' wherein Advisory Actions are numbered from 1982 onwards.
- Advisory Action 1988/011 continues the existing practice of printing Advisory Actions of Conference in the first edition of *AA Around Australia* after Conference.
- Advisory Action 1989/008 establishes that, as each Group is autonomous except in matters that effect other Groups or AA as a whole, Conference Advisory Actions are recommended as guidelines.
- Advisory Action 1990/015 tries to ensure that the wording of Advisory Actions is carefully formulated so as to avoid any confusion or ambiguity that may result in a need for further explanation. (For example, Advisory Action 1989/015 "*That the name of the committee Hospitals & Institutions be changed to the above*" is a confusing statement when studied in isolation.)
- To ensure Conference remains accountable to the Fellowship, Advisory Action 1991/011 arranges for the GSO to summarise follow-up on past Advisory Actions in each Committee Report to Conference.
- Advisory Action 1995/047 approves the flowchart of a Conference Advisory Action for inclusion in the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 1995/050 arranges for Chairs of each Conference Committee to review and approve the final wording of the Advisory Actions.
- Advisory Action 1999/017 asks the GSO to produce past Advisory Actions in booklet form. Advisory Action 2002/071 resolves that the completed document be:
 - i. made available for sale at a price set by the Management Group (but given free to Conference Agenda Committee members);
 - ii. made available electronically free of charge; and,
 - iii. updated annually.
- Advisory Action 2009/005 publishes an Action List going back five years of all incomplete Advisory Actions on www.aaservice.org.au
- Advisory Action 2013/004 makes all previous Advisory Actions available under their own tab on www.aaservice.org.au as well as Conference Topics under their own tab.
- Advisory Action #003/2025 resolved for a Working Group of members with professional experience in project management, to create a user-friendly process for project-managing advisory actions based upon Concept 11 suggestions.
- Advisory Action #020/2025 Conference resolved for the General Service Board to develop a searchable, online platform hosted on members.aa.org.au to record, track, and report on Advisory Actions and General Service Conference Resolutions.

4.2 Conference

- 1962 Conference instructs the Secretary to invite the New Zealand and New Guinea AA bodies to become participants in the Australian Service Conference and that in the event of their agreeing to do so, the name of the Conference be amended to read 'Australasian (sic) Service Conference'.
- 1962 Conference elects Claude F from Victoria as Conference Chairman. Records indicate that Conference elected a Chairman and sometimes Deputies, Secretaries and Treasurers for many of the years until 1980.
- 1962 Conference agrees that in future all correspondence on behalf of the Australian Service Conference be sent and received through the Secretary.
- 1963 Conference asks Delegates to discuss with Groups before voting at the next physical meeting of the Delegates a proposal "that Delegates be elected to represent Areas and not a particular State and that the number of Delegates be increased to adequately cover the Commonwealth".
- 1964 Conference sets out that only Delegates, Alternate Delegates and Observer/Representatives are permitted to attend future Australian Service Conference Delegates' Meetings.



- 1964 Conference agrees that a copy of all correspondence sent to Delegates be forwarded to the CSO of the State in which the Delegate resides.
- 1964 Conference allows the Secretary £25 a year toward expenses incurred, this sum was not to be classified in any way as a payment for services rendered, but purely as assistance in helping defray travelling and other expenses.
- 1965 Conference asks its Secretary to appoint an Assistant Secretary. Conference ratifies the first appointment in 1966 and asks the Secretary to write to all CSOs seeking names for suitable candidates.
- 1966 Conference charges the Secretary with responsibility to arrange a Special Meeting of Representatives (previously Delegates) at Canberra on Sunday August 7, 1966.
- 1966 Conference decides that reimbursement of expenses for journeys made for and on behalf of the Australian Service Conference is to be given to all concerned, irrespective of whether a claim was lodged or not.
- 1969 Conference decides that all Trustees shall have notices given to them of all meetings of Representatives and shall have the right to attend and participate in such meetings with full debating and voting rights.
- 1970 Conference decides to employ a competent stenographer in future to record Minutes.
- 1970 Conference leaves the method of sending mail to the discretion of the Secretary.
- 1971 Conference adopts the Australian Service Conference seal: A circle with triangle with map of Australia in centre and the words "Australian Service Conference" around the outer edge of the triangle, for use on all matters appertaining to the Australian Service Conference, including literature.
- 1973 Conference notes a letter from Mr. E. G. Whitlam, Prime Minister of Australia, stating:
"My very best wishes to all Delegates for a successful 1973 Australian Conference. Your organisations work in combating a serious health and industrial problem is well known to, and appreciated by, my government. I hope your work will continue to benefit the whole Australian community".
- 1973 Conference refers to the appointment of an Assistant Secretary, honorary or otherwise.
- 1973 Conference agrees that future Conferences convene on Good Friday at a time to be decided by the Executive Committee.
- 1973 Conference recommends accommodation and Conference be held under the same roof.
- 1974 Conference declines to decide on separation of Conference from Convention at this time.
- 1976 Conference notes that as the time has now arrived when the Conference is to be conducted at a time separate to the National Convention, it would be of great importance to maintain a link between the Conference and the Convention.
- 1976 Conference agrees that the next annual Conference be conducted in early September 1977 and asks the 1977 Conference to fix a time for annual Conferences within the next three to five months.
- The NSW Service Council made the following late submission to the 1977 Conference:
"That Australian Service Conference Delegates be instructed to move at the Australian Service Conference that the position of Chairman of the Australian Service Conference be rotated bi-annually and that any statement he makes on behalf of AA to the press, radio or television be put in writing and submitted to the Secretary of the Australian Service Conference to ensure that such statements do not conflict with the Traditions of the Fellowship."
- 1979 Conference decides that the Delegates Only meeting no longer be a Conference agenda item.
- 1980 Conference agrees to leave the selection of the Conference Chairperson to the GSB.
- 1980 Conference appoints an Assistant Conference Secretary with a view to them becoming Conference Secretary at the 1981 Conference as a full time staff member of the Australian GSO.
- Advisory Action 1984/010 asks the 1985 Conference to consider holding a structured workshop on one of these suggestions:
 - i. The Inactive Member
 - ii. How are Expenses for Service Workers Met in Your Area?
 - iii. When is it Promotion and not Attraction?
- Advisory Action 1984/012 arranges for all items allocated to Conference committees and Topics as scheduled for Theme/Presentations/Workshops and General Sharing Sessions be made



available for discussion at pre-Conference Assemblies.

- Advisory Action 1984/013 determines that no format is needed for the AA meeting held at Conference.
- Advisory Action 1984/020 asks that the Policy/Admissions Committee, the GSO and the GSB further investigate all the related changes which would be necessary to change the date of Conference and report to the Delegates prior to Conference 1985.
- Advisory Action 1987/005 recommends that the present Conference venue (Cronulla Beach Resort Motor Inn) be booked immediately for Conference 1988, unless an exceptional alternative venue be presented.
- Advisory Action 1987/034 agrees that the Conference Secretary have a paid competent assistant for the duration of Conference.
- Advisory Action 1988/015 agrees, after considering alternatives, that Conference continue to be seated in Sydney and retain the present venue as long as numbers permit.
- Advisory Action 1990/016 considers substituting the word 'Australian' for the word 'General' before our Conference, our Board and our Office, but makes no recommendation and requests the appropriate Trustees' committee examine this item. Advisory Action 1991/041 endorses Advisory Action 1990/016 and asks the Board to examine possible renaming as the Australian Service Conference, the Australian Service Board and the Australian Service Office.
- Advisory Action 1991/058 agrees that the Australian General Service Conference shall continue to be held in Sydney.
- Advisory Action 1992/016 agrees that the Australian General Service Conference continue to be held annually.
- Advisory Action 1993/050 disagrees with the recommendation that in future Conference meet on the third weekend in October but agrees that this be the first item in "AA Takes Its Inventory" at the 1994 Conference 1994.
- Advisory Action 1994/022 refers back to the GSB the responsibility of advising the Agenda Committee about extending the duration of Conference at the half-yearly meetin.
- Advisory Action 1994/037 agrees that the General Service Conference should be held in the second week of November or a date in that vicinity subject to the decision of the Conference Agenda Committee.
- Advisory Action 1995/067 agrees that Conference be held Thursday 7th – Sunday 10th November 1996 at Vaughan College.
- Advisory Action 1997/009 rejects the proposal that the General Service Conference be biennial as of the Year 2000.
- Advisory Action 1998/001 recommends that the 1999 Conference be held over the first weekend in November.
- 2002 Conference resolves that the 2003 General Service Conference be held from Thursday 6th – Sunday 9th November at the Sydney Quarantine Station Conference Centre.
- Advisory Action 2002/085 resolves that, as well as reading the Twelve Traditions, Conference reads the Twelve Concepts at the beginning of Conference.
- Advisory Action 2003/052 resolves to hold Conference Thursday 4th – Sunday 7th November 2004 at the Quarantine Station Conference Centre.
- Advisory Action 2004/042 resolves that Conference 2005 be held from Thursday 3rd – Sunday 6th November 2005 at the Quarantine Station Conference Centre.
- Advisory Action 2005/048 arranges (17/9/3) for the Conference Folder to be marked 'Confidential' on the cover with a note inside explaining that it contains members' full names and addresses.
- Advisory Action 2006/042 notes (31/1/0) that it may be cost prohibitive to hold Conference in Sydney now that the Quarantine Station is no longer available.
- Because of concerns over venue costs, Advisory Action 2009/027 rescinds Advisory 1991/058 which stipulated that Conference was to be held in Sydney.
- Advisory Action 2011/053 circulates the following statement so that all members can share in the principles of recovery, unity and service that Conference embodies. This message "summarises Conference's commitment to the long term health of our Fellowship":
 - The 2011 General Service Conference affirms that:
 - i. It appreciates that all AA members share a great passion for our Fellowship;
 - ii. It has a duty to support all members and Groups across Australia. It operates according to a body of principles and relationships by which AA can function as



- a whole. This may require it to express a view on vital AA policy matters or on any hazardous deviation from AA Traditions;
- iii. AA Groups are autonomous and the primary source of authority for the Fellowship. Accordingly, Groups can decide to which AA service entity they donate member contributions;
 - iv. It is the guardian of AA world services for Australia and accepts its custodianship of the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions and its obligation to assist in carrying the message in Asia and Oceania;
 - v. Separate General Service and Central Service structures are essential to carry the message in Australia;
 - vi. The most effective way to carry out the function of Conference is through a single GSO;
 - vii. The GSB is empowered to act on its own responsibility, within the provisions of its own charter and by-laws;
 - viii. Carrying the AA message in Australia is substantially funded from profits made from the sale of AA literature. This requires the GSB to hold the Australian copyright, protect AA trademarks, approve, publish and supply AA literature to members and the public;
 - ix. The existing AA public liability insurance continues to protect group office bearers against being sued in the event that damage occurs at a meeting. A single national public liability policy reduces the risk of that insurance cover becoming the subject of dispute;
 - x. It understands that Conference is not a seat of power but needs to act in the best interests of all members attending the 1,938 AA meetings listed on the AA website;
 - xi. Any issue that significantly affects the Australian Fellowship must in future receive at least a two-thirds majority vote at Conference; and
 - xii. It will do everything possible to avoid any punitive action on members or create public controversy.
- Advisory Action 2012/044 adds, by a show of hands, the following paragraph to the Guide for Conference Chairpersons in the Conference folder:
The Chairperson may choose to start a session with a moments silence and/or The Serenity Prayer .
 - Advisory Action 2012/052 requests the Conference Agenda Committee produce a Conference Etiquette Statement for ratification by Conference prior to 2013 Conference.
 - Advisory Action 2012/054 substitutes 'Chairperson' for all references to 'Chairman' in all Conference documents.
 - 2012 Conference decides (25/3/5) not to change the date of the Australian General Service Conference (in favour of the World Service Meeting), as to do so would cause disruption with no identifiable benefits to the Australian Fellowship.
 - Advisory Action 2014/024 rejects (23/10/0) that the Conference be held every two years.
 - Advisory Action 2014/044 resolves (29/4/0) to change point 10 of the Conference Etiquette Statement to read, "please take responsibility for your position as a Conference attendee by not unduly campaigning for or against a topic or applicant during Conference"
 - Advisory Action 2014/045 resolves to approve the Conference Etiquette Statement.
 - Advisory Action 2014/046 resolves that in the future the Chairperson of the GSB open the Conference with an "Acknowledgement of Country Statement".
 - Conference rejects (16/11/3) Topic 2015/020 to rescind Advisory Action 2014/046 as it against the Traditions of AA.
 - Conference rejects the Conference Policies and Admissions Committee recommendation Topic 2015/013 (4/26/0) that when an inaccurate/false/defamatory statement about the GSB, GSO, or General Service Conference is published by an individual member or AA entity, this misinformation be immediately corrected by a statement from the GSB.
 - 2022 Conference resolves 2022/042 pre-Conference committee meetings be held virtually and that the main Conference be held physically for 2023.
 - 2022 Conference resolved 2022/043 after each conference committee meeting is held in October, the draft report prepared by the committee coordinator is reviewed for accuracy and approved by the Committee Chair and/or the Trustee member of the committee before it is circulated to all Conference members or added to the Conference folder.



- Conference resolved to accept the conference steering committee's recommendation that the 66th Australian General Service Conference be held from the 2nd- 3rd of November, 2024. These dates have since been revised so that the 2024 Conference will now be held from the 9th- 10th of November, 2024.
- Conference 2025 ratified the recommendation for the Conference Steering Committee that the Conference Secretary role remain unchanged until after the completion of Conference 2026, and that a proper method for selecting a Conference Secretary be established, ideally after consideration by the fellowship via the topic process.

4.3 Conference committees

- 1976 Conference appoints a sub-committee to find ways and means to improve communications in the AA Fellowship and so help to carry our message to the sick alcoholic unable to understand the English language.
- 1980 Conference resolves to locate Standing Committees in various Regions as follows:
 - i. PI&CPC - Eastern
 - ii. Finance - Southern
 - iii. Literature - North Eastern
 - iv. Institutions - Central & Western.
- 1981 Conference recommends that Chairpersons of Conference Standing Committees be chosen from first term Delegates.
- Advisory Action 1988/007 allocates Central Service Representatives attending conference to Conference Committees in the same manner as Conference Delegates.
- Advisory Action 1984/017 gives a Conference Committee the power to co-opt, as non voting members, primarily within the Fellowship, persons with special interest, expertise and/or experience to help them complete their work.
- In view of the rotation of some members, Advisory Action 1990/012 agrees that an ongoing Conference Select Committee on Third Legacy Structure comprise the Southern Regional Trustee (Chair), North Eastern Region Trustee (Vice Chair), Central Region Area A and North East Region Area B Delegates, and one CSO representative from both Croydon and Richmond.
- Advisory Action 1992/047 agrees that when submitting recommendations or proposing motions, Committee Reports to Conference should not rely on references to other items (unless attached, where practical).
- Advisory Action 1992/048 agrees that recommendations to Conference shall nominate who will carry out any required actions.
- Advisory Action 1993/047 recommends that all Committees give reasons for their recommendations.
- Advisory Action 1995/078 asks the Board to choose the Delegates for Conference Committees for this one year. Existing elected Chairpersons to stay as elected.
- To allow each committee more time to conduct its business, Advisory Action 2001/051 reallocates Committee members so that Conference Committees can meet concurrently.
- Advisory Action 2001/017 resolves that Delegates should Chair only one Conference committee.
- Advisory Action 2001/052 arranges that committee meetings finish at 6.30pm on Friday night, giving staff more time to prepare reports.
- Advisory Action 2006/028 returns to the Board a proposal to restructure the current Literature, PI&CPC and T&CF Committees to Internal Communication, External Communications and Resources Committees.
- Advisory Action 2012/051 includes (32/0/0) the following statement in the Composition Scope and Procedure documents for all Conference Committees:

Notwithstanding the existing Composition considerations, to ensure a reasonably equitable distribution of Committee responsibilities, the allocation process also takes into consideration the need to provide all Conference members the opportunity of sitting on a minimum of three Conference Committees.
- Floor Action 2013/041 resolves that all Conference Committees should change their Composition, Scope & Procedure documents so that all Conference members have equal participation rights in keeping with Concept IV.
- Conference rejects the Conference Policies and Admission Committee's recommendation that

- Advisory Action 2013/041 be rescinded.
- Advisory Action 2018/038 resolved that all Conference Committee Competition, Scope and Procedure documents be altered to replace “General Service Office Manager” with “A General Service Office Staff Member”.
 - Advisory Action 2018/040 resolved to support decision to change point (h) of their Composition, Scope and Procedure document to read: “That the budget prepared by the GSB be based on large matters of general funding of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia”.
 - 2019 Conference rejects proposal 2019/005 to rescind advisory action 2013/041 which gives non-Area Delegates members of Conference Committees the right to vote in committee meetings
 - 2021 Conference rejects topic 2020/005 the proposal to reduce the number of Conference Committees.
 - Advisory action 2022/018 Conference resolved to accept that a new Conference Committee “The Technology & Social Media Committee” should be formed.
 - 2022 Conference accepts request 2022/035 be requested to formulate a proposal to combine Conference Committees, referencing Advisory Action 001/2021, by 31st March 2023 and that an online meeting of the General Service Conference be convened in May 2023 to discuss and vote on the proposal.
 - 2022 Conference accepts 2022/040 recommendation that Advisory Action #017/2001 (that delegates should hold the Chairman’s position of one Conference committee only) be rescinded or reworded, as it is not currently workable.

4.3.1 Finance Committee

- 1966 Conference asks the Representatives and the Trustee from each State delegation to form an Australian Service Conference Finance sub-committee to operate in its own State.
- 1970 Conference forms a Finance sub-committee to explore and utilise any viable means of raising money. Victoria to carry out the work of the AA Information and Finance sub-committee. This Committee raises four points
 - i. an itinerary for the remainder of Dr. Bill Spence’s visits to the various States;
 - ii. The News Digest;
 - iii. financial year; and
 - iv. a Registration Fee.
- 1977 Conference appoints a Conference Standing Committee on Finance.
- Advisory Action 1983/025 asks that the Committee for Finance consist of a Delegate from each Region, when possible.

4.3.2 International Committee

- Advisory Action 1998/007 forms a Conference International Committee to parallel the existing Trustees’ International Committee.
- Advisory Action 1999/026 accepts the new Composition, Scope and Procedure Document for the Conference International Committee.

4.3.3 Committees: Literature Committee

- 1970 Conference sets up a Literature sub-committee to examine and approve or reject literature to be published or used in Australia.
- 1972 Conference disbands the Literature sub-committee and forms an Australian Service Conference Standing Committee on Literature, including the Secretary to the Australian Service Conference and the Secretary of AA Publishing Pty Ltd. The committee has the power to co-opt when necessary.
- 1977 Conference appoints a Literature Standing Committee.
- 1980 Conference situates the Standing Committee on Literature in the North-Eastern Region.

4.3.4 Policies & Admissions Committee

- 1976 Conference agrees that Area formation will evolve but that this will eventually be a function of a Policy and Admissions Committee.

- Advisory Action 1982/021 forms a sub-committee to study Policy and Admissions and report procedure to Conference 1983. The Board to select an interim chairman.
- Advisory Action 1983/010 confirms that the Scope of this committee in relation to the Policy function is in accordance with the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 1983/009 adds a Delegate from the North-Eastern Region as soon as practicable.
- Advisory Action 1984/019 arranges for the Committee to select the Delegate chairperson and alternate Delegate chairperson by drawing two names from a hat containing the names of the first term Delegates.
- Advisory Action 1985/006 declares that the Committee remains the Policy/Admissions Committee and not take on the title of Policy/Admissions and Finance (finance for Conference only) as it is felt that this committee is not big enough to handle finance.
- Advisory Action 1995/015 selects members of the Committee by lot geographically, with consideration given to balance between first, second and third year Delegates to provide for continuity.

4.3.5 Public Information Committee

- 1977 Conference appoints a Public Information Standing Committee.
- Advisory Action 1983/038 asks the PI&CPC committee to maintain regular quarterly communication with all Area committees to keep lines of communication flowing regarding progress of and action on PI&CPC activities.
- Advisory Action 1994/011 agrees that all information received by GSO on PI matters be forwarded to the PI Committee coordinator who will send it to committee members. Committee members should meet three times each year by mail and/or by telephone. GSO to forward Committee decisions to Delegates.

4.3.6 Remote Communities Committee

- Advisory Action 2013/033 includes the following definition in the Committee's Composition, Scope & Procedure document:
Remote Communities are defined as those separated from the programme of Alcoholics Anonymous by language, geography, culture, impairment of sight, hearing, mental health and other permanent or temporary disabilities.
- Advisory Action 2013/033 agrees to amend the Committee's Composition, Scope & Procedure document to give voting rights to the Chair of the Trustees' Remote Communities Committee, the National Office (sic) Manager and a World Service Delegate.

4.3.7 Report, Charter & Service Manual Committee

- 1970 Conference changes the name of the [unrecorded] sub-committee to the Australian AA Service Manual Committee.
- Advisory Action 1993/057 establishes the Conference Report, Charter and Australian AA Service Manual Committee. Advisory Action 1993/059 notes that this Committee will make its own submission of a draft Composition, Scope and Procedure document at Conference 1994.
- Advisory Action 1993/058 recommends that the composition of this Committee comprise:
 - i. One Delegate from each Region with the exception of the Eastern Region (each Region to notify their nomination to the Conference Coordinator);
 - ii. One General Service Trustee; and,
 - iii. Conference Coordinator as Secretary.
- Advisory Action 1995/049 alters the composition of the Conference Report Charter and Service Manual Committee's to one Eastern Regional Trustee and one other Trustee.
- Advisory Action 1994/015 arranges for the Report, Charter & Service Manual Committee to conduct business by mail and monthly telephone conference initially and thereafter as required. The cost of these conferences to be born by GSO.
- Advisory Action 1995/062 endorses four Delegates to serve on the Conference Report Charter and Service Manual Committee at next Conference.
- 1997 Conference accepted nominations from North-Eastern, Southern and Western Regions to rotate on to the Report Charter & Service Manual Committee.



4.3.8 Treatment & Correctional Facilities Committee (T&CF)

- Advisory Action 1984/030 changes the Committee's name to "Hospitals & Institutions Committee" because it gives a clearer definition of its scope.
- Advisory Action 1989/015 changes the name of this Committee back to "Treatment & Correctional Facilities".
- Advisory Action 1994/012 agrees that the members of the Conference T&CF Committee keep in contact by letter on a quarterly basis (February, May, August and November) to discuss activities in the Committee, to promote unity and enhance communication.
- To provide specific focus, Advisory Action 2012/028 splits (31/1/0) the Conference T&CF Committee into two separate committees: Conference Treatment Facilities Committee and, Conference Correctional Facilities Committee.
- Advisory Action 2013/028 changes the Committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure document to permit any World Service Delegate attending the Committee meeting to vote.

4.3.9 Trustees Committee

- Advisory Action 1995/024 establishes the Conference Committee on Trustees and accepts the recommended Composition, Scope and Procedure Document as amended.
- Advisory Action 1998/024 asks Kevin H to liaise with John H to formulate a new Composition, Scope and Procedure document for the Conference Committee on Trustees.

4.4 Conference Constitution (pre-1970)

- 1962 Conference submits the following amendments to the Australian Service Conference Constitution for formal approval in 21 days:
 - i. That the word 'Representative' be altered to read 'Delegate';
 - ii. in the case of a non-Delegate secretary being elected, he/she will have full discussion and debating rights but not be entitled to vote;
 - iii. election of Delegates will be held in June each year and current Delegates' term of service be extended to June.
- 1963 Conference amends its constitution to read "non receipt of advice from a Delegate on a voting matter shall be deemed to be a vote in the affirmative".
- 1963 Conference receives a Notice of Motion for decision at the next physical meeting of Delegates:

That provision be made in the Constitution for the early appointment of a Board of Trustees to act as the controlling (sic) body of the ASC, thereby bringing the Australian Service Conference into line with USA scheme of Service Conference.
- In view of the "inadequacies of the present Constitution", 1964 Conference invites Jack W (NSW) to chair a Constitution Committee and gives him the power to co-opt whomever he feels could assist. The draft Constitution is to be submitted to every Delegate and State Council or Committee for perusal and suggested amendment or for acceptance or rejection and that the draft Constitution be then referred back to the Committee for final drafting. Full Conference must approve the final draft. Conference also suggests the draft include an addition "that State Councils or Committees may be represented at all Australian Service Conference meetings by a representative who will have debating privileges but will not permitted to vote" and that future amendments to the Constitution have to be submitted to the representative Central Service Committees or Councils and their attendant Delegate bodies with not less that 21 days notice.
- 1966 Conference notes that all the suggested amendments to the draft Constitution submitted by the States had been incorporated where the majority of the States were in favour of such amendments. Each Clause was voted upon and some amended. The Trustees' Clause was challenged and amendments suggested. Considerable discussion ensued followed by a nine-all deadlock whether non-AA Trustees should be permitted. The Chairman used his prerogative and exercised his casting vote in favour of AA Trustees only. Conference thus accepts and adopts the draft Constitution as amended by this meeting as the effective Constitution of the Australian AA Service Conference with the proviso that it be completely reviewed in three year's time.
- 1967 Conference defers printing of the Constitution until such time as the Australian Service Conference is able to afford the outlay without putting stress on finances and that the job should



be carried out by AA Publishing Pty Ltd and the Constitution be sold through AA channels.

- 1968 Conference adds to its Constitution:
All Secretaries of Central Service Offices or Areas as set out in Clause 3 hereof shall have notice given them of all meetings of the Representatives and shall have the right to attend such meetings with debating and voting rights.
- 1969 Conference amends its Constitution as follows: 'That three non-alcoholic Trustees be appointed when suitable persons are found to be able and willing to act.'
- As 1970 Conference starts discussion on Memorandum & Articles of Association and the *Australian AA Service Manual*, there are no further amendments to the Australian Service Conference Constitution.

4.5 Conference Delegates

- 1966 Conference charged the Secretary with the responsibility of arranging for the Special Meeting of Representatives (previously Delegates) at Canberra on Sunday August 7, 1966.
- Advisory Action 1997/001 notes that Area Delegates and Alternate Delegates have the responsibility to pass information on to their Area that they receive from Council's Executive whilst the term 'bogus body' (which refers to the Australian General Service Conference), remains part of the Council's thinking by remaining in its Minutes.
- 2009 Conference rejects topic 2009/023 (19/12/2) recommendation from the Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee that, like a DCM, a Delegate be asked to resign if they find they cannot assume or fulfil the responsibilities of the role.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal that Delegates serve on Trustee Committees.
- Advisory Action 2015/012 resolves that the Conference Report Charter & Service Manual Committee be asked to review the Area Delegate section of the Service Manual with regard to when a Delegate is not carrying out his/her duties.
- Conference rejects topics 2017/010 (20/6/2) and 2017/011 (21/6/1) as it is clearly covered in page 61 of the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- 2022 conference rejects the proposal 2022/014 to have elect a previous but not retiring delegate to serve again if unable to field a delegate.

4.6 Conference Delegate Majority

- Advisory Action 1997/007 acknowledges the necessity for progress to be made towards the Delegates' votes being capable of achieving not less than two-thirds of the eligible votes on any Conference Topic or Motion.
- Consistent with the Concepts, Advisory Action 1999/028 recommends that the Board consider redressing the non-achievement of the 2:1 ratio (two-thirds majority) of Delegates to other voters at the General Service Conference.
- Advisory Action 2000/039 resolves that, to improve the Delegate/non-Delegate balance at Conference, immediate action be taken to further encourage the development of the service structure. Conference asks the chairperson of the Policies & Admissions Committee, with assistance from GSO, to coordinate a sub-committee of Delegates to develop an action plan for implementation.
- Advisory Action 2001/059 distributes the amended action plan prepared by the sub-committee of the Policies & Admissions Committee via *AA Around Australia*.
- Advisory Action 2009/008 asks the GSB to bring back recommendations for consideration by the Policies & Admissions Committee in 2010 regarding the importance of Delegates having a two-thirds majority at Conference.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal that the GSB and GSO reduce the number of voting members they send to Conference so that Delegates hold a two-thirds majority.
- On the grounds that the suggested solutions were imperfect and could create disunity at Conference, 2011 Conference rejects two Topics (2/31/0 & 0/33/0) that would have increased the Delegate votes to more than two-thirds.
- 2012 Conference rejects (14/18/1) the recommendation of the Conference Committee on Trustees that World Service Delegates be elected from the pool of first or second year (in the case of Class A Trustees) GSB Trustees. Having currently serving Trustees as World Service Delegates would give back two votes towards the Delegate majority at Conference and would



also reduce costs.

- 2024 Conference rejects topic #2024/007 to remove Conference voting rights from World Service Delegates as a means of narrowing the gap towards 2/3 Delegate voting majority.
- 2024 Conference resolves to accept topic #2024/004 to reduce the number of Class A Trustees for four (4) to two (2), changes to service documents and literature to follow.

4.7 Conference Delegate Terms

- 1976 Conference institutes a two-year term for Conference Delegates who will rotate by panels elected in odd and even years.
- Advisory Action 1987/006 increases Delegates' term of office to three years.
- Advisory Action 1987/007 suggests the election of Delegates take place in October/November with Delegates and Alternates taking office from March 1 of the following year. This will allow outgoing Delegates to familiarise incoming Delegates with their duties and Areas to notify the Conference Secretary of all relevant details immediately.
- Advisory Action 1988/012 retains the three-year term for Conference Delegates.
- Advisory Action 1989/007 determines that the maximum term a Delegate may serve is three years.
- Advisory Action 1990/020 recommends that a Delegate/Alternate Delegate may attend up to a maximum of six Conferences, but it is recommended that a maximum of four is observed, any previous attendances being referred to the trustees.
- Advisory Action 1991/056 asks Delegates to once again refer the issue of whether Delegates should serve for a two or three year term to the Groups in their Areas.
- Advisory Action 1992/050 agrees that Delegates' Terms be three years.
- Advisory Action 1993/015 recommends that the Delegate's term of office be three years. It was further recommended that the *Australian AA Service Manual* be amended accordingly.
- Advisory Action 1995/025 agrees that the maximum number of Conference Meetings any member can attend as an Area Delegate and/or Alternate Area Delegate will be four Conference Meetings. If an Area Delegate cannot attend the full three years, the Alternate Delegate will:
 - i. if before the 1st Conference Meeting, serve for three years as Area Delegate;
 - ii. if before the 2nd Conference Meeting, serves for two years only as Area Delegate;
 - iii. if before the 3rd Conference Meeting, serves for one year and is subject to the Area Assembly voting by Third Legacy procedure for the next term of three years as Area Delegate;
 - iv. if in iii) above the Member is not elected as Area Delegate, then the one year served as Alternate Delegate will not count towards any future serving of the Fellowship at Conference and the above principles will still apply; and,
 - v. if either i) or ii) above occurs, then this member will not be allowed to be seated at any future Conference as an Area Delegate or Alternate Area Delegate.
- Advisory Action 1995/058 recommends that the Alternate Delegate's term be changed to three years in line with the Delegate.
- Advisory Action 2004/013B resolves to consult the Fellowship about a three-year term being used for all Area positions.
- 2006 Conference rejects (5/28/0) two-year terms for Delegates even though that period aligned with the terms of other Area officials.
- 2009 Conference rejects (9/23/1) a proposal that Delegate terms be reduced to two years.
- To align with Trustees, Advisory Action 2010/022 stipulates that Delegates who do not complete their term cannot nominate at a later date.
- Advisory Action 2010/023 sets Delegate terms up to a maximum of three years.
- 2011 Conference rejects (11/21/1) a proposal that Delegates serve four years.
- Advisory Action 2014/024 rejects (32/1/0) extending the Area Delegates term to four years.
- 2023 Conference rejects topic 2023/021 that conference delegates 3-year term be reduced back to a 2-year term

4.8 Conference Expenses & Cost Equalisation Levy

- 1966 Conference asks each representative attending this meeting to make a token payment of



\$5 toward the cost of attendance and that the matter of reimbursement of part thereof, be decided at each ensuing meeting of Conference. 1967 and 1968 Conference also ask each representative to make a token payment of \$5.

- 1966 Conference accepts the Petty Cash account, reimburses \$34 to the Secretary and advances a further \$50 which may be supplemented as and when required.
- 1967 Conference reimburses \$4.43 to the Secretary and makes a further advance of \$50. An honorarium of \$50 is allocated to the Secretary. 1968, 1969 and 1970 Conferences continue the \$50 honorarium and provide \$50 to the Secretary for petty cash.
- 1969 Conference grants a payment of \$20 to each representative attending Conference (except those from the host State) toward reimbursement of expenses.
- 1970 Conference includes the Chairman and Secretary of AA Publishing Pty Ltd in the expense list.
- 1970 Conference advances \$200 to Tasmania towards holding the next Conference.
- 1970 Conference receives a cheque for \$475 and the report of AA Publishing Pty Ltd. The Chairman AA Publishing explained that the company wished to disburse its profit to the Australian Service Conference and would the Australian Service Conference raise a cheque for \$450 in return which would be treated as a loan from the Australian Service Conference.
- 1970 Conference leaves the payment to Minute Secretaries in the hands of the Deputy Chairman and the Secretary to fix the amount. 1971 Conference pays \$30 to the Minute Secretary.
- 1970 Conference pays \$25 to each Delegate, except those from the host State.
- 1971 Conference pays \$25 to Conference members if and when finance is available.
- 1972 Conference pays \$25 expenses to Conference members.
- 1972 Conference approves the principle of paid assistance being shared by the Australian Service Conference and AA Publishing.
- 1973 Conference agrees to pay the total expenses of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, excepting on such occasions when any of these executives reside in the host State. Representatives' expenses are increased from \$25 to \$30. Dr. Spence is paid \$30 to cover expenses at this Convention. The Secretary's increased honorarium of \$100 and Conference members' expenses of \$30 each are paid when funds are available. (Honorarium to be paid first.)
- 1976 Conference agrees that the ideal situation is for Areas to fund their Delegate's expenses to attend conference. Conference resolves that the GSO institute a national equalisation fund as soon as possible to evenly distribute the costs.
- 1980 Conference asks the Board, through its GSO, to initiate a system of centrally administered proportional subsidisation of Delegates' and Trustees' fares.
- 1981 Conference adopts the Board's suggested cost equalisation for Conference and Board Meetings and asks all Areas to endeavour to share the responsibility for paying the airfares of Trustees to Conference and to Board Meetings.
- Advisory Action 1982/027 arranges to forward a covering note and account for equalised travel expenses to all Areas on a quarterly basis.
- Advisory Action 1984/038 extends the Fare Equalisation Scheme to include all Conference expenses and Areas be notified after each Conference of their next year's financial responsibilities. Area payments to be forwarded to GSO no later than four weeks prior to Conference.
- Advisory Action 1984/039 leaves the registration fee for Conference 1985 to GSO.
- Advisory Action 1985/007 defers to Conference 1986 further discussion on whether an Area not contributing to the current Conference/Board Equalisation Scheme can be seated at Conference.
- Advisory Action 1985/008 asks Delegates attending Conference to encourage members in their Areas to contribute to the Conference/Board Equalisation Scheme.
- Advisory Action 1985/027 extends the Fare Equalisation Scheme to cover the accommodation and meals of Conference members.
- Advisory Action 1986/014 decides that an Area not contributing to the current Cost Equalisation Scheme cannot be seated at Conference, but that an Area experiencing difficulties may be given special consideration. However, Advisory Action 1987/003 defers any decision regarding an Area not fully contributing to Cost Equalisation being excluded from Conference. In the interim, a criterion to be formulated as to who shall be seated and what constitutes a viable



Area and submitted to Conference 1988. Advisory Action 1988/010 decides that it is a privilege to be seated at Conference – not a right – therefore an Area not meeting their commitment to Cost Equalisation should not be seated at Conference.

- Advisory Action 1986/040 keeps the Cost Equalisation format as it is and asks Areas to accept the financial responsibility for their Trustees attending Board meetings.
- Advisory Action 1987/004 keeps an Area's Cost Equalisation at \$800 for 1988 and then increased by CPI at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.
- Advisory Action 1988/037 splits payment of Cost Equalisation into four quarterly equal payments to be made on the first day of February, May, August and November.
- Advisory Action 1988/038 pays expenses not exceeding the airfare to Delegates and Trustees travelling to and from Board Meetings and Conference. When a Delegate chooses to make their own arrangements they will be paid on showing receipts for petrol and reasonable accommodation expenses.
- Advisory Action 1989/009 increases the Cost Equalisation from Areas to \$354 per quarter. This encompasses both Board Meetings and Conference.
- Advisory Action 1990/021 confirms that the Cost Equalisation Scheme should continue to be tied to the CPI and that the Policy/Admissions Committee should continue to minimise costs incurred by Areas, since it is essential that as many Areas as possible participate at the Conference. To this end GSO should continue to examine alternative Conference venues of a standard similar to the present one, with a view to obtaining more favourable financial terms.
- Advisory Action 1990/037 increases the Cost Equalisation Plan by 8.6% to \$384 per quarter per member (sic) commencing November 1, 1990.
- Advisory Action 1993/002 asks that the Topic 'Cost Equalisation' be represented with additional information to Conference 1994.
- Advisory Action 1994/002 recommends that the present Conference and Board Funding Levies remain in their present form as they are meeting current needs. Any change would affect the delicate balance of the distribution of the "60-30-10 Plan".
- Advisory Action 1995/017 recommends that the word 'Levy' be deleted from Conference language and that the term 'Conference and Board Cost Equalisation Plan' be used in referring to Area's responsibility to help fund Conference and Board expenses. However, Advisory Action 1996/004 recommends that Advisory Action 1995/017 be overturned and that Conference continue to refer to the Conference and Board cost equalisation plan as 'Levy'.
- Advisory Action 1996/014 seats the following Areas at Conference although they have outstanding Conference Levies: Eastern Region Areas B, D, E & F; Southern Region Area D.
- Advisory Action 1996/015 re-affirms the previous Conference decision that an Area Delegate will not be seated at Conference unless the full levy payment has been received.
- Advisory Action 1996/016 endorses the Policies and Admissions Committee's recommendation that the Conference Coordinator send out Statements to Area Treasurers and Area Delegates prior to the Conference.
- Advisory Action 1996/017 disagrees with the proposal that CSOs who wish to be seated at Conference pay the same amount (i.e. \$1,640pa) as an Area pays for their Delegate to be seated at Conference.
- Advisory Action 1996/025 recommends that the Cost Equalisation Levy be adjusted by the annual CPI figure at the September quarter and any adjustment to apply from 1 January the following year.
- Advisory Action 2000/032 asks GSO to prepare for next year a breakdown of conference costs by Area/Region, comparing airfares, travel, accommodation and other costs to levy payments made.
- Advisory Action 2001/054 increases Conference levies by the September 2001 CPI, that a further increase of 10% be made to this figure and that levies be CPI adjusted annually. Conference supports the principle of levies covering the costs of Conference and Board meetings, but that to increase levies to cover all costs would disadvantage some Areas.
- Advisory Action 2007/015 gives the GSO Management Group (31/1/0) the discretion to provide funding to any Areas not able to fully meet their levy.
- Advisory Action 2007/016 asks (27/3/1) the GSB to produce a guideline on how Areas can encourage Groups to participate but leaves the Conference Cost Equalisation Levy system unchanged.
- Advisory Action 2008/031 resolves by a show of hands that Conference Levies will only pay for



- accommodation and organised meals for members of Conference.
- Advisory Action 2012/031 forms (31/2/0) a sub-committee of Conference Finance Committee to identify potential cost savings at Conference and ways of increasing revenue.
- Advisory Action 2014/024 asks (32/1/0) a special committee consisting of Trustees and Area Delegates to report to Conference 2015 on financial processes of Conference.
- Conference rejects (carried by show of hands) Topic 2016/015 to abolish the Cost Equalisation Scheme.
- 2024 Conference confirms Advisory Action #2024/003 to create a Cost Equalisation Guideline to ensure that expenses of Conference and Board meetings are fairly divided amount Areas in a clear, consistent and equitable way.
- 2025 Conference confirms that the Board meeting costs do not form part of the Conference Levy, reversing the decision of 2024 Conference.

4.9 Conference Folder & Report

- 1962 Conference instructs the Secretary to use only first names and last name initials in future reports and correspondence.
- 1974 Conference makes available to any Group, on request, the short form of Conference Minutes, as proposed by the incoming Secretary.
- Advisory Action 1982/006 decides that a large mailing of Conference minutes to each Group registered with the GSO is not warranted because these minutes are always available to any member who makes a request for them.
- Advisory Action 1991/009 recommends that all Finance Accounts in the Australian General Service Conference Report must be legible.
- Advisory Action 1992/018 agrees that the ratio of votes carried or lost at Conference be recorded, including abstentions, starting from this point in the Conference.
- Advisory Action 1993/062 recommends that:
 - i. a bound copy of the 1993 Conference Report be available for \$10;
 - ii. the Advisory Actions be printed in *AA Around Australia* as soon as possible; and,
 - iii. GSO make available to individual members of AA a photocopy of the 1993 Conference Report for the cost of postage.
- Advisory Action 1995/080 recommends that an unbound Conference Report be available.
- Advisory Action 1996/033 recommends that future Conference folders include:
 - i. a brief resume on each Trustee (Class A and B);
 - ii. a brief report (200 words) from each Delegate on the activities of his Area in the past year; and,
 - iii. the following additional information about Delegates: age; length of sobriety; length of service; and, email address.
- Advisory Action 1996/034 recommends that:
 - i. each Conference member receive a free Conference Report;
 - ii. each Alternate Delegate or Area Secretary receive a free report; and,
 - iii. any additional reports be supplied at cost, including postage.
- Advisory Action 2004/026 approves the proposed change to the Conference Charter, but that the second sentence of the last paragraph be altered to read:

The Conference at the close of each yearly session will draft a full report of its proceedings, to be supplied free of charge to all Conference members and made available for purchase to any AA member or Group.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to post Conference decisions and reasons on the website within two weeks of Conference [i.e. the current four weeks stands].
- Advisory Action 2010/001 makes (25/5/0) an electronic version (without personal information) of the Conference Report available to members.
- Advisory Action 2013/008 arranges to publish (28/0/1) the Audit Report for that year's Convention in the Conference Report each year.
- Advisory Action 2016/020 resolves (17/13/1) that questions and answers from the Ask It Basket at Conference be noted in the Conference Report.
- Advisory Action 2016/057 resolves (28/2/0) that Advisory Action 2010/001 be rescinded and a form be designed and sent to all delegates asking them what personal details (address, phone, email) they wish to be included in the folder. If the completed form is not sent back to GSO, the



email address only will be published.

4.10 Conference Inventory

- Advisory Action 1984/014 arranges to send copies of the Conference Evaluation Questionnaire, as compiled by the Conference Secretary, to the Conference Agenda Committee and the Trustees Conference Committee for their consideration.
- Advisory Action 1993/013 referred the proposal entitled “AA – A Vision for the year 2000 and Beyond” to the Agenda Committee for allocation to the appropriate Committee for Conference 1994.
- Advisory Action 1994/031 allows a General Service Trustee, Trevor H, to analyse tape recordings of the presentation “AA Takes Its Inventory”, the question and answer session after, together with the session “How Do We Attract More Groups into the General Service Structure?”.
- Advisory Action 1994/032 adopts the following Reports presented by Trevor H (General Service Trustee) and refers them to various Conference Committees, Trustees’ Committees and the Fellowship as a whole:
 - i. AA Takes Its Inventory
 - ii. Vision for AA in the Year 2000
 - iii. GSO in 1995.
- Advisory Action 2010/034 forms (30/0/0) a Committee of Delegates, Trustees and NOAA staff to plan for taking inventory at the 2011 Conference.
- Advisory Action 2011/059 asks the Conference Inventory Committee to arrange the following for the 2012 conference:
 - i. checklists for personal inventory;
 - ii. Conference feedback sheets; and,
 - iii. a standing agenda slot for face-to-face discussion on the Conference Inventory.
- Advisory action 2022/013 Conference resolved to accept that a decision regarding a General Service Conference Inventory be postponed until 2024.

4.11 Conference Members & Voting Rights

- 1964 Conference determines that the appointed Trustees have debating and voting rights but shall not be permitted to hold office.
- 1964 Conference initially decides to elect the incoming Conference Chairman and Treasurer by correspondence after the June 1964 election of Delegates. It then set this aside in favour of an election when the Delegates are physically seated at the next meeting of Delegates in April 1965 in Brisbane.
- 1965 Conference decides that when voting is announced it will name any Delegates who fail to vote.
- 1969 Conference decides that:
 - i. the chairman of the publishing company should be given notice of physical meetings of the Australian Service Conference and accorded debating and voting rights;
 - ii. all Trustees shall have notices given to them of all meetings of Representatives and shall have the right to attend and participate with full debating and voting rights; and,
 - iii. no representative and/or proxy representative nor trustee shall be entitled to represent more than one Group or designated body at any physical meeting of the Australian Service Conference.
- 1970 Conference forms a sub-committee to prepare drafts of a Third Legacy Procedure. Queensland will prepare the draft and present this for review at the next Conference.
- 1970 Conference decides that the Chairman of AA Publishing Pty Ltd could still be seated at Conference with full debating rights but no longer vote.
- 1970 Conference grants full participation rights, including debating and voting at all physical meetings of Conference, to two elected Delegates and/or future elected Delegates to the World Service Meeting representing Australia.
- 1972 Conference decides that the members attending Conference session be termed



- 'Delegates' in all subsequent drafts of the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- 1974 Conference agrees that:
 - i. the Area Office Secretary of the ACT AA Office be seated at this Conference;
 - ii. that members of the recently formed General Services Committee be admitted to this and future Conferences; and,
 - iii. that Don B, Director AA Publishing Pty Ltd be seated at this Conference.
 - 1974 Conference asks the present Regions to send to the GSO their ideas on the size of their representation at Conference, up to a maximum of five with a minimum of three Delegates. This information to be sent to the sub- committee on the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
 - 1974 Conference feels that the implementation of the *Australian AA Service Manual* method of election of Delegates and the formation of Areas will rectify the present ad hoc situation.
 - 1975 Conference seats the Manager of GSO at this and future Conferences. However, a Co-Director of AA Publishing Pty Ltd was neither a member of nor could be permanently seated at Conference, but, if seated, it was by invitation with the right of discussion on publishing matters and has no vote.
 - 1976 Conference amends paragraph 2 of the Conference Charter to read as follows:

Composition: The Conference shall be composed of Delegates from Areas entitled to Conference representation as elsewhere defined, the Trustees of the Australian General Service Board, the staff of General Service Office, the Conference Secretary, the Directors of the Board's related corporate bodies and other persons as Conference may wish to invite. It is envisaged that at our present stage of development such others may include Secretaries of State service bodies as currently existing.
 - 1976 Conference agrees that Southern Region Area D have a Delegate seated at the next Conference.
 - 1978 Conference asks that the World Service Meeting Delegates be seated at Conference.
 - 1980 Conference resolves that the Board examine rotation and bring to the 1981 Conference a formulation of representation and rotation intended to be achieved over a given period, with the view of removing any imbalance of representation and rotation of Conference members.
 - 1980 Conference also asks the Board to examine the position of Central Service representation at Conference and make a submission to the 1981 Conference.
 - 1981 Conference agrees that, commencing with Conference 1982, Central Service representation be by the Chairman or a nominee from among the rotating committee members, but with the proviso that paid State Secretaries be invited to attend with full debating but no voting rights. Advisory Action 1982/001 asked that this be adhered to.
 - 1981 Conference sat members of Trustees' Committees (who are not already members of Conference) as non-voting members.
 - Advisory Action 1982/002 asks that the rotation principle be adhered to at all times and that Conference make available guidelines on this principle to all interested parties (e.g. Groups, Areas, etc).
 - Advisory Action 1982/003 retains voting rights for non-AA Trustees and GSO Staff even though this did not assist the attainment of the desired two thirds voting. It was generally agreed that taking the vote off them would be regressive and contrary to the spirit of the Twelve Concepts for World Service. Conference asks for the essence of this feeling emanating from Conference to be made known at Area Assemblies.
 - Advisory Action 1983/014 decides not to invite the Delegate-elect to attend Conference as an observer.
 - Advisory Action 1983/015 decides not to permit non-voting members to attend Conference apart from persons provided for in the *Australian AA Service Manual*. Notwithstanding this, the GSO shall ensure that sufficient appropriately qualified people are available to Conference so that the business of Conference may be satisfactorily conducted.
 - Advisory Action 1985/001 continues the present system of only 'State' CSOs being entitled to be represented at Conference but asks Conference 1986 to review the arrangement.
 - Advisory Action 1986/013 recognises representation from a Chairperson/Secretary from a CSO in each State: Chairpersons to have voting rights; Secretaries to have no voting rights. The Committee notes the problem that could exist in Queensland where the present office is called a Regional Service Office.
 - Because a simplified form of the Third Legacy Voting Procedure is not possible, Advisory Action 1987/025 recommends use of the *Australian AA Service Manual*.



- Advisory Action 1989/001 agrees that a substitute Delegate for Southern Region Area C (Neil T) be seated at this Conference only. Neil had been a Delegate in the past for Southern Region Area F (no longer operational) and under normal circumstances a Delegate having completed their term may not attend Conference in that capacity again, nor do we seat 'substitutes'. However, because of the extenuating circumstance, that Area C's Delegate became the General Secretary of the Victorian CSO very recently and will be seated in that capacity at this Conference, and in view of the lack of time to find a replacement for him, Neil was chosen by Area C to represent it on this occasion. It was under these conditions that Neil was accepted with the proviso that this should not create a precedent for future Conferences.
- Advisory Action 1989/043 asks the Select Committee on Third Legacy Structure to consider:
 - i. the voting rights of Central Service Office Secretaries; and,
 - ii. the participation of all Central Service Offices in Conference.
- Advisory Action 1990/012A resolves that the Central Service representation remain as shown in the *Australian AA Service Manual*:

Others may be invited, such as Central Service Chairpersons, or their nominee from among the rotating members of their committee as full participants; and also Central Service Office Secretaries invited as non-voting participants.
- Advisory Action 1990/022 recommends that the names of all people who will be attending Conference be submitted to GSO by the previous June 30.
- Advisory Action 1991/063 proposes that the 1992 Conference discuss a change in Conference voting procedure along the following lines:
 - i. a vote is first to be taken among the Delegates; and,
 - ii. then the full Conference votes.
 - iii. If a two-thirds majority is reached in both rounds of voting, then the decision so taken becomes a recommendation of Conference. If, however, a two-thirds majority is not reached in both rounds of voting, the issue in question is to become the subject of further discussion. Advisory Action 1992/058 rejects this proposal (0/32/0) and retains the current voting procedure.
- Regarding the seating of a Delegate from Area E, Southern Region, Advisory Action 1991/046 recommends that the application for formation of an Area should be duly filled out as soon as possible, correctly certified and circulated (as prescribed in Item 7 of the Conference Policy Admissions Committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure document).
- Advisory Action 1995/054 ratifies the principle of rotation as one to be adhered to by all arms of service. Advisory Action 1996/026 adds that a CSO representative be limited to attendance at four Conferences in either a voting and/or non-voting capacity.
- Advisory Action 1995/059 abolishes the two-year Panels appearing in the *Australian AA Service Manual* and replaces them with three-year Panels for the rotation of Area Delegates only as follows:
 - i. Area Delegates sitting at Conference 1994 be used as basis for panels;
 - ii. the two vacant Areas at Conference 1994 be allocated as follows: Eastern Region Area C be in Panel 2 and Southern Region Area E be in Panel 3;
 - iii. the two new Areas approved by Conference 1994 both be allocated to Panel 2; this would give Panel 1 eight Areas, Panel 2 six Areas and Panel 3 seven Areas.
- Advisory Action 1995/066 agrees to use Panel Numbers, i.e. this year's new Delegates be known as Panel 37.
- In view of the growth of the General Service Structure since the days when CSOs were the major provider of AA services, Advisory Action 1997/007 makes CSOs participating, non-voting members.
- As the World Service Meeting Delegates and Asia Oceania Delegates are elected by the Groups through their elected Delegates, Advisory Action 1997/012 recommends that they should retain their right to vote.
- Advisory Action 1999/027 recommends that, provided International Delegates are elected at and are members of the Conference, they shall have participation and voting rights at Conference.
- On receipt of an application to seat a new Area, Advisory Action 1997/010 arranges for the Chair of the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee to conduct a mail poll of the Committee. A two-thirds majority is sufficient to seat a new Delegate at the next Conference. It is the responsibility of the Conference Coordinator to advise the new Delegate of all matters relating to Conference.



- Advisory Action 2003/043A&B resolves that the required majority for important decisions such as those binding on the Board be two-thirds of the electorate (all registered members of Conference). Conference further resolves that changes to service documents (the Memorandum & Articles of Association, the By-laws, the Conference Charter, the *Australian AA Service Manual*; the Conference Administrative Procedures and Composition, Scope and Procedure documents) continue to require a majority of three-quarters of the electorate (all registered members of Conference) or, in the case of Board meetings, all Board members present.
- Advisory Action 2004/018 includes the following words to be added to the Conference Charter Section 2:

Composition: The Members of Conference shall be composed of Area Delegates, entitled to Conference representation as elsewhere defined, the Trustees of the Australian General Service Board, the General Service Office Manager or nominated deputy and the World Service Delegates.
- 2009 Conference rejects (3/29/1) a proposal that would permit three GSO staff to vote.
- Advisory Action 2010/041 precludes Delegates from Areas self-declared to be 'in recess' to attend Conference. However, if the Area reforms, it may send that Delegate to complete their term.
- 2011 Conference resolves to reject (2/31/0) a proposal that National Coordinators attend Conference as participating (but non-voting) observers.
- Advisory Action 2013/001 allows (26/3/1) the GSB to invite members from the Asia Oceania Service Zone, on an as needs only basis, to observe how the Australian Conference Process works. The fellowship of the country they represent would have to have an express desire to set up a service structure and have duly and properly elected the representative.
- Advisory Action 2014/001 requests the GSB, in consultation with the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee, to present a topic to 2015 Conference on whether non-Area Delegate Conference Members should have a vote at Conference Committee level. Conference declined to revoke Advisory Actions 028/2013, 034/2013 and 041/2014.
- Conference rejects (30/0/0) Topic 2016/014 which calls for fairer representation at Conference for marginalised communities as there are no barriers to AA Service, and Conference is determined on geographical location basis.
- Conference rejects Topic 2016/043 to address the imbalance between Delegates and other voting members of Conference as Concept IV respects the rights of participation on the Conference Floor.
- Conference rejects (27/4/0) Topic 2016/013 to abolish the use of panel numbers.
- 2019 Conference rejects the proposal 2019/019 to amend the Conference Charter as it would be addressed by the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee during their review of voting ratios at conference.
- 2019 Conference rejects proposal 2019/022 to correct the lack of 2/3 majority of delegates vote on the conference floor as would be addressed by the Conference Policies & Admissions Committee review of voting ratios at conference.
- 2019 Conference referred topic 2019/022 pending Conference Policies & Admissions Committee review of voting ratios at conference.
- 2019 Conference accepts recommendation 2019/001 that conference undertakes a review of current voting structure.
- 2024 Conference accepts advisory action 2024/020 to create a 2/3 delegate voting majority for future Conferences 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.
- Advisory Action #013/2025 The General Service Conference resolved for the establishment of a fixed four-year voting term for the General Service Office staff members holding the single staff vote at Conference, with the option of additional non- consecutive terms where no other suitable staff member is available and the Service Manual to be changed to reflect this Advisory Action.



4.12 Conference Processes

- 1970 Conference agrees that the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Secretary may call a meeting of at least eight members of the Executive and Conference to discuss specific items.
- 1976 Conference agrees that our Conference should be guided by the North American Manual which indicates that a Conference quorum shall be two-thirds of all the registered Conference members.
- Advisory Action 2001/009 allows any Topic that will affect the Fellowship as a whole, at the Group level, to be returned to the Fellowship for further discussion before consideration at the following Conference.
- Advisory Action 1994/038 endorses the statement in the *Australian AA Service Manual*:
The Area Delegate comes to Sydney well prepared. He has already shared the experience of past Delegates. Then, in the weeks preceding the Conference, General Service Office has kept him advised of questions and problems that will be up for discussion. He receives a deluge of advance information, filling him in on actions of previous conferences on what the committees are, and on what reports he will hear (so that he can preview the Conference with his Committees and GSRs). He receives just about everything practicable to let him know what to expect when he gets to Conference.
- 2006 Conference rejects (0/33/0) a proposal that Groups should be consulted about significant expenditures.
- 2007 Conference rejects as unworkable (0/31/0) a process that refers Topics back to Groups and Areas.
- 2007 Conference rejects (12/17/3) a voting form for Topics because it prevented discussion.
- Advisory Action 2009/007B permits a Conference Committee to reject a Topic but then make a recommendation based on it.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal that Conference Committee Reports refer to relevant Traditions and Concepts as this is already the case.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal that the Conference Agenda Committee must reject any Topic that contravenes the Twelve Traditions as this is already the case.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal that the Conference Agenda Committee should post reasons on the national website for rejecting any Topics.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal that submitters of rejected Topics could appeal to the GSB.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal that Chairs of each Conference Committee produce a quarterly report on the Committee's activities.
- To maintain confidentiality, free discussion and not compromise the business of Conference, 2009 Conference rejects (4/22/3) a request from a CSO Secretary to privately record some of the Conference proceedings.
- Advisory Action 2011/056 trials a system in two Conference Committees where the Committees will present arguments for and against their Topics, but no Recommendation, to the full Conference. The Conference will then vote on the Topics rather than the Committee Recommendation.
- Advisory Action 2011/057 asks the Conference Agenda Committee to organise mentoring of new Delegates and prepare guidelines for Committee Chairs to help make Committees run more efficiently.
- Advisory Action 2011/058 arranges for Chairs of GSB Committees to email monthly reports on Advisory Actions to the relevant Conference Committee Chairs, who circulate this information to members of their Committees. A 2012 Floor Action failed (11/19/1) to have this amended.
- Advisory Action 2011/060 adopts the simplified Conference Decision Process chart which is to be included in future Conference folders as a guide for Chairs and Conference members [see Appendix].
- Advisory Action 2012/053 resolves (25/5/2) that the Conference Agenda Committee should select an additional two Committees to trial the new Committee system with the following amendments:
 - i. the report back should include a list of points considered plus a recommendation from the Committee; and,
 - ii. during the report back to Conference, the Conference Chairperson should ask if there are any other 'for' and 'against' arguments that have not already been considered by the Conference Committees.
- Advisory Action 2013/042 abandons the trial system of some Committees presenting only 'for'



and 'against' arguments to Conference on their allocated Topics. From 2014 Conference, all committees will make recommendations to Conference on Topics they have discussed and list any 'for' and 'against' arguments that arose during their discussions.

- Advisory Action 2014/024 asks (32/1/0) that a special committee consisting of Trustees and Area Delegates report to Conference 2015 on decision making processes of Conference.
- Advisory Action 2015/042 resolves to rescind Advisory Action 2011/058 that requires GSB Committee Chairs to send monthly reports to the relevant Conference Committee Chairs.
- Advisory Action 2015/043 resolves that GSB Committee Chairs send reports to the relevant Conference Committee Chairs following each Board meeting.
- Advisory Action 2016/045 resolves that the document on the General Service Conference process be made available on the Service Website.
- Advisory Action 2017/016 resolves (26/0/0) that clearer guidelines for submission, allocation and rejection of Conference Topics be formulated and included in the Composition, Scope and Procedure document of the Conference Agenda Committee and that the current document be redrafted.
- 2018 Conference accepts 2018/043 to produce clearer guidelines for submission, allocation and rejection of Conference Topics and brought back to conference in 2019.
- Advisory action 2022/032 Conference resolved to accept that future pre-Conference Delegates & Observers meeting be held virtually, and that Alternate Delegates be permitted to attend.
- Conference 2024 accepts Advisory Action 2024/019 to create a Delegates Orientation Starter Pack which will include access to the Key Conference Resolutions document.
- As a result of Floor Action 1/2025, Advisory Action 021/2025 Conference resolved to implement the recommended process starting Conference 2026. The process involves the Conference Committees providing details advice, discussion points and recommendations on the topics. The General Service Conference will vote on the original topic, not on the Conference Committee recommendation as was previous practice.
- Advisory action 022/2025 Conference approves a simplification of the amendment process, so that if there is strong sentiment about amending a topic at Conference, major amendments are to come back to before the Conference as a floor action, instead of making rushed amendments at the time of the topic first being heard by the Conference.

4.13 Conference Observers

- 1964 Conference welcomed State Representatives to the meeting. Before opening the meeting, the Chairman advises Conference that in consultation with the Secretary, he had invited State Councils or Committees to send non-voting non-debating Representatives to this meeting of Delegates. He requested that his action be endorsed or otherwise, so that the Representatives could be present from the start of the meeting.
- 1975 Conference sat Huron 'Snow' C of New Zealand at this Conference as a guest for the purpose of observation only.
- Advisory Action 1997/014 invites a New Zealand Conference member to attend 1998 Conference as an observer. GSO New Zealand to bear the costs of travel and accommodation.
- Advisory Action 2007/004 permits Observers to attend the Delegates and Observers Meeting.
- Advisory Action 2008/032 stipulates that Conference must specifically invite any observers. Applicants must state their reasons for wishing to attend to the Conference Policies and Admissions Committee.

4.14 Conference Presentations & Workshops

- Advisory Action 1984/012 makes subjects of Conference Presentations and Workshops available for discussion at pre-Conference Assemblies. The Conference referred several possible topics for the Trustees to consider for Presentations and Workshops.
- Advisory Action 1985/031 agrees that the 1986 Conference Workshop consist of two one-hour discussions entitled "AA Service Structure and Terminology— Growth Through Planning".
- Advisory Action 1986/045 arranges two Presentations to be held at Conference 1987, entitled: "Participation the Key to Harmony" and "Alcoholism as I understand It".
- Advisory Action 1986/046 agrees one two-hour Workshop be held entitled "Do We Understand the Traditions?".



- Advisory Action 1987/032 decides two Presentations at Conference 1988: "I Am Responsible!" and, "If You Don't Pay THIS Week, There Will Be No Bickies NEXT Week".
- Advisory Action 1987/033 lists the Workshop for Conference 1988 as "What Does Self-Support Mean?".
- Advisory Action 1988/041 decides that the 1989 Conference Workshop be unstructured and to take the format of an "Ask It Basket".
- Advisory Action 1990/060 agrees three presentations: "Our Traditions, Our Inheritance", "The Delegate" and "Where AA Service Begins—Group Conscience".
- Advisory Action 1990/061 records two topics for Workshops:
 - i. Educate the member new to AA about the two structures within the Fellowship and show him or her the vital importance of both Central and General Service. To aid the new member to understand this principle would help to maintain unity within the Fellowship; and,
 - ii. Maintaining our Traditions and Concepts in a rapidly changing society.
- Advisory Action 1991/014 endorses the following Presentations for the 1992 Conference "What Are You Doing in AA?", "On Being a Trustee" and "Back to Basics"
- Advisory Action 1991/015 agrees the following workshops for the Australian General Service Conference in 1992 "Is AA Becoming Too Professional?" and "The Growth of Districts".
- Advisory Action 1991/040 refers the topic 'Is AA Becoming Too Professional?' to a structured workshop at the 1992 Conference.
- Advisory Action 1992/043 disagrees with the recommendation that presentations be discontinued from the Conference Agenda. However, in Advisory Action 1992/044, Conference agrees that Workshops be included at the discretion of the Agenda Committee where appropriate for the conduct of the Conference.
- Conference rejects (26/5/0) Topic 2016/050 that proposes Delegates be given a presentation of the 12 Concepts before Conference due to time constraints and assumption of prior knowledge.

4.15 Conference Themes

- Advisory Action 1997/004 asks the Agenda Committee to ensure that an article on the Conference Theme is with the editor of *AA Around Australia* by mid January for the March edition and by mid April for the June edition.
- Advisory Action 024/2025 Conference resolved to recommence the annual Conference Theme as a standing feature of each Australian General Service Conference agenda, acknowledging that the responsibility for its selection and publication now resides with the Conference Steering Committee.

Refer to Table 1 in the Appendix for a detailed breakdown of Conference Themes by Year.

4.16 Conference Topics

- 1981 Conference decides that henceforth 30 June is the final date for submission of Topics to Conference.
- Advisory Action 1983/003 sets out that the Regional Trustee will review Topics from Areas before forwarding them to the Conference Secretary, to be reviewed at next Conference.
- Advisory Action 1983/005 decides that:
 - i. Topics be circulated by the Conference Agenda Committee with recommendations whether each Topic be dealt with by a Conference Committee or full Conference;
 - ii. Topics submitted be published prior to Conference and circulated among Areas; and,
 - iii. the first item of conference be the Agenda Committee's Report.
- Advisory Action 1989/036 keeps the timing of Topics for Conference as is (i.e., Topics to reach GSO by June 30 for presentation to the Board at its Meeting in July when these Topics are allocated to committees and workshops and a full list of all relevant Topics posted to Areas by July 31, giving time for Delegates to obtain feedback on Topics prior to attending Conference in September).



- Advisory Action 1990/056 proposes that a preliminary list of Topics be received by GSO by the end of May, allowing ample time for their distribution back to Groups, in order that an informed Group conscience may take place before the July Board Meeting. However, Advisory Action 1990/057 recommends that the final acceptance of Topics should be June 30th, and that the distribution of final Topics to Groups should take place after the July Board Meeting.
- Advisory Action 1992/040 recommends that all Topics submitted, but not allocated to a Conference Committee, be recorded and tabled at the Australian General Service Conference as a matter of policy, so that all Area Delegates can review these, if they so choose.
- Advisory Action 1992/041 agrees that Topics are not included in the Conference Agenda if the Conference Agenda Committee believes that the subject does not justify using expensive Conference time, and can be adequately dealt with by correspondence, reference to an existing Standing Committee already established to handle the issue, or by other means.
- Advisory Action 1992/045 recommends that the closing date for Conference Topics be Friday 28th, May 1993.
- Advisory Action 1993/046 approves the proposed 'Topic Form'.
- Advisory Action 1993/048 recommends that if a Conference Committee disagrees with the allocation of a Topic by the Agenda Committee, it should direct the Topic to the Agenda Committee for re-allocation to another Committee or have the Topic discussed at the full Conference.
- Advisory Action 1993/063 recommends that the subject 'Topics cannot be discussed at Conference without first being presented to Area Assemblies' be included in the agenda for Conference 1994.
- Advisory Action 1996/036 recommends that Conference Topics be distributed to Delegates and Areas after the June meeting of the Agenda Committee.
- Advisory Action 1998/023 recommends that Topics submitted for discussion at the General Service Conference be published in the Spring edition of *AA Around Australia*.
- Advisory Action 1999/031 recommends that the Conference Agenda Committee return Topics which contain abusive or intemperate language for re-submission.
- Advisory Action 2001/016 asks the GSB to supply background information or reasons for their recommendations to Conference committees.
- Advisory Action 2002/083 resolves that the deadline for submission of Topics for the 2003 Conference be 23 May 2003.
- Advisory Action 2002/086 authorises the Conference Agenda Committee to remove names from Topics.
- Advisory Action 2003/003 sets the cut-off date for Conference Topics as the 3rd Friday in June. Whenever possible, it asks that Topics be submitted earlier than the deadline. It encourages electronic submission of Topics.
- Advisory Action 2003/031 accepts the revised Conference Topic form, but that the line regarding additional information be reworded to read: 'Please provide enough information for Conference to fully understand the background to the Topic.'
- Advisory Action 2004/011 resolves that Guidelines be written and included in the *Australian AA Service Manual* to explain how a Conference Topic is developed with the following points included:
 - i. How did the idea for the Topic originate?
 - ii. Prepare full detail of background and research with references.
 - iii. Take to home Group for discussion and, if suggested, do further background research with Group involvement.
 - iv. Take to District with your GSR and further discussion and, if suggested, undertake further research and/or amendment.
 - v. If District feels that Topic has merit, have your GSR and DCM take to next Area Assembly.
 - vi. If Area agrees that the Topic does have merit they should arrange for one or more individuals (not necessarily the original originator) to prepare a workshop on the Topic for the next Assembly.
 - vii. After the Workshop the Area Assembly (with option of going back to all Groups in Area) should now be in a position of submitting a well-conceived and researched Topic with relevant background to Conference.
- Advisory Action 2004/032 says that Topics from working party committees and requests for



additional timeslots must be submitted by the Topic deadline date so that the Conference Agenda Committee has adequate time to prepare the Conference Agenda during its meeting in June.

- Advisory Action 2004/044A rescinds Advisory Action 2003/003 and reverts the deadline for receipt of Conference Topics to the last Friday in May.
- Advisory Action 2004/044B resolves that next year there be a special deadline for receipt of Conference Topics from North-Eastern Region Area A by Friday 17th June 2005.
- Advisory Action 2005/011 unanimously arranges to place Topic Forms on www.aa.org.au in Word and PDF formats.
- Advisory Action 2005/039B unanimously arranges for the Agenda Committee to allocate Topics to Committees in August to eliminate the current confusion arising from distributing an incomplete set of Topics in June and a final list in August.
- Advisory Action 2005/021 refers (27/2/0) a draft Guideline on how Topics are developed to Class A Trustee Vanda Rounsefell for re-submission in 2006.
- Advisory Action 2006/041 unanimously removes the “Service Document Impact Alert” from the Topic Form.
- Advisory Action 2009/086 permits the Agenda Committee to reject Topics with blatantly misleading or inaccurate information.
- Advisory Action 2009/088 puts word limits for each heading on the Topic Form and asks for other text to be referenced rather than quoted at length.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal that the Agenda Committee list any rejected Topics on the website within one week of their cull along with reasons for the rejection.
- Advisory Action 2010/052 approves a revised Topic Form that includes a checklist of things Conference requests in a Topic.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal that the submitter of a Topic rejected by the Agenda Committee could appeal to the GSB.
- Advisory Action 2010/053 authorises the Agenda Committee to amend the Topic Form without having to obtain Conference approval.
- 2012 Conference rejects (7/25/0) a proposal that all Topics submitted to Conference be subject to at least one Group Conscience (e.g. Group, District or Area) prior to submission to the Conference Agenda Committee.
- 2013 Conference rejects (29/0/0) proposed amendments to the Topic Form as the suggested changes would not add anything to the topics received.
- Conference rejects (21/9/1) Topic 2016/021 that topics rejected or referred to the GSB be sent to the appropriate Conference committee. Topics rejected by the Agenda Committee are included in the conference Folder and can be discussed at committee or conference level at their discretion. Topics forwarded on to the GSB have not been rejected but referred for legal or administrative purposes.
- Conference rejects Topic 2016/049 to limit the number of topics per committee to three.
- Advisory Action 2017/009 resolves (25/1/0) that “each topic for Conference should contain a single issue”, be added to the “Ways to get your topic accepted” of the Topic form.
- Conference rejects topic 2017/013 on the Board’s recommendation that an agenda and procedure for the Delegates Meeting be produced as there is an existing document which covers agenda and procedures.
- 2019 Conference rejects 2019/011 to have the timeframe between topics for conference closing be revised.
- Advisory action 2021/040 Conference accepts proposal that Friday 24th June 2022 4pm be the deadline for receipt of Conference topics and was carried by a show of hands.
- 2022 Conference resolved to accept 2023/038 deadline for receipt of 2023 Conference Topics should be 4pm Friday 16th June 2023.
- Conference resolved to accept the conference steering committee’s recommendation that the closing date for topic submissions in 2024 is Sunday 9th of June.

5. General Service Structure of AA Australia

5.1 Central Service Offices (CSO)

- 1977 Conference arranges to forward a letter to the NSW Service Council requesting that Dr. Bill meet with the Executive Committee of NSW with the goal of working toward unity in AA.
- 1979 Conference asks the executive of the Australian GSB of AA to meet with the executive of the NSW Service Council in order to resolve by compromise and voluntary action any differences.
- Advisory Action 1982/018 asks Delegates to go back to their Areas and from there communicate with NSW CSO encouraging unity and expressing concern at its lack of participation at Conference.
- Advisory Action 1982/019 invites the Secretary of the Victorian CSO to write down his thoughts on CSOs and convey them to the Conference Secretary for distribution to Delegates.
- Advisory Action 1984/001 endorses the Board's recommendation to inform the NSW Service Council that it is unproductive for the Board to meet with that Council's Executive whilst the term 'bogus body' (which refers to the Australian General Service Conference), remains part of the Council's thinking by remaining in its Minutes.
- Advisory Action 1985/035 decides that the GSB of AA Australia no longer formerly meet with any Central Service body. In future, the Board will have the same relationship with the NSW CSO as it does with any other AA Service Office in Australia. This in no way inhibits Board members liaising on specific matters within their responsibility.
- Advisory Action 1986/011 asks CSO Representatives to draw up guidelines regarding the establishment of Central/Intergroup Offices in Australia and submit these to Conference 1987.
- Advisory Action 1988/050 suggests that it is not advisable for Area Representatives to sit on Central Service Committees with full voting rights under the present structure.
- Advisory Action 1989/042 notes that when a CSO/Answering Service is opened and handles Twelfth Step work, then surrounding Groups ought to support this service with their 60% contribution.
- Advisory Action 1990/012 keeps Central Service representation at Conference as shown in the *Australian AA Service Manual*:
Others may be invited, such as Central Service Chairpersons, or their nominee from among the rotating members of their Committee as full participants; and also Central Service Office Secretaries invited as non-voting participants.
- Advisory Action 1992/024 arranges for the Conference Secretary to advise CSOs when Conference will be held. A Chair or nominee of a service committee operating an office can represent all the CSOs in a Region as a full participant at Conference. A second person, sometimes a secretary of a CSO, can also represent all the CSOs in the Region but without voting rights.
- Advisory Action 1992/024 encourages Area Delegates to provide information on local CSOs in their reports to Conference.
- Advisory Action 1993/023 circulates a draft document, "The Two Arms of Service", to CSOs and Areas for further discussion with the view to producing a document acceptable to both arms of service. All replies to be presented to Conference 1994.
- Advisory Action 1993/056 agrees that CSOs do have a roll at the Australian General Service Conference and that they should continue to be represented.
- Advisory Action 1994/027 recommends that the presentation "Incorporation of Central Service Offices" by the Legal Adviser and the following discussing be published and forwarded back to the Fellowship through the Area Assemblies for their recommendations. Advisory Action 1994/028 agrees that the discussion concerning incorporation of CSOs be reopened during this Conference at a time to be allocated by the Conference Agenda Committee so that Conference may have a resolution on this matter.
- Advisory Action 1994/029 recommends that the St Ives CSO lease be ratified.
- Advisory Action 1995/052 disagrees with the Committee recommendation that Central Service bodies be no longer invited to attend Conference.
- Advisory Action 1995/055 advises that the CSOs are currently rewriting the Guideline on CSOs and Conference has no comment on the proposed alterations at this time.
- Advisory Action 1995/072 disagrees with the Board recommendation: 'Given adequate



safeguards, Conference authorise the Board to make a decision to sign leases for CSOs and provide sufficient insurance cover so that they do not need to become incorporated, on a case by case basis'.

- Advisory Action 1996/029 confirms that Groups decide what they will call the local service office.
- Advisory Action 1999/033 rejects the proposal that the Conference Agenda Committee reject outright any Topics regarding CSOs.
- Advisory Action 2001/046 issues the following clarification to the Fellowship:
 - i. All CSOs within a Region are of equal status and importance, their primary purpose being the Twelfth Step;
 - ii. Groups are strongly encouraged to support their local CSO, both financially and by members volunteering their services;
 - iii. The formation of Districts is strongly encouraged as a vital part of AA's strength, health and growth; and,
 - iv. Area permission or endorsement is not necessary when Groups want to form Districts. However, once Districts are formed, they are encouraged to cooperate and communicate with Areas.
- Advisory Action 2006/049 resolves that the GSB send a letter to Melbourne CSO, stating that it appears that the office may be acting in breach of:
 - i. Traditions 1, 3 and 5 by excluding Groups from participation in AA in Victoria;
 - ii. Tradition 4 by determining what should be on Group flyers and what Groups can or cannot call themselves; and,
 - iii. Tradition 7 by accepting financial contributions from an outside agency.
- 2007 Conference twice rejects after Minority Voice (15/17/0 no 2/3 majority) a proposal that the GSB restore the Melbourne CSO listing on the National Website.
- Advisory Action 2008/037 directed the GSB to re-list the phone number of the Melbourne CSO provided that the concerns of Conference are addressed.
- Advisory Action 2009/021B asks the GSB to investigate holding a gathering that includes Conference and all Australian CSOs. However, 2009 Conference separately rejects a proposal to hold a meeting between Conference and all CSOs to consider unity and a proposal to hold a workshop with CSOs.
- Advisory Action 2010/058 instructs the Board to take out an injunction against the Richmond office (former Melbourne CSO) regarding trademarks, selling copyright AA literature and defamatory material about the GSB. The 2011 Conference rescinds this as a requirement but left it as an option for the Board.
- Advisory Action 2011/053 permits the GSB to take whatever action is deemed necessary to fulfil its legal responsibilities to protect the registered trademarks and literature licensing agreement. It also permits the Board to attend to matters relating to circulated misinformation affecting the General Service Structure and public liability insurance concerns. [Also see the Statement in Advisory 2011/053 under the 'Conference' heading.]
- 2018 Conference accepts advisory action 2018/51 which suggests that the General Service Conference sends a letter to the delegate body of the Richmond CSO advising that the General Service Conference supports the Notice of Motion to communicate with the GSB with the view to future reconciliation.
- 2021 Conference rejects topic 2021/026 the proposal to change the wording on the auto-generated email response to group requests for Public Liability Insurance to include donations to CSOs.
- 2024 Conference resolves to accept Advisory Action 2024/015 to create a working group to investigate the appetite, mechanisms and potential implementation of uniting the General Service and Central Service structures in Australia.

5.2 General Service Board (GSB)

- 1970 Conference creates a Board structure in a legal framework to serve the Conference from now on. It agreed to place all sums received for the purpose of setting up a General Service Board and Office in a special account.
- 1970 Conference agrees that signatories of cheques be Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. 1972 Conference appoints the Deputy Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer as bank signatories, any two to sign, and that appointment of a bank be left in the



hands of the Treasurer. 1974 Conference leaves the matter of cheque signatories in the hands of the General Services Committee.

- 1972 Conference names the Board structure (as proposed in the Australian AA Service Manual sub-committee) as the General Service Board of AA Australia.
- 1973 Conference allows the GSB to delegate publication and circulation of literature to another wholly controlled company or companies.
- 1975 Conference extends the term of the Deputy Chair by up to six months so he can complete incorporation of the GSB of AA Australia.
- 1978 Conference agrees to the implementation of the GSB as indicated by Conference in 1970 and that the Board as presently constituted co-opt the services of the current General Services Committee until such time as the Board appoints the General Service Trustees.
- 1978 Conference agrees that the Minutes of the General Services Committee Meetings be forwarded to each Trustee at the earliest possible date after each meeting.
- On January 5, 1979, the GSB of AA Australia became a registered body.
- 1980 Conference agreed that the Chairperson of the GSB of AA Australia be one of the non-alcoholic Trustees.
- Advisory Action 1982/008 asks that consideration be given wherever practicable to holding GSB Meetings immediately preceding or following National Conventions and/or General Service Conferences.
- Advisory Action 1982/032 makes the Conference Committee on Ethnic Relations part of the Trustees' Committee on PI&CPC.
- Advisory Action 1984/018 arranges to circulate Trustees Committee reports to counterpart Conference Committees.
- Advisory Action 1986/003 adds the following to the next edition of the *Australian AA Service Manual*:

The General Service Board

The General Service Board shall also be guided by the spirit of the Twelve Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous, hereinafter referred to as the 'Concepts' which, in their short form are as follows...In some instances, the discussion in the Concepts refers to practices or customs which have changed, or which may change with the passage of time. The General Service Board should make allowances for such changes in observing the spirit of the Concepts.

In the event that any trustee shall resign, be removed, or shall die, the Board may at any regular or special meeting elect a new member trustee to fill such vacancy or alternatively permit such a vacancy to continue until the next annual meeting of the General Service Board. In the event that the vacancy is of a class B member trustee, the successor shall be elected for a period of four years from the date of the meeting at which he or she is elected.

- Advisory Action 1986/005 sets out that the Trustees' Committee for General Services becomes the Trustees' Committee for General Services/National Conventions.
- Due to the extreme workload, Advisory Action 1987/030 agrees to the Board meeting four times per year, when it becomes financially possible.
- To help make the GSB more accessible and open to the Fellowship, Advisory Action 1994/015 asks Regional Trustees to give a detailed report to their Delegates after each GSB Meeting and the Chairmen of the Trustees' Committees, through their coordinators, to pass on all relevant information to the Conference Committees.
- Advisory Action 1994/023 refers to the Board the suggestion that the Conference Agenda Committee receive the full Board Minutes as they are produced.
- Advisory Action 1995/020 recommends that the Trustees' General Service Conference Committee change their Composition, Scope and Procedure Document to conform with the *Australian AA Service Manual* with regard to the allocation of Delegates to Conference Committees.
- Advisory Action 1995/063 recommends that the Board activate the Trustees International Committee. Advisory Action 1995/064 agrees that Ian C and John S be the Trustee members.
- Advisory Action 1996/035 recommends that from Conference 1997 onwards the GSB meet before Conference begins.
- Advisory Action 1999/032 recommends that Board meetings do not run concurrently with



- Conference Committees during Conference.
- Advisory Action 1999/042 asks the Board to produce a proposal for the 2000 Conference for restructuring of the GSB.
 - Advisory Action 2002/018 resolves that the legal and financial responsibilities of the Board are clear and Conference is appreciative of the great amount of work being done. To keep our Fellowship unified, it is vital that the Delegates, representing AA, express the wishes of the Fellowship that the Board will implement. Conference requests that the Fellowships 'right of participation' be considered in Board decisions.
 - Advisory Action 2002/077 resolves that *Conference Charter* Section 10 paragraphs 1-4 be altered to read:

The General Service Board: Composition, Jurisdiction, Responsibilities

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia shall be an incorporated body composed of alcoholics and non-alcoholics. It shall number eight alcoholics and four non-alcoholics who elect their own successors.

Each of the six Australian Regions shall provide one alcoholic Regional Trustee. The alcoholic Regional Trustees are chosen from no more than one candidate per Area, nominated by the Areas of the relevant Region. They are selected if necessary by a Third Legacy process at Conference. Single candidates are confirmed by a 2/3 vote of all Conference Members. The successful candidate is formally elected by the Board by a simple majority of remaining Board Members, for a four-year term only.

The non-alcoholics are elected by the Board and confirmed by a 2/3 vote of all Conference Members for five years, with the option of another 5 years with Board and Conference approval.

In addition, two further alcoholic Trustees, who shall reside within commuting distance of the Australian General Service Office, and shall be known as General Service Trustees, shall be elected by the Board and their appointment confirmed by a 2/3 vote of all Conference Members. These General Service Trustees shall provide continued service to the Board at all times of the year. They serve for a four-year term only.

All Trustee appointments shall be approved by a majority of trustees remaining in office and the appointment shall be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of all the Members of the Australian General Service Conference.

As stated elsewhere, any Trustee having retired shall not be eligible for reappointment.

- Advisory Action 2004/017 accepts the following version of section 10 of the *Australian AA Service Manual* :

The General Service Board: Composition, Jurisdiction, Responsibilities:

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia shall be an incorporated body composed of alcoholics and non-alcoholics. It shall number eight alcoholics and four non-alcoholics.

Each of the six Australian Regions shall provide one alcoholic Regional Trustee. The alcoholic Regional Trustees are chosen from candidates endorsed by the Areas of the relevant Regions. The Areas may select their nominee themselves or ask Conference to make the selection according to the method prescribed from time to time in the Australian General Service Manual.

Conference has the opportunity to disapprove endorsement of single Regional nominees or candidates chosen by a nominating session as above, by a 2/3 vote of all Conference Members. The Board then elects the new Trustee by a simple majority of remaining Board Members, for a four-year term only. By tradition, the Board shall accept the nominee of Conference.

The non-alcoholics are elected by the Board for a five-year term, subject to a disapproval vote of 2/3 of all Conference Members, with the option of another 5 years subject to



Conference disapproval.

In addition, two further alcoholic Trustees, who shall reside within commuting distance of the Australian GSO, and shall be known as General Service Trustees, shall be elected by the Board and their appointment subject to a 2/3 vote of disapproval by the full Conference. These General Service Trustees shall provide continued service to the Board at all times of the year. They serve for a four-year term only.

All Trustee appointments shall be approved by a majority of trustees remaining in office. Where considered essential, interim appointments may be made at its discretion by the Board in consultation with the Conference Committee on Trustees. In the case of Regional Trustees, interim positions may be filled by the Board by selecting from candidates provided by the relevant Areas, requiring a 2/3 vote of all Board Members present or the Third Legacy procedure for more than one candidate. Such appointments are subject to a 2/3 disapproval vote of the following Conference.

As stated elsewhere, any Trustee having retired shall not be eligible for reappointment.

The GSB is the chief service arm of the Conference, and is essentially custodial in its character.

Excepting for decisions upon matters of policy, finance, or AA Tradition, liable to seriously affect AA as a whole, the General Service Board has entire freedom of action in the routine conduct of the policy and business affairs of the AA service corporations and may name suitable committees and elect directors to its subsidiary corporate service entities in pursuance of this purpose. The General Service Board is primarily responsible for the financial and policy integrity of its subsidiary services.

The Charter and Memorandum and Articles of the General Service Board, or any amendments thereto, should always be subject to the approval of the Australian General Service Conference by a three quarters (3/4) vote of all its members.

Except in a great emergency, neither the GSB nor any of its related services shall take any action liable to greatly affect AA as a whole, without first consulting the Conference. It is nevertheless understood that the Board shall at all times reserve the right to decide which of its actions or decisions may require the approval of the Conference.

- Advisory Action 2009/010A arranges for all Delegates to receive a list of non-confidential resolutions after each Board meeting. 2009 Conference rejects (10/23/0) a proposal that non-confidential Board decisions be placed on www.aaservice.org.au.
- 2009 Conference rejects a review of the requirements for GSB members as this is already covered in the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- 2009 Conference keeps (22/11/0) the requirement that General Service Trustees live in or around Sydney.
- Advisory Action 2016/019 resolves (28/2/0) that the costs of the GSB meetings be met from AA general revenue funds and that collected Conference Levies need only to go towards the cost of the General Service Conference.
- 2020 Conference rejects Topic 2020/024 requesting Jobkeeper payments be returned to ATO.
- 2022 Conference rejects proposal 2022/012 for the following reasons:
 - i. The GSB's policy on rotation of Trustees is already outlined in its Articles of Association – Article 4: All alcoholic Trustees serve for a period of four years from the date of their election, whether regular or interim'.
 - ii. Article 13: 'The Chairperson shall serve for a period of one year'. No Chairperson shall serve for a longer period than four consecutive years'.
- Conference levies need only go towards the cost of the General Service Conference.
- Conference 2025 rejects topic 055/2025 to publish the minutes of the General Service Board, as these are already available for inspection by the Conference on request.

5.2.1 General Service Board financial report

- 1966 Conference authorises the Secretary to approach J.N. of Victoria with a view to his becoming the honorary Auditor, failing which the Secretary be authorised to recommend some other suitable person from Victorian AA.
- 1967 Conference notes that Jock G (member of the Australian Institute of Accountants) has accepted the honorary position of Auditor.
- 1970 Conference accepts the proposal to include a financial statement in the Conference Report and the News Digest to be circulated after this Conference. The full balance sheet is also available for publication in all State journals and magazines. 31 December is the closing date for this financial year [previous financial years had been from Conference to Conference].
- 1976 Conference appoints the firm of PJ St. Claire & Company as Auditors for the Australian Service Conference.
- 1977 Conference gives authority to the General Services Committee to appoint an auditor at its discretion without necessarily contacting all Conference members. Committee to advise the next Conference of any appointment.
- Advisory Action 1983/028 agrees to publish a quarterly financial statement in *AA Around Australia*.
- Advisory Action 1983/029 arranges to forward a monthly balance sheet to each member of the Finance Committee.
- Advisory Action 1984/040 states that, if used in the correct manner, the information now supplied to Delegates via *AA Around Australia* and correspondence is sufficient to report the financial situation of GSO.
- Advisory Action 1991/002 agrees that each member of the Finance Committee shall receive a copy of the GSB Finance Committee monthly accounts. Committee members will liaise directly with the responsible General Service Trustee.
- Advisory Action 1992/001 suggests that more detailed and descriptive wording be used in our Accounts Reporting (e.g. telephone/fax/modem) and in each issue of *AA Around Australia*.
- Advisory Action 1994/003 recommends that the Trustees' Finance and Budgetary Report contain more detailed descriptions and cost of all Tangible Asset Purchases. It was further recommended that the Report contain more detail as previously requested in 1992.
- Advisory Action 1995/001 requires that the Audited Report be available with the Conference folder each year no later than 2 weeks before Conference.
- Advisory Action 2001/064 resolves that budgeted figures should be made available to the Conference Finance Committee at least one month before Conference.
- Advisory Action 2002/069 asks the Board to consider a strategy for maximising the return on investment of cash reserves.
- Advisory Action 2002/070 accepts the budget for 2002-2003 with the following additional recommendations:
 - i. in future an annual cash flow forecast be included with the accounts making identification of specific items of income and expenditure more visible (for example replacement of equipment etc);
 - ii. the Finance Committee should receive monthly financial reports, by email if possible, showing comparisons of actual to budget, by month and Year to Date; and,
 - iii. the Finance Committee is concerned at the high level of expenditure on international activities compared to no specific allocations for important National service areas such as PI&CPC.
- Advisory Action 2003/048 accepts the 2004 budget, providing allowances are made for a third full time employee at the GSO.
- Because auditors must use standard legal formats, 2005 Conference rejects (9/17/2) a proposal to use titles that match those used in the GSO's Chart of Accounts.
- Advisory Action 2008/028 adopts the financial year for the GSB budget and asks the Conference Finance Committee to approve the budget prior to the start of the next financial year. Advisory Action 2012/029 notes that the requirement of submitting the budget to the Conference Finance Committee prior to the start of the financial year is difficult because not all figures are available to produce a realistic budget and the GSB does not meet until mid-July to consider and discuss the budget. Consequently, Conference rescinds (33/0/0) Advisory Action 2008/028 and extends the date the budget is to be presented to the Conference Finance



Committee to 31st August each year.

- Advisory Action 2020/025 resolved that the GSB increase Prudent Reserve limits from 6-12 months to 12-16 months to ensure adequate protection of vital services.

5.2.2 General Service Board Memorandum & Articles Of Association

- 1970 Conference set up a sub-committee to prepare Articles of Association & Memorandum of the General Service Board company for the next Conference. Subsequently, the solicitor who prepared the drafts, Norman J, stated it would be up to Conference to decide whether or not it was to be a profit-making company, whether or not it was to be allowed to own property, the number of Directors (Trustees) and the proportion of alcoholic and non-alcoholic Trustees, the manner in which each Trustee was to be elected or appointed, and so on. The draft proposed a non-profit making company, limited by shares or guarantee. He suggested that the company should be formed under Section 24 of the Companies Act which allows deletion of the word 'limited' from the name and is the type of company often used by hospitals, social services and other worthwhile public utilities. The objects of the company were:
 - i. To serve the Fellowship of AA and its work of helping alcoholics to achieve and maintain sobriety, to implement the decisions of and to assist the Australian Service Conference to maintain the various services necessary for those who may seek through AA, the means of arresting the disease of alcoholism.
 - ii. To act as a service arm for the Australian Service Conference.
 - iii. To accept and implement the plan of the ASC, which said plan is the method by which the AA collective Group can speak forcibly and put its desires for an Australia-wide service into effect, ensuring that the full voice of AA will be heard, whether such voice represents the majority or the minority, and act as guarantor that the Australia-wide AA will continue to function under all conditions.
 - iv. To provide appropriate premises for the company, and in connection herewith to purchase, rent, take on lease or license or otherwise acquire any premises, lands or building including any commercial or other unit of strata title, or any estate or interest in any rights connected with any premises, lands or buildings. To be guided in deliberations and decisions by the Twelve Traditions and to ensure that such Traditions are maintained. To undertake, at the request of the Australian Service Conference, any agency, trust or other activity; to incorporate new bodies to serve the purpose of AA, provided such new corporate bodies shall not be formed without the approval of the Australian Service Conference.
- 1971 Conference adopted 'Project 76' which was a five-year plan to see the registration of the General Service Board.
- 1972 Conference suggests that the NSW sub-committee on Memorandum and Articles of Association investigate:
 - i. ways and means of integrating AA Publishing Pty Ltd without destroying its identity and operations;
 - ii. a quorum for the Board be set at 5 members; and,
 - iii. a proviso that no alcoholic Trustee shall serve for a period in excess of four years.
- 1976 Conference ratifies and prints the draft Memorandum & Articles of Association as being of great significance to AA in Australia. It notes that it would be possible to amend the Memorandum & Articles of Association if the need arose. Conference also records that it was registering a company with twelve Trustees but Conference may increase the number. It also states that Conference shall appoint the General Service Trustees.
- Advisory Action 2002/074 resolves that Article 5 of the General Service Board be altered to read:

Each of the six Regions of the Commonwealth shall provide one alcoholic Regional Trustee. Candidates for this position are selected by a special subcommittee of Conference from candidates proposed, no more than one per Area, by the Areas in the relevant Region. In addition to these Trustees, two further alcoholic Trustees who reside within commuting distance of the Australian General Service office of Alcoholics Anonymous, shall be selected by the Company and such selection shall be confirmed by the Conference; and they shall be known as General Service Trustees. General Service Trustees, in addition to providing services at the same time as Regional Trustees, are



expected to provide continued service to the Company during all the times of the year.

5.3 General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, Australia (GSO)

- 1963 Conference authorises the Secretary to purchase a duplicating machine to the value of £40-50 wholesale.
- 1966 Conference authorises the Secretary to trade the present typewriter in for a more suitable one.
- 1969 Conference informs AA Purposes Pty Ltd that the Australian Service Conference was not in position to buy premises but may be interested at some future date in leasing or purchasing some of AA Purpose's property.
- 1970 Conference establishes the GSO in Sydney, NSW.
- 1970 Conference agrees to purchase a typewriter for the Australian Service Conference Secretary.
- 1971 Conference asks that, as soon as financially feasible, office space be acquired to house the Australian Service Conference and a part time worker be employed to assist the honorary Secretary.
- 1972 Conference invited AA Publishing Pty Ltd to share in the selection and the responsibilities of the operation of an Australian Service Conference office. It also considers it inappropriate to have the Australian Service Conference and AA Publishing in the same office as that of the NSW State Council.
- 1973 Conference notes that AA now rents a centrally situated office which houses the GSO and AA Publishing Pty Ltd in the Strand Arcade, Pitt Street, Sydney. Conference also records the following letter from New York GSO, dated 9 March 1973, and notes that, in so doing, Conference is enunciating national policy and that no criticism of existing local policy is expressed or implied:

Here is the answer to the question about the reasons why the General Service Board has a policy against the purchase of real estate property.

All service entities in AA apply the Traditions and principles of AA. Groups apply them. For instance if an AA Group does not buy property because problems of money might divert them from their primary purpose, then neither does a Central Service Office, General Service Office nor our General Service Board. General Service Office (NY) has never owned a building – we could save thousands and thousands of dollars by buying a building, but we have always rented our office space.

The most important factor about an AA service entity is that they may well commit future generations of AA to an obligation these AAs may not want to assume.

Perhaps some AAs interpret Tradition 6 differently from the way we do, but it has always been an AA principle for service entities not to own property.

- 1974 Conference arranges that the General Services Committee appoints and is responsible for the GSO Manager.
- 1976 Conference resolves to follow the pattern of financially supporting the GSO as suggested in the North American AA Service Manual. This suggests one source as being \$3.65 per member per year. It was also pointed out that receipted contributions of \$2 and over are legitimately tax deductible.
- 1979 Conference asks the Australian GSB to appoint a select committee to examine the GSO management plan.
- 1979 Conference agrees that, if it is convenient for the office staff at the time, Conference members can have access during business hours to all letters and articles and Australian GSB Minutes (excepting those Minutes that may break confidentiality).
- 1980 Conference pledges that all AA members in Australia accept responsibility for the maintenance of a GSO and asks the Groups in Australia to provide the necessary finance to carry out this task. It also endorses and congratulates Bob S on his appointment as the GSO Manager.
- Advisory Action 1982/004 agrees that, in view of its ideal location and reasonable rent, the GSO remain at its established address.



- Advisory Action 1983/032 arranges to forward details of any proposed major purchases for GSO use to the Conference and Trustees' Committees on Finance so their funding recommendations can be put to the GSB.
- Advisory Action 1983/033 makes provision in the budget to distribute 20,000 free copies of the pamphlet *Your AA General Service Office*.
- Advisory Action 1983/034 asks for provision in the budget for long service or retirement benefits.
- Advisory Action 1984/035 asks the Finance Committee, with the help of a work evaluator, to review the present remuneration to GSO staff and make a recommendation to the next Board meeting.
- Advisory Action 1984/036 asks the GSO to supply an inventory of office equipment in use at present.
- Advisory Action 1984/037 suggests computerisation be examined and CSOs be asked to notify GSO if and when they intend to purchase computers so as to attempt to have uniformity in all offices.
- Advisory Action 1986/043 asks Areas, Districts and Groups to undertake a special fundraising project to be known as the 'General Service Office Moving Fund' to assist with the approximate \$8,000 cost of removal, supply and installation of telephone system and furnishings.
- Advisory Action 1988/036 recommends that, when possible, staff be paid according to the principles laid down in Concept 2, which states: 'We believe that paid Service Workers should be recompensed in reasonable relation to the value of his or her similar service or abilities in the commercial world.'
- 1979 Conference arranges for the Australian GSB to appoint a select committee (Management Group) to examine the GSO management plan.
- Advisory Action 1991/006 notes that the costing of the GSO's 1990 appeal for \$16,000 for computer equipment had been set so as to finance the preferred level of computer equipment as recommended by independent experts. This advised level would be the minimum level required to service the Fellowship efficiently. Conference further noted that, due to the failure of the appeal, expenditure had been limited to a sum of approximately \$8,000 being the minimum required to allow the maintenance of essential operations.
- Advisory Action 1991/061 recommends a study of the feasibility of relocating the GSO to a more central location within Australia for presentation to 1992 Conference.
- Advisory Action 1993/001 recommends that we do not proceed with the suggestion that GSO respond to all correspondence with an initial acknowledgement slip.
- Advisory Action 1993/003 recommends that the Topic "Communication and Mailing Facility at the General Service Office" not be adopted.
- Advisory Action 1993/004 recommends that the Topic "Centralised Banking" not be adopted.
- Advisory Action 1997/008 rejects the proposal to change the name of the GSO.
- In addition to the present two General Service Trustees and the Office Manager, Advisory Action 2000/044 resolves to expand the General Service Management Group to include extra non-trustee members approved by the Board.
- To avoid confusion in the Fellowship, Advisory Action 2000/055 changes the name of the GSO to National Office of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia.
- Advisory Action 2001/090 gives National Office use of a credit card to take advantage of special airfare offers available only on the Internet.
- 2005 Conference rejects (4/25/0) a proposal to revert to using General Service Office instead of NOAA because the switch to NOAA was originally made to avoid confusion between GSO (General Service Office) and CSO (Central Service Office).
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to rotate positions at National Office.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to relocate National Office to different Capital Cities every ten years.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to consider relocating the National Office to a better venue in Sydney.
- Advisory Action 2011/018 rejects a proposal that future appointments to paid positions in National Office be made as fixed term contracts.
- Advisory Action 2012/010 reinstates (26/6/0) the name 'General Service Office' and resolves to cease using the name 'National Office'.
- Advisory Action 2015/029 resolves (18/12/0) that two GSO staff members be listed as signatories of last resort for any group bank accounts with Bendigo Bank if they request.



- Conference rejects (25/4/2) Topic 2016/037 that The GSB and the GSO Staff undertake Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training
- 2018 Conference rejects Topic 2018/014 regarding the need to increase awareness that GSO plays in the functioning of AA in Australia.
- 2021 Conference rejects topic 2021/005 the proposal that the GSB sets a policy of fixed term contracts for future GSO staff.

5.4 General Service Office Staff

- The Board resolved that no action is needed regarding topic 2023/012 referred to the Board from the Conference Steering Committee as the travel to conventions by staff are part of their employment terms.

5.5 General Service Structure

- 1967 Conference agrees to make a three-inch information tape on Australian Service Conference activities each quarter and release copies to CSOs in each State.
- 1970 Conference agrees to publish and distribute free to all Groups a brochure giving the history, ideals and objects of the Australian Service Conference. 1971 Conference saw a draft. 1974 Conference left updating of the brochure in abeyance.
- After an address by the Chair of the GSB, Advisory Action 1986/001 notes that:
 - i. the Board considers itself bound by the *Australian AA Service Manual*, whose policy is laid down and accepted by all Conferences to date, embraces the concepts of adopting as nearly as possible, the North American structure as laid down in their Third Legacy Manual, to the Australian Fellowship;
 - ii. the Board considers itself bound to afford State CSOs representation on the Conference floor for the foreseeable future in order that their expertise be available to guide our Group Conscience in its decisions; and,
 - iii. the Board has the greatest faith in the Conference's ability to change the Manual if the circumstances warrant, albeit reserving its customary right as a Board to be heard when these changes are contemplated.
- Advisory Action 1982/024 gives GSO the task of creating a draft standardised poster depicting the General Service Structure for consideration at Conference 1983.
- Advisory Action 1986/029 believes the pamphlet *The AA Group* is sufficient for the explanation of structure at this point in time. Conference Literature Committee to look into the drawing up of a chart on our general service structure.
- Advisory Action 1988/048 quotes the *Australian AA Service Manual* to remind Area Committees that they should work with a CSO rather than through it.
- Advisory Action 1988/003 forms a select committee (comprising members from the Board, Conference and CSO Delegates) to consider any modifications to the AA Third Legacy Structure that might allow greater interaction between Conference, the Board, General and Central Service systems, especially within the middle echelon of our present AA structure. The Committee is to allow a sufficient length of time for this to evolve. The Board is to establish terms of reference.
- Advisory Action 1989/002 forms a select Committee comprising two Regional Trustees, two Delegates, a nominee each from the New South Wales and Victorian CSOs with the Conference coordinator as its Secretary to consider any modification to the Third Legacy Structure that might allow greater interaction between Conference, the Board, General Service and Central Service Systems. The committee is to give an interim report to the 1990 General Service Conference and the final report to Conference 1991.
- Advisory Action 1991/045 drew attention to the 1990 recommendation of the Conference Select Committee on Third Legacy Structure that "Conference representation be reviewed in five years". Conference directs the following items to the ongoing Conference Select Committee on Third Legacy Structure:
 - i. Conference to approve the changing of existing General Service Conference boundaries to provide geographical regions which coincide with the geographical areas of each Australian State and the Northern Territory;
 - ii. Conference to approve the merging of existing State Service bodies into the



- Australian General Service Conference structure as Regional Committees with the necessary voting/seating rights at the Australian General Service Conference;
- iii. Conference to approve the establishment of a working committee of State nominees and GSO cocoordinator to detail the necessary changes and execute the integration;
 - iv. Members who live in an Area that has a CSO are being represented at Conference by the Delegate of that particular Area. Conference to clarify which members Central Service Chairpersons or their nominees represent. If they represent any AA members, are those said members then not doubly represented; and,
 - v. Conference to consider whether CSO Representatives at the Australian General Service Conference should be chosen on the basis of the rotating attendance of the representative of one CSO per Region who would enjoy full voting rights, on the understanding that the CSO Councils will consider reciprocal representation and liaison on each other's respective committees over the next three years. In such an arrangement, all nominees would rotate off after three attendances at Conference.
- Advisory Action 1991/057 extends the Select Committee on Third Legacy Structure to include all Regional Trustees, a Delegate from each Region and a nominee of any CSO that may wish to contribute to the work of the Committee.
 - Advisory Action 1992/023 asks the Policy/Admissions Committee to hold a special sitting during the Conference and report back before the end of the Conference with a solution to the problem of representation from the CSOs to remove the anomaly that this Conference has uncovered in Advisory Action 1991/045.
 - Advisory Action 1992/024 recommends that in Regions where more than one CSO is located, the General Service Conference Secretary will, at an appropriate time, advise each of the CSOs known of the following:
 - i. details of when and where the General Service Conference will be held;
 - ii. that CSOs from each Region are invited to representation at Conference by;
 - iii. a Chairperson or nominee of a Service Committee operating an office, who represents all the offices in the Region as a full participant;
 - iv. a second person, sometimes a secretary of a CSO, who represents all of the offices in the Region who participates without voting rights; and
 - v. that one of the CSO secretaries in the Region advise the Conference Coordinator which two persons will be representing the CSOs in the Region at that Conference.
 - Advisory Action 1992/021 refers the following Topic to the Conference Select Committee on Third Legacy Structure:

That AA Australia consider utilising a singular stream of service, this being General Service as opposed to General Service/Central Service. It was felt that this can only keep matters simple as well as far more financially viable than the present system of utilising two streams. We also feel that as the Third Legacy procedure is strictly adhered to in the General Service structure, there can be no risk of a 'power base' being born.
 - Advisory Action 1992/057 arranges to forward a questionnaire to all Delegates, Trustees, past Trustees and CSOs seeking their input on more detailed terms of reference for the Conference Select Committee on Third Legacy Structure.
 - Advisory Action 1993/011 recommends that the current General Service Structure be maintained in accordance with the *Australian AA Service Manual*. Advisory Action 1993/012 recommends that the present Service Structure according to the Conference Charter in the *Australian AA Service Manual*, particularly Article 12 in its entirety, be maintained.
 - Advisory Action 1993/035 notes that PI&CPC is covered successfully by the Central Service structure in major metropolitan areas. However, it seems that the General Service structure takes over this responsibility outside the major cities, through the Areas. Conference suggests that an inventory is needed to determine which arm of service is taking responsibility in each locality.
 - Advisory Action 1993/051 abolishes the Conference Third Legacy Committee.
 - Advisory Action 1993/056 agrees that CSOs do have a role at Conference and that they should continue to be represented.



- Advisory Action 1994/007 confirms that CSOs have to abide fully with Conference Advisory Action 1992/024 and that they will not be seated at Conference if the Conference Coordinator is not notified by August 31st in the year of the Conference.
- Advisory Action 1994/017 accepts in principle the draft pamphlet *AA Service Structure* (with the Board's alterations as marked), and that it be forwarded to the Trustees' Literature Committee for action and presentation of a final draft at Conference 1995. Advisory Action 1995/046 asks the Conference Report, Charter and Service Manual Committee to study the latest marked up version of the Service Structure Pamphlet to ensure it lines up with the *Australian AA Service Manual* and formally advise the GSO in writing that we can go ahead with its production.
- Advisory Action 1995/016 again confirms that CSOs must abide fully with Conference Advisory Actions 1992/024 and 1994/007 that they will not be seated at Conference if the Conference Coordinator is not notified by 31st August in the year of the Conference of their intended attendance.
- Advisory Action 1995/053 does not agree "That the General Service Conference Structure of Alcoholics Anonymous be such that there is but a Single Arm of Service serving our Fellowship in Australia" and refers the writer of the Topic to structure Chart 2 [not included]. As it would disenfranchise some of the voting members of Conference, Advisory Action 1995/057 does not agree that:
 - i. only those elected for this purpose (i.e. Area Delegates and Trustees) should vote on any policy decisions about changing voting rights under our Third Legacy Structure (i.e. the *Australian AA Service Manual*); and,
 - ii. it should be ensured that the Delegates make up a least 66% or 2/3 of those eligible to vote.
- Advisory Action 1996/013 asks that the General Service arm of structure be more strictly adhered to, particularly that Areas handle T&CF and PI&CPC etc in cooperation and communication with the relevant CSO. Conference reminded the Fellowship that Advisory Action 1995/056 recommends that we alter District, Area and Regional Guidelines in the *Australian AA Service Manual* to suggest that all Area Committees, Area Assemblies, Districts and Regions:
 - i. invite a liaison person from local CSOs and other Twelfth Step committees to be involved in these activities so that we can better cooperate and negotiate disputes of demarcation more effectively;
 - ii. send copies of their minutes to GSO and all adjoining Areas, Districts, CSOs/Twelfth Step committees etc; and,
 - iii. allow their meetings to be open to any AA member who wishes to attend.
- Advisory Action 1998/009 confirms that the AA Structure can only be changed and amended by the Group conscience of the AA Fellowship as a whole.
- Advisory Action 1998/010 "clearly and unequivocally" states its absolute support of and for the Australian General Service Conference Structure.
- Advisory Action 1999/007 recommends that the GSB take immediate action to avoid the legitimate AA Service Structure being dragged into, by association, any legal action being taken against the NSW Service Council/AA Purposes Pty Ltd.
- Advisory Action 1999/008 confirms that AA Purposes Pty Ltd is not part of the General Service Conference Structure and that the Board address any other relevant concerns during its investigation of Advisory Action 1999/007.
- Advisory Action 2000/036 resolves that more consideration be given to previous Conference Advisory Actions and decisions before approving changes to approved literature on the AA Service Structure.
- Advisory Action 2018/036 Conference accepts that no further action be taken following review of all documents presented by the structure review committee.

5.6 Groups & Meetings

- 1962 Conference asks the Secretary to promote the desirability of Group membership through the various AA publications in Australia and prepare "A Guide to Group Formation" to be made available to the various CSOs.
- 1980 Conference makes Southern Region responsible for producing a National Group Directory to be submitted to the Australian GSB for approval.



- Advisory Action 1985/015 says it would be inadvisable for members of a Group, through lack of support from other Groups, to seek the assistance of outside agencies in the formation of a Group.
- Advisory Action 1987/040 asks Groups to refrain from using the name of a church or treatment facility when identifying their Groups.
- Advisory Action 1987/044 reminds Groups that when an intoxicated person is disrupting an AA meeting, the First Tradition must take precedence over the Third Tradition.
- Advisory Action 1988/052 states that, ideally, only Group members should vote in Group Conscience meetings, but it should be noted that such meetings may invite others to participate. The autonomy of the Group is, as ever, paramount and there is ample guidance available in the *Australian AA Group Handbook*.
- Advisory Action 1989/037 agrees that non-smoking meetings are not a breach of our Traditions as it is not a ban on attendance but a restriction on behaviour. There was strong objection to this Advisory Action at the next Conference and Advisory Action 1990/018 re-states that Conference agrees that non-smoking meetings:
Are not a break of our Traditions, as it is not a ban on attendance – but a restriction of behaviour at a meeting. Often meeting places are decreed a non-smoking. In a case where a Group decides that its meeting is to be non-smoking, this is within the autonomy of the Group and provides a service for those who cannot tolerate smoke for any reason. Smokers may not be unduly disadvantaged as it is also within the autonomy of the Group to call a smoking break during the meeting.
- Advisory Action 1989/038 recommends that, other than the Serenity Prayer, no prayers that have a religious connotation be used to close meetings. It notes there are many options: the Preamble, a reading from the Big Book, etc.
- Advisory Action 1989/039 strongly recommends that members are encouraged to have a home Group as stated in the *Australian AA Group Handbook*.
- Advisory Action 1991/043 concludes that a meeting that is not registered with the GSO or a CSO, is not advertised and which excludes AA members from attending, is not considered a part of AA as it is not fulfilling its primary purpose.
- To preclude any claim under anti-discrimination legislation, Advisory Action 1992/015 substitutes “suggest” for “define” in one place in the *Australian AA Group Handbook*.
- Advisory Action 1993/009 agrees that it is the prerogative of all Groups to decide on the location of AA Areas to which they wish to belong.
- Advisory Action 1995/010 endorses the proposal:
There is a need for guidance on ‘Working Towards Informed Group Conscience Decisions’ and Conference recommends the following be considered for inclusion in the pamphlet ‘The AA Group’. It is generally accepted that such decisions should be carefully reached, but what is often not known are the recommended principles which should be considered when reaching good Group conscience decisions, including:
 - *The Group should take the necessary time to become informed about the matter to be discussed;*
 - *A majority decision may still leave a most unhappy minority;*
 - *A decision need not be hurriedly made, it can be adjourned from time to time in order to achieve unanimity;*
 - *Compromises granted by a majority may result in an ultimate decision which sits comfortably with all, or nearly all of the participants; and,*
 - *A forceful advocate is not always right.*
- Advisory Action 1996/005 agrees that these points are sufficiently covered in the *Australian AA Group Handbook* and requests that these items be included in the *Australian AA Service Manual* chapter on the “AA Group”.
- Advisory Action 1997/028 recommends that in relation to Tradition 4 each Group through its Group Conscience decides all matters that effect the Group.
- Advisory Action 1997/029 agrees with the principles contained in the Preamble and adds that AA should always be inclusive rather than exclusive.
- As the format of meetings is a matter for Groups to decide, 2005 Conference declines (1/25/1) to endorse a suggestion that meetings revert to an identification format whenever a newcomer is present.
- 2006 Conference rejects (0/31/0) a proposal that Groups aligning themselves with Areas



- outside their locality must limit themselves to service in the distant Area.
- 2007 Conference declines (2/23/3) an invitation to make a statement on whether a Group is an AA Group if it rejects the Steps, Traditions, Concepts and Big Book.
 - 2007 Conference decides not (4/28/0) to formulate a procedure for a Group (or District) to align itself with an Area other than the one in which it is geographically situated.
 - 2012 Conference rejects (32/0/0) a proposal to add the following wording to the AA Group Handbook as Conference considers this would be a breach of Tradition Three:
At the commencement of a meeting, the Chairman or presiding member invite attendees to indicate to what category they belong including whether required to attend an AA meeting by a church or court.
 - 2018 Conference rejects 2018/004 to have Child and Non-Child friendly AA meetings listed on AA and National websites.
 - Advisory Action 2018/002 Conference accepts that a statement be made to advise groups that group problems should resolved by group conscience.
 - 2019 Conference rejects recommendation 2019/012 that alcoholic - addicts be encouraged to maintain anonymity as drug addicts at AA meetings.

5.7 National Coordinators

- Advisory Action 2003/008 agrees that the Trustees' PI&CPC Committee will appoint an interim National PI&CPC Coordinator accountable to the Committee. Thereafter, nominations for this position be invited at the National PI Forum with the appointment to be made by the Trustees' PI&CPC Committee. The Committee will determine the term of the appointment and generally oversee the role. The general functions of the Coordinator will be to:
 - i. Coordinate the National PI Forum; and,
 - ii. Collect and disseminate PI&CPC information at a national level.
- Advisory Action 2006/008 resolves (29/3/1) to appoint a National T&CF Coordinator.
- Advisory Action 2007/031 approves (31/0/1) Guideline GL-30: *PI&CPC and T&CF Coordinators and Forums*.
- 2008 Conference rejects (9/24/1) the proposal to pay the National Coordinators as part-time positions.
- Advisory Action 2009/051 split the role of the National T&CF Coordinator to create separate roles for a Treatment Facility Coordinator and a Correctional Facility Coordinator.
- Advisory Action 2009/052 resolves to advertise for Alternates for all three National Coordinator roles.
- Advisory Action 2009/053 asks the GSB to review Guideline GL-30: *PI&CPC and T&CF Coordinators and Forums* in conjunction with the National Coordinators and Conference Committees and submit a suggestion to the 2010 Conference.
- Advisory Action 2009/054 asks the GSB to review the relationship between the Coordinators and GSO in conjunction with the National Coordinators and Conference Committees and submit a suggestion to the 2010 Conference.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to abolish National Coordinators.
- Advisory Action 2014/020 creates (28/5/0) Regional PI&CPC, Treatment Facility, and Correctional Facility Coordinators to assist National Coordinators.
- Advisory Action 2015/053 resolves that a National Technology and Social Media Advisor position be established.
- Conference rejects the proposal to have an overlap in the National PI&CPC Coordinators position as it was considered the normal rotation and handover was sufficient.
- Conference rejects topic 2016/047 that the title should change to National Advisors and that the positions rotate between each other as there was no need for either
- Conference rejects topic 2016/040 that the Remote Communities Coordinator/Committee members be included in the Area structure in the Service Manual as these positions are not part of the Service Structure.
- 2021 Conference rejects the floor action that Conference rescind Advisory Action 2017/018 to rescind Advisory Action 2014/020 that Regional PI&CPC, Treatment and Correctional Facilities Coordinators be appointed to assist with the work of the National Coordinators.
- 2024 Conference resolves to change Guideline GL-30 to increasing funding of travel expenses up to \$1200 per annum from 2024 and to increase annually in line with CPI.



- Advisory Action 011/2025 Conference resolved for the General Service Board to explore options and create a plan around paid services to ensure security and continuity of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia's digital assets and online services.
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5.7.1 National Forums

- Advisory Action 1999/056 recommends that a National PI Forum be organised in 2001.
- Advisory Action 2000/062 resolves by a show of hands to forward \$1,000 to North-Eastern Region Area C to assist in hosting the 2001 National PI&CPC Forum.
- Advisory Action 2001/085 asks for another Region to hold the National PI Forum in 2002 and accepts the tentative bid from Eastern Region Area F. In the event that this bid is not confirmed and there are no other bids, North-Eastern Region Area C will again host the forum.
- Advisory Action 2002/003 resolves that Conference call for bids from Areas each year to host the National PI Forum. Conference should rotate the event throughout Australia and select any bidding Area on its ability to organise a successful forum.
- Advisory Action 2006/008 resolves (29/3/1) to hold T&CF and PI&CPC Forums on alternate years (PI&CPC in odd years; T&CF in even years).
- Advisory Action 2011/001 recommends that organising committees of National Forums consider the cost implication for Areas of scheduling parallel sessions.
- Advisory Action 2015/038 resolves (28/2/0) to request the National Treatment and Correctional Facilities Forum to incorporate sessions for people with special needs and for the suggestion be added to the guideline.
- Advisory Action 2015/032 resolves (28/1/1) that the host planning committee for any National forum will include the National Coordinator in the planning and production of the event programme, and the Guideline be updated.
- Conference rejects topic 2017/015 (27/0/1) to have separate National Forums for Public Information, Treatment Facilities, Special Needs, Correctional Facilities, remote Communities and Cooperation with the Professional Community.
- 2018 Conference accepts 2018/001 to combine the T&CF and PI&CPC Committees into a one national biennial event.
- Advisory action 2022/019 Conference resolved to accept that the scope of the National Combined Forum be extended to include Remote Communities and that the name be changed to reflect this.

Refer to Tables 4 and 5 in the Appendix for a detailed breakdown of National Forum Locations.

5.8 Online meetings

- Advisory Action 2007/001 resolves (32/0/0) that online meetings are not part of the General Service Conference in Australia at present.
- Using feedback from international sources, Advisory Action 2008/025 requests a policy regarding online meetings.
- 2010 conference rejects (4/23/3) a draft policy submitted by the GSB because it was "not a policy".
- 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 2024 resolved by way of Advisory Action 2024/024 to render Advisory Action 2011/043 obsolete and that a formal statement be made to acknowledge that Australian online meetings and groups are considered full members of AA, including the General Service Structure of Australia.

5.9 Regional Forums

- Advisory Action 1982/030 recommends that Regional Forums receive Conference endorsement.



- Advisory Action 1982/035 arranges to revise and circulate the Regional Forum sheet and adopt the Board recommendations.
 - Advisory Action 1986/004 accepts Guideline GL-06: *Regional Forums*.
 - Advisory Action 1995/023 recommends that a Regional Committee meeting not be held at Regional Forums.
 - Advisory Action 1996/018 agrees that applications to hold Regional Forums can be made eighteen months prior to the event.
 - Advisory Action 1997/013 agrees to change Guideline GL-06: *Regional Forums* to allow the Board to pay for up to two from the following list to accept an invitation to attend:
 - i. General Service Office staff member;
 - ii. International Delegate;
 - iii. Non-Alcoholic Trustee;
 - iv. General Service Trustee/Regional Trustee from outside a host Region.
 - Advisory Action 1999/009 believes that the existing Guideline GL-06: *Regional Forums* already arranges for all Areas within the Region to be consulted about the planning, format and content of the Regional Forum.
 - Advisory Action 1999/010 recommends that guests invited to Regional Forums should actively participate relative to their service position.
 - Advisory Action 1999/011 recommends that priority should be given to Representatives of the General Service Structure to actively participate at Regional Forums.
 - Advisory Action 2001/002 resolves that Reports from Regional Forum organising committees be made available for publication in *AA Around Australia*.
 - Advisory Action 2002/040 arranges that Regional Forum bids:
 - i. need to have the full support of an Area meeting;
 - ii. be allocated two years in advance; and,
 - iii. cannot be tentative bids.
- However, Advisory Action 2003/053 rescinds Advisory Action 2002/040
- 2009 Conference agrees (33/2/0) that the GSB can pay up to two full fares to attend Forums in each Region per year.
 - 2011 Conference rejects (2/31/0) a proposal that Regional Forums be rotated annually around the Areas.
 - Conference rejects (28/2/1) Topic 2016/011 to change Guideline GL-06: *Regional Forum* and returns the topic to the submitter with a recommendation it be re- worded to be more specific on how expenses are allocated.
 - 2025 Conference rejects topic 032/2025 to establish Regional Forums as statewide group conscience bodies with Conference representation.

Refer to Table 6 in the Appendix for a detailed breakdown of Regional Forums.

5.10 Regions, Areas & Districts

- 1973 Conference asks the NSW Area Assembly to forward to the Central Service Secretaries in all States and Territories Guidelines and any other relevant material pertaining to establishment of the Area Assembly.
- 1974 Conference feels that the implementation of the *Australian AA Service Manual* method of election of Delegates and the formation of Areas will rectify the present ad hoc situation.
- 1977 Conference sends a letter to the NSW Service Council pointing out that the creation of Areas emanates from the Groups as specifically outlined in the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- 1981 Conference encourages formation of other Areas so that, hopefully, we will see enlargement of Area Structure.
- Advisory Action 1982/010 asks the Trustees Committee for General Services to examine the question of Area identification and report back to Conference 1983.
- Advisory Action 1982/011 approves formation of Western Region Area A.
- Advisory Action 1982/012 forms a sub-committee from this Conference to work with the North-Eastern Region to examine the need to form Area D.
- Advisory Action 1982/014 accepts withdrawal of Southern Region Area C from this Conference with regret.



- Advisory Action 1983/007 recognises the need for a more widely developed District structure and asked Delegates and Trustees to use the information gained in the workshop at this Conference to encourage District formation.
- Advisory Action 1983/011 rewords points a) to d) in *Policy/Admissions Guidelines* for inclusion in the application form for seating a new Area.
- Advisory Action 1983/012 includes in the form a request for the opinion or feeling of Regional Trustee and all Area Delegates in that Region.
- Advisory Action 1983/013 requires submission of the application to GSO no later than June 30 to allow the Policy/Admissions Committee to make its recommendations to the following Conference.
- Advisory Action 1984/015 asks that advice be sent to GSO of General Service Representatives, District Committee Members, Area Delegates and Office Bearers when elected but not later than 1 March each year.
- Advisory Action 1985/002 accepts formation of Western Region Area B.
- Advisory Action 1986/009 asks Areas to notify GSO of all new Delegates and their alternates plus all Area office bearers no later than 1 March.
- Advisory Action 1987/008 makes any change of Area boundaries the responsibility of the Groups concerned.
- Advisory Action 1987/009 suggests that the New Zealand Paper entitled *The Delegate* be investigated as an attachment to the agenda of election assemblies.
- Advisory Action 1988/013 stipulates that any Area that applies for entry or re-entry to Conference must meet the criteria set out in the 'Application for Formation of a New Area'.
- Advisory Action 1988/014 sees the Policy/Admissions Committee expressing its utmost confidence in its ability to make decisions under paragraph 7 of its Composition, Scope & Procedure. This Committee sees no reason to delay the seating of a new Area if that Area has met the criteria set out in the *Application for Formation of New Area*.
- Advisory Action 1988/043 says that Area Literature Officers should be reimbursed as a matter of policy so that members can participate regardless of their financial circumstances. The incumbent can always refuse expenses, but in any case, Area autonomy prevails. Advisory Action 1989/005 expands this by agreeing that any member performing duties at any level of service (including that of Area Literature Officer) should be reimbursed for his/her out-of-pocket expenses. However, Advisory Action 1990/017 thinks this is too broad so, to reflect the Eight Tradition, replaces it with the following:

Area and/or District committees may at their discretion reimburse any member performing duties at any level of service (except Twelfth Step work) for any out of pocket expenses necessarily involved.
- Advisory Action 1989/004 asks the GSB to lay down some numerical criteria in addition to the *Application Form for the Formation of New Area* against which the application can be compared (e.g. proposed Area to contain a number of Districts; sufficient number of members in proposed Area; able to pay cost equalisation and other Area costs.)
- Advisory Action 1990/003 finds that the application form for the formation of a new Area is sufficient to prevent unthoughtful applications for new Areas. The cost of attending Conference is shown on the form, which has to be signed by a representative of the Area prior to its acceptance by Conference.
- Advisory Action 1990/012 set up a committee comprising the Trustees of Southern and Western Regions to draw up guidelines for the function of Area Assemblies.
- Advisory Action 1991/042 agrees that Districts or Areas may reimburse such costs as the District Committee Member may incur in attending Area Assemblies.
- Advisory Action 1992/022 made the State border the Regional boundary between the Northern and Western Regions.
- Advisory Action 1993/010 retains the status quo regarding Area Structure and separate appointments for Area Delegates and Area Chairpersons.
- Advisory Action 1993/014 cautions that AA ought not be implicated in outside influences. Eastern Region Area D Delegate advised Conference that the "Blue Mountains Parrot" was a once only publication and the topic was no longer relevant.
- Advisory Action 1994/006 recommends that Eastern Region Area D be allowed to split into three Areas (i.e. Areas D, G and H).
- Advisory Action 1994/039 recommends that all communications to Area Delegates be copied



- to the Area Committee. Advisory Action 1996/023 rescinds this.
- Advisory Action 1995/056 alters Region, Area & District Guidelines to suggest that all Regional Forums, Area Assemblies, Area Committees and Districts Meetings:
 - i. invite a liaison person from local CSOs and other Twelfth Step committees to be involved in these activities so that we can better cooperate and negotiate disputes of demarcation more effectively;
 - ii. send copies of their minutes to GSO and all adjoining Areas, Districts, CSOs/Twelfth Step committees etc; and,
 - iii. allow their meetings to be open to any AA member who wishes to attend.
 - Advisory Action 1995/071 agrees that, as a pilot, the North-Eastern Region Trustee be authorised to hold up to two teleconferences with the three Area Delegates in the Region, to be paid for by GSO.
 - Advisory Action 1996/024 recommends that GSO provide the alternate Delegate with copies of all written communication provided to the Delegate except for the Conference folder. If there is no alternate Delegate, copies to go to Area Secretaries. The reason for this recommendation is that both Delegate and secretary present material at Area Assembly so duplication is not required. It is necessary for the Delegate and the alternative to receive the same material so that if the Delegate is unable to attend Conference, then the Alternate can attend fully informed.
 - Advisory Action 1997/002 asks the GSO to write to the sender of the Topic for more information on why they see it as important for GSO to conduct a financial survey on how Areas and Districts are funded.
 - Advisory Action 2000/029 sets up an advisory committee for a period of twelve months to investigate and consult with all present Areas in Australia:
 - i. on the possibility of increasing the number of Areas in Australia;
 - ii. to help any Area now defunct to again become activated into service;
 - iii. to find a new and fairer formula for "Fare equalisation payments" (e.g. payment equates to number of Groups in the Area); and,
 - iv. to investigate with all Areas in Australia if the USA/Canada form of Area identification would be more acceptable and create more Group participation in Area activities. The identification could be linked to geographical location of the Area (e.g. Tasmania Area, Riverina Area, Gold Coast Area, Melbourne Eastern Area, Sydney Northern Area, etc). This system could create a feeling of belonging by the Groups and lead to increased attendance at Area Assemblies and meetings.

This temporary committee is to consist of Regional Trustees (3), Area Delegates (3); Past Area Delegates (3) and past Regional Trustees (3) and report to the February and July Board Meetings, with a final report with recommendations to Conference 2001. The committee to communicate by email, fax or ordinary mail, so as not to create any additional expense to our Fellowship.

- 2006 Conference rejects (13/20/0) the naming of Regions, Areas and Districts using geographical descriptors.
- Advisory Action 2007/017 resolves (30/0/2) that Areas and Districts have the sole responsibility for spending and distributing funds donated to them.
- 2007 Conference rejects (1/30/1) a proposal that Area Assemblies and Committee member terms start on 1 January.
- Advisory Action 2009/101 gets the GSB to write to a District that is aligned with an adjacent Area encouraging them to support their local Area.
- 2010 Conference rejects (10/20/0) a proposal to give Regions geographic names.
- So that it is not precluded from re-applying the following year, 2011 Conference resolves (1/30/0) not to vote on a proposal that the Central Coast, currently part of Eastern Region Area C, form a new Area. 2013 Conference rejects (8/18/4) the proposal to create a new Area covering the NSW Central Coast. After minority voice, 2013 Conference decides not to revote.
- Advisory Action 2011/034 Conference resolved that the GSB writes a letter to all Areas, advising the ways in which the GSB members and National Office Staff are available to assist in developing the Fellowship within their Area if needed.
- Advisory Action 2014/002 changes (32/1/0) the boundaries of Northern and Western Region boundaries to match State borders.
- Conference rejects (30/0/1) Topic 2016/018 about internal area communication due to lack of

information.

- Advisory Action 2017/004 resolves (27/9/5) to change the area boundaries for Western Region.
- Advisory Action 2020/009 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.
- Advisory Action 2020/023 resolved to reject the proposal to split Eastern Region Area C into 2 Areas and suggested that a meeting of Area C members (including members from Central Coast) and the Eastern Region Trustee be held to discuss this matter.
- Conference approved by Mail Poll to formally split Eastern Region Area C in February 2021, approving the formation of Eastern Region Area I.
- Advisory Action 2021/036 resolved to accept the guideline for creating a virtual area following a mail poll vote (resulting from Advisory Action 2020/009).
- Advisory Action 2024/023 resolves to form a working group to promote service at delegate level and assist districts to form areas, with the hopes of having 30 areas by 2030. Conference 2025 amends the advisory action to broaden the scope of the current 30 by 30 working group to include investigation all activities that could increase delegate participation at Conference.
- 2025 Conference rejects topic 033/2025 to adapt the application pathway for the creation of a new virtual area aligning with the national accessibilities portfolio, as it was felt that this was not the correct way to progress the creation of new virtual areas.

5.11 Remote Communities

- Advisory Action 2011/033 establishes a Conference Remote Communities Committee to work in conjunction with the parallel GSB Committee.
- 2011 Conference rejects (5/27/1) a proposal to extend the International Sponsorship Fund to aid remote communities within Australia.
- Advisory Action 2012/026 (27/5/0) sets up a sponsorship fund to assist in carrying the message to remote communities within Australia and encourages individual members and groups to support this fund on a regular basis, apart from their donations to the Group Donations Plan. Remote Communities are defined as those separated from the program of Alcoholics Anonymous by language, geography, culture, impairment of sight, hearing, mental health and other permanent or temporary disabilities.
- Advisory Action 2012/027 accepts (28/3/0) the guideline for working with remote communities with the identified changes.
- Advisory Action 2012/038 establishes and facilitates (28/3/0) a special page on the Service Website for material relevant to remote communities, and that this page be reviewed by the Conference Remote Communities Committee annually at Conference.
- 2013 Conference declines (4/26/0) to direct all proceeds from the sale of AA Business Cards to the Remote Communities Fund.
- Advisory Action 2014/023 decides to change the Conference Remote Communities Committee's Composition Scope and Procedure Document to include those separated from the programme and Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, for example by homelessness, economic circumstances, lack of transport (public and professional).
- Advisory Action 2014/039 resolves to accept the Conference Remote Communities Committee's recommendation that a National Remote Communities Co-ordinator and Regional Remote Communities Co-ordinators be appointed.
- Advisory Action 2015/037 resolves (29/0/0) that the Conference Remote Communities Committee's Composition, Scope and procedure Document be changed to reflect the focus on carrying the message only to people living in geographically remote communities in Australia.
- Advisory Action 2015/055 resolves that the Remote Communities Guideline be produced including information on:
 - i. Why the fund was set up;
 - ii. The process for application for funding;
 - iii. Full details on the administration of the Remote Communities Fund, including funding approval guidelines;
 - iv. Clarification of the processes for appointing and reporting for remote Communities Coordinator positions; and
 - v. A description of the linkage between Regional Coordinator roles and Areas in the Service Structure.



- Advisory Action 2016/048 resolves (31/0/0) that Guideline GL-35: *Remote Communities* be accepted.
- Advisory Action 2016/040 resolves that the GSB produce a workbook offering suggestions on how to carry the message to members/groups and professionals in a remote setting.
- The Board resolved that Dominic H. be the contact for Virtual Area enquiries as Remote Communities Chair.
- The Board resolved that the change to point 1 of the Scope, Remote Communities Committee be accepted and will now read:
Remote Communities Committees will work to ensure access to AA is available to those in underserved or remote communities. Committees focus on overcoming barriers that could make it hard to access the AA program – barriers such as geography, language or culture.

5.12 Service Structure Review

- Advisory Action 2015/008 resolves that a committee of 6 Delegates (a balance of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year) and 3 Trustees be formed to investigate information contained in the background of Topic 008/2015 and to formulate a plan of how to conduct an inventory of the Australian AA Structure. The plan to be brought back to Conference in 2016.
- Advisory Action 2015/025 resolves that the topic (regarding Regions and States not being part of our Fellowship's structure) be added to the plan for conducting an inventory of the Australian AA Structure (Advisory Action 2015/008)
- Advisory Action 2015/040 resolves (28/1/1) that the topic regarding whether non-Area Delegate Conference Members should have a vote at Conference committees should be added to the plan for conducting an inventory of the Australian AA Structure (Advisory Action 2015/008)
- Advisory Action 2016/058 resolved (28/1/2) that the plan submitted by the Structure Review Committee be updated and circulated as a 2017 Conference topic by the Conference Agenda Committee as soon as possible to give members and groups adequate time to discuss and provide feedback to their Delegates.
- Advisory Action 2016/059 recommends (30/0/1) that the Conference Agenda Committee set up a special four-hour session at the beginning of Conference 2017 to discuss the Structure Review Plan.
- Conference rejects (28/0/3) topic 2016/025 about Regions and States, pending the outcome of the plan submitted by the Structure Review Committee.
- Advisory Action 2017/001 resolves (14/9/5) that Conference undertake an inventory of the Service Structure and produce a simple plan to achieve this.
- Floor Action 2017/001 resolves that a plan be adopted for the Structure Inventory on the following basis:
 - i. 2 Members from each region;
 - ii. no set time limit;
 - iii. a discussion paper be produced;
 - iv. an online survey be produced in 2018 and in 2019; and
 - v. a white paper be circulated.

5.13 Trustees

- 1964 Conference calls a special meeting on 30 March to appoint up to six Trustees from June 30. They must be Delegates who have served a term of office on the Australian AA Service Conference and have at least seven year's sobriety. To produce effective rotation, the first appointment of four Trustees will be followed by an increase to six after Conference 1965.
- Conference later rescinds in toto the motion re trusteeship and the appointment of Trustees which was carried unanimously in the Delegate's meeting held in Adelaide in March 1964. In its place Conference resolves that:
 - i. Recommendations for appointment as Trustees be made by or through the Australian Service Conference;
 - ii. The term of appointment be four years, subject to the Australian Service Conference having the right of recall by a two third majority vote; and,
 - iii. The Trustees be self-appointing at the end of their first term, subject to approval



by the Australian Service Conference.

- 1964 Conference approaches Dr Bill Spence to be the first non-alcoholic Trustee and subsequently ratifies him. The appointment of the two other non-alcoholic Trustees was left in the hands of the Australian Service Conference office-bearers acting as a Committee.
- 1971 Conference defeats a motion (13/16/0) that the number of AA Trustees should be seven: one elected from each State except NSW, plus two from NSW to be known as Resident Trustees, as selected by the Conference. The Deputy Chairman then said that Conference should go ahead with the recommendation of the Queensland Sub-Committee that there be one Regional Trustee and two Resident Trustees from the State of NSW.
- 1973 Conference sends a letter to the NSW Area Assembly, requesting the appointment of a new Trustee to Australian Service Conference.
- 1974 Conference stipulates that the *Australian AA Service Manual* be followed in the matter of Trustee qualifications.
- 1975 Conference extends the term of the present Deputy Chairman Elect, George L, Trustee NSW, so he can remain in office until incorporation of the GSB of AA Australia is complete, provided the extension does not exceed six months and 1976 Conference reviews this decision in light of the progress made by that time. 1979 Conference moves a vote of thanks to another Trustee, Bill S, who subsequently also extended his term until the GSB was officially registered.
- 1977 Conference agrees that the General Services Committee would select the names of two General Service Trustees for appointment under Articles 5 and 18 in accordance with the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- 1977 Conference agrees that all the current Trustees would form the Conference Committee on Trustees for the selection of non-alcoholic Trustees.
- Advisory Action 1988/001 arranges for the two non-alcoholic Trustees plus one General Service Trustee to interview the nominee for the position of non-alcoholic Trustee and if it is mutually acceptable to all parties, the nominee be elected to this position at the next Board Meeting.
- Advisory Action 1988/049 notes that a Trustee has no authority as such over Area, District or Group matters, but should act as a guardian over the Traditions and Concepts – as stated in Tradition 2 “*Our Leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern*”.
- Advisory Action 1996/038 endorses the Conference Committee on Trustees review of eligibility criteria for Trustees.
- Advisory Action 1984/021 agrees that a General Service Conference Delegate is not eligible to be Trustee candidate until one year after their term as Delegate expires. Despite this decision and because of the impending National Convention in Adelaide, 1984 Conference appoints an ineligible Delegate to replace a mid-term Trustee resignation.
- Advisory Action 1997/011 replaces this criterion with:
A General Service Conference member not be eligible to return to Conference in any other capacity until one full year has passed since his/her term expires except where extraordinary circumstances, such as illness or resignation occur.
- So that the Group Conscience of the entire Fellowship elects Regional Trustees, Advisory Action 1994/041 establishes that, whenever a Regional Trustee vacancy occurs, every Area in that Region should be encouraged to nominate a prospective candidate.
- Advisory Action 1996/042 asks the Board to investigate the appointment of an alternate Regional Trustee who would be empowered to act in place of the original Trustee in any capacity.
- Advisory Action 1999/038 recommends that the resumes for General Service Trustees be included in the Conference Folders for consideration by the Delegates.
- Advisory Action 1999/039 recommends that the Conference Committee on Trustees review all resume forms considering their new Composition, Scope and Procedure document.
- Advisory Action 1999/040 determines that the Conference Committee on Trustees does not have the right to veto the nomination of either a Regional Trustee or a General Service Trustee and to call for fresh nominations.
- Advisory Action 1999/041 rejects a proposal that nominations for National and International Delegates must come from the Region or Area in which the nominee serves.
- Advisory Action 1999/043 recommends that nomination procedures for General Service Trustees follow those steps described in the new Composition, Scope and Procedure document of the Conference Committee on Trustees.
- To enable additional extra information to be presented to the full Conference, Advisory Action



2001/018 rejects a proposal that no members speak for or against any nominations for the positions of Trustees, Asia Oceania Service Meeting Delegates and World Service Meeting Delegates at full Conference.

- Advisory Action 2001/022 resolves that:
 - i. Conference nominates Regional Trustees as outlined in the Topic 2001/022 and on pages 124 and 125 of the 3rd edition of the *Australian AA Service Manual* 1987; and,
 - ii. all core documents be amended to reflect the changes made to procedures for the election of Regional Trustees and that these changes be presented in time for approval of Chapter 8 by Conference 2002.
- Advisory Action 2002/054B endorses that it was the spirit of Conference 2001 that the procedure for nomination of Regional Trustees be as outlined on pages 124 and 125 of the 3rd Edition of the *Australian AA Service Manual* and instructs the Board to immediately proceed with amendment of all core documents to reflect these changes.
- Advisory Action 2002/075 alters Article 18 of the General Service Board to read:

Election of Alcoholic Trustees
Alcoholic Trustees shall serve for a period of four years from the date of their appointment. The normal process for appointment of Regional Trustees shall be as follows:

 - (a) *One nomination for Regional Trustee will be accepted from each defined Area within a given Region as defined in Article 1.*
 - (b) *If there are more than one candidate, selection of one candidate from Area nominees takes place at the annual General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia in November, by means of a nominating session as described in the Australian General Service Manual.*
 - (c) *The selected candidate must then be approved for recommendation to the Board. Approval requires that a minimum of 2/3 of registered Members of Conference must support the motion.*
 - (d) *The Board then elects the selected candidate to the position of Regional Trustee and simultaneously, Member of the Company 'the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia'. This election requires a simple majority of Board Members present.*
 - (e) *The change in Board composition is notified to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission within two weeks of the date of election.*
- Advisory Action 2002/076 resolves to add the wording of Advisory Action 2002/075 above to By-Law (r) of the General Service Board By-Laws and resolves that By-Laws (p) and (q) of the General Service Board By-Laws be altered to read:

(p) *Each of the six Regions of the Commonwealth shall provide one alcoholic Regional Trustee. Candidates for this position are selected by a special subcommittee of Conference from candidates proposed, no more than one per Area, by the Areas in the relevant Region.*

(q) *In addition to these Trustees, two further alcoholic Trustees, who reside within commuting distance of the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia, shall be selected by the Company and such selection shall be confirmed by the Conference and they shall be known as General Service Trustees. General Service Trustees, in addition to providing services at the same time as Regional Trustees, are expected to provide continued service to the Company during all the times of the year.*
- Advisory Action 2003/036 accepts the following process for appointment of General Service Trustees and Class A Trustees:
 - i. Advertisement in *AA Around Australia* invites all members of Board, staff, Delegates and Fellowship to give names;
 - ii. Extensive research & interviewing by Trustees' Nominating Committee;
 - iii. Trustees Nominating Committee sorts all and communicates CV short list to Conference Committee on Trustees for feedback; spirit of co-operation; happens during year for interim appointments;
 - iv. Board selects preferred candidate; passed on to Conference for disapproval, if any;
 - v. Disapproval requires a two-thirds vote by a Conference quorum against the nomination;



- vi. Candidate elected to Board at its subsequent meeting; and,
- vii. Appointment notified to Australian Securities & Investments Commission within the prescribed time.
- Advisory Action 2003/037 establishes the following process for appointment of Regional Trustees:
 - i. Areas each elect candidates by Third Legacy;
 - ii. CV of one Candidate per Area or single nominee selected jointly by Areas goes to Trustees' Nominating Committee & the Conference Committee on Trustees;
 - iii. Single candidate: Conference approves (2/3 disapproval) or more than one candidate Conference nominates (final selection) by Third Legacy;
 - iv. Conference ratifies if necessary (depending on outcome of above Topics);
 - v. Conference nominee goes to Board;
 - vi. Board elects by simple majority; and,
 - vii. Australian Securities & Investments Commission notified.
- Advisory Action 2003/044 adopts the following process for interim GSB Trustee appointments:
 - Interim appointments of Regional Trustees**
 - i. If possible, delay appointment to next Conference;
 - ii. Election is performed directly by Third Legacy procedure by the Board;
 - iii. Areas are asked to nominate new candidate(s), the CVs of whom are vetted by both the Trustees' Nominating Committee and the Conference Committee on Trustees representing the Conference;
 - iv. All Delegates are notified with next mailing;
 - v. Australian Securities & Investments Commission is notified; and,
 - vi. Presented to the following Conference for disapproval, if any.
 - Interim appointments of General Service Trustees and Class A Trustees**
 - vii. Need is announced in *AA Around Australia* and all requested to help;
 - viii. Trustees' Nominating Committee vets CVs and chooses short list;
 - ix. Short list referred to Conference Committee on Trustees (during year);
 - x. Board elects;
 - xi. All Delegates are notified with next mailing;
 - xii. Australian Securities & Investments Commission is notified; and,
 - xiii. Presented to the following Conference for disapproval, if any.
- 2002 Conference sets up a Working Party to look at the appointment of Trustees. It would consider the right of Conference to elect all General Service Trustees (Advisory Action 2002/036) and whether the Conference Committee on Trustees should peruse and check all nominations for General Service and Regional Trustees before Conference votes on their election (Advisory Action 2002/038 & 2002/039).
- Advisory Action 2003/040 notes that the Board will traditionally accept the Regional Trustee nomination of Conference for election to Board membership.
- Advisory Action 2006/027 extends (28/5/0) the term once only of a General Service Trustee by two years in the absence of a suitable candidate.
- Advisory Action 2006/002 makes (27/0/1) 1 January the start date for incoming Trustees.
- Advisory Action 2007/024 resolves (27/5/0) that Conference would use the Third Legacy Procedure to select a Regional Trustee if a Region did not select a single candidate.
- 2007 Conference declines to write a new process for interim appointments of Regional Trustees in the case of resignation or death.
- Advisory Action 2009/102 asks the GSB to poll Conference Members to come up with a uniform approach to selecting Regional Trustee nominations.
- 2009 Conference rejects (11/22/0) a proposal that General Service Trustees do not have to live within commuting distance of GSO.
- 2009 Conference rejects (9/22/2) a proposal that Areas could only nominate applicants for Regional Trustee who lived in the Area and have been active in service.
- Advisory Action 2010/031 puts (30/0/0) a two-page limit on applications for Regional Trustees in the *Australian AA Service Manual*. This documents Advisory Action 2009/065 which was accepted.
- Advisory Action 2010/035 stipulates that at least two people from the GSB or GSO interview applicants for Class A Trustee positions. The interview needs to address:
 - i. What knowledge of AA principles, structure, Traditions and Concepts they will

- require within the first year of the five-year term to handle media interviews;
 - ii. that it is a working Board that selects candidates according to needed skills and distributes tasks to all members; and,
 - iii. terms may be extended annually up to three times. (This resolves Advisory Actions 2009/011 & 2009/012 & 2009/013 & 2009/014.)
- Advisory Action 2011/040 asks all Delegates to identify quality candidates for conference positions, especially General Service Trustees.
- 2022 Conference accepts the recommendation of topic 2022/017 to support the Board's intention to change Article 4 of its Articles of Association by rewording the last sentence to read:
Any Trustees having retired shall not be eligible for reappointment, except in the case where the Class A Trustee has retired before completion of their five-year term of office.
- 2022 Conference rejects floor action to address the issue to find suitable Class A Trustees by reducing terms from 5 to 3 years.
- The Board resolved that the previous decision to seek a General Service Trustee outside of the Sydney area be rescinded and that the original guideline contained in the Service Manual be reinstated.
- 2023 Conference resolved to reject topic 2023/019 and shorten the term from 5 to 3 years.
- 2024 Conference resolves to accept topic 2024/004 to reduce the number of Class A Trustees for four (4) to two (2), changes to service documents and literature to follow.
- 2024 Conference rejects topic 2024/014 to remove voting rights of General Service Trustees from GSB meetings and Conference.

Refer to Tables 7 and 8 in the Appendix for a detailed breakdown of Trustee Appointments.

5.14 Trustee Emeritus

- Advisory Action 1995/065 reinstates the position of Trustee Emeritus.
- Advisory Action 1996/039 appoints Dr Ron Whittington, Lorraine Yudaeff and Keith Smith as Trustees Emeritus. Future nominations as Trustee Emeritus to be a Class A Trustee, normally the retiring Chairman, and available to contribute in a non-voting capacity at Board meetings and to the Fellowship at large. Candidates would be nominated by the Board and appointed by the Conference.
- Because it is about retaining skills rather than bestowing honours, 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to abolish the Trustee Emeritus title.
- Advisory Action 2009/064B elects Dr. Vanda Rounsefell as Trustee Emeritus.
- In order to resolve Advisory Action 2009/064B and extend on Advisory Action 1996/039, Conference 2010 accepts Advisory Action 2010/010 to instruct the Report, Charter & Service Manual Committee to put a role description for Trustee Emeritus in the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 2011/041 includes a description of the role of Trustee Emeritus in section 9 of the *Australian AA Service Manual*. Only Class A Trustees are eligible to become Trustee Emeritus after a lengthy period of service on the GSB. Trustee Emeritus have no vote.
- Advisory Action 2016/005 recognises (30/1/0) the position of Trustee Emeritus as an invaluable, ongoing resource for the Fellowship and resolved that this position be continued.
- Advisory Action 2016/023 resolves (29/2/0) not to change the role of Trustee Emeritus.

5.15 World Service Delegates

- 1969 Conference accepts participation expenses of \$US400 for two Delegates from Australia to attend the first World Service Meeting.
- 1970 Conference agrees to pay the fares (\$90.80) for the World Service Meeting Delegate to travel to Conference from South Australia.
- 1972 Conference arranges for World Service Delegates to submit written reports on their return from World Service Meetings. It also appointed Dr. Bill Spence (non-alcoholic Trustee) as alternate Delegate to the World Service Meeting.
- 1973 Conference accepts the recommendations of the two World Service Meeting Delegates (see pages 42 and 43 of the Minutes.)
- 1978 Conference arranges to pay the expenses for the World Service Meeting Delegate to



- attend the Australian General Service Conference.
- 1979 Conference endorses the principles expressed in the letter from Beth K. (New York General Service Office) dated 24 August 1979, relating to World Service Delegates. The Australian General Service Conference Delegates authority to elect World Service Meeting Delegates to the Australian GSB. (Note: The 1987 edition of the *Australian AA Service Manual* includes the principles from the New York letter at page 130.)
 - Advisory Action 1991/047 recommends that the role of the Delegates to the World Service Meeting at the Australian General Service Conference be to "Give a report to the Australian General Service Conference in September", as laid out in the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
 - Advisory Action 1993/055 accepts the GSB's recommended alterations to the *Australian AA Service Manual* under the heading "The World Service Meeting Delegate".
 - 1993 Conference agrees to the Board recommendation that Conference resume responsibility for appointing World Service Delegates from Area nominations.
 - Advisory Action 1995/021 recommends that the Australian General Service Conference send two Delegates to the World Service Meeting.
 - Advisory Action 1995/022 recommends that the General Service Office Manager contact Merv S and Graham M to ascertain their willingness to stand as World Service Meeting Delegate and Alternate World Service Meeting Delegate. 1993 Conference nominated both these members for the positions.
 - Advisory Action 1995/037 confirms the number of World Service Meeting Delegates as two.
 - Advisory Action 1996/022 separates the roles of World Service Meeting Delegate and Asia Oceania Zone Meeting Delegate. This would enhance the dissemination of information to more members of the Fellowship by having two World Service Meeting Delegates and two Asia Oceania Zone Meeting Delegates.
 - Advisory Action 1997/012 recommends that World Service Meeting Delegates and Asia Oceania Zone Meeting Delegates should retain their right to vote because Groups elect them through their elected Delegates at Conference.
 - Advisory Action 1997/031 agrees that nomination forms for World Service Meeting Delegates be forwarded to Conference with a suggestion that Conference receive future nominations for World Service Meeting and Asia Oceania Zone Meeting Delegates through Areas, one nomination per Area. Advisory Action 1999/006 recommends that the International Delegates are accountable to the GSB.
 - Advisory Action 1999/029 recommends that Asia Oceania Service Meeting Delegates rotate on/off as of 1st January.
 - Advisory Action 2000/075 resolves that Alternate International Delegate positions will be nominated and voted on as a separate position.
 - Advisory Action 2002/012 resolves that the total number of International Delegates will be reduced to two, in two years time.
 - Advisory Action 2002/013 resolves that expenses incurred by International Delegates in carrying out the duties for which they were elected continue to be fully funded by the Fellowship, as has been the case in the past.
 - Advisory Action 2003/035 resolves to write the International Delegate positions and roles into relevant service documents (Memorandum & Articles of Association; the By-laws; the Conference Charter; the *Australian AA Service Manual*; the Conference Administrative Procedures and Composition, Scope and Procedure documents).
 - Advisory Action 2004/016 writes a new section covering World Service Delegates into the Conference Charter with the following wording:
*The World Service Delegates: Election, Roles, Terms and Alternates:
Two World Service (WS) Delegates, who report to the Board and to Conference shall be appointed by Conference, using a Third Legacy procedure, for a four-year term. These Delegates shall represent AA Australia at both the World and the Asia-Oceania Service meetings and bring knowledge back to the Australian Fellowship from sharing wisdom, strength and hope with the broad global AA network. Their main roles are World Service and 12th Step work at international level and keeping the Australian Fellowship aware of their work. For continuity, the terms of appointment shall overlap. Alternate positions shall be offered to runners-up in the Delegate election, in order of the votes attracted. These positions run parallel to the Delegate positions (overlapping, duration four years), unless the Delegate position falls vacant, in which case the Alternate will step into an*



acting Delegate role until the next election.

- Advisory Action 2004/016 writes a new section covering World Service Delegates into the Conference Charter with the following wording:
*The World Service Delegates: Election, Roles, Terms and Alternates:
Two World Service (WS) Delegates, who report to the Board and to Conference shall be appointed by Conference, using a Third Legacy procedure, for a four-year term. These Delegates shall represent AA Australia at both the World and the Asia-Oceania Service meetings and bring knowledge back to the Australian Fellowship from sharing wisdom, strength and hope with the broad global AA network. Their main roles are World Service and 12th Step work at international level and keeping the Australian Fellowship aware of their work. For continuity, the terms of appointment shall overlap. Alternate positions shall be offered to runners-up in the Delegate election, in order of the votes attracted. These positions run parallel to the Delegate positions (overlapping, duration four years), unless the Delegate position falls vacant, in which case the Alternate will step into an acting Delegate role until the next election.*
- Advisory Action 2005/025 agrees (16/11/2) that Candidates who have previously held positions as Asia Oceania Service Meeting or World Service Delegates are not eligible for re-election as World Service Delegates. Advisory Action 2006/032 confirms (24/5/3) the same thing with a clearer majority.
- Advisory Action 2005/028 agrees (24/5/0) that the World Service Delegate application form would ask about Australian citizenship and residency and past criminal convictions that may impede international travel.
- Advisory Action 2006/036 unanimously resolves to accept the International Activities System Report, including qualifications for World Service Delegates.
- Advisory Action 2009/081 sets out that World Service Delegates' Reports be posted on www.aaservice.org.au
- Conference rejects (30/0/1) Topic 2016/016 to cancel further plans and initiatives in the Asia Oceania zone until AA Australia takes its inventory.
- Advisory Action 2017/012 resolves that the World Service Delegates be requested to produce a podcast for inclusion on the National Website.
- 2024 Conference rejects topic 2024/007 to remove Conference voting rights from World Service Delegates as a means of narrowing the gap towards 2/3 Delegate voting majority.
- 2025 Conference rejects topic 037/2025 to change the role of World Service Delegates to Trustees At Large, allowing them full voting rights on the General Service Board.

Refer to Table 9 in the Appendix for a detailed breakdown of World Service Delegate Appointments.

6. International Issues

6.1 Asia Oceania Service Meeting

- Advisory Action 1994/044 recommends that Australia does not send a Delegate to the meeting in Japan.
- Advisory Action 1996/043 recommends that AA Australia place a bid for the 1999 Asia Oceania Zone Meeting to be held in Australia.
- Advisory Action 1997/030 recommends that the 1999 Asia Oceania Zone Meeting be held on 29th and 30th March 1999 at the Quarantine Station in Sydney and that the theme be “Our Primary Purpose”.
- Advisory Action 1999/053 recommends that Australia contribute as its share of the support for the Asia Oceania Secretariat, the amount to be determined by Conference.
- Advisory Action 1999/055 recommends that the Australian Fellowship commit itself to an ongoing annual financial contribution to the Asia Oceania Secretariat, the amount to be determined at each Conference.
- Advisory Action 2002/026 resolves that the Board send two International Delegates to the Asia Oceania Service Meeting, the cost of this to come from general funds.
- Advisory Action 2003/059 resolves that Australia submit a bid to host the 2005 Asia Oceania Service Meeting on the Gold Coast.
- Advisory Action 2007/035 asks the Asia Oceania Service Meeting to take inventory.
- Advisory Action 2015/033 resolves that \$2,000 be donated to the Asia Oceania Service Meeting subject to a Profit and Loss Account from the Secretariat.
- Advisory action 2022/020 Conference resolved to accept that the sum of \$2,000 be donated to the Asia Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat to assist with the running costs of the Asia Oceania Service Meeting.

6.2 International literature fund

New York General Service Office is responsible for this fund which is solely for translating Conference approved literature into other languages. Australia requests approved translations through this single global service. Each year, Australia contributes 25% of the money raised from the Founders' Day Collection to the fund, North America carries the bulk of the cost of translations.

- Advisory Action 1994/042 arranges for the Conference Coordinator to write to Darwin District Committee advising that Conference rescinds the previous communication from the GSB and that the \$2,000 required for translation of AA literature into Aboriginal dialects is available from the GSO. Advisory Action 1994/043 arranges for the Conference Coordinator to forward a letter to the International Literature Fund quoting Advisory Action 1994/042.
- Advisory Action 1995/003 recommends that a feature be made of the International Literature Fund to explain its purpose at each International AA convention.
- Advisory Action 1995/004 recommends that all AA Groups in Australia be encouraged to contribute any surplus funds from one meeting each year during Founders Day Week (June 10th) to be forwarded to the GSO for the International Literature Fund.
- Advisory Action 1996/041 agrees that up to 25% of the International Literature Fund collection be used to directly supply our neighbouring countries with their literature.
- Advisory Action 2000/050A resolves that 25% of the International Literature Fund Collection be made available for assisting countries in the Asia Oceania Zone through literature, sponsorship and other development activities.
- Advisory Action 2000/050B resolves that GSO will keep a display of international literature to be made available to the Fellowship for Conventions, Conferences, Regional Forums, District functions, etc. Freight costs to be borne by the organising committee.
- Advisory Action 2000/054 resolves that Delegates be asked to prepare a list of all multicultural agencies in their Area for the distribution of accurate and relevant but slow-moving foreign literature.



6.3 International sponsorship fund

This is an Australian Conference initiative to carry the message in the Asia Oceania zone. The main source of funds is 75% from each year's Founders' Day Collection. Australia's World Service Delegates and the General Service Office Manager administer the fund unless the amount is over \$5,000 in which case the Conference International Committee decides.

- Advisory Action 2002/084 resolves that funds be allocated from the 25% of the International Sponsorship Fund to send a delegation to Cambodia to help make AA attractive to the medical and allied professions, government officials and the media.
- Advisory Action 2002/047 proposes to apply the International Sponsorship Fund collection to the International Literature Fund and to Australia's efforts to carry the AA message into the Asia Oceania Zone in a proportion to be determined annually at Conference by a committee composed of members of the Conference International Committee, the Trustees' International Committee, the Trustees' Finance Committee and the International Delegate Group. As this Topic will affect the Fellowship as a whole at Group level, it was returned to the Fellowship for discussion.
- Advisory Action 2003/005 resolves that 75% of funds collected from Groups and members in the week of 10th June for the International Sponsorship Fund be used to sponsor literature and PI&CPC activities in the Asia Oceania zone and that the remaining 25% be forwarded to New York General Service Office as Australia's contribution to the International Literature Fund.
- Advisory Action 2004/010 arranges to send one brown paper bag for the Founders' Day International Sponsorship Fund collection with the March issue of *AA Around Australia* each year and that a quantity of bags be sent out to all Area Delegates for distribution to Groups early April each year.
- Advisory Action 2010/011 sets out that the *Australian AA Service Manual* is to note that the Conference International Committee is to approve expenditure over \$5,000 on behalf of Conference. This documents Advisory Action 2009/029. Advisory Action 2010/032 repeats this request from the subsequent Board meeting with slightly different wording.
- 2011 Conference rejects (5/27/1) a proposal to extend the International Sponsorship Fund to aid remote communities within Australia.
- Advisory Action 2016/008 resolves that the General Service Conference and members throughout Australia continue to carry the message to countries in our Zone and that the International Sponsorship fund be available for this purpose within the guidelines set out in Advisory Action 2010/011.
- Advisory Action 2018/013 accepts recommendation that the GSO advise fellowship of amounts raised by Brown Paper Bag Collection.

7. Literature & Documentation

7.1 Banners

- 1981 Conference asks the GSB to investigate printing of banners featuring AAs 'Declaration of Unity' and the 'Twelve Concepts for World Service'. Advisory Action 1982/028 declines to manufacture these banners because of the expense. Advisory Action 1993/020 asks the Trustees' Finance Committee to report to Conference 1994 about a 'Twelve Concepts' banner.
- Advisory Action 1984/043 agrees to produce a 'Declaration of Unity' banner subject to some reasonable assurance that Groups will be prepared to purchase the item at a cost of approximately \$9.
- Advisory Action 1985/023 decides not to produce a banner of the Promises as contained in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Advisory Action 1991/028 considers a Promises banner to be an unnecessary item. Advisory Action 1993/026 decides not to produce a twelve (sic) promises banner because it may lead to a false or misleading impression for the newcomer. 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to produce a banner of the Promises from page 83 of the Big Book.
- Advisory Action 1992/005 asks the GSO to purchase a large sized Serenity Prayer Banner, with a maximum expenditure of \$200, for hire to rallies and conventions (along with the Steps and Traditions Banners).
- Advisory Action 1993/041 votes not to produce a Preamble Banner.
- Advisory Action 1995/013 directs the GSO Manager to write to the Group that submitted the Aboriginal Twelve Step banner for Conference approval to note that each Group is autonomous and that the Conference has no opinion other than the banner should be used in conjunction with the usual Twelve Steps banner. It was further agreed that a copy of this letter be published in 'AA Around Australia' for the information of the Fellowship.
- 2007 Conference declines to produce a new banner featuring a quote from the forward of The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
- 2007 Conference declines to produce an online clarification of the 'I am Responsible' banner.
- 2009 Conference rejects proposals to produce a Serenity Prayer banner in sans-serif font.
- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to produce a set of banners with the long form of the Traditions.
- Advisory Action 2016/004 resolves that the Twelve Steps banner be printed with the same punctuation and emphasis as those used in the Big Book.
- 2019 Conference rejects 2019/010 to produce 9th step banners.
- 2019 Conference 2019/015 resolved to produce a large Concepts banner for display at AA National Conventions and AA Rallies.

7.2 Copyright & licensing

- 1977 Conference authorises the Australian GSO to request that AA World Services Inc withdraw permission to reprint copyrighted material from all State Service Councils (i.e. NSW, Qld, SA, Vic and WA).
- Advisory Action 1993/053 recommends that the AA World Services Inc 'request for permission to reprint' be modified to suit Australian conditions.
- Advisory Action 1998/005 recommends that the GSB investigate the unauthorised production of the Australian Commemorative Big Book on compact disk and urgently take any appropriate action, if necessary.
- Advisory Action 2010/018 asks (30/0/0) the Board to publish an article on copyright and the licensing agreement with AA World Services.

7.3 Correctional facilities

- Advisory Action 1983/046 lists the following literature as a basic kit for prisoners:
 - i. It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell
 - ii. AA in Prison
 - iii. Where Do I Go from Here?

- iv. Memo to an Inmate Who May be an Alcoholic.
- Advisory Action 1983/047 recommends that AA members visiting prisoners use the flyer *Carrying the Message Inside the Walls* as a guideline.
- Advisory Action 1984/029 arranges to send the *Prison Kit* to all Delegates.
- Advisory Action 1986/026 suggests that if a prison welfare fund could not buy literature, an Area, District or an individual may wish to supplement the supply.
- Advisory Action 2006/003 recommends (24/4/5) that Areas consider setting up a pre-release contact service for correction facilities in their Area.
- Advisory Action 2011/006 establishes a correspondence service for alcoholic inmates, coordinated by GSO.
- Advisory Action 2012/005 resolves (27/3/0) that the GSB and the GSO produce a DVD (or CD ROM) about the role and benefit that AA can provide for prisons and inmates. It is to include the national helpline number. The DVD should then be forwarded to every correctional facility in Australia with a covering letter about the role of the GSB, what AA has to offer to correctional facility inmates, and the appropriate State/local AA contact details.
- Advisory Action 2016/060 resolves that the CD ROM produced as a result of Advisory Action 2012/005 be approved as a service item.
- Conference rejects Topic 2016/051 that each Area set up a Corrections sub-committee as it negates an Areas autonomy and may duplicate services already provided by a CSO, District or Intergroup.

7.4 Deaf resources

- Advisory Action 1991/052 asks the GSB to investigate what needs to be done or what can be done for the deaf alcoholic through the following actions:
 - i. Entering into further discussions with the Deaf Society of NSW about the adaptation from the American sign language 'ASL' to the Australian sign language 'Ozsign';
 - ii. correspondence between GSO Australia and GSO Great Britain, GSO New York and such other sources as the Board may identify;
 - iii. replacement of reference to 'the hearing impaired' with 'the deaf/hearing impaired';
 - iv. liaison on this matter between the GSO and the CSOs: and,
 - v. some investigation by the Australian Delegates attending the next World Service Meeting.
- Advisory Action 2004/005 resolves to investigate development and production of a video for deaf alcoholics in Auslan, similar to the New Zealand video already in stock at GSO, professionals and facilities aware of AA resources for deaf people (eg Auslan video).
- Advisory action 2021/32 Conference accepts that the GSB be requested to take the steps necessary to produce an Auslan translation of Chapter 5 of the Big Book.
- Advisory action 2022/003 Conference resolved to accept the proposal that the GSB encourages the Fellowship to take steps to raise awareness that AA welcomes Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.
- Advisory Action #025/2025 resolved that a Working Group be formed to develop a plan for an Auslan translation of the Big Book (Doctor's Opinion - p.164). The working group will report back to Conference in 2026 with a detailed, fully costed proposal for an informed group conscience decision.

7.5 Literature Administration

- 1962 Conference instructs the Australian Service Office to write to the New York GSO to ascertain what pamphlets are available to purchase a limited supply.
- 1980 Conference asks the Literature Committee to examine *Who Me?*, *Fifteen Points*, *Way of Life* and *AA and the Higher Power* and take appropriate action, and that GSO make a list of alternative literature. It also asked the Committee to establish a system of proper procedure for review of literature submissions. As the Literature Committee had not established such a proposed system, 1981 and 1982 Conference carried the matter forward until Advisory Action



- 1983/017 accepts a Composition, Scope and Procedure document.
- Advisory Action 1989/024 notes it is not possible to change the title of *Questions and Answers on Sponsorship* as this is an AA World Services import.
 - Advisory Action 1989/027 explains that GSO address stamps are used in AA books imported from New York GSO to allow members to see that they are available in Australia. It is presumed that CSOs do the same for similar reasons.
 - Advisory Action 1990/066 determines that the term 'literature' in general should include audio and video cassettes.
 - Advisory Action 1990/067 recommends that Conference approved literature should be freely sold to anyone who asks for it.
 - Advisory Action 1991/034 believes that the current GSO price list gives an adequate description of AA literature.
 - Advisory Action 1992/007 endorses the GSB's recommendation that a literature reserve fund be established to maintain stock at a reasonable level (defined as \$85,000).
 - Advisory Action 1994/035 holds over to 1995 a Board recommendation that GSO stock literature written by AAs for AAs and accepted by the General Service Conference.
 - Advisory Action 1995/011 agrees that the GSO can purchase, stock and sell literature, tapes, videos, compact discs, books, pamphlets, periodicals and other literature produced by AA Grapevine Inc. in the USA
 - Advisory Action 2006/026 resolves (32/1/0) to investigate selling literature online and make a recommendation to 2007 Conference.
 - Advisory Action 2008/004 resolved to print pamphlets on non-glossy paper so Groups and CSOs can stamp them with local AA contact details.
 - 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to produce the literature in a uniform design.
 - 2012 Conference rejects (31/2/0) printing all Australian Conference Approved Literature on the highest recycled content (preferably 100% recycled paper or Environmentally Sustainable Plantation Forest Pulp that is carbon offset and chlorine free). However, Conference recommends that the GSO investigate the cost of printing pamphlets on more environmentally friendly paper.
 - Advisory Action 2013/010 requests (28/2/0) that the GSB assess the effect technology is having and will have on literature sales and report back to 2014 Conference with its findings, recommendations and strategies to embrace things like e-books and online ordering. Advisory Action 2013/017 notes that online literature sales would require consultation with the CSOs.
 - Advisory Action 2018/018 Conference resolved to accept that all literature be displayed in pictorial form on the national website.
 - 2021 Conference rejects topic 2020/013 for the proposal to establish a national online literature sales and distribution service.
 - Advisory action 2022/010 Conference resolved to accept that the GSB investigates and pursues mechanisms by which Australian members (and the worldwide Fellowship generally), can have a say in future decisions regarding changes to our key literature.

7.6 Literature Amendments

- Advisory Action 2020/026 resolved that the statement from Advisory Action 2018/002 "group problems should be resolved by group conscience and the GSC, the GSB and the GSO have no responsibility for solving group problems" be included in *the Group Handbook*.
- 2023/004 Conference Resolved for the Board to produce a model answer to the question around inclusive based language be placed on the members website and updated regularly with input from World Service Delegates
- Conference resolved to reject topics 2023/008 2023/009 as AA Australia does not have the capacity to influence changes to literature copyrighted by AAWS or The Grapevine. However, the committee does support inclusivity of all alcoholics when considering changes to Australian copyrighted literature. Conference recommends that a Working Group be formed to explore options to promote the 12 Concepts, without changing existing literature.

7.7 Literature: Audio Visual Material

- 1962 Conference requests the Secretary launch an appeal for donations of tapes, records and



publications on AA with a view to forming a free Australian Service Conference library, and make every effort to obtain a tape recorder so that meetings can be taped and the tapes put into the library. In 1963, the Secretary reports that the tape and record library has not been actioned due to lack of response from members.

- 1974 Conference endorses the action of the General Services Committee in fixing film rental at \$35 and that any departure from this figure be left to the Committee.
- 1980 Conference asks the Board to look at the matter of the 'Sharing & Caring Tape Library'. The 1981 GSB Chair's report to Conference records that Clive S, Chairman of the taping company, explained to the November meeting of the Board that it is run using the experience of a similar organisation in the US that the New York GSO referred to Clive. Clive further advised that on his death all tapes referring to AA would become the property of the GSB of AA Australia. The Board found nothing in the tape library catalogue or in its preliminary text which would indicate affiliation of the 'Sharing & Caring Tape Library' with the Fellowship of AA.
- 1981 Conference arranges, as funds permit, for the GSO to purchase film and audio visual material for Groups to rent.
- Advisory Action 1988/018 refers the making of a video using non-alcoholic Trustees to the PI&CPC Standing Committee.
- Advisory Action 1990/002 authorises the PI&CPC Committee to produce a video on the GSO and GSB at work, provided the Committee writes and reviews a script in advance.
- Advisory Action 1990/046 considers selling of tapes a form of service provided that:
 - i. commercial exploitation is discouraged;
 - ii. the anonymity of speakers is protected;
 - iii. lists are available on request and not openly circulated; and,
 - iv. that first names only be used on tapes.
- Advisory Action 1991/035 recommends that the making of a video for doctors by AA would be inadvisable, partly because AA has no brief to define alcoholism, and it seems doubtful that doctors would either watch it or accept its message.
- Advisory Action 1991/038 suggests changes to a video produced by the PI&CPC Subcommittee of the CSO in Brisbane before resubmission to Conference 1992 for final approval.
- Advisory Action 1993/030 refers the video 'Rap With Us' back to the Fellowship. In order to get feedback from young members of the Fellowship, it was recommended for showing at the Young Peoples Meeting at the 1994 National Convention.
- Advisory Action 1993/031 recommends that the video 'A Message to Young People' be referred to the Melbourne Convention Committee.
- Advisory Action 1993/032 requests a master copy of the UK video 'A Message to Young People' and permission to reproduce it in Australia. Provided permission is granted, Australian Conference approval is given subject to the final frames being altered to reflect the Australian GSO.
- Advisory Action 1993/033 refers 'Circles of Love and Service' to the Trustees' Co-ordination & Review Committee to investigate the cost of an Australian version similar to 'AA Australia' audiotape. Advisory Action 1994/018 accepted the video in principle and forwards it to the Trustees' Literature Committee for further work to be presented to Conference 1995.
- Advisory Action 1995/030 declines to make use of the Sunshine Coast PI video as a PI tool.
- Advisory Action 1996/040 recommends that the video *Inside AA Australia* be distributed for use within the Fellowship without applying for the Conference seal of approval.
- Advisory Action 1998/004 recommends that Conference-approved literature currently available on cassette be also made available on compact disk as determined by the GSB. However, Advisory Action 1999/013 defers this.
- Advisory Action 2003/020 resolves that the production of an Australian version of the British film 'One Day at a Time' be investigated.
- Advisory Action 2003/023 resolves to make an inventory of all video titles currently available from GSO to determine which of these could be suitably re-produced using Australian situations and places. A cost assessment is then to be made of producing new or revised videos for sale.
- Advisory Action 2004/039 asks the Board to investigate the costs of adapting existing video material and consider the cost-effectiveness of producing a new video as opposed to adapting existing material, taking into account:
 - i. a preference for video material with Australian content; and,
 - ii. the likely level of use or demand for such material within the Fellowship.



- Advisory Action 2005/034 resolves (27/1/0) to archive and discontinue sale of all videos with the exception of 'Bill's Own Story' and 'Bill Discusses the Twelve Traditions'.
- Advisory Action 2005/035 resolves (26/2/0) to set up a committee to produce Australian audio-visual service material.
- A Floor Action (Advisory Action 2007/047) resolves to produce a video for deaf alcoholics.
- Advisory Action 2007/002 asks the GSB to consider the production of a video for young people.
- Advisory Action 2007/004 asks the Board to consider the production of a video addressed to the professional community depicting what happens when people contact AA for help.
- Advisory Action 2010/003 arranges to produce a video of the Steps suitable for any race, including Aborigines.
- Advisory Action 2012/032 agrees (23/9/1) to develop and produce a DVD/Audio Book, and associated resource material, specifically aimed at the Aboriginal community but with appeal to the wider community.
- 2020 Conference resolved that Public Service Announcements (PSAs) referred to in Advisory Action 2019/037 should be assessed individually by mail poll to determine suitability without further editing.
- 2024 Conference accepts the new script for Advisory Action 2021/006 as presented, to go back to Trustee Communications Committee for recording.

7.8 Literature: Big Book

- 1964 Conference empowers the Chairman to continue to act on behalf of the Australian Service Conference to have the Big Book (*Alcoholics Anonymous*) printed in Australia and, if and when necessary, to open a bank account in the name of the company, signatures to be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, with any two being acceptable. The Chairman reports to 1965 Conference on his endeavours to have the Big Book printed and published in Australia, together with details of known sales in the South Pacific area and an estimate of the possible sales that could be achieved by a concerted effort and by selling to other than AA sources. He also gave details of the possible finance that would be required and its probable sources.
- Advisory Action 1986/033 adopts a flyer on the Big Book.
- Advisory Action 1986/036 recommends, pending approval from AA World Services, that the first 168 pages of the Big Book (the study section) be produced in a soft cover form, as well as the full hard cover Big Book.
- Advisory Action 1987/001 refers printing of the first 168 pages of the Big Book in soft cover to Groups to ascertain if a market exists for at least 2,000 copies and to ascertain that we would not be selling this abridged version to the detriment of the unabridged hard cover book already printed in Australia.
- Advisory Action 1988/025 decides not to proceed at this point with printing the first 168 pages of the Big Book in soft cover.
- Advisory Action 1988/030 decides that in future no part of the Big Book be printed separately.
- Advisory Action 1993/021 recommends that the pocket-sized edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* be published in Australia.
- Advisory Action 1993/054 commissions a feasibility study for a Commemorative Big Book with Australian stories to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of AA in Australia in 1995. The draft to circulate to Area Delegates, Trustees and CSOs by the end of July 1994.
- Advisory Action 1994/033 approves a production run of 5,000 copies of the Commemorative Big Book in the proposed format and binding.
- Advisory Action 2005/019 resolves (25/3/0) that a new Australian Big Book be produced and that more editorial work be done than on the previous Australian Big Book to match the standard of the US Big Book.
- Advisory Action 2006/039 unanimously agreed to produce a new Australian Big Book.
- 2008 Conference rejects the inclusion of a glossary in the Big Book.
- Advisory Action 2009/084 asks for the 2nd Edition of the Australian Big Book to go to 2012 Conference for approval so that it could be released at the 70th Anniversary National Convention in 2015.
- 2009 Conference appoints a Production Team and an Evaluation Team and asks them to produce a project timetable.
- Advisory Action 2009/084K makes it clear that the second Australian edition will be the only

one published by GSO, however, limited quantities of the imported American version will still be available.

- Advisory Action 2009/104 arranges for members to assign copyright at the time they submit their stories.
- Advisory Action 2010/005 agrees to include an index in the Australian Big Book.
- Advisory Action 2012/040 acknowledges the work done to date and passes (32/0/1) the Australian Big Book on to the editorial team for review and presentation to 2013 Conference.
- Advisory Action 2013/032 agrees (28/1/1) to publish the Australian Big Book in 2015 as planned.
- Conference rejects the proposal that a copy of the 2nd Edition Australian Big Book be donated to every Council Library in Australia, the responsibility for that lies with Groups and Districts.
- Advisory Action 2016/036 resolves that the submitted corrections be made to the Australian Edition Big Book for the next printing.
- Conference rejects topic 2017/005 (18/7/0) to have “My Southern Friend” included in the next reprint of the Australian Big Book as it may result in the sacrifice of an Australia Story.
- 2018 Conference rejects topic 2018/003 to add 10 original stories to the next Australian Edition of the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Advisory Action 2018/016 resolved to accept the recommendation that the GSO prints 4th Edition Big Books as well as Australian 2nd Edition Big Book.
- 2021 Conference rejects topic 2021/014 the proposal to submit a topic to the World Service Conference regarding changing language in the Big Book.
- 2021 Conference rejects topic 2021/009 the proposal that the Australian General Service take all necessary steps to bring out a new edition of the Australian Big Book with more gender-neutral language.
- 2021 Conference rejects topic 2021/017 the proposal to include the personal story “Acceptance was the Answer” in the second edition of the Australian Big Book.
- 2022 Conference accepts 2022/023 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.
- Advisory action 2023/029 Conference resolves to refer topic to have copies of *Alcoholics Anonymous* printed for dyslexic people to the board to seek expert advice.
- Conference 2024 confirms that a limited run of an 80th Anniversary edition of the Australian Big Book be published.
- Advisory action 009/2025 Conference resolved for the Australian story section of the Australian Big Book be made available online.
- Advisory Action 023/2025 Conference resolved for the Board to commence collecting personal recovery stories from the Australian Fellowship for future use including archival purposes.

7.9 Literature Items Produced

Refer to Table 10 in the Appendix for a detailed breakdown of Literature items produced.

7.10 Literature Items Not Produced

Refer to Table 11 in the Appendix for a detailed breakdown of Literature items not produced.

7.11 Literature Item Projects

- Advisory Action 1982/026 abandons a project to produce birthday tokens as costs proved to be prohibitive.
- 1982 Conference asks the GSO to examine the “Service Kit” compiled by the Western Region with a view to making it available throughout the Fellowship.
- 1983 Conference declines to consider a pamphlet warning against the ‘dry drunk’ syndrome



because AA has no opinion.

- Advisory Action 1983/019 believes the AA Group structure slides and commentary have merit, but not enough substance to warrant production at this time. Advisory Action 1984/045 decides not to adopt the AA Group Slides with revised commentary, as essentially, they cover the same ground as *Circles of Love and Service*. Advisory Action 2000/045 accepts the revised service slides for use as a service item, provided the logo is removed.
- 1983 Conference asks the committee to report back to 1984 Conference on the need for and the form of a guide to "Fourth Step Inventory". Advisory Action 1984/041 decides not to produce a Fourth Step Inventory Guide as there is no clearly demonstrated need for it.
- Advisory Action 1984/046 initiates a program of work over the next twelve months to Australianise service pamphlets to reflect the Australian service scene.
- Advisory Action 1986/030 agrees to produce the Serenity Prayer key ring containing *the Serenity Prayer, Just for Today and the Preamble* for sale under the banner of *AntennA*.
- Advisory Action 1990/044 asks the Trustees' Literature Committee to comment on the feasibility of an updated Australian version of *AA and the Alcoholic Employee* in relation to *If You Are a Professional*. It also recommends that a letter be composed suitable for distribution to employees, regarding the availability of AA to help the employee who is drinking. That letter should be referred to the next Conference for endorsement.
- Advisory Action 1991/019 notes the Board is considering combining *AA and the Alcoholic Employee* and *If You Are a Professional* because *AA and the Alcoholic Employee* is no longer being distributed.
- Advisory Action 1991/033 refers *The Resource and Information Handbook* to the Trustees' Literature Committee.
- Advisory Action 1997/016 asks the Literature Committee Coordinator to investigate any current copyright on the *Daily Moral Inventory* card.
- Advisory Action 1999/018 recommends that the photographs submitted with Topic 437 be made available as a Service item through GSO and that samples of these photographs be included in *PI Around Australia* to notify the Fellowship that they are available.
- Advisory Action 2004/034 produces a flyer (similar size to *AA at a Glance*) encouraging members travelling overseas to go to AA meetings, take some AA literature with them and to communicate any changes to meetings or information on meetings not listed in the Asia Oceania Service Meeting directory to GSO. This flyer should be distributed to members requesting information on overseas meetings.
- Advisory Action 2006/024 unanimously resolved to review existing literature for young people, in consultation with young people.
- Advisory action 2022/004 Conference resolved to accept that a Working Group be formed to develop new literature that improves a person's engagement with AA both whilst they are in, and after they have left a Correctional Facility.
- Advisory action 2022/031 Conference resolved to accept that the submitted article "Tradition Three and what it means for Specialised AA Groups", be made available to the Fellowship through numerous AA resources. This Advisory Action was initiated from Advisory Action 2021/023.
- 2023 Conference rejects topic 2023/025 the proposal for a secular pamphlet however refers to topic 2023/015 and after the Board's deliberations on topic 2023/015 the conference recommends the board take this pamphlet into consideration.
- Advisory action 2024/006 Conference approves the creation of a PIPA flow chart for the development of PI/PA materials.
- Advisory Action #004/2025 resolved to create a working group to update the "Group Contributions Plan" pamphlet and combine it with "Money and Spirituality" to create a simple, readable, online flyer that can be updated regularly and provides groups with inspiration and information to carry out the 7th tradition.
- Advisory Action #007/2025 resolved the formation of a working group to explore the development of a publication featuring the stories of AA members in Australia who found sobriety, fellowship and access to service opportunities through online meetings and groups despite accessibility barriers, including chronic illness, disability, and caring responsibilities.
- Advisory Action #006/2025 resolved for the pamphlet "AA in Your Community" be updated as per the suggested attached pamphlet and amended as per the Committee recommendation.
- Advisory Action #008/2025 resolved for the Sober After Release pamphlet to be produced in



addition to the Bridging the Gap pamphlet and that the pamphlet refer to aa.org.au

7.12 Literature Policy

- 1973 Conference adopts a policy that the Australian Service Conference sell literature to all agencies or persons requiring it. The Secretary advise every State CSO noting this policy need not necessarily be contrary to any State or Area policy. Advisory Action 1983/023 considers the selling of AA literature to outside organisations is not an infringement of Traditions. Advisory Action 1986/012A reaffirms the 1973 decision of Conference.
- 1973 Conference agrees to send a suitable supply of initial literature to new Groups. The Australian Service Conference Executive Committee to select a standard kit and write to each CSO asking them to indicate their wishes regarding supply of literature to new Groups.
- 1977 Conference discourages Groups from selling literature not distributed by the GSO.
- 1980 Conference recommends that:
 - i. GSO stock only North American Conference approved pamphlets and other items;
 - ii. approval be withdrawn for other Australian Conference approved literature, however, GSO may retain and sell such items until current stocks are depleted;
 - iii. the Literature Committee should study at depth the pamphlets involved to ascertain whether the message is not already covered by North American Conference approved pamphlets; this deep study of AA literature should continue to be the responsibility of the Trustees and Conference Literature Committees;
 - iv. the committees jointly draw up a set of guidelines for review of all items prior to recommendation to Conference for approval; care be taken not to duplicate a message;
 - v. all items ought to reflect the collective views of the Fellowship as a whole; and,
 - vi. any newly proposed item should be forwarded to New York General Service Office for comment.
- Advisory Action 1986/042 decides that any new special items approved by Conference have at least half of the initial cost of production paid in advance before said items are produced. This applies to Banners, Directories, etc.
- Advisory Action 1988/029 decides that when reprinting approved pamphlets in Australia, the title will be confined to the very top of the cover.
- Advisory Action 1988/031 arranges for the back outside cover to be white on the next print of *This is AA* to enable room for phone numbers, etc.
- Advisory Action 1988/034 feels it is unnecessary for literature to be printed specifically for those with reading difficulties, as the Big Book, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* and *AA Comes of Age* are available on tape.
- Advisory Action 1988/035 confirms that any change to any word in the "Twelve Steps" would need the written approval of 75% of Groups worldwide.
- Advisory Action 1989/033 requests the Australian GSO sell AA Conference Approved Literature at the recommended retail price to all CSOs throughout Australia.
- Advisory Action 1990/030 decides not to nominate an 'AA' colour because any choice would be contentious.
- Advisory Action 1990/047 opines that the current AA pamphlets are appropriate and target specific Groups as individuals and any reduction other than by natural attrition would disadvantage those specific Groups or individuals.
- Advisory Action 1991/019 agrees that gender-specific language be changed to non-gender specific language in revising the *Australian AA Service Manual*. See also Advisory Action 1990/041 under Service Manual & Guidelines.
- Advisory Action 1991/020 acknowledges the desirability of completely updating any statistics used within any item of Australian Conference approved literature.
- Advisory Action 1991/022 recommends that the word 'disease' be retained in Australian Conference approved literature.
- Advisory action 1991/025 agrees that Australianising of AA Conference approved literature



- should be continued as funds become available.
- Advisory Action 1992/009 recommends that for hardback and major literature a glossary of terms be printed at the beginning of the publication and that when first used the proposed abbreviated titles be written out in full and that the abbreviation be shown. For pamphlet type literature, the procedure be that when first used the proposed abbreviated titles be written in full and that the abbreviation be shown.
 - Advisory Action 1992/012 feels that the explanation of alcoholism given in the pamphlet *44 Questions* is probably the better explanation because it is in long form, but the answer given in the pamphlet *A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous* is quite sufficient for the purpose of a brief explanation. Conference believes that both pamphlets are correct in their description and that whichever pamphlet the reader feels comfortable with becomes the right answer.
 - Advisory Action 1993/017 believes a pamphlet explaining the meaning of a spiritual experience, specifically relating to AA, is not warranted as this is a private and personal matter and AA does not adopt a particular stance in this area.
 - Advisory Action 1993/019 thanks the member for the suggestion on updating the language of literature with a request for a draft submission of the proposal which could be reviewed by the Trustees' Literature Committee.
 - Advisory Action /018 notes that only the North American Conference can change the copyrighted wording of the "I Am Responsible" statement and that this document also has much historical value to our Fellowship as a whole in its present form.
 - Advisory Action 2000/026 approves business card size literature in principle.
 - Advisory Action 2006/014 unanimously resolved to promote the availability and success of placing AA signs at the entrance to towns.
 - 2006 Conference rejects a proposal to sell the US brochure *The AA Group* in Australia.
 - Advisory Action 2007/009 resolved that the next reprint of the pocket Big Book include the short form of the Twelve Concepts.
 - 2008 Conference rejects by a show of hands a proposal to produce culturally diverse literature for Australia.
 - 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to change the Serenity Prayer into the plural.
 - 2010 Conference rejects (12/18/0) a proposal to reduce the number of published items by combining similar items.
 - 2012 Conference rejects (26/6/1) a proposal to write into all relevant literature that the reciting and singing of Christian based hymns and prayers at AA events is inappropriate, exclusive and contrary to our Preamble.
 - Advisory Action 2013/018 agrees (29/1/0) to produce literature in pictorial form suitable for members in various communities who have literacy difficulties.
 - Advisory Action 2014/032 agrees to accept the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation to not proceed with Advisory Action 2013/018 as existing literature is adequate.
 - Advisory Action 2014/033 accepts the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation to endorse the Trustees' Literature Committee's recommendation that literature suitable for members with literacy problems be clearly identified on the literature list.
 - Advisory Action 2014/034 accepts the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that CSOs be invited to clearly identify literature suitable for members with literacy problems in their literature lists.
 - Advisory Action 2014/010 accepts the Conference Literature Committee's recommendation that the word "Donation" be replaced with the word "Contribution" on the *Group Donation Plan* pamphlet pending investigation by the Trustees' Finance Committee about potential Tax implications.
 - Advisory Action 2014/011 decides that, at a local level with either a rubber stamp or sticker, the USA address on Page 9 and the back cover of *Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell* be replaced with:
Corrections Correspondence Service
PO Box A44
Arncliffe NSW 2205
 - Advisory Action 2015/019 resolves (30/0/0) that the GSB investigate the viability of setting up an online bookstore, in consultation with CSOs.
 - Advisory Action 2016/024 that in the Pocket Big Book, the page layout and paragraphs in "The Doctor's Opinion" be compatible with the US/UK versions.



- Advisory Action 2017/014 resolves (26/1/1) that when a new piece of literature is initiated by the General Service Conference, the Conference Committee should be fully involved in the process.
- 2024 Conference rejects topic 2024/011 to create a new category of “Conference Accepted Literature” that would circumvent the Conference approval process.
- 2025 Conference rejects topic 009/2025 to discontinue selling the “Living Sober” book.
- 2025 Conference rejects topic 014/2025 to produce a sponsorship guide, workbook and resources.

7.13 Literature Prices

- 1973 Conference arranges for the Australian Service Conference Secretary to advise any literature price alterations to the CSOs after the Australian Service Conference or its Executive Committee approves price changes. Conference also endorses AA Publishing to use its own discretionary powers in adjusting the price of literature to cover rising costs over the next twelve months, more in line with AA World Services Inc method. (Current Australian mark-up of 44% includes freight, cartage and postage, making a true mark-up of 15% to 16%. Current AA World Services mark-up is 66½% on sale of literature only.
- 1974 Conference agrees to AA Publishing Pty Ltd restructuring its trading terms and literature prices in the manner described in its report.
- 1976 Conference agrees to the increased price of hard cover books from AA World Services and Hazelden and that an equalisation of freight charges be introduced. (Big Book increases from \$6 to \$6.50; Hazelden items (*24 Hour a Day Book*, etc.) from \$3.80 to \$4).
- 1977 Conference approves new prices, with the CSO profit margin remaining the same as previously.
- 1979 Conference implements the literature price rise as submitted by the Victorian CSO immediately, including the suggested bulk buying discounts, and any necessary price alterations be at the discretion of the GSB in future.
- 1980 Conference decides that literature price increases are the prerogative of the GSB, which should consider literature prices at the Jan/Feb 1981 Board Meeting in the light of contribution levels to that date and any adjustments to be closely in line with indexation.
- Advisory Action 1983/030 agrees there be no further price rise in literature for the next twelve months, unless purchase prices increase dramatically.
- Advisory Action 1985/022 continues the price list and discount schedule for books and pamphlets as drawn up by the GSO.
- Advisory Action 1986/032 retains the discount structure re-affirmed at Conference 1985.
- Advisory Action 1987/002 recommends that the Finance Committee, Literature Committee and the Representatives from the CSOs discuss literature pricing and discount structure during this Conference. In consultation with members of GSO staff and State CSOs, Advisory Action 1987/026 set uniform prices for literature throughout Australia.
- Advisory Action 1987/029 agrees that literature prices Australia wide will rise in accordance with CPI adjustments for the next twelve months. The GSB to have the final say in this indexation.
- Advisory Action 1988/005 forms a committee to look at literature prices with a view to allowing changes in prices of certain items. Advisory Action 1988/006 directs the Trustees’ General Services Committee to handle the matter as soon as possible and, if necessary, seek Board confirmation of their deliberations by telephone. Advisory Action 1991/008 endorses the action of the GSB to increase literature prices.
- Advisory Action 1989/033 agrees to sell all Conference-approved literature held by the Australian GSO to all CSOs throughout Australia at the wholesale price and that all be requested to sell AA Conference approved literature at the recommended retail price.
- Advisory Action 1989/034 arranges for GSO Australia to charge enough for literature to cover all expenses but not profit at the expense of another country.
- Advisory Action 1990/067 recommends that the price of literature is to be reviewed annually in the light of the Seventh Tradition. Conference also recommends that, where it is feasible, AA leaflets designed to inform and attract the public to AA should be distributed as widely and as freely as possible.
- Advisory Action 1993/061 recommends that the pamphlet *AA Fact File* be sold from GSO at



- \$1.50 to retail at \$2.
- Advisory Action 1995/002 disagrees with the Topic that a 2% surcharge be made on each Literature invoice written at GSO.
 - Advisory Action 1995/006 disagrees with the Committee recommendation that the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* be printed in pocket form in Australia as we could retail it at approximately \$4.00 compared to \$9.00 for the imported version (sic).
 - Advisory Action 1997/015 decides that an International PI Wallet is not feasible because the cost would be prohibitive (estimated cost of a multi-language wallet is approximately \$10.00 each to produce and the cost of a single language wallet is approximately \$6.00 each to produce. Conference suggests Groups/Districts/Areas can make up their own wallets as required from foreign literature available from GSO.
 - 2006 Conference rejects a proposal to reduce the discount given to CSOs on literature sales from 23.5% to 10% for two reasons: it reduces the income generated to carry the message; and, it risks being counterproductive if CSOs increase prices to cover their drop in revenue.
 - 2006 Conference rejects a proposal to remove 'No Discount' items from the GSO price list because these items are sold close to cost price.
 - Conference rejects Topic 2015/001 that the GSO introduce a standard pricing policy for literature freight as charges are already set by Australia post and making larger orders less frequently can reduce freight costs.
 - Advisory Action 2017/017 resolves (27/1/0) that the discount on literature to Areas and Districts only be available for PI&CPC, T&CF and Remote Communities. Groups should purchase from their local CSO
 - Advisory Action Topic 2018/017 revokes advisory action 2017/017 that the discount on literature to Areas and Districts only be available for PI&CPC, T&CF and Remote Communities. Groups should purchase from their local CSO.
 - 2022 conference rejects topic 2022/009 to remove the no discount status of more than 17% on items that are prices between \$0.01 and \$40.00 as removing the discount would mean GSO would sell the items at a loss.
 - The Board resolved as a result of Topic 2023/027 referred to the Board from the Conference Steering Committee regarding raising the price of literature in line with current annualised CPI and review annually, that the Management Group undertake a regular review of literature pricing and associated costs. Note. Most literature is GST free due to the purpose of our not-for-profit status. GST free literature cannot be sold 50% above the cost price.

7.14 Literature Publishing

- 1962 Conference agrees to register a company in Canberra as the Australian Service Conference Publishing Company. The company to be limited by guarantee for the purpose of publishing Fellowship publications and that a sub-committee be formed to launch the company.
- 1963 Conference again agrees to form a company to be called the Australian Service Conference Publishing Co Pty Ltd, registered in Canberra and, for the purpose of expediting its formation, the Chairman and Secretary be empowered to act on behalf of the Australian Service Conference. The company is to have a minimum of three and a maximum of seven directors in its Articles of Association and that each director be appointed for a period of one year with the right to be re-appointed. All directors must have a minimum of three year's sobriety.
- 1964 Conference gives full authority to the chairman to act on behalf of the Australian Service Conference in relation to printing of the Big Book in Australia, and that when necessary, a bank account be opened in the name of the company, signatures to be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, with any two being acceptable.
- 1966 Conference agrees to set up forthwith a publishing company called AA Publishing Pty Ltd, registered in Sydney, with Rowley McLean appointed Company Solicitor and charged with the responsibility of drawing up the Articles of Association and the registration of the Company. Five Directors to be appointed and constitute the Board of Directors of the publishing company. The Australian Service Conference to bear the cost of establishing the publishing company.
- 1967 Conference noted that AA Publishing Pty Ltd had been registered in Sydney. The chairman emphasises that the venture could not succeed unless the Australian Service Conference got the fullest cooperation from CSOs in every State. Initially only 30 or so items could be printed, and the states would be asked to decide which booklets and brochures were



in the greatest demand so that sizeable orders could be placed with the chosen printers. The publishing company could get the most advantageous deals by placing orders for substantial quantities. This would keep costs down to a figure which would enable State Offices to resell to Groups and still maintain a margin of profit.

- Conference donates \$200 to AA Publishing Pty Ltd to help defray initial expenses.
- 1968 Conference notes that New Systems Press became interested in the long-term prospects of our company and agreed to publish literature and supply at acceptable prices on extended credit, holding bulk supplies and handling dispatch. Pamphlets were now beginning to come off the press and were being ordered by State Offices. Only nine pamphlets are being printed at the moment. Conference endorses the actions of the Board of Directors of AA Publishing Pty Ltd in appointing or replacing directors and secretary but advises that approval should be sought at the next physical meeting of the Australian Service Conference.
- 1969 Conference heard from the Chairman AA Publishing Pty Ltd that the first publication was *Who Me?* From a survey of requirements in the six States, eight other booklets were printed. By March 1969, the company has produced sixteen general information booklets, four personal aids and four Group accessories. Orders had been received from all States and New Zealand and comment has been favourable.
- 1970 Conference prints fifty copies of the *Memorandum & Articles of Association of AA Publishing Pty Ltd*. The company wishes to disburse its profit of \$475 to the Australian Service Conference and asks the Australian Service Conference for a cheque for \$450 in return, to be treated as a loan.
- 1971 Conference agrees that AA Publishing Pty Ltd can continue to stock non-conference approved material until a resume of all pamphlets has been received from all states.
- 1972 Conference permits AA Publishing Pty Ltd to use the seal of the Australian Service Conference on all its pamphlets.
- 1972 Conference gives AA Publishing Pty Ltd approval to reprint Conference approved literature from New York General Service Office without prior application to the Australian Service Conference.
- 1973 Conference agrees that the next vacancy occurring on the Board of AA Publishing Pty Ltd be filled by a Director from a state or Area other than NSW. It asks all Delegates to pledge total support to AA Publishing Pty Ltd for all literature needs other than those of purely local requirement (such as meeting cards).
- 1974 Conference asks AA Publishing Pty Ltd to investigate the possibility of changing its name and legal structure and submit a proposal for the approval of the General Services Committee—previously the Australian Service Conference Executive Committee.
- 1978 asks the GSB to contact AA World Services regarding twelve months supply of literature on consignment and if this be forthcoming the GSB cease printing pamphlets and only be a distribution centre of AA World Services literature and books. 1979 recorded a vote of thanks to those who were responsible for arranging the supply of literature from AA World Services at a very special one-off price to be paid over a set period.
- Advisory Action 1985/019 recommends that printing approved literature in Australia continue.
- Advisory Action 1985/021 seeks the cooperation of all CSOs in estimating quantities involved in Australian printing.
- Advisory Action 1991/007 decides not to proceed with a suggestion that each Group in Australia be asked to contribute a sum of \$20 to a fund to be called the General Service Literature Printing Reserve Fund. Groups already support present GSO fundraising efforts (i.e. the 60-30-10 Plan, the Birthday and Action Clubs).
- Advisory action 2022/011 Conference resolved to accept that the *AA Australian Group Handbook* be made freely available to all members as a downloadable PDF.

7.15 Literature with Australian Conference Approval

- The 1976 Australian General Service Conference resolves to endorse North American Conference approved and other Australian General Service Conference approved literature with a seal indicating Australian General Service Conference as presently used.
- Advisory Action 1980/019 recommends that GSO stock only Conference approved literature.
- To wipe out confusion that can be created by old formally approved and 'sealed' pamphlets still circulating, 1981 Conference re-examines the Australian Conference seal, with a view to



- rescinding or changing it.
- Advisory Actions 1987/022 and 1988/026 saw no reason to alter earlier decisions about GSO stocking only Conference approved literature.
 - Advisory Action 1990/063 reaffirms that the GSO should only distribute Conference approved literature. It added that the term “Conference approved” should not be taken to imply that literature from sources other than AA is ‘disapproved’.
 - Advisory Action 1990/043 suggests that, depending on the type and content of newly introduced North American conference approved literature, it is not automatically endorsed until the Australian Conference examines it. But it can be used until ratified.
 - Advisory Action 1990/062 says that an Australian Conference approved symbol should be displayed on Conference approved literature produced in Australia.
 - Advisory Action 1990/064 advises that any weekend assembly, forum, convention, etc organised by the General Service structure should display only Conference approved literature.
 - Advisory Action 1993/016 recommends that the Registered Trademark for Conference approved literature (which cites “Australia”) continue to be the Conference approved literature trademark.
 - Advisory Action 1996/019 recommends that the previous requirement that AA World Services copyright literature be Australian Conference Approved be repealed. US/Canada Conference-Approved literature should not have to be Australian Conference Approved. Advisory Action 1996/020 went on to recommend that the Australian Conference seal of approval apply only to new items of Australian origin that:
 - i. fill a widely demonstrated need; and,
 - ii. follow the flow chart process to ensure that the final work expresses AA thinking.
 - Advisory Action 1996/021 clarifies that the use of the term “Conference Approved” when relating to literature applies only to the text and not the production or sale.
 - Advisory Action 2018/041 Conference resolved to approve that new text be included in *AA Group Handbook* outlining the role of service sponsorship under this title.
 - Advisory Action 2020/019 resolved to approve the Special Edition *A Vision For You* souvenir book to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of AA in Australia as a Category 2 literature item.
 - 2021 conference rejects topic 2021/020 the proposal to remove the pamphlet *A Brief Guide to AA* from all Australian literature sources.
 - 2022 Conferences rejects the proposal for literature of less formal easier to read as it was resolved there is sufficient pamphlets already, however, did acknowledge the move toward plain language.
 - 2023/015 Conference resolved that the GSB create a modern leaflet covering the inclusion of people of secular beliefs in the AA fellowship.
 - Advisory Action 019/2025 Conference resolved for the General Service Office to design a professional business card (refer Topic #63) that can be downloaded by the groups and printed as required.

Refer to Table 12 in the Appendix for a detailed breakdown of Conference Approved Literature.

7.16 Literature Without Australian Conference Approval

- 1972 Conference recommends that when a local AA facility (CSO, Group, etc.) sells non-Conference approved literature it be clearly designated as such. This was reaffirmed in 1975.
- 1981 Conference recommends that Conference approved literature be displayed and promoted separately from non-Conference approved literature, and for it to be signposted as such.
- Advisory Action 1987/042 requests all literature selling outlets to keep approved and non-approved lists separate.
- Advisory Action 1988/027 records that neither GSO nor National Conventions have non-Conference approved literature.
- Advisory Action 1990/042 concurs that AA does not support outside enterprises as set down by our Tradition 6, but the ultimate decision of the sale of non-Conference approved literature lies with the Group conscience.
- Advisory Action 1990/065 re-affirms the separation of Conference and non-Conference approved as per Guideline GL-02: *AA Conference-Approved Literature*.



- Advisory Action 1993/025 endorses the principle contained in the *Australian AA Service Manual* about GSO selling only Australian AA Conference approved literature.
- Advisory Action 1992/027 removes the previously approved flyer *Am I an Alcoholic* from Conference approved status because Conference approval for flyers is not required.
- 2005 Conference rejects (1/27/0) a proposal to produce a pamphlet explaining the difference between Conference and non-Conference Approved literature.
- 2005 Conference declines (1/27/0) to suggest that CSOs discuss the discontinuation of the promotion and distribution of non-Conference approved literature as Conference could not direct what CSOs discuss.
- Advisory Action 2006/048 agrees that selling non-Conference approved literature on the NSW Service Council website under the banner of AA was a breach of Tradition 6. Conference authorised the Board to take appropriate action to resolve this matter.

7.17 Service Documents

- 1964 Conference formally adopts the “Twelve Concepts for World Service” as part of its working manual.
- Advisory Action 1992/051 agrees to review the Conference Charter at the 1993 Conference.
- Advisory Action 2003/041 resolves to construct a Guideline with flowchart to facilitate identification of changes in all service documents (including the Memorandum & Articles of Association; the By-laws; the Conference Charter; the *Australian AA Service Manual*; the Conference Administrative Procedures; and, Composition, Scope and Procedure documents) and to facilitate a thorough and integrated process that takes their implementation through to their expression in relevant documents.
- Advisory Action 2004/025 approves amended Articles of Association. Conference noted the reference to ‘himself’ in Article 13, which will be altered the next time the Articles are amended.
- With the aim of keeping documents up to date, Advisory Action 2005/029 arranges for the Board to include a report in the Conference Folder on changes to the core documents during the past year.
- Advisory Action 2004/029A creates the Document Integration Group, to be coordinated by the Chair of the GSB, as an ad hoc committee when needed for the implementation of complex changes to avoid dissonance between different AA service documents (such as the Board legal documents, the *Australian AA Service Manual*, the Conference Charter and the committee Composition, Scope & Procedure documents). Advisory Action 2004/029B added the following text to the *Australian AA Service Manual* to explain the composition, scope and procedure of the Document Integration Group:

The Document Integration Group is an ad hoc committee that replaces the ‘Constitutional Working Party’ set up in 2003 to complete the process of Service Manual updating, structural document review and integration and Guideline development for structural document change. It is coordinated by the Chair of the General Service Board and has a maximum of six members, including a balance from Board and Area Delegates, at least access to a person with legal or constitution drafting knowledge, at least one person with high level AA knowledge, and the Chair(s) of Conference Committees affected by changes to structural documents.

Its purpose is to take responsibility for the structural consequences of all Conference or any other decisions that may impact any AA structural document, and to ensure they will be implemented fully, including coordinating the change(s) across the full set of documents as appropriate, and ensuring that for each, the proper processes are followed and completed according to the Guideline. After each Conference, the Chairman of the General Service Board will peruse the Conference Report for Advisory Actions that have triggered this need and will set up a Document Group for that year if justified. Simple tasks are dealt with by the Board.

- Advisory Action 2004/030 accepts a Guideline and Flowchart constructed in accordance with Advisory Action 2003/041 to identify and fully implement changes to service documents.
- Advisory Action 2004/029C inserts three paragraphs in Section 7 *The Conference* of the *Australian AA Service Manual*, setting out that the Board is responsible to see that



implementation of Advisory Actions is taken right through to all the required changes in all service documents.

- 2023 Conference rejects topic 2023/026 the proposal for group voting policy to be stated in the *AA group handbook*.

7.18 Service Manual & Guidelines

- 1976 Conference accepts the *Australian AA Service Manual* as tabled (based on the American Service Manual with English spelling) but allows a five-year shake-down period before final ratification during which time alterations, additions or modifications may be carried out, provided Conference sanctions any changes by a simple majority. Conference notes that these motions reflect the culmination of many years of hard work and are of great historical significance to AA in Australia. It is to be sent to the New York General Service Office for comment and presented to the Annual General Service Conference in 1977 for approval to print and circulate to Groups.
- 1977 Conference approves printing and distribution of the *Australian AA Service Manual* with the necessary alterations.
- Advisory Action 1983/021 reviews and revises Chapter 3 *The District Committee Member and His District* of the *Australian AA Service Manual* to provide a clearer description of the District structure and the responsibilities of the District Committee Member, with input from the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee.
- Advisory Action 1984/022 arranges, for the time being, for the Policy/Admissions Committee to handle alterations to the *Australian AA Service Manual*. The Committee would consider suggestions from the GSB and would accede to suggestions that protect the interests of AA as a whole.
- Advisory Action 1984/023 allows the Policy/Admissions Committee to proceed with a draft rewrite of the *Australian AA Service Manual*, to correct spelling, wording and composition and to include an expanded list of Conference Committees by June of 1985.
- Advisory Action 1985/003 refuses to give an undertaking that Chapter 3 of the *Australian AA Service Manual* will not be revised.
- Advisory Action 1985/005 sets out that all Areas and District Committee Members need not be surveyed prior to any review of the *Australian AA Service Manual* as the Area Delegates should have already done this.
- Advisory Action 1985/009 requests a draft rewrite by the Policy/Admissions Committee of the *Australian AA Service Manual* Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 10 to be submitted to the Secretary of GSO by March 1986.
- Advisory Action 1986/002 agreed the following process for changes to the *Australian AA Service Manual* :

PROCEDURE FOR ALTERATION AND ADDITIONS TO THE AUSTRALIAN AA SERVICE MANUAL

- Any items for alteration and/or addition to the Australian AA Service Manual ought to be forwarded the Conference Secretary prior to January 31.*
 - These alterations and/or additions will then be referred to the Trustees Committee on the General Service Conference in February.*
 - The Trustees Committee will then refer such times with its recommendations to the Conference Policy/Admissions Committee in March for their consideration during their meeting held at Conference in September.*
 - All Conference members will be circulated with the proposed alterations to the Manual three full months prior to the Annual General Service Conference.*
 - Following their meeting at Conference, the Policy/Admissions Committee will report their findings to full Conference (via their Report-back) for Conference's approval or otherwise. Approval will require a two-third majority vote.*
 - Alterations and/or additions agreed to by Conference will be incorporated into the next edition of the Manual.*
 - All future alterations and additions to the Manual will be marked by a vertical line in the outside margin of the altered page.*
- To enable cheap and quick updating whenever necessary, Advisory Action 1986/037 arranges to produce the *Australian AA Service Manual* together with the Concepts in a loose-leaf hard cover folder.



- Advisory Action 1986/024 asks that Guideline GL-04: *Information on Alcoholics Anonymous* be made available to individuals and Groups in AA, especially those working in the PI&CPC Committees.
- With the Australianising of AA literature, Advisory Action 1986/028 asks for a Guideline from material provided in the article 'Why Conference Approved Literature'. Advisory Action 1987/023 includes Guideline GL-02: *AA Conference-Approved Literature* in the Final Conference Report as a complete explanation of AA's stand on literature.
- Advisory Action 1988/028 advises that the existing Guideline GL-05: *Australian General Service Structure Simplified* covers the members need for knowledge of our structure.
- Advisory Action 1990/041 suggests that when the *Australian AA Service Manual* is revised and printed that non-gender specific language be used throughout.
- Advisory Action 1991/054 confirms that the 33rd General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia endorses the Conference Charter as it is written in the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 1991/055 agrees that the Trustees Literature Committee shall use the present edition of the *Australian AA Service Manual* as the benchmark.
- Advisory Action 1992/010 suggests that when the *Australian AA Service Manual* is redrafted, consideration be given to simplifying the wording with an easily understood cross reference index provided and that a separate handbook be investigated as a condensed version, like that used in the UK.
- Advisory Action 1992/013 agrees that Mike L continue his work on the revision, updating and rewriting of the Manual in accordance with the instructions and guidelines given to date. Conference further agreed that Mike L disseminate progress editions of the revision to Delegates and Trustees as they come to hand, for assessment and agreement before moving on to the next section.
- Advisory Action 1992/014 approves the insertion of a list of all Conference Approved audio and video tapes and other publications in the revised Manual and that this list be made available to any Group on request.
- Advisory Action 1992/019 agrees to review the *Australian AA Service Manual* to identify those sections:
 - i. that are not in line with the recommended World Service Structure; and,
 - ii. where current Australian practice is not in line with the *Australian AA Service Manual*.

All current deviations so identified will be referred to the Groups for direction and any subsequent changes will be referred to the Conference Select Committee on Third Legacy Structure.

- Advisory Action 1992/049 adopts and Australianises the North American Guideline on Trademarks and Logos as Guideline GL-20: *Use of AA's Trademarks and Logos*.
- Advisory Action 1992/057 agrees that revising the *Australian AA Service Manual*:
 - i. Be firstly restricted to incorporate all Conference Advisory Actions and all General Service Board resolutions taken since the Manual was first published and update the Manual accordingly;
 - ii. Then to examine and suggest possible rearrangement of the presentation where necessary.
 - iii. Specifically excluded is any contemplation of changes which might arise from the Conference Selection Committee on Third Legacy Structure. A questionnaire be forwarded to all Delegates, Trustees, past Trustees and CSOs seeking their input as to the more detailed terms of reference.
- Advisory Action 1994/005 revokes approval for AA Guidelines GL-20: *Use of AA's Trademarks and Logos* and Guideline GL-21: *AA and Industry* until Conference 1995 pending full investigation.
- Advisory Action 1994/019 adopts the following four points in Mike L's report to Conference:
 - i. That all Conference members and any other interested members take the updated draft copy of the Manual back to the Groups and find one volunteer per chapter to check and possibly revise that chapter before returning the revised chapter for checking;
 - ii. that the deadline for revisions be 1 February 1995;
 - iii. Mike L to advise the Conference Report, Charter & Service Manual Committee



by 1 May 1995 of all unresolved questions so the Committee can decide whether to resolve themselves or forward as individual remits to Conference 1995; and,
iv. if at any stage prior to Conference 1995, a section/chapter has no outstanding questions and has been revised to the Conference Report, Charter & Service Manual Committee's satisfaction, that copies be sent as they become available, to all Conference 1995 members for final approval of that section/chapter at Conference 1995.

- Advisory Action 1994/020 refers the Topics District Committee Members and Districts to the Conference Report, Charter & AA Service Manual Committee so that the Chapter on the District Committee Member and District be revised and included in the new *Australian AA Service Manual*. The Committee recommends that in the interim, Groups setting up a District refer to the chapter on Districts in the current *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 1994/030 adopts the draft update of the *Australian AA Service Manual*. In the interim, the draft to be used in conjunction with the current *Australian AA Service Manual* by Conference members and brought back to Conference 1995.
- Advisory Action 1995/019 recommends that decisions made by Conference and that are reflected in the *Australian AA Service Manual* be strictly adhered to with alterations or departures to be made only after the agreement of the majority of voting Conference members.
- Advisory Action 1995/048 invites Mike L to attend Conference 1996 to continue his work on the revision of the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 1995/036 adopts the "Flowchart of a Conference Advisory Action" as recommended by the Conference Report Charter and Service Manual Committee.
- Advisory Action 1995/040 agrees that all abbreviations be without periods (i.e. AA; GSO).
- Advisory Action 1995/041 accepts "The AA Group" as part of the *Australian AA Service Manual* Revision.
- Advisory Action 1995/042 accepts the section "The General Service Representative (GSR)".
- Advisory Action 1995/043 accepts the section "The District Committee Member (DCM)".
- Advisory Actions 1995/044 & 1995/045 accept the section "Conference Approved Literature & Other Items".
- Advisory Action 1996/030 recommends that a new chapter entitled "Running an AA Service Meeting" (as amended by Conference) be included in the revised and updated *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- As a year has been lost in the revision, Advisory Action 1996/031 recommends that Bill S be approached to complete a draft Manual with no outside assistance, that this draft be circulated to the Conference Report Charter and Service Manual Committee for comment and then circulated to the Fellowship before next Conference.
- Advisory Action 1997/037 accepts the revised Section 12 of the *Australian AA Service Manual* and recommends that the listing of literature identify which items are Conference approved and which are Service Items.
- Advisory Action 1998/012 recommends that we do not proceed with the proposed Section 3 on CSOs in the revised *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 1998/011 accepts various minor additions and alterations to the new *Australian AA Service Manual* as recommended by the Board.
- Advisory Action 1998/013 approves Section 6 "Area Activities" for inclusion in the new *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 1999/001 recommends that a folder be produced as soon as possible to contain the new *Australian AA Service Manual* sections as they are printed.
- Advisory Action 1999/002 approves the new Section 10 "AA Literature" of the *Australian AA Service Manual* subject to the insertion of the words "Our name in Words 'Alcoholics Anonymous' is registered so that it is reserved solely for our Fellowship" at the beginning of the section entitled "Registered Trademarks".
- Advisory Action 1999/003 approves amended text for Section 1 "The Conference Charter" of the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 1999/004 approves revised *Australian AA Service Manual* Sections "The Area Delegate" and, "The Area" Part 1.
- Advisory Action 1999/005 recommends that the *Australian AA Service Manual* be indexed.
- Advisory Action 1999/016 removes the words "For Today's Needs and For Tomorrow's Needs" from the Structure Chart, but that nothing else be changed.



- Advisory Action 2000/003A resolves that the new *Australian AA Service Manual* be kept on file in the computer at General Service Office, so they can produce it to order (similar to the Conference Report) and future changes can be made immediately.
- Advisory Action 2000/003B resolves that apart from flow charts, tables and maps, there should be no illustrations in the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 2000/047 resolves that when all *Australian AA Service Manual* sections are completed, they be supplied in a folder. Until then GSO can supply a cover page for folders that Delegates purchase for themselves.
- Advisory Action 2000/066 approves Section 1 “The Conference Charter” of the *Australian AA Service Manual* with the following text deleted:
The Conference approves or disapproves the nominations for Class A and General Service Trustees and its members actually propose and select the nominees for Regional Trustees.
- Advisory Action 2000/067 resolves to reformat and print the *Australian AA Service Manual* Sections “The Area Delegate” and “The Area”, without illustrations, including the sub-section “How To Form A New Area” before “Suggestions for Newsletters or Bulletins”.
- Advisory Action 2000/069 approves the following *Australian AA Service Manual* sections for insertion into the new manual:

Section 1	The Conference Charter
Section 2	The AA Group
Section 5	The Area
Section 6	The Area Delegate
Section 7	The Conference
Section 10	AA Literature
Chapter	The General Service Office

- Advisory Action 2000/070 rejects Section 9 “The General Service Board” of the draft *Australian AA Service Manual*, in favour of the version prepared by Vanda Rounsefell (Class A Trustee) and Alan B, dated 1 November 2000 being a working copy for the committee. However, the committee also recommends that work on this section should be deferred until several legal issues have been resolved. Advisory Action 2000/071 approves in principle Section 9 “The General Service Board” of the *Australian AA Service Manual* and authorises the Report Charter & Service Manual Committee to produce this section after obtaining input and approval from the GSB. On completion of this section, a mail poll of all Conference members is to be conducted prior to production and distribution of this Section.
- Advisory Action 2001/055 resolves that a Guideline for Hosting PI luncheons/dinners be produced, not only for Treatment and Correctional Facilities staff, but also for other professionals.
- Advisory Action 2001/068 accepts the changes recommended by the Conference Report Charter and Service Manual Committee to Chapter 4 “The District & DCM” of the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 2001/070 supports in principle the *Australian AA Service Manual* having a separate chapter for International Delegates.
- Advisory Action 2001/071 resolves that service documents, By-Laws, Memorandum & Articles of Association and Third Legacy Procedure should be separate at the back of the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 2001/072 authorises Vanda Rounsefell (Class A Trustee) to complete the update of the Board chapter of the *Australian AA Service Manual*, preferably for Conference approval in 2002. A small committee will assist, and Delegates can give feedback by 1 May 2022 so that one mail poll can occur, if required, on any issues obstructing progress that do not have major implications for AA as a whole. If such a poll is held, the chapter on International



Linkages should be included for approval, following an appropriate cycle of feedback.

- Advisory Action 2001/073 changes all references to General Service Office (GSO) in Chapter 9 of the *Australian AA Service Manual* to National Office (NOAA). Advisory Action 2012/010 changes the name back to General Service Office.
- Advisory Action 2002/051A considers that the *Australian AA Service Manual* needs to be produced in a more stable, manageable form, but that this is not possible until all Chapters have been completed.
- Advisory Action 2002/065 makes minor changes to Section 2 Chapter "The AA Group" of the *Australian AA Service Manual* as recommended by the Conference Report Charter and Service Manual Committee.
- Advisory Action 2002/066 makes minor changes to Section 3 Chapter "The GSR" of the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 2003/032 approves the draft version of the Board chapter of the *Australian AA Service Manual* for distribution, comment and updating before Conference 2004.
- Advisory Action 2003/033 authorises GSO or the Report Charter & Service Manual Committee to make minor corrections of formatting, spelling and typographical errors or indisputable errors of fact in any part of the *Australian AA Service Manual* without reference to Conference.
- Advisory Action 2003/034 approves the draft International Section of the *Australian AA Service Manual* for distribution.
- Advisory Action 2003/042 includes the "Third Legacy Procedure" and explanation in the back of the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 2003/045 adds the submitted paragraph "Introduction to the Twelve Concepts for World Service" to the "Introduction to the Concepts" in the *Australian AA Service Manual* (not to the Conference Charter as suggested).
- Advisory Action 2003/060 makes the *Australian AA Service Manual* available on the National website in PDF format.
- Advisory Action 2003/061 resolves that the hard copy *Australian AA Service Manual* be published with the missing draft chapters included and a currency date shown on the front page.
- Advisory Action 2004/031 makes minor amendments to the 6th edition of the *Australian AA Service Manual* and includes the Guidelines, which are another highly practical and informative type of service document, in their own Section (M-14). However, as inclusion of the Guidelines in the *Australian AA Service Manual* would cause the manual to be too bulky, Advisory Action 2004/033 decides to publish the Guidelines separately.
- Advisory Action 2004/027A approves printing of the 6th Edition of the *Australian AA Service Manual*, subject to any changes approved at this Conference.
- Advisory Action 2004/027B resolves to index the *Australian AA Service Manual*. Advisory Action 2005/030 agreed to confirm the request of 2004 Conference for a full index in the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 2010/008 made the description of the "Third Legacy Procedure" in the *Australian AA Service Manual* clearer.
- Advisory Action 2010/014 adds a flow chart of the "Third Legacy Procedure" to the *Australian AA Service Manual* to make the procedure easy to follow when conducting a vote.
- 2013 Conference declines (14/15/1) to direct that the GSB amend the Service Manual section "What is a District" to match the wording of the pamphlet *The District*.
- 2013 Conference rejects (10/19/1) a proposal that all relevant Guidelines contain a paragraph stating that committees should appoint a Workplace Health and Safety Officer and that a WHS plan should be developed.
- Advisory Action 2014/022 amends (32/0/0) Guideline GL-22 to include information on the Correctional Facilities Correspondence Service and suggestions for the safety of participating members and asks the Trustees Correctional Facilities Committee to refer draft text back to 2015 Conference.
- Advisory Action 2014/025 adds (32/1/0) the following statement to Guidelines GL-14 and GL-15:
In line with Tradition 11, if you are using social media groups to provide information on your event, ensure that any pages are set up as secret pages, anonymity is not compromised and accessible only by members who have elected to join the group. Members should not be added without their prior permission.
- Advisory Action 2015/041 resolves (26/3/1) the following be added to Section 5 "The Area" of



the *Australian AA Service Manual*:

Two Hats

In AA it seems there are always more service positions than people to fill them. And if we do manage to fill them, we create still more. As a result, some members may feel pressure to shoulder more than one service role at a time. On the surface this may appear to be expedient. After all someone has to do it.

However, the following issues need to be considered by any member contemplating donning two hats;

- i. Holding two service positions simultaneously deprives other members of the opportunity to serve.*
 - ii. Sometimes it's better to leave a position vacant for a while. Someone will decide to step up, or be encouraged to volunteer, if they understand the need.*
 - iii. When a member wears two hats, there is a real danger of a conflict of interest and an inclination to undue influence.*
 - iv. When it comes to general service, experience shows it's usually better to do one job well than two jobs poorly.*
- Advisory Action 2015/010 resolves (27/2/1) that GL-30 *PI&CPC and T&CF Co-Ordinators and Forums* be updated to clarify and determine the nomination and appointment processes for all Coordinators.
 - Advisory Action 2016/003 resolves to add the following wording to Guidelines 14 and 15, and the *AA Group Handbook*:

Groups and Districts should be careful not to neglect their Group/District/Area CSO and GSO financial contributions in order to support Conventions.
 - Advisory Action 2016/012 resolves (31/0/0) that, should an Area or District invite a Trustee (other than Regional Trustee), GSO Staff members, World Service Delegate or National Coordinator to attend an Area or District event (excluding Regional/ National Forum and approved special events), the costs for travel, accommodation, meals and registration of the guest/s should be covered by that Area or District. This paragraph should be inserted in Guideline 14 and in section 5 Part 2 "Area Activities" of the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
 - Advisory Action 2016/054 resolves (30/0/1) to accept the submitted text to replace the existing text in the *Australian AA Service Manual* under "Regional Trustees and Representation" with the following:
 - i. Under Chairing AA event Planning Committees, first line to read "Regional Trustees encourage and assist..."*
 - ii. Last paragraph, under Relationships with CSO to read on line 3 "Service Offices. With some, due to overlapping of local services, they may have a courtesy non-voting position..."*
 - Advisory Action 2016/056 resolves (30/0/1) that the Trustees' Literature Committee should be requested to review the "Area Delegate" section of the *Australian AA Service Manual* as per Advisory Action 2015/012 and bring back their recommendations to Conference 2017.
 - Conference rejects (29/0/20) Topic 2016/006 the proposal to review the section "How AA Chooses Its Regional Trustees" in the *Australia AA Service Manual* as a fair process already exists.
 - Conference rejects (30/1/0) Topic 2016/010 the proposal to review the section "Primary Duties of an Area Delegate" in the *Australia AA Service Manual*. The existing section is adequate.
 - Advisory Action 2017/020 resolves (27/0/1) that information be included in Guideline 22 of the *Australian AA Service Manual* about the Corrections Correspondence Service for prisoners, to comply with Advisory Action 2014/022
 - Advisory Action 2017/021 resolves (24/1/0) that with respect to the *Delegate* section of the Service Manual rewrite the General Service Office Manager send out the current section with a request for input from all delegates; outgoing delegates to inform incoming delegates; revisions be distributed before Conference 2018 and delegates comply with All deadlines so that the updated version can be included in the 2018 Conference Folder.
 - Advisory Action 2018/024 Conference resolved to accept that an Australian Guideline on internet safety be produced.
 - Advisory Action 2018/028 Conference resolved to accept that the *Australian AA Service Manual* be made available in large print.



- Advisory Action 2018/030 Conference resolved that GSB pay for Trustee Chairs and National Coordinators to attend Forums.
- Advisory Action 2018/031 Conference resolved to accept the recommendation that the statement “Australia looks after Papua-New Guinea, Indonesia and many countries in South-East Asia such as Burma, Thailand, Viet Nam and Cambodia. New Zealand responds to the vast Area of Oceania, with its thousands of tiny island communities” is removed from the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- 2018/035 Conference resolved to accept an acceptable draft of a new section 6 “Area Delegate” of the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- 2018 Conference accepts topic 2018/008 that *Remote Communities Workbook* be made available to fellowship and added to Guideline GL-35: *Remote Communities* with recommended changes.
- 2018 Conference accepts 2018/026 recommendation that Agenda Committee produces a guideline about the submission of minority reports.
- Advisory Action 2018/037 Conference resolved to accept that a subcommittee be formed to review the Correctional Facilities Guideline.
- 2019 Conference accepts 2019/029 new “Area Delegate” section of the *Australian AA Service Manual* with changes to the paragraph on page 123 of the Conference folder, relating to the Alternate Delegate, be removed. Addition to page 124: “To seek out past Delegates to share their experience”. Meetings between Conferences may be useful to fellow Delegates.
- 2019 Conference accepts 2019/030 new Guideline GL-14 changes The word ‘Conferences’ to be removed from the heading. In addition under ‘Paying Bills’ it is suggested that a budget be prepared. Preparing a budget for any AA event is financially responsible and accountable.
- 2019 Conference accepts 2019/031 new Guideline GL-15 changes Under “Deaf, Disabled & Other Special Needs Groups” replace the word “gays” with “LGBTQI plus”.
- 2019 Conference accepts 2019/032 new guideline for internet use.
- Advisory action 2021/045 Conference accepts that the Australian GSB bring to the attention of the US/Canada GSB, wording in regards to “women staff” in the AA service manual and AA conference approved literature to be considered for removal.
- Conference rejects topic 2021/016 the proposal to send Guidelines on National Conventions to a working committee to better reflect the single purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- 2021 Conference rejects topic 2021/018 the proposal for the outgoing Area Delegates be given the responsibility to be the AAAA representative for that Area.
- Advisory action 2021/15 Conference resolves to accept that the proposal to remove reference to CSO’s from the AA Guidelines and call them Local Service Offices directly responsible to their local groups be referred to the Report Charter & Service Manual Committee for voting on at the 2022 Conference.
- 2022 Conference resolved to reject proposal 2022/046 to remove reference to the CSOs in the guidelines and replace with Local/CSO and GSB will advise Local/CSOs that has been done. This stemmed from advisory action 2021/015.
- 2022 Conference rejected topic 2022/008 to add wording to any relevant pamphlets / service manual or guidelines to add wording to the effect that if an Area does not have a CSO then a District can become the responsible entity for that role.
- 2022 Conference resolved to accept 2022/024 proposal to revise National Convention Guideline with the following words added to the Host Planning Committee:
The Host Planning Committee has responsibility for the timing; however consideration should be given for the time of year in which it is held, and the duration of the Convention to cater for domestic and international travellers.
- 2022 Conference resolved to accept the 2022/025 recommendation that the revised Correctional Facilities Guideline be accepted with the following minor edit in the “Code of Conduct” paragraph 3:
You may encounter corrective services officers who don’t share your passion for AA. You should not try to impress them, but we need to keep on side by keeping our minds on the alcoholics who still suffer, now and in the future: thoughtless words or actions can instantly undo prolonged efforts to establish AA in a facility.
- 2022 Conference resolved to accept recommendation 2022/002 that Section 4 “The District and District Committee” of the *Australian AA General Service Manual* be expanded to provide more clarity. 2022 Conference also resolved to accept 2022/002B that Chapter II of the 2021- 2023



revised and updated edition of the US/Canada Service Manual be used as a source document when drafting the expanded information in Section 4 "The District and District Committee" instead of the document submitted with the Topic.

- 2022 Conference resolved to accept 2022/015 a small working group be formed to edit and adopt the AAWS District Committee Member (DCM) Kit page for general service in Australia. It is acknowledged that modifications will be required to suit Australia, licensing agreements, etc
- 2022 Conference resolved to accept 2022/016 a small working group be formed to edit and adopt the AAWS General Service Representative (GSR) Kit page for general service in Australia. It is acknowledged that modifications will be required to suit Australia, licensing agreements, etc.
- The Board resolved to change Article 4 of the Articles of Association in the *Australian AA Service Manual* by rewording the last sentence to read:
Any Trustee having retired shall not be eligible for reappointment, except in the case where a Class A Trustee has retired before completion of their term of office.
- 2023/011 Conference resolved for a rewrite and update of the *Australian AA Service Manual* be undertaken by a Working Group.
- 2023 Conference rejects topic 2023/028 that the printing of the *Australian AA Service Manual* and guidelines be resumed.
- Advisory action 2023/030 Conference accepts proposal to change wording in the *Australian AA Service Manual* and Guidelines regarding Alternate Delegates seating at conference.
- Advisory action 2023/031 Conference accepts the proposal to change guideline GL-39 in the *Australian AA Service Manual* regarding Virtual Area general service representatives residing within Australia.
- 2024 Conference resolves to create Advisory Action 2024/009 to create or adapt from the US version, an Australian guideline for accessibility. This is in addition to incorporating into GL-18 – *Carrying the Message to the Hearing Impaired Alcoholic*.
- 2024 Conference resolved to accept topic 2024/010 to reintroduce the upside down triangle back into the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action #012/2025 resolved to accept the suggested definition, purposed and procedure in relation to Guidelines for General Service be accepted and implemented.
- Conference 2025 approves the recommendation from the Conference Steering Committee to accept the updated guideline GL-28, as this clarifies the process for submitting topics.

8. National Convention

8.1 National Convention

- 1966 Conference decides that a National Convention be held in 1970 to celebrate 25 years of AA in Australia.
- 1968 Conference records that the primary purpose of AA is to carry the message and how better to do this and to benefit AA than to have an Australian Service Conference and an Annual Convention.
- 1974 Conference declines to separate Conference from Convention at this time, nor vary frequencies.
- Advisory Action 1989/041 sets up a committee to study the viability of submitting a bid for the International Convention in the year 2000. Conference will need to give prior consent to submit such a bid if the Board decides to proceed.
- Advisory Action 1990/010 accepts the invitation of NSW CSO to jointly participate in the 1995 Convention celebrating the 50th Anniversary of AA in New South Wales and Australia and to negotiate the terms for this joint venture.
- Advisory Action 1990/011 nominates the persons to comprise the general service representation for the 50th Anniversary of AA in Australia Convention to consist of the Eastern Region Trustee, Eastern Region Delegates and the General Service Office Manager.
- Advisory Action 1992/052 sends a letter to CSO, Croydon, expressing disappointment that the proposed Convention 1995 celebrating 50 years of AA in Australia to be held in Sydney at Easter 1995, will not proceed as a National Convention.
- Advisory Action 1995/069 agrees to explore the possibility of hosting the International Convention in the year 2005, or shortly thereafter.
- In 1996, Eastern Region Areas D, E and G put in a combined bid to hold an International Convention in Sydney at Easter in the Year 2000.
- Advisory Action 2000/049 endorses the amended Guideline *GL-15: The National Convention*.
- 2012 Conference rejects (6/25/0) a ban on alcohol at future National Conventions.
- To assist Australia's responsibilities to carry the message in developing countries and encourage the development of service structures, Advisory Action 2013/029 agrees (23/6/1) to host an Asia Oceania Convention in place of the 2016 National Convention and that Asia Oceania Conventions rotate every five years around a developing country such as East Timor, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Vanuatu, Cambodia, Laos and Papua New Guinea.
- Due to criticism, Advisory Action 2015/050 resolves that the Conference International Committee formulate a topic based on Advisory Action 2013/029 and submit it to the Committee for 2016 Conference.
- Advisory Action 2016/044 resolved (23/8/0) that, in the event there is no bid for a National Convention, the Fellowship be asked to consider the following options:
 - i. Bring forward the Convention scheduled for the following year;
 - ii. hold an event in a country within the Asia Oceania zone if invited ;
 - iii. do nothing;
 - iv. submit their own ideas.
- Advisory Action 2017/022 resolves (16/11/0) that a maximum of \$300 be expended to produce a breakdown of Fiji Convention 2016 expenses.
- Advisory Action 2018/015 accepts to rescind 2013/029 as it was replaced with 2016/044.
- 2022 Conference accepts the Boards request to produce and sell an 80th anniversary medallion with timing to be in line with the 2025 National Convention.
- 2023/016 Conference rejected this topic, inclusion of a Welcome to Country or use of acknowledgement of country at conventions is up to each Host Planning Committee. Noting that the Host Planning Committee is accountable to but not directed by the GSB.
- 2023 Conference resolved that Advisory Action 2023/023 that a GSB Working Group to look at the National Convention Guidelines to provide clearer direction for Conventions. Conference 2025 reviews the outcome report for this advisory action and instructs the GSB to proceed with the recommended option 2 in the report.



8.2 National Convention Arrangements

- 1963 Conference stipulates that the executive for each Australian Service Conference Convention be formed exclusively in the host State, in conjunction with the Chairman and Secretary of the Australian Service Conference.
- 1963 Conference decides that the Australian Service Conference would tape all National Conventions.
- 1964 Conference advises the Queensland Committee on the method of conducting the Convention.
- 1965 Conference decides that, in the interests of AA in Australia, the letter from the Tasmanian InterGroup be set aside and that Hobart be the venue for the next Convention, with the Australian Service Conference voting £100 toward the cost of the Convention. In the interim, steps be taken to induce the members in Tasmania to accept the Convention.
- 1966 Conference advises each State of the Convention Secretary's obligation to compile a report and to furnish GSO with a copy and Australian Service Conference with two copies. It requests State Council Committees undertake to see this is done.
- 1967 Conference agrees that Convention venues would be decided two years in advance.
- 1972 Conference decides to procure a register, that it be the property of the Australian Service Conference, and that it be sent to the host State each year as the official Registration Book and then returned to Australian Service Conference for safe keeping.
- 1972 Conference requests all future Convention Committees to submit all Convention information brochures to the Australian Service Conference executive for perusal prior to publication.
- 1972 Conference asks the Chairman to supply minutes of all Convention Committee meetings to the Secretary of the Australian Service Conference for closer liaison and co-operation, and that the Chairman ask for this to be implemented as soon as the respective Convention Committee is formed.
- 1973 Conference makes Convention sub-committees aware of their responsibility to the Australian Service Conference and to their local Central Service Committee that during their active life they furnish regular and adequate reports to the Executive Committees of both bodies, and that it be mandatory that they contain within their number at least one Australian Service Conference representative or trustee from the host state.
- 1973 Conference passed a letter from Federal Pacific Hotels re: 1974 Convention to Victoria for information.
- 1974 Conference agreed to supply to Convention host States a kit of material on hand from previous Conventions, any useful suggestions and their wishes regarding future Conventions.
- 1976 Conference forms a committee of the Southern Regional Trustee and the Delegates to reframe Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention* for submission to the General Services Committee (previously the Executive Committee of the Australian Service Conference) at the next Annual Conference.
- 1980 Conference asks the GSB of AA Australia to examine and resolve the matter of tape recordings of National Conventions.
- Advisory Action 1982/007 amends the Convention Guidelines to include:
'Any guest speaker chosen to speak at a National Convention ought to be asked to present an outline of the speech to the appropriate Convention Committee prior to the Convention.'
- Advisory Action 1985/036 says that bids for National Conventions, accompanied by presentations, ought to be given to Conference at least two years in advance (e.g. to Conference 1985 for Convention 1988).
- Advisory Action 1986/006 arranges to prepare criteria for bids for National Conventions (based on the North American format).
- Advisory Action 1986/007 requires that a member of GSO staff or a General Service Trustee attend the Convention Planning Committee Meeting at which inspection of the site is carried out and be available to attend two further meetings of the Planning Committee, at the expense of the Board.
- Advisory Action 1995/027 recommends that space be allocated at future National Conventions for an International Literature Stand starting with the 1996 Convention in Canberra and this recommendation be included in updated Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention*.
- Advisory Action 1995/073 agrees to a five-year time plan for future Conventions starting from



the February GSB Meeting in 1996.

- Advisory Action 1998/022 states that it is the prerogative of each individual organising Convention Committee to make the decision whether to serve alcohol at a National Convention.
- Advisory Action 2000/074 resolves that the 2002 Convention Committee's action in promoting its Convention internationally prior to the commencement of the 2001 Convention is contrary to the accepted AA practice and shows a lack of goodwill and courtesy. Conference is concerned that this action might be seen as creating a precedent.
- Advisory Action 2001/091 asks the 2002 Convention Committee to promote AA unity by providing equal facilities to all CSOs in the Sydney Metropolitan Area.
- Advisory Action 2002/005 resolves that Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention* include the following statement:

Convention Committees should consider inviting the National Archivist to participate at the National Convention, to be available to provide information about the National Archives.
- Advisory Action 2002/052 resolves that a National Convention database on CD-ROM be set up by the Trustees. This could include, for example, information on previous Convention purchases and wastage. It would also include finalised inventory and accounts. This would be kept at the GSO and passed on to the Convention Committees.
- Advisory Action 2005/023 amends (25/4/0) Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention* so that the GSO can indicate on a floor plan its preferred locations for GSO and International Desk displays.
- Advisory Action 2006/011 asks (28/3/0) an Area to consult with other Areas in their Region before making a bid.
- Advisory Action 2006/013A unanimously allows Host Planning Committees to propose dates and duration when submitting a bid.
- Advisory Action 2006/013B resolves (28/3/2) that bids be submitted by the Conference topic deadline.
- Advisory Action 2008/020 encourages the Host Planning Committee to invite an indigenous member from a developing country, funded by the International Sponsorship Fund.
- Advisory Action 2009/042 asks the GSB to investigate and recommend to 2010 Conference on the proposal that an Indigenous Australian member from a remote community be funded to attend each National Convention. 2011 Conference rejects (5/27/1) this proposal.
- Advisory Action 2009/045 adds an application form to Guideline GL15: *The National Convention*.
- 2013 Conference does not obtain the necessary three-quarters majority (22/8/0) to include a suggested list of fundraising activities in Guideline GL15: *The National Convention*.
- Advisory Action 2015/028 (25/4/1) resolves that the following be added to the guidelines for conventions:

As a suggestion, a table be made available for flyers for Rallies, Roundups and tag-a-longs, bearing in mind that only material for AA events be available
- Conference rejects Topic 2015/003 that suggests that tea and coffee be available free of charge at all Conventions. This is not a Conference matter and would interfere with the autonomy of Host Planning Committees.

8.3 National Convention Finances

- 1964 Conference allocates the usual £50 to the Queensland Convention Committee to assist in Convention expenses.
- 1964 Conference agrees that proceeds from Conventions be divided between the host State and Australian Service Conference on a 60:40 basis in favour of the State. This arrangement was likewise to apply in the event of a loss being sustained.
- 1966 Conference decides that the 1967 National Convention would be held in Victoria and that the Australian Service Conference make a donation of £100 towards expenses.
- 1967 Conference notes a cheque for \$362.45, which represents 40% of the surplus of the Convention held in Melbourne, had been sent to the Australian Service Conference.
- 1967 Conference forwards \$200 to the CSO in Adelaide to help defray expenses of the next Convention.
- 1968 Conference forwards \$100 to the NSW Service Council to help defray expenses of the



- 1970 Convention.
- 1970 Conference adopts the principle of Registration Fees for National Conventions, implementation to be decided in Hobart.
 - 1970 Conference confirms that the division of 60% CSO and 40% Australian Service Conference remain.
 - 1971 Conference recommends to the 1972 Convention Committee that some form of Convention Registration be implemented at a cost of \$2. This to take the form of conventioners signing a Register and possibly being presented with a token.
 - 1971 Conference allocates \$200 to Queensland to assist with Convention 1972 expenses.
 - 1972 Conference records its appreciation of the action of the Queensland Convention Committee in meeting the cost of the Australian Service Conference Chairman's attendance at this Conference.
 - 1972 Conference decides to implement the Convention Registration of \$2 at Perth (1973) and all subsequent conventions, proceeds to go direct to Australian Service Conference funds.
 - 1972 Conference agrees to pay \$200 as an advance to WA for the 1973 Convention, if and when requested.
 - 1973 Conference asks that in future an audited balance sheet be presented to the executive of the Australian Service Conference within two calendar months of the conclusion of the Convention.
 - 1976 Conference asks all bids for National Conventions to include plans for distribution of surplus, if any, and an assurance that the Guidelines be followed, and, if found necessary by Conference, that these Guidelines be revised.
 - 1976 Conference adopts the 1976 Convention report with a request to the NSW Service Council that they reconsider the disposition of the funds and ask that it be done in accordance with the Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention: 60% to the NSW Service Council and 40% to the General Service Office.*
 - 1980 Conference amends Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention* to require that all Convention profits be sent to the GSO after all outstanding accounts are settled and properly audited by the Convention Host Committee Auditor.
 - 1981 Conference amends Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention* as follows:
 - i. To allow three calendar months for presentation of audited balance sheets; and,
 - ii. the Regional Trustee or his nominee, wherever possible, should be co-signatories of all cheques.
 - 1981 Conference stipulates that no non-Conference approved literature, jewellery, etc, be sold at National Conventions.
 - Advisory Action 1983/001 amends the Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention* to insist that a qualified auditor be appointed at the commencement of National Convention Planning and audited accounts be available for the Conference following the convention.
 - Advisory Action 1987/037 gives the running of raffles a low priority.
 - Advisory Action 1991/044 recommends against approving the following items as fund raising ideas to help the 1993 National Convention:
 - i. T-Shirt bearing AA logo and National Convention details; and
 - ii. Badge bearing AA logo.
 - Advisory Action 1993/006 endorses Guideline GL-14: *Conferences and Conventions* as follows:
In accordance with self support tradition of both Fellowships and to abide by the concept of co-operation but not affiliation, it is suggested that AA not make gifts or contributions to Al-Anon. By the same token, AA should not accept contributions from Al-Anon. If separate registrations have been kept for both AA and Al-Anon, however, income may be easily assigned.
 - Advisory Action 1994/045 makes an advance of \$2,000 to the Organising Committee for the 1996 National Convention.
 - Advisory Action 1999/022 sets out that the Board must pre-approve venues proposed for International/National Conventions that will be underwritten by the Board.
 - A Floor Action (Advisory Action 2005/047) arranges (23/6/0) for the Board to submit a Topic to 2006 Conference about the impact, issues and ramifications of setting up a fund for Host Planning Committees to draw down running costs incurred prior to a Convention.
 - 2006 Conference rejects (10/23/0) establishment of a fund for Host Planning Committees to draw on for running costs prior to the Convention.



- Advisory Action 2008/018 amends Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention* to make the Convention Finance Committee responsible to deliver audited accounts to GSO by the end of July so they can be included in the accounts of the GSB.
- Advisory Action 2008/027 requires the GSO Management Group to sign a letter of appointment of an appropriately qualified auditor before advancing seed money to National Convention Committees.
- Conference rejects (31/0/0) Topic 2016/002 that proposes that the GSB compensate Host Planning Committees as Convention finances are covered in Guidelines 14 and 15
- 2019 Conference resolved to reject the proposal 2109/020 to establish a permanent AA National Convention bank account due to difficulties with changing signatories and complexity around auditing and perception that authority rested with GSO.
- 2019 Conference resolved to reject 2109/021 proposal to establish a new funding system for the AA National convention as the committee is autonomous on how they raise funds.
- 2019 Conference rejects proposal to raise seed funding for national conventions to \$15,000.
- Advisory Action 018/2025 Conference resolved to increase the Australian National Convention seed money given to the Host Planning Committee (HPC) from \$10,000 to \$15,771.96 in line with CPI, and to increase by CPI annually.

8.4 National Convention Program

- 1976 Conference arranges for the production and publication of the Convention program to be left in the hands of the Secretary and that they work in close harmony with the relevant State.
- 1976 Conference requests that the 1977 National Convention Committee, and all subsequent National Convention Committees, give some thought to including in the Convention program workshops on structure and such general service subjects as institutions, industrial programs, public information, etc and that wherever possible conventioners with Conference experience be used as moderators for such workshops and that this matter be added to Guideline GL- 15: *The National Convention*.
- 1980 Conference amends Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention* to include an item that future Convention programs allow time for General Service Information Workshops.
- 1981 Conference agrees that any religious service held for any Group of Conventioners shall not be conducted as part of the Convention Program or held in any part of the venue hired for Convention purposes.
- Advisory Action 2008/018 amends Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention*, to strongly recommend a service component in the programs such as panels or workshops.
- Advisory Action 2009/044 amends Guideline GL-15: *The National Convention* so the host committee invites the Chair of the GSB to formally open and close the National Convention.
- 2010 Conference rejects (1/29/0) a proposal that special purpose Groups are not given prominence during opening ceremonies of National Conventions.
- 2010 Conference rejects (2/28/0) a proposal that National Conventions exclude individually led workshops unless they relate to General Service.
- 2018 Conference rejects topic 2018/012 recommending abolishment of AA speakers during National Convention dinner dance.

8.5 National Convention Timing

- 1962 Conference decides that the next and all future Conventions be held at Easter.
- 1977 Conference grants the Western Region the 1979 National Convention. The next National Convention will be held in 1981 and thereafter at two yearly intervals.
- 1979 Conference agrees that National Conventions be held on a biennial basis after the 1982 Convention.
- Advisory Action 1983/031 agrees that National Conventions continue to be held on an annual basis.
- Advisory Action 1984/005 decides not to hold National AA Conventions triennially.
- Advisory Action 1985/041 decides that, after the 1989 National Convention, all future National Conventions be held biennially.
- Advisory Action 1990/013 forms a select Committee comprising all Regional Trustees and the GSO conference Convenor to examine the feasibility of running National Conventions each



year. Special consideration should be given to the feasibility of running the General Service Conference and the National Convention jointly. This Committee is to report to the Board in February and July 1991 and make its final recommendations to Conference.

- Advisory Action 1991/059 agrees to hold Australian National Conventions annually.
- 2006 Conference rejects (3/27/2) a suggestion that National Conventions be held every second year.
- Conference rejects Topic 2015/027 (carried by show of hands) that National Conventions not be held over Easter or any weekend where a Public Holiday is involved as it interferes with the autonomy of the Host Planning Committee.

8.6 National Convention Locations

Refer to Table 13 in the Appendix for a detailed breakdown of National Convention Locations.

8.7 Speakers

- 2006 Conference declines (1/26/2) to advise on whether inviting guest speakers to attend and speak at functions is in keeping with Tradition Twelve “we are actually to practice a genuine humility”, as it is the responsibility of individual committees to work within both existing Guidelines and the Traditions.
- Advisory Action 2010/027 asks the Board to submit a draft Guideline to 2011 Conference regarding the use of member contributions towards the cost of importing speakers.
- Advisory Action 2011/031 notes that Groups are autonomous and that Guideline GL-14: *Conferences and Conventions* contains some relevant information about the use of members’ contributions towards the cost of importing AA speakers. Conference suggests that committees organising AA events should consider whether members knew before they donated that the contributions were to be used towards travel and accommodation for speakers.

8.8 Young Peoples Conventions

- 1980 Conference asks the people in Eastern Region Area C who were concerned with the conducting of the first ‘Young Peoples Convention’ to advise the Australian GSO of the details of how it was arranged with a view to having GSO assist in future Conventions of this type.
- Advisory Action 1995/026 recommends that the Young Peoples Conventions be offered the opportunity to have access to the General Service Structure through Guidelines, to be developed with their input.

9. Other issues

9.1 Action Club and Birthday Club

- 1972 Conference establishes a “Birthday Club” to raise money as suggested in the Victorian Sub-Committee on Information & Finance Report.
- 1973 Conference agrees that the Australian Service Conference and AA Publishing Pty Ltd further investigate the Birthday Club plan with a view of immediate implementation.
- 1981 Conference asks that the Birthday Cards be accompanied by an addressed envelope for the return of Birthday Club contributions and that GSO investigate the feasibility of providing in addition ‘years of sobriety’ tokens to accompany the Birthday Cards.
- Advisory Action 1983/026 gives high priority to the “Action Club” as a major fundraising activity.
- Advisory Action 1985/028 asks Delegates, in cooperation with their GSRs, to explain the Birthday and Action Clubs to members and encourage members to take part in these two fundraising schemes.
- Advisory Action 1985/029 recommends that Groups make a presentation of one year’s subscription to the Birthday Club when members attain their first year’s sobriety.
- Advisory Action 1986/038 suggests Groups raise funds to enrol all Group members in the Birthday Club (paying their first joining fee of \$2 plus \$1 for one year of sobriety) then leaving it up to the individual member whether this continues.
- Advisory Action 1986/039 decides to investigate means to make the Action Club a more saleable item.
- Advisory Action 1989/030 asks Area Delegates to keep stock of Action Club, Birthday Club and *Antenna* forms on hand and aim towards enrolling five new members in each in the coming twelve months.
- Advisory Action 1990/034 recommends that the suggested \$1 per year of sobriety remain in place, remembering that the contribution made by each Birthday Club member is voluntary. This rejects a suggestion that the GSO Birthday Club contribution rate drop to \$12 per year when the member concerned reaches the age of sixty.
- Advisory Action 2004/037 notes that there ought to be more promotion of the Action and Birthday clubs, as some were unaware that Groups as well as individuals could join.
- Advisory Actions 2005/033 recommends (25/2/1) that the Action Club and Birthday Club be promoted on www.aa.org.au including application forms.
- Advisory Action 2012/013 asks (28/2/3) that the GSB review the Action Club and the Birthday Club for relevance, appropriateness and effectiveness and make a recommendation to 2013 Conference. Conference acknowledges that the Action Club and Birthday Club are both good ideas and need to be promoted more thoroughly.
- Advisory Action 015/2025 Conference resolved to discontinue the Birthday Club, Action Club, and 300 Club as official AA contribution initiatives, ceasing their promotion through all AA channels. While existing participants may continue to contribute, no new members are to be invited or encouraged to join.

9.2 AI-Anon

- Advisory Action 1984/042 sees merit in the display at AA meetings of a card expressing the ideas contained in the AI-Anon card “What you hear here, what you say here, let it stay here” (sic). Conference asks this be further considered and a report given to the 1985 Conference.
- Advisory Action 1985/017 decides not to display the AI-Anon slogan “Who you see here” but individual Groups may do so if they so wish.
- Advisory Action 1988/054 felt that the practice of AI-Anon members speaking at open AA meetings should not be encouraged because “We must not be deflected from our primary purpose”. However, the autonomy of the Group is paramount. This topic is also dealt with in Guideline GL11: *Relationship between AA and AI-Anon*.
- 2008 Conference decided (25/7/0) not to consider the appropriateness of AA paying for media advertisements that included AI-Anon contact details.
- Advisory Action 2009/069 agrees to put a link from www.aa.org.au to the AI-Anon website (if



they agree) with a warning to visitors that they are leaving the AA website.

9.3 Anonymity

- Advisory Action 1988/046 states that we are not entitled to break any member's anonymity at any time, not even posthumously.
- Advisory Action 2011/005A strengthens the wording of the anonymity statement on the Media pages of www.aa.org.au.

9.4 Archives

- Advisory Action 1991/060 allocates 1992 budget funds to enable the Trustees' Committee for Archives to continue to make necessary progress to preserve our history.
- Advisory Action 2000/005 asks the Board to establish a National Archivist Officer.
- A Floor Action (Advisory Action 2007/046) resolved (21/10/0) that the GSB should produce a plan for archival storage and display. A subsequent 2007 Floor Action rejects a proposal to fund the safe storage of archival material held by members.
- 2011 Conference rejects (2/31/0) a proposal to store and display all available AA archive material in a new venue.
- Advisory Action 2014/019 adds (32/1/0) a four-year rotation to the job description of National Archivist.
- 2019 Conference accepts 2019/13 recommendation to engage a professional activist to assess archives in order to
 - i. Ensure we are employing best practice with regard to storage, management, integration and access of the material and
 - ii. Learn how we can digitize relevant material.
- 2022 Conference accepts 2022/034 the Guidelines for Service Entities on Archives and the Archivist job description be accepted.

9.5 Armed Services

- Advisory Action 1988/023 states that AA in the Armed Forces is similar to any other occupational Group and the approach may be found in pamphlets *AA and the Armed Services* and *How AA Members Co-Operate*.

9.6 Attitude of Gratitude Day

- 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to nominate a day for members to contact the treatment facility that helped them.

9.7 Child Protection

- Advisory Action 2009/103 asks the GSB to prepare a draft Guideline on Child Protection.
- Advisory Action 2010/040 sent a draft Guideline to all Regions with the Board to submit a Topic to Conference in 2011.
- Advisory Action 2011/042 adopts (30/3/0) Guideline GL-34: *AA Child Safety Guideline*.

9.8 Code of Conduct & Predators

- 2006 Conference rejects (3/28/1) a proposal to formulate a code of conduct for AA members on the grounds that it would be legally unwise.
- 2010 Conference rejects (7/23/9) a proposal that the *Australian AA Group Handbook* include guidance on dealing with predators in AA on the grounds this is best handled by the Group conscience.
- 2012 Conference rejects (25/6/1) production of a guideline on violence or predatory behaviour as existing AA Literature is adequate.

9.9 Government Agencies

- Advisory Action 2009/056 arranges for the Board to approach Government Agencies at a senior level when requested by Areas.
- Advisory Action 2010/042 reverses this arrangement on the grounds that:
 - i. approaches to Government Agencies is a local, not a Board, responsibility; and,
 - ii. this was also the view of the 2010 National Treatment & Correctional Facilities Forum.

9.10 Indigenous Members

- Advisory Action 1987/024 decides that further items in comic book form to assist indigenous people were unnecessary at this time as AA already has the pamphlets *It Happened to Joe*, *What Happened to Alice*, *Message to Teenagers*, *Too Young* and *It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell* in this format. The Committee further agrees that, because of the basic difference in culture, if such items became necessary, we would do well to consult with the people concerned prior to action.
- Advisory Action 1989/023 leaves the simplification of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions for Aborigines with the alcoholism rehabilitation centre for Aborigines undertaking this work and that the Delegate from the Northern Region be requested to bring progress reports to Conference.
- Advisory Action 1992/030 agrees that it is up to Areas or, where appropriate, individual Groups to approach Aboriginal leaders at the local level just as we would approach local trade unions, church Groups, etc, in the course of local Public Information work.
- Advisory Action 1992/037 records that Conference does not believe that the proportion of Aborigines within the Fellowship reflects on our ability to carry the message to this section of the Australian community. Conference further believes that there is no need for GSO to open dialogue between AA and the leaders of the Aboriginal community. However, if the leaders of the Aboriginal community seek information, GSO ought to cooperate.
- Advisory Action 1997/017 appoints a member to liaise on producing tapes of Aboriginal members sharing their experiences in AA. It asks him to send reports on this project to GSO each quarter for distribution to all Conference members. On completion of a tape of Aboriginal stories:
 - i. GSO will copy on request; the \$2,000 advanced many years ago to Northern Region Area A for Aboriginal translations can be used to develop this project; and,
 - ii. the summer edition of *AA Around Australia* will contain a request for Aboriginal members of the Fellowship to put their story on tape (in English) for consideration for translation into aboriginal dialects. It will also ask Koori Groups to tape some of their meetings for the purpose of copying and supplying to Aborigines in goals and institutions.
- Although the proposal for more up to date relevant literature for Aboriginal newcomers was rejected on the grounds that Conference did not feel sufficiently qualified to determine the most effective and acceptable content of such literature, Advisory Action 2004/008 encourages the submitter to produce a piece of literature to be brought back to Conference next year, if possible.
- Advisory Action 2006/046 expresses support for the National Indigenous AA Convention to be held in Ballina in 2007.
- Advisory Action 2006/047 requests a Topic in 2007 seeking bids to host future National Indigenous Conventions.
- 2008 Conference rejects (10/22/3) the proposal to formally acknowledge the National Indigenous Convention because it is already acknowledged on the website and in *AA Around Australia*.
- 2008 Conference rejects (8/24/3) the proposal that Areas bid to host the National Indigenous Convention each year because the General Service Conference does not initiate this Convention.
- 2008 Conference rejects a proposal to establish a working party to find the best way to establish a National AA Indigenous CSO.
- 2012 Conference rejects (30/0/1) a request to translate the pamphlet *Alcoholics Anonymous for the Indigenous Australian* in a digital audio format into Yolngu Matha, Kriol and Walpir.



Conference notes that Australia has asked GSO New York to translate this pamphlet into these languages through the normal copyright process using the International Literature Fund.

- 2012 Conference rejects (13/18/2) the inclusion of Torres Strait Islanders in reprints of all pamphlets specifically designed for indigenous members.
- Advisory Action 2016/027 (31/0/0) requests greater effort be focussed on the Indigenous Australian and that it is the responsibility of Groups, Districts and Areas to respond.
- Advisory Action 2016/038 resolves that a special committee consisting of Indigenous members be set up to produce a booklet/pamphlet on the Twelve Steps for Indigenous Members.
- Advisory Action 2016/039 resolves that the submitter of the topic be asked to provide specific details on the changes required to the DVD *The Twelve Steps and What They Mean To Us*.
- Advisory Action 2016/070 resolves to request the GSB consider forming a specific committee to pursue indigenous matters.
- Advisory action 2022/033 Conference resolved to accept that a sub-committee be established to publish stories and create multimedia suite of AA Resources for the First Nations AA still suffering Alcoholic. This Advisory Action originated from Advisory Action 2019/019.

9.11 Insurance

- Advisory Action 1988/051 asks the GSO to investigate the possibility of a national Public Risk Insurance Policy.
- Advisory Action 1990/035 recommends that the GSO take out an insurance policy to cover voluntary workers Australia wide for loss of earnings up to \$500 per week and a capital amount of \$100,000 upon death. Voluntary workers who are on unemployment or sickness benefit will not receive the weekly remuneration. This policy has a ceiling of \$1,000,000. Advisory Action 1991/003 notes that GSO will finalise the insurance for voluntary workers during the week following Conference.
- Advisory Action 2001/060 resolves that Certificates of Currency for the new Public Liability Insurance scheme be issued to Groups that register and contribute to its cost. Advisory Action 2001/061 asks the GSO to communicate the details of Public Liability Insurance and its benefits through all CSOs and through *AA Around Australia*, and that Delegates communicate the decision and benefits to Groups through the service structure.
- Advisory Action 2009/071 resolves that meetings in private homes will not be listed on www.aa.org.au until the Secretary is made aware in writing about the limitations of AA's public liability insurance, and other possible issues, and an informed Group Conscience then decides they still wish to proceed with the meeting.

9.12 Legal Matters

- 2018 Conference rejects Topic 2018/006 that legal action be taken against AA VIC for breaches of AA Copyrights.
- Conference rejects Topic 2018/007 that legal action be taken against AA Reviver for importing, selling or publishing AA copyrighted material.
- Conference rejects Topic 2018/025 that another Cease-and-Desist letter to AA Reviver Inc be produced and that legal counsel be sought.

9.13 Loners International Meeting Australia (LIM)

- Advisory Action 1982/022 recognises and endorses the action Bruce H is taking in the field of Loners Internationalists Australia. As GSO did not have sufficient staff to cover Loners Internationalists, Bruce volunteered to work under the supervision of Conference and GSO in this important area.

9.14 Long Term Sobriety

- Advisory Action 2006/030 resolves (23/8/2) to gather members with forty-five- plus years of sobriety in Sydney in July 2007.
- 2012 Conference rejects (32/0/1) a proposal to establish a database of the early members who have achieved 50+ years of sobriety. There is already a CD set *The Living History of AA*



available and all members were invited to contribute to the Australian Big Book.

- Conference rejects topic 2017/002 (15/11/2) that a register be created of AA Members with 50+ years of sobriety as it was considered that this approach places personalities before principles.

9.15 Maps

- Advisory Action 1992/017 recommends that all Delegates seated at this Conference supply their Regional Trustee with an A4 sized map of their Area, including the names of the Groups meeting in that Area. Trustees are to bring these to the March GSB meeting.
- Advisory Action 1995/060 asks Area Delegates to produce a map of their Areas for inclusion in the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 2010/021 includes maps of Area boundaries in the *Australian AA Service Manual*.
- Advisory Action 2010/030 establishes a team to report on whether to prepare digital GIS maps of all Regional and Area boundaries. A poll of Conference members will instruct the Board whether to proceed.

9.16 Membership Survey

- 1979 Conference asks for a national census of Group membership.
- 1980 Conference defers further discussion on a national census to allow Conference members to read and digest the report of the survey conducted in Great Britain.
- 1981 Conference agrees that GSO complete a survey of the rate of growth or decline in AA membership in Australia and asks Lorraine Yudaeff (Class A Trustee) and other professionals present at Conference to consider it.
- Advisory Action 1982/029 agrees to conduct the National AA Survey during the week of November 28 to December 4.
- Advisory Action 1992/032 recommends that the AA Membership Survey be proceeded with, excluding the question about dual addiction.
- Advisory Action 1993/037 suggests that the single sheet produced by Trevor H (General Service Trustee) be the official communication both inside and outside the Fellowship on the 1992 Survey of Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia.
- Advisory Action 1994/008 recommends that questions relating to Group Conscience meetings be included in the next AA Survey.
- Advisory Action 1995/028 agrees the 1996 AA Survey contain a section on ethnic background of AA members.
- Advisory Action 1995/029 agrees that a question be included on the 1996 Survey "Are you Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander".
- Advisory Action 1997/023 recommends that the next triennial survey be professionally prepared in draft form, for approximately \$100.00 and be made available to Delegates prior to Conference 1998.
- Advisory Action 2000/034 resolves that GSO add a comments area, print the survey and send it to Area Delegates immediately for distribution to their Groups, together with a Group registration form. Surveys should be collected by Areas and returned to GSO.
- Advisory Action 2004/003 resolves that the proposed method of conducting a survey to include all Groups in Australia and utilising one page in *AA Around Australia* as a survey sheet be rejected as impractical, but requests the Board conduct another survey of the Fellowship, building on the work done by past surveys in 1992 and 1996.
- Advisory Action 2008/008 sought a new methodology to make the survey more effective.
- Advisory Action 2009/082 accepts the draft survey, minus the questions on religion and marital status.
- Advisory Action 2014/035 resolves that a membership survey be conducted for the purpose of providing information to professionals and that some questions be included to gather information from groups which could enhance initiatives in improving participation in service.
- Advisory Action 2014/036 resolves that both hard copy and electronic questionnaires be used for the membership survey.
- Advisory Action 2015/054 resolves that the presented membership survey questions be accepted and the online survey to be conducted as soon as possible with a deadline run date



of three months.

- 2018 Conference resolved to accept the membership survey results will be published on the Service Website as soon as data is in report form. This was carried by a show of hands.
- 2019 Conference resolved 2019/035 GSB conduct a new Fellowship Survey without further delay. 2019 Conference resolved 2019/036 to issue an apology to members who submitted entries to original fellowship survey.

9.17 Proof of attendance

- Advisory Action 1986/025 reminds us that we should welcome and offer our message of hope to those sent to AA via courts. We cannot discriminate against any prospective AA member, even if he or she comes to us under pressure from a court, an employer, or any other agency. Sometimes, courts ask for proof of attendance at AA meetings. The following methods have proved to be satisfactory:
 - i. with the consent of the prospective member, the AA Group secretary signs or initials a slip furnished by the court; or
 - ii. the court furnishes envelopes available to anyone at the close of an AA meeting. The individual mails the envelope to the court with his or her name and address as proof of attendance; or
 - iii. some AA Groups have sheets of paper with the name and address of the Group. Anyone wishing to sign the sheet may do so at the end of the meeting. The secretary mails this in an envelope provided by the referring court, clinic, employer or other agency sending people to AA.
- Advisory Action 2002/004 resolves that the following statement appear as an additional paragraph in Guideline GL-04: *Information on Alcoholics Anonymous*, under the heading 'Proof of Attendance at AA meetings':

Signing cards validating that a person has attended an AA meeting is at the discretion of individual Groups, but that doing so does not contravene any Tradition and enhances the principle of co-operation without affiliation.

9.18 Service

- To combat national apathy and Group complacency, Advisory Action 1987/043 asks active members to:
 - i. Encourage support of Regional Forums;
 - ii. Mention service structure at Beginners' Meetings;
 - iii. Comment on how participation in service has assisted in our recovery;
 - iv. Conduct Sharing Sessions on service;
 - v. Bring another member to Area and District meetings; and,
 - vi. Request all State Magazines to advertise the 'Australian AA Service Manual'.
- Advisory Action 1988/044 recommends that no one should wear two hats in service if two heads are available.
- Advisory Action 1989/006 retains the statement of Conference 1988 *'That no-one should wear two hats if two heads are available'* with the addition that no AA member can simultaneously hold two or more substantive positions in the Fellowship, i.e. General Service Representative and Central Service Representative but, when out of necessity one member holding a position is appointed to another position, the title of the second position is to be always preceded by the word 'acting' until a permanent appointee is elected at the first opportunity. In the meantime, the acting appointee to have full voting rights.
- Advisory Action 1990/019 favourably views the practice of members assuming another position in service structure immediately after completing a term in a different position as a logical means of moving through the various positions and increasing knowledge and experience in service work (e.g. progressing from Treasurer to Secretary to Chairperson to Delegate of an Area.)
- Advisory Action 1995/012 cannot see any need for a pamphlet on Service.
- Advisory Action 2009/063 asks the GSB to publish guidance on sponsorship in service on www.aaservice.org.au to encourage members to carry the message in treatment and correctional facilities.
- 2012 Conference declines (3/28/0) to provide more clarification about members holding more



than one service position or participating in more than one 'home' Group.

- 2013 Conference declines (14/16/0) to create a 'Service Week' with the focus on AA's third legacy.
- 2021 Conference rejects topic 2020/011 that a 4-year AA service position of Editor of AA Around Australia be created and advertised on aa.org.au.
- 2023 Conference Steering Committee referred to the Board topic 2023/006, that a page be created on the National Website and Members Website to display information on current paid job vacancies, Trustee and volunteer opportunities for the skills register. The Nominations Committee would be responsible for this.

9.19 Singleness Of Purpose

- Advisory Action 1987/039 recommends that members with multiple addictions ought to concentrate on their alcoholism when speaking from the floor of an AA meeting.
- Advisory Action 1990/049 agrees that all AA Groups should emphasise Our Primary Purpose Statement and that there should be no 'only' in the listing of special interest meetings.
- Advisory Action 1990/050 suggests that Groups invest in a placard worded "This is an Open Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous". They should prominently display the placard and read it out at each meeting.
- Advisory Action 1990/051 suggests that, where necessary, people with dual addictions should also be directed to a program relevant to their other problem, which may be of benefit to them.
- Advisory Action 2000/013 resolves that a statement of Singularity of Purpose (sic) be prepared and issued.
- Advisory Action 2001/048 encourages members to read the pamphlets *Problems Other Than Alcohol* and *Medications and Other Drugs* which contain the solutions to individual problems arising from members using mind altering substances, and that any such problems be addressed at Group Conscience level.
- 2005 Conference declines (1/26/1) to make a statement that self-described non-alcoholics do not participate in meetings of AA and not hold service positions within an AA Group. Conference noted that while this is of genuine concern, AA Literature such as the *Australian AA Group Handbook*, Traditions (Long Form) 3 and 4, and our Singleness of Purpose Statement, already addresses this matter.
- Advisory Action 2007/039 approves by a show of hands a "Singleness of Purpose" letter for use by Groups, Districts and Areas.

9.20 Traditions

- Advisory Action 1985/037 declares November National 'Traditions Month'.
- Advisory Action 1987/036 suggests more Traditions Meetings ought to be held, to give members a better understanding of the Traditions.
- Advisory Action 2010/033 asks the Board to advise 2011 Conference on the use of commercial brands (e.g. Google) in AA literature.
- Advisory Action 2011/028 accepts (32/0/0) a policy that permits the Fellowship to use commercial names, but AA should avoid endorsing a product or implying an affiliation.

9.21 Treatment Facilities

- Advisory Action 1983/043 recommends that the Institutions Committee write to all Area Delegates, asking for information on hospitals and institutions in their Area and whether AA meetings are held in these facilities. Following receipt of this information, the Institutions Committee will contact all hospitals and institutions having no meetings to explain what AA has to offer the suffering alcoholic.
- Advisory Action 1983/044 arranges to publish a revised National Directory of hospitals and institutions. Advisory Action 1984/028 advises that a National Directory of Hospitals and Institutions is not feasible and discontinues this project.
- Advisory Action 1984/031 suggests that the basic kit for hospital patients at a price of 70c should consist of:
 - i. Is AA for You;



- ii. This is AA;
 - iii. 44 Questions;
 - iv. Just for Today Card;
 - v. Where do I go from Here?; and
 - vi. a directory of local meetings (to be added to kit at local level).
- Advisory Action 1989/017 recommends the flyer *AA in Treatment Centres* be utilised because it reflects what actually takes place when working with Treatment Centres.
 - Advisory Action 1990/048 decides that the sales volume for *AA in Treatment Facilities* would be insufficient to warrant publication, noting that:

We have a pamphlet AA in Treatment Centres which is already in use and which covers the topic adequately.
 - Advisory Action 1985/016 suggests unsold copies of *AntennA* be sent via members to hospitals, institutions, doctor's rooms, police stations, etc.
 - Advisory Action 1987/015 asks the Hospitals & Institutions Committee to investigate the establishment of an Institutions sub-committee regionally to deal with the liaison between Institutions and AA so that sponsorship commences for the newcomer before he or she leaves the Institution, whether this be on a person or Group basis.
 - Advisory Action 1987/016 recommends that Public Awareness Meetings be used to carry the message to the Boards of Hospitals and Institutions.
 - Advisory Action 1987/018 states that it is the responsibility of an effective Hospital and Institutions Committee to ensure that Government bodies, as well as private bodies, are aware of the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.
 - Advisory Action 1988/021 found that existing programs are working satisfactorily regarding the relationship of AA with Institutions in our Areas. AA members undertaking new projects in their local Areas should adhere closely to the guidelines set down in AA literature (e.g. *AA in Hospitals*, *AA in Treatment Centres* and *Questions and Answers on Sponsorship*).
 - Advisory Action 1988/022 considers the Manning Base Hospital "Alcohol Withdrawal Program" to be ideal but envisages problems in servicing AA rosters and introducing it into larger hospitals with established detox programs. Conference forwards a copy of this program to all Conference members and all CSOs for comment prior to the next Conference. Advisory Action 1989/014 notes that to advocate use of the Manning River Base Hospital "Alcohol Withdrawal Program" would contravene Tradition 6.
 - Advisory Action 1991/050 confirms that Conference has no opinion on an outside Treatment Facility's mandatory requirement of its clients that they attend AA meetings and would not question the facilities right to such a policy.
 - Advisory Action 1991/051 opined that it is inaccurate to claim that some treatment centres come into contact only with AA dropouts rather than with the successful member of AA.
 - Advisory Action 1993/042 recommends that GSO make inquiries of the New York GSO and the United Kingdom GSO regarding guidelines for hospital visitation. It was suggested that hospital visitation is not the responsibility of the GSO and that respective committees could best handle it at local level.
 - Advisory Action 2013/019 agrees (22/7/1) to produce stickers containing the national website address and 1300 number for treatment and other facilities.
 - So that every treatment facility in the country will have information on Alcoholics Anonymous, Advisory Action 2013/020 asks (27/2/1) Areas to consider encouraging Groups to adopt a local treatment facility and keep it supplied with treatment facility wallets.
 - Advisory Action 2015/036 resolves that the Conference Treatment Facilities Committee be renamed the Treatment Facilities and Special Needs Committee. All non-remote areas now listed under the Conference Remote Communities (those separated from the programme and Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous by language, culture, impairment of sight, hearing, mental or temporary disabilities) be transferred to the Treatment Facilities and Special Needs Committee
 - Conference rejects topic 2015/006 that proposes that a register of treatment facilities (including local medical centres and alcohol treatment centres) be included on the National Website under the area in which they exist.
 - Conference rejects topic 2017/018 (26/2/0) that pamphlets be produced as the cost would be prohibitive.





Table 1: Conference Themes By Year

Year	Conference Theme	Advisory Action
1986	Unity through Structure	1985/030
1987	AA Into Action	1986/044
1988	The Seventh Tradition	1987/031
1989	To Serve is to Live	1988/040
1990	Our Primary Purpose	1989/035
1991	Our Common Welfare	1990/059
1992	Accountability	1991/013
1993	Unity through Responsibility	1992/042
1994	AA Australia Takes its Inventory	1993/045
1995	Maintaining Our Traditions in a Changing World	1994/025
1996	Communication in AA – Planned or Piecemeal	1995/035
1997	Attraction to Service – the Structured Group	1996/037
1998	Communication and Cooperation – Our Spiritual Foundation	1997/006
1999	The Newcomer - Our Future, Our Responsibility	1998/002
2000	Growing Beyond the Group	1999/035
2001	Is AA Dying? I am Responsible	2000/072
2002	Anonymity not Invisibility	2001/080
2003	Cooperation, Information and Communication	2002/080
2004	Recovery Involves Contribution	2003/051
2005	Building for AA's Future – the Structured Group	2004/041
2006	Singleness of Purpose	2005/037
2007	Positive Attitude, Positive Message	2006/045
2008	50 Years of Love and Service	2007/040



2009	Is Your Group in the Loop?	2008/033
2010	Service – the Heart of AA	2009/089
2011	Principles Before Personalities	2010/048
2012	Live Sober. Live Free.	Not Recorded
2013	We	2012/048
2014	Love & Service	2013/035
2015	Service — A Spiritual Gift	2014/043
2016	A Design For Living	2015/060
2017	A Vision For You	2016/066
2018	The Fellowship's Future	2017/033
2019	Our Primary Purpose	2018/047
2020	I am Responsible	2019/042
2022	Recovery + Unity + Service = A Formula That Works'	2021/041
2023	My Home Group – Commitment To Action	2022/039
2024		



Table 2: Donation Caps by Year

Year	Yearly Donation Cap	Maximum Bequest	Advisory Action
1973	\$400	\$400	1973 Conference
1979	\$500	\$500	1979 Conference
1980	\$1,000	\$1,000	1980 Conference
1985	\$2,000	\$5,000	1985/025
1989	\$2,500		1989/029
1992	\$2,500 + CPI since 1985	\$5,000 + CPI since 1985	1992/008
2000	\$5,000	\$12,500	2000/016
2002	\$5,250	\$13,000	2002/059
2005	\$5,700 + CPI	\$14,000 + CPI	2005/024
2007	\$6,050	\$14,850	2007/023
2011	\$6,050 Frozen	\$14,850 Frozen	2011/032
2015	\$15,000	\$25,000	2015/030



Table 3: Donations from AA Australia to Asia Oceania Service Meeting

Advisory Action	Donation	Recipient
1999/054	\$1,000	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2000/048	\$1,2 00	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2001/021	\$1,200	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2002/061	\$1,200	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2003/046	\$1,200	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2004/022	\$1,200	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2005/020	\$1,200	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2006/029A	\$1,200	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2007/029	\$2,000	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2008/021	\$2,000	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2009/079	\$2,000	International Literature Fund
2010/012	\$2,000	International Literature Fund
2011/030	\$2,000	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2012/006	\$2,000	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2013/015	\$2,000	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat
2014/021	\$2,000	Asia/Oceania Service Meeting Secretariat

Table 4: National Forum locations: PI&PA (formerly CPC)

Year	Host	Location	Advisory Action(s)
2001	NE Region Area C		2000/062
2002	E Region Area F		2001/085
2004	C Region Area B		2002/068
2005	S Region Area D		2003/055
2006	E Region Areas E&G		2005/041
2007	NE Region Area C		2006/052
2009	S Region Areas C+D	Melbourne	2007/052
2011	E Region Area A	Coffs Harbour	2008/044 & 2010/047
2013	E Region Area D		2011/051
2015	NE Region Area C		2013/038
2017	C Region Area B	Adelaide	2015/049
2019	E Region Area E	Sydney	2017/042
2023	E Region Area B		2021/042

Table 5: National Forum locations: T&CF

Year	Host	Location	Advisory Action(s)
2008	E Region	Sydney	2007/051
2010	NE Region Area C	Brisbane	2008/043
2012	C Region Area B	Adelaide	2010/054
2014	S Region Area D		2012/049
2016	NE Region Area A	Townsville	2014/029
2018	E Region Area A		2016/067
2019	E Region Area G		2018/048
2019	NE Region Area C		2019/048

Table 6: Regional Forums

Year	Northern	North Eastern	Eastern	Southern	Central	Western
1984		Yes	Yes		Yes	
1985						
1986		Yes	Yes			
1987						
1988						
1989						
1990						
1991		Yes		Area B		Area B
1992		Area A	Area A	Area A	Area A & B	
1993		Area C	Area D	Area D	Area A & B	
1994		Area B	Area D		Area A	Area B
1995		Area A	Area E	Area C		
1996		Area C	Area A	Area B	Area B	
1997		Area B	Area F	Area D	Area A & B	Area B
1998	Area A	Area A	Area G	Area C	Area B	Area B
1999		Area C	Area D	Area D	Area A	
2000		Area B	Area F	Area C	Area B	Area A
2001			Area A			
2002		Area A	Area F	Area E	Area B	Area B
2003					Area A	
2004		Area B		Area C	Area B	
2005		Area C	Area G		Area A	
2006		Area A	Area A		Area B	
2007		Area B			Area A	
2008		Area C	Area H		Area B	



2009	Area A	Area A	Area B	Area D	Area A	Area A & B
2010		Area B		Area D	Area B	
2011		Area C	Area D		Area A	
2012		Area A	Area F	Area D		Area A & B
2013		Area B	Area E	Area B		Area A & B
2014		Area C	Area G	Area C	Area B	
2015			Area A		Area A	
2016		Area B	Area D	Area D		
2017			Area C			
2018		Area C		Area D		
2019			Area C			
2020		Area A	Area B	Area B		
2021		Area A				
2022		Area B	Area B		Area B	
2024			Area H			
2025					Area A	

Table 7: Trustees: Class A Appointments

Effective	Term (years)	Name	Advisory Action(s)
1964	4+4	Dr Bill Spence	1964 Conference
1980		Dr. Alan Freed (Qld)	1980 Conference
1980		James Lewis (Vic)	1980 Conference
1980		Keith Smith (NSW)	1980 Conference
1980		Lorraine Yudaeff (NSW)	1980 Conference
1984		Dr. R. E. Whittington	1984/002
1988		C.A. Williams	1988/009
1989		Roger Chapman	1989/003
1994		Andrea P	1994 Conference
1996	4	Roger Chapman	1996/044
2001		Peter Buchanan	2001/056
2002		Charlotte Champion de Crespigny	2002/056A
2002	+5	Alan Thompson	2002/056C
2003	+5	Vanda Rounsefell	2003/057
2005		Harold Bates-Brownsword	2005/045
2005		John McKenzie	2005/046
26 March 2006		Barbara Joss	2006/033
2010		Dr. Neville O'Connor	2010/037
1 January 2011	1	Harold Bates-Brownsword	2010/057
1 January 2012	5	David Brown	2011/036

1 January 2012	5	Rodger Bull	2011/037
14 July 2012	5	Louise Dunne	2012/034
1 January 2013	5	Maurice Smith	2012/035
1 January 2014	4	Mark Gardiner	2014/027
1 January 2018	4	Tom Faunce	2017/038
1 January 2018	4	Ruby Jones	2017/003
15 February 2020	5	Narelle Buchanan	2020/027
8 April 2023	5	Matthew Church	

Table 8: Trustees: Class B Appointments

Effective	Term (years)	Name	Advisory Action(s)
Northern Region			
1 March 1992		John S	1991/069
1995		Allan K	1995/076
Feb 2002		Reg H	2001/058
1 January 2012	4	Kevin D	2011/038
1 January 2016	4	Bill H	2015/045
27 January 2021	4	Jane M-R	2021/029
North Eastern Region			
1980		Don W	1980 Conference
1980		Doug S	1980 Conference
1 March 1985		Ben B	1984/003



1 March 1991		?	1990/014
1994		Lynne HW	1994 Conference
1 March 1999		Brian S	1990/018
1 March 2002		Tom B	2002/078
1 January 2007		Kell C	2006/046
1 January 2011	4	Mary P	2010/038
1 January 2015	4	Brett F	2014/048
1 January 2019	4	Stephen R	2018/034
1 January 2023	4	John O	2022/028
Eastern Region			
30 June 1964	4	Norman R	1964 Conference
1972		Jack W	1973 Conference
1974		George L	1974 Conference
1982	4	Bernie O'C	1982/015
1 March 1987		Robert J	1986/012
1 March 1991		Colin D	1990/014
1994		Steve O	1994 Conference
1 March 1999		John B	1998/017
5 November 2000		Peter G	2000/064 & 2001/086
1 March 2005		Robin M	2004/049
26 March 2006		Wayne P	2006/034



1 January 2010	4	Ian O	2009/093
		Tom G	2010/036
1 January 2015	4	Paul B	2014/047
1 January 2019	4	Judy W	2018/033
1 January 2023	4	Garry S	2022/026
Southern Region			
30 June 1964	4	Claude F	1964 Conference
30 June 1964	4	Ted G	1964 Conference
1980		Geoff W	1980 Conference
1 March 1985		Matt D	1984/003
1988		Bob P	1988/008
1 March 1993		Bill H	1992/056
1995		Annie O'C	1995/077
1 March 2000		John C	1999/051
2002		David H	2002/056B
1 March 2006		Sharon R	2005/026
1 January 2010	4	David E	2009/094
1 January 2014	4	Michael C	2013/025
1 January 2018	4	Penelope C	2017/037
22 April 2021	4	Geoff S	2021/28
Central Region			



1980		Ian J	1980 Conference
1982	4	Brian N	1982/015
1 March 1987		Bob McL	1986/012
1 March 1991		Shirley M	1990/014
1994		John L	1994 Conference
1996		Bluey R	1996/038 & 1996/045
2001		Andrea C	2000/063
1 March 2005		Eric B	2004/048
1 January 2009	4	Paul D	2008/024
1 January 2013	4	Douglas K	2012/036
11 July 2015	4	Robyn N	2015/044
1 January 2018	4	Andy P	2017/035
1 January 2022	4	Grant T	2021/031
Western Region			
June 1964	4	Jim W	1964 Conference
1982	4	Jim S	1982/015
1 March 1987		Leslie P	1986/012
1989		Rodney M	1989/003
1 March 1994		Ian C	1993 Conference
1997		Allan B	1997/034
1 March 2002		Wayne B	2001/057



1 March 2006		Jann McF	2005/027
1 January 2010	4	Lawrence W	2009/095
1 January 2014	4	Kerry S	2013/026
1 January 2018	4	Paul J	2017/034
1 January 2023	4	Dominic H	2022/027
General Service			
1979		Mona S	1979 Conference
1979		Jack S	1979 Conference & 1982/016
1980		Bob McC	1980 Conference
1982		Maurice K	1982/017
1984		David D	1984/004
1 March 1985		Ron C	1984/004
13 September 1986		John S	1986/012
1988		Bill S	1988/008
1 March 1991		Trevor D	1990/014
1994		Geoffrey LM	1994 Conference
1 March 1999		Steve T	1998/020
1 March 2003		John L	2002/057
1 March 2004		Norm K	2003/056
1 January 2008	4	John G	2007/032
1 January 2009	4	Howard W	2008/023



1 January 2012	4	Kieren T	2011/035
1 January 2013	Max 1	Howard W	2012/033
1 January 2014	4	Bruce M	2013/024
1 January 2014	4	Mike E	2014/026
1 January 2018	4	Lachlan B	2017/037
1 January 2018	2	Mike E	2017/040
1 April 2020	4	Cheryn P	2020/028
1 year extension	1	Lachlan B	2021/030
1 April 2020	4	Andrew T	2022/029
1 January 2024	4	Gabrielle N	



Table 9: World Service Delegate Appointments

Effective	Term (years)	Name	Advisory Action(s)
1969		Laurie L	1969 Conference
1969		Doreen H	1969 Conference
October 1972	6	Ted G	1971 Conference
1975		Roy H	1975 Conference
1976	2	Roy H	1975 Conference
1977		Annie O'C	1977 Conference
1978	1	Bob McC	1978 Conference
1980		Vonnie E	1980 Conference
1983		Jim S	1983 Conference
1985		Lorraine Yudaeff (Class A)	1985 Conference
1987		John S	1987 Conference
1989		John B (GSO Staff)	1989 Conference
1993		Brian N	1993 Conference
1994		Tom K	1994/040
1997	4	Kevin H (Alt Ian J)	1997/036
1997	2	Merv S (Alt Graham M)	1997/036
1 January 2000	4	Marie MacF (Alt Ian C)	1999/052
1 January 2002	4	Geoff LM	2001/087
1 January 2002	4	Allan K (Alternate)	2001/088
1 January 2004	4	Trevor H	2003/058



1 January 2006	4	Ian C	2005/044
1 January 2008	4	Steve T	2007/033
1 January 2010	4	John L	2009/096
1 January 2012	4	Sharon R	2011/039
1 January 2014	4	Tony V	2013/027
1 January 2016	4	David E	2015/046
1 January 2018	4	Brian S	2017/041
1 January 2020	4	Greg B	2019/028
1 January 2022	4	Brian F	2021/021
1 January 2024	4	Andrew P	2023
1 January 2026	4	Judy W	2025

Table 10: Literature Items Produced

Resource Name	Decisions
AA at a Glance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1986/034 approves Australianising of <i>AA at a Glance</i>. Advisory Action 1990/026 investigates costs of printing <i>AA at a Glance</i> in Australia, including some local changes to distribute as a free item. Advisory Action 1991/030 advises that there is sufficient free stock from the USA. Advisory Action 1991/037 asks for copies of the pamphlet in languages other than English from their countries of origin.
AA for the Woman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1989/025 approves the Australian version of the pamphlet <i>AA for the Woman</i> in principle and agrees that work continue on this project with a further draft circulated by mail with a view to printing as soon as possible. Advisory Action 1990/039 approves the stories for <i>AA for the Woman</i> and a possible extension of the size of the booklet to 20 pages after editing.
AA Works Behind Prison Walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1983/048 suggests that the press release from New York General Service Office <i>AA Works Behind Prison Walls</i> needs to be Australianised prior to publication following research into our history with hospitals and prisons.
Aboriginal Pamphlets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Are You Sick of Being Charged Up</i> and <i>AA for the Aboriginal Woman</i>: Advisory Action 2005/007A arranges (26/1/1) to print both single- page Aboriginal pamphlets in full colour, including a blank space to insert a phone number. Advisory Action 2012/014 changes (32/1/0) the title of the pamphlet <i>Are You Sick of Being Charged?</i> to <i>Are You Sick of Being Charged Up?</i> at the next reprint. <i>AA for the Indigenous Australian</i>: Advisory Action 2005/007B accepts (27/1/0) the Aboriginal stories pamphlet in principle, to be published after editing to the Board's approval.
Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 2007/007 resolves that the GSB update the pamphlet <i>Alcoholics Anonymous in Your Community</i>. Advisory Action #006/2025 resolved for the pamphlet "AA in Your Community" be updated as per the suggested attached pamphlet and amended as per the Committee recommendation.
Bill W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1976 Conference agrees that AA Publishing Pty Ltd sell the book <i>Bill W</i>.
Bridging the Gap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1992/038 endorses the pamphlet <i>Bridging the Gap</i> with the recommendation that Trustees' Literature Committee Australianise and print it.
Correctional Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 2024/016 resolves to create a working group to work on Australian stories of members within correctional facilities.
Circles of Love & Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1985/020 approves the Australianising of <i>Circles of Love & Service</i>.
Daily Moral Inventory and Just for Today Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1980 Conference agrees to supply <i>Daily Moral Inventory</i> and <i>Just for Today</i> cards. Advisory Action 1994/004 makes no change to the <i>Just for Today</i> card.

Dr. F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1972 Conference approves a new pamphlet <i>Dr. F</i> that has been printed and distributed by AA Publishing.
Group Conscience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1987/020 decides not to turn the material in the presentation <i>The Group Conscience Meeting</i> given at Conference 1986 into a guideline, as it is already contained in the pamphlet <i>The AA Group</i>. • Advisory Action 1995/009 decides not to proceed with the proposed Guideline <i>Working towards an informed Group Conscience Decision</i> at this time. • Advisory Action 2006/039 agrees (28/4/1) to produce a leaflet with suggestions on how to conduct a Group Conscience.
Group Donation Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 2001/077 approves the pamphlet <i>Group Donation Plans</i> and that the purple colour scheme be used.
Guide to Australian Service Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1965 Conference requested the Secretary to draft a suitable pamphlet on the Australian AA Service Conference, submit it to the Delegates and, if accepted, print and make it available to all Groups and members. • The Secretary explained to the 1966 Conference that she had refrained from proceeding, as it was her opinion that the new Constitution would virtually become the basis of the pamphlet. Conference asks the Secretary to produce a pro forma pamphlet of her own design and wording for submission to the next meeting of Conference for approval or amendment. • 1967 Conference reviewed two draft pamphlets: the first in the form of a guide to the Australian Service Conference; the second a brief media release. • Since all States had not received copies of the draft <i>Guide to the Australian Service Conference</i>, 1968 Conference arranges to prepare an abridged draft for circulation, approval and printing. • 1972 Conference expresses its sincere appreciation to AA Publishing Pty Ltd for producing <i>the Australian Service Conference</i> publicity brochure and for its free distribution. • 1966 Conference asks the Secretary to obtain a copy of the two-page statement <i>Co-operation: Yes; Affiliation: No</i> and adapt this to make it a standard release available to Representatives.
If You are a Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1986/035 approves Australianising of <i>If You are a Professional</i>. • Advisory Action 2008/022 agrees to condense the fact file and pamphlets for professionals into one small booklet.
Inside AA Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1993/022 considers that the pamphlet <i>Inside AA</i> does not depict the full range of service work within the Australian Fellowship. It recommends that the pamphlet be Australianised in conjunction with the draft submission on GSO/CSO and the wording on the cover be changed to “Understanding the Fellowship and its General Service Structure”. • Advisory Action 1994/017 accepts in principle the draft pamphlet <i>AA Service Structure</i> and that it be forwarded to the Trustees’ Literature Committee for action and presentation of a final draft to Conference 1995. • Advisory Action 1995/014 approves the pamphlet <i>AA Service Structure</i> after ratification by the Conference Report Charter and Service Manual Committee. • Advisory Action 1996/027 approves the pamphlet on the AA service structure titled <i>Inside AA Australia</i>. To rectify the conflict it is causing and to change the emphasis, Advisory Action 1998/021 inserts the following under the heading “The District” in the current stock of the pamphlets of <i>Inside AA Australia</i>: PI & PC activities and, where applicable, T&CF programmes, are especially suitable as part of the District and Area

	function of carrying the AA message to the surrounding community.
Is AA For You?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1989/026 asks the GSO to investigate leaving space on the back page of <i>Is AA For You?</i> for phone numbers, and report back to Conference 1990. • Advisory Action 1990/038 accepts that this would incur unnecessary typesetting costs. It also raises the question of anonymity should the pamphlet be lost: phone numbers (i.e. Central Service Offices) could be placed in an appropriate place.
Is Alcohol a Problem?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1996/006 recommends production of a pamphlet titled <i>Is Alcohol a Problem?</i> for people whose first language is not English with the following wording: Only you can decide <i>If you repeatedly drink more than you intend or want to, or if you get into trouble, if you have memory lapses when you drink you may be an alcoholic. Alcoholics Anonymous can help.</i> What is Alcoholics Anonymous? <i>We lost the ability to control our drinking and have found ourselves in various kinds of trouble as a result of drinking. We attempt (most of us successfully) to create a satisfying way of life without alcohol. For this we find we need the help and support of other alcoholics in AA.</i> <i>Contact phone/address</i> The pamphlet be produced using translation of the above text into the following languages: Serbian, Turkish, Croatian, Vietnamese, Greek, Japanese, Italian, German, Macedonian, French, Filipino, Polish, Cantonese, Mandarin and Spanish. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1997/019 accepts that English be the first language of <i>Is Alcohol a Problem?</i> followed by the translations. It should be A4 double sided and folded in four with the amended text as follows: Only you can decide <i>If you repeatedly drink more than you intend or want to, or if you get into trouble, if you have memory lapses when you drink, you may be an alcoholic. Alcoholics Anonymous can help.</i> What is Alcoholics Anonymous? <i>We are a Fellowship of men and women who have lost the ability to control our drinking and have found ourselves in various kinds of trouble as a result of drinking. We attempt (most of us successfully) to create a satisfying way of life without alcohol. For this we find we need the help and support of other alcoholics in AA.</i> <i>Contact phone/address.</i>
Memo to an Inmate who may be an Alcoholic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1993/049 asks to update the pamphlet <i>Memo to an Inmate who may be an Alcoholic.</i> • Advisory Action 1997/027 recommends that an Australian version of <i>Memo to an Inmate who may be an Alcoholic</i> be produced as a complement to the book <i>AA in Prison (Inmate to Inmate)</i>.
One to Another	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 2005/018 resolves (27/1/0) to produce an Australian book similar to <i>AA Comes of Age</i> that describes the history and growth of AA in Australia. • Advisory Action 2012/041 acknowledges the work done to date but felt that there had been insufficient time to give Conference approval. Conference resolves (31/0/0) that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Conference members may retain the book until 31 January, after which it should be returned to the GSO in the pre-Any comments should be sent to the Trustees' Literature Committee via the GSO; ii. Revised copies of the book should be sent to next year's Conference by no later than the end of June; and,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. The preface of the book should also be reviewed. • Advisory Action 2012/042 accepts (24/7/2) the Conference Literature Committee recommendation that the title of the Australian History Book be <i>One to Another</i>.
Open & Closed Meetings Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1988/020 refers cards giving notice of an Open or Closed Meeting to the Literature Committee for discussion at Conference 1989. • Advisory Action 1989/019 adopts the card on open and closed meetings as approved by US/Canadian General Service Conference. • Advisory Action 1990/040 feels that the card on open and closed meetings does not present an endorsement of other programs by AA, but that it offers a supportive, explanatory statement on Tradition Three.
Public Information Workbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1981 Conference approves the content (taken from material already Conference approved) and agrees to print the <i>PI Workbook</i> without delay in a loose leaf format to allow future additions. • Advisory Action 1983/001 includes a sample invitation letter to the professional community in the PI&CPC Workbook as well as an official AA invitation card (yet to be designed). • Advisory Action 1991/023 believes that, as existing AA Conference approved literature provides sufficient information, there is no need to create a pamphlet to serve as a précis of the 'Australian PI Workbook'. • Advisory Action 1992/028 agrees that the sample feature story "Alcoholics Anonymous and the Early Bottom Alcoholic" in the <i>PI Workbook</i> is patronising, reflects an outdated attitude and asks that it be replaced. • Advisory Action 1992/029 asks the Trustees' Committee for PI&CPC to revise the PI Workbook. • Advisory Action 1995/031 refers the PI Manual (sic) to 1996 Conference to enable further work to be carried out by the current Committee, including incorporation of positive suggestions from the American version of the PI Workbook. • Advisory Action 1996/008 approves printing of the PI Manual (sic) while Advisory Action 1996/009 makes it A5 size with an easily read print size and a statement concerning reprint permission. • Advisory Action #002/2025 resolved for a new Australian PI workbook to be created and published in digital format and made available for download for free. That advisory actions 1996/008 and 1996/009 be repealed.
Public Information Kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1980 Conference grants extra time to the Trustees' Committee for PI&CPC to prepare a PI Kit in conjunction with the Conference standing committee of the same name for presentation next year. • 1981 Conference approves the content taken from material already Conference approved. • Advisory Action 1993/039 approves the <i>PI&CPC Kit</i> as an interim measure while the <i>PI Workbook</i> is being reviewed. • Advisory Action 2008/017 recommends that the Conference PI&CPC Committee appoint a volunteer Project Planner and find members to produce an updated and comprehensive <i>PI&CPC Kit</i>. • Advisory Action 2009/034 asks the GSB to suggest to 2010 Conference how North American PI kits could be used in Australia.
Self Support Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 2015/031 resolves to produce the submitted <i>Self Support Card</i> as a Category 3 literature item.
Sober After Release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action #008/2025 resolved for the Sober After Release pamphlet to be produced in addition to the Bridging the Gap pamphlet and that the pamphlet refer to aa.org.au



<p>The Australian AA Group Handbook</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1991/024 made amendments to remove errors and contradictions from the 'Australian AA Group Handbook' as printed in Australia. It adds the following text from the 1991 revision of the North American pamphlet 'The AA Group': <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In some instances, the distinction between a meeting and a Group may be narrow. For example: Some AAs come together at specialised Groups for men, women, young people, doctors, gays and others. If the members are all alcoholics, and if they open the door to all alcoholics who seek help, regardless of profession, gender or other distinction and meet all the other aspects defining an AA Group, they may call themselves a Group.</i> <i>On the other hand, if they meet most of the criteria defining an AA Group but for example, give equal time to discussing other than living in recovery from alcoholism, then they are holding specialised meetings that do not characterise a Group. Gatherings such as these are attended by some AAs - as an adjunct to, but never as a substitute for, regular meetings held by AA Groups.</i> • Advisory Action 2006/022 unanimously resolved to incorporate relevant information from the US pamphlet <i>The AA Group</i> into the <i>Australian AA Group Handbook</i>. • Advisory Action 2015/021 resolves to include a section on Service Sponsorship into the <i>Australian AA Group Handbook</i>. • Advisory Action 2017/006 resolves to reject the proposal made but, ask the proposer to submit two topics; one a Guideline on Safety and the other a paragraph for inclusion in the <i>AA Group Handbook</i>. • Conference rejects topic 2017/019 that seeks to have a section concerning members with more than one addiction. Singleness of purpose and group autonomy are covered in the brochure <i>Problems Other than Alcohol</i>. • 2022 Conference resolves to accept 2022/44 <i>Australian AA Group Handbook</i> be updated to replace "gays" with "members of the LGBTQIA+ community" in this section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Some AAs come together as specialised AA groups – for men, women, young people, doctors, gays and others. If the members are all alcoholics and they open the door to all alcoholics who need help, regardless of profession, gender or other distinction, and meet all the other aspects defining an AA group, they may call themselves an AA group.' And that the article about specialised groups be updated accordingly before publication.</i>
<p>The District</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1985/004 asks for the feasibility of a pamphlet relating to the District Committee Member similar to the GSR pamphlet to be submitted to the Literature Committee for its recommendations. • Advisory Action 1999/015 recommends production of a pamphlet on the role of Districts. • Advisory Action 2001/078 approves the pamphlet on Districts. • Advisory Action 2013/003 arranges (28/1/1) to reprint <i>The District</i> pamphlet so that the three legacies are shown on the front cover in the correct order (Recovery, Unity, Service).
<p>The Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1985/020 approves the Australianising of <i>The Group</i>.
<p>The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1962 Conference agrees to print 12,000 pamphlets <i>The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous</i> as an Australian Service Conference publication and distribute it free of cost through the Delegates. • 1964 Conference decides to use it for the purpose of presenting AA to the public, if approved by the State Councils or Committees.



Unqualified medical advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 2008/001 approves the concept of a pamphlet for consideration at the 2009 Conference about the dangers of giving unqualified medical advice.
Women in prison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 2000/011 resolves that an investigation of local and overseas resources be made to provide material specific to women in prisons. • Advisory Action 2001/066 resolved that a pamphlet specific to women, equivalent to <i>It Sure Beats Sitting In A Cell</i> be produced. Conference further resolved that the “butterfly at window” be the front cover design.
Your General Service Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1983/018 approves the Australianised pamphlet <i>Your AA General Service Office</i>, subject to modification and amendment. • Advisory Action 1983/033 makes provision in the budget to distribute the first 20,000 free.
Young People and AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1984/044 arranges to develop a questionnaire seeking Group opinion on the adequacy of existing literature directed at attracting young alcoholics. • Advisory Action 1985/018 accepts the forthcoming offer from the Youth and Ethnic Sub Committee of AA Victoria to compile a pamphlet dealing exclusively with young Australian identification stories for return to Conference 1986. • Advisory Action 1986/027 asks the Youth & Ethnic Committee from the Southern Region to write stories of young people for presentation to Conference 1987 and to give their views on video material suitable for young people. This request to also be sent to all Young Peoples Groups Australia. • Advisory Action 1987/019 asks the Literature Committee to study material received from young people and present a draft pamphlet to Conference 1988. • Advisory Action 1988/024 approves printing of the Australian pamphlet <i>Young People and AA</i>.

Table 11: Literature Items Not Produced

Resource Name	Decisions
3, 7 & 11 Step Prayers Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to produce a card with the Third, Seventh and Eleventh Step Prayers
A Message to Teenagers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2008 Conference rejects by a show of hands a proposal to update the pamphlet <i>A Message to Teenagers</i>.
AA and the Armed Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1988/032 asks the Board to investigate updating the pamphlet <i>AA and the Armed Services</i> and report back to Conference 1989. Advisory Action 1989/018 recommends not proceeding with the pamphlet <i>AA and the Armed Services</i> at this time, but that stories including aspects of recovery be sought from members in the armed services with some length of sobriety. The eight stories presented had little to say about what happens after we get to AA.
AA Business Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013 Conference rejects the proposal that GSO produce AA business cards featuring www.aa.org.au and 1300 AA AA AA. Advisory Action 019/2025 Conference resolved for the General Service Office to design a professional business card (refer Topic #63) that can be downloaded by the groups and printed as required.
AA Calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1990/045 asks the GSO to investigate the cost and development of an AA Calendar. Advisory Action 1991/026 considers that a calendar with a page for each month is an unnecessary item.
AA Recovery Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 Conference rejects the proposal to develop an AA Recovery Journal as these resources already exist in our literature.
Alcoholics Anonymous and the Early Bottom Alcoholic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1992/036 agrees that as the PI Handbook would be reviewed, there was no need at this time to delete the flyer <i>Carrying the Message into Correctional Facilities</i> to allow the printing of <i>Alcoholics Anonymous and the Early Bottom Alcoholic</i>.
A Group's Responsibility:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1991/029 considers a flyer dealing with 'a Group's responsibility' is unnecessary because the subject is well covered in the pamphlet the <i>Australian AA Group Handbook</i>.
Alcoholics Unplugged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1996/007 rejects the booklet <i>Alcoholics Unplugged</i> because it should not have been presented to Conference and: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> facts are not from identifiable resource; too much emphasis on Christian religion; and, it addresses issues outside AA.
Australian AA Meetings Directory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1963 Conference asks for an Australian AA Meetings Directory as soon as possible. 1964 Conference asks the Secretary to proceed with negotiations with New York and produce an Australian AA Meeting Directory. Advisory Action 1989/021 agrees not to print a national directory of AA meetings at this time but that members be referred to <i>Antenna</i> and <i>AA Around Australia</i> where phone numbers are supplied for all service offices and some contacts in larger township across Australia. Advisory Action 1999/014 recommends that the GSB produce a directory of all Groups and CSOs and that the existing GSO database be used to assist this. 2007 Conference declines to publish a national meeting list because of

	the difficulty of keeping it current.
Chairing AA Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1989/022 decides that guidelines on chairing AA meetings are not necessary as the subject is covered in existing AA literature and particularly in the <i>Australian AA Group Handbook</i>.
Do You Think You're Different	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1992/031 refers a story submitted for consideration by Bill R to the Trustees' Literature Committee for inclusion in any future Australianised version of the pamphlet <i>Do You Think You're Different</i>.
Growing Into Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013 Conference rejects both the proposed new pamphlet and the suggestion that the Literature Committee make modifications to the document for resubmission to 2014 Conference.
Language of the Heart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1993/018 refers the AA Grapevine publication <i>Language of the Heart</i> to the Trustees' Literature Committee for review and recommendation at Conference 1994. Advisory Action 1994/036 disagrees with the recommendation that the AA Grapevine publication <i>Language of the Heart</i> be accepted for sale through the GSO.
PI Poster A.A. <i>It Works</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2018 Conference rejects 2018/010 proposal to replace the PI Poster A.A. <i>It Works</i> with a contemporary option.
Problems with Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1992/026 does not object to the PI flyer <i>Problems with Alcohol</i>, however it does not give it Conference approval status.
Problems Other Than Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1989/020 finds that the pamphlet <i>Problems Other Than Alcohol</i> adequately explains AAs primary concern with alcoholism and, therefore, no need was seen for a further pamphlet on this subject.
Recovery, Unity & Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After a re-vote and Minority Voice, 2010 Conference rejects a proposal to produce an item on Recovery, Unity and Service.
Service Structure Role Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1998/006 does not give approval to the role play on <i>Australian Conference Service Structure</i> but makes it available as a service literature item through the GSO.
Step 1 Cycle Diagram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference 2025 rejects topic 059/2025 to product a Step 1 Cycle Diagram.
The Concepts (pocket version)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2009 Conference rejects a proposal to produce hard pocket version of the Twelve Concepts.
The Promises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Action 1986/031 decides not to publish <i>The Promises</i> referred to in the <i>Big Book</i> in any other form because it would be far better to refer members to the <i>Big Book</i> rather than a piece of paper. Similarly, Advisory Action 1987/021 declines to produce <i>The Promises</i> in wallet card form because to do so would be to quote a section of the <i>Big Book</i> out of context. Members ought to be encouraged to read the <i>Big Book</i> in total and thus share in the whole AA program of recovery. 2007 Conference declines by a show of hands to produce a new banner of <i>The Promises</i>. 2012 Conference rejects production of a <i>Step 9 Promises of Alcoholics Anonymous</i> banner.
Tradition Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2007 Conference declines by a show of hands to produce a new pamphlet on Tradition Three.



Traditions Workbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 Conference declines to produce a <i>Twelve Traditions Study Workbook</i> on the grounds that there is ample AA literature on the subject.
Treatment Facilities Manual & Correctional Facilities Manual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1998/015 recommends that both an Australian Treatment Facilities Manual and an Australian Correctional Facilities Manual be produced. • Advisory Action 1999/023 asks the Trustees' Treatment and Correctional Facilities Committee to provide regular progress reports on production of the Manuals. • Advisory Action 2004/019 rescinds the project because significant initiatives are being taken at Area and District level at this time which preclude the need for National Manuals.
Two Arms of Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1992/011 agrees with the proposed need for an informative brochure relating to the two arms of service GSO/CSO but found the current submission confusing. A simpler format is required for distribution to the Fellowship. • Advisory Action 1993/023 circulates the draft submission on <i>The Two Arms of Service</i> to CSOs and Areas for further discussion with a view to producing a document acceptable to both arms of service. All replies to be presented to Conference 1994.
Who We Are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Action 1991/021 decides that existing AA Conference approved literature contains the information contained in the flyer <i>Who We Are</i>.
Women Newcomers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference rejects to develop a pamphlet for <i>Women Newcomers to AA</i> as the existing literature well covers the topic.

Table 12: Conference Approved Literature

Title	Item	Advisory Action
AA for the Aboriginal Woman	Pamphlet	2005/007A
AA for the Indigenous Australian	Pamphlet	2005/007B
AA for the Woman	Pamphlet	1989/025 & 1990/039
Alcoholics Anonymous-Sydney Meetings	Video	2005/017
Alcoholism: Local AA may be able to help	Brochure	2010/026
Anonymity (Card)	Card	1995/007
Are You Sick of Being Charged (for Aborigines)	Pamphlet	2005/0005A
Bill W	Book	1976 Conf
Bridging the Gap	Pamphlet	1993/043
Business Cards	Card	019/2025
Checklist of General Service Positions	Printout	2013/011
Circles of Love and Service	Poster	1985/020 & 2009/035
Community Service Announcement (S Region Area C)	CSA	2005/005A
Daily Moral Inventory	Card	1980 Conf
Dr. F	Pamphlet	1972 Conf
Five Year Public Information Plan	Pamphlet	1996/010
Force of Nature	TV CSA	2009/057
GL-02: AA Conference-Approved Literature	Guideline	1987/023
GL-04: Information on Alcoholics Anonymous	Guideline	1986/024
GL-06: Regional Forums	Guideline	1986/004
GL-20: Use of AA's Trademarks and Logos	Guideline	1992/049 & 1993/024
GL-21: AA and Industry	Guideline	1993/027
GL-22: Suggestions for Members Wishing to Visit Correction Centres	Revision	2011/045
GL-25: Public Information: Convening Dinners / Luncheons	Guideline	2001/055 & 2003/049
GL-28: How a Conference Topic is Developed	Guideline	2006/045



GL-29: Speaking at Schools	Guideline	2006/040
GL-30: PI&CPC and T&CF Coordinators & Forums	Guideline	2011/046
GL-31: Presenting AA Television Community Service Announcements	Guideline	2010/025
GL-33: Suggestions for Members Visiting Treatment Facilities	Guideline	2011/044
Group Donation Plans	Pamphlet	2001/077
Group Service Representative	Pamphlet	1981 Conf
Guide to the Australian Service Conference	Pamphlet	1968 Conf
How Did I End Up Here?	Pamphlet	2004/024
Inside AA Australia	Pamphlet	1996/027
Is Alcohol a Problem	Pamphlet	1996/006 & 1997/019
Just for Today	Card	1980 Conf
Making a Start in AA	Pamphlet	2005/016
PI&CPC Kit	Kit	1993/039
Public Information Workbook	Workbook	1981 Conf to 1996/008&9
Self Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix	Pamphlet	2004/023
Sober After Release	Pamphlet	008/2025
Telling Other Members to Stop Taking Prescribed Medications is Dangerous	Pamphlet	2010/045
The AA Group Conscience	Pamphlet	2006/039 & 2007/038
The Australian AA Group Handbook	Booklet	1991/024, 2006/022 & 2008/029
The District	Pamphlet	2001/078 & 2013/003
The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous	Pamphlet	1962 Conf
Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions (Card)	Card	1995/007
Young People and AA	Pamphlet	1988/024
Your DCM	Pamphlet	2001/078
Your General Service Office	Pamphlet	1983/018

Table 13: National Convention Locations

Year	Host	Location	Advisory Action(s)
1963	WA		
1964		Adelaide	
1965	Queensland		
1966		Hobart	
1967	Victoria		
1968	WA		
1969	SA		
1970	NSW		
1971	Tasmania?		
1972	Queensland		
1973	WA	Perth	
1974	Victoria		
1975	SA		
1976		Sydney	
1977	Tasmania		
1978		Canberra	
1979	W Region	Perth	
1980	S Region	Melbourne	
1981			
1982			
1983	NE Region		
1984	W Region		
1985	E Region Areas D & E		1982/025
1986	S Region Area E		1983/006
1987	[No Bid]		1984/006 & 1985/038



1988	E Region Area B		1985/039
1989	C Region		1985/040
1990			
1991	W Region Area B		1988/004
1992			
1993	NE Region	Broadbeach	1990/006
1994	S Region	Melbourne	1991/068
1995	[NSW CSO 50 th]		1990/010, 1990/01 & 1992/052
1996	E Region Area B	Canberra	1994/045
1997	C Region Area A	Adelaide	
1998	Western Region		1995/074
1999			
2000	E Region Area B		1998/025
2001	S Region Area D		1997/032
2002	E Region Areas D, E & G	Sydney	1999/044
2003		Adelaide	199/0459
2004	NE Region Area A		2001/081
2005	W Region Area B		2001/082
2006	S Region Area E		2002/081
2007	E Region Areas D & E	Sydney	2004/050
2008	C Region Area B		2005/042
2009	NE Region Area C		2005/043 & 2006/050
2010	E Region Area A	Coffs Harbour	2007/048 & 2008/039
2011	W Region Areas A & B	Perth	2007/049 & 2008/040
2012	S Region Area C	Melbourne	2008/041
2013	NE Region Area B	Sunshine Coast	2009/100 & 2010/055
2014	C Region Area B	Adelaide	2010/056



2015	E Region Area C	Newcastle	2011/022
2016	Asia/Oceania		2013/029
2017	NE Region Area A	Cairns	2013/039
2018	Western Region A & B	Perth	2014/009
2019	C Region Area B	Adelaide	2015/048
2020	NE Region Area C	Toowoomba	2016/067
2022	Southern Region Area F	Melbourne	2018/049
2023	Western Region Areas A & B		2019/049
2024	Eastern Region Area B		2021/043
2024	Areas A and B Central Region		2022/041
2025	General Service Board, Eastern Region Area D	Sydney (80 th Anniversary)	2022/022
2026	North Eastern Region Area C	Gold Coast	2023/017
2027	Southern Region Area D	Geelong	2025

CONFERENCE DECISION PROCESS

