



Quarterly Report *from the Board*



An update from the **General Service Board**

DECEMBER **2025**

As our fellowship comes to the end of a wonderful 80th year of recovery, unity and service in AA in Australia, we look to the future in gratitude for the generations of trusted servants who have gone before us, laying the groundwork for where we are today, and what we can accomplish in the future. We continue their legacy by strengthening our General Service Structure, the framework that supports our groups, produces resources, and helps carry AA's message across Australia and to our regional neighbours. Each contribution in this issue reflects how simple acts of service by ordinary members lead to real outcomes for alcoholics in need of the same solution we have found.

From the Chair - Grant T

First, I want to express my sincere thanks to the General Service Office staff, our General Service Board Secretary, and the Conference Steering Committee for delivering such a powerful and dynamic Conference. The long days, and nights, were a reminder of how remarkable our democratic process truly is. To witness so many differing views and perspectives come together in unity to serve our common purpose was awe-inspiring. Post-Conference has been almost as busy as the lead-up, with several advisory actions requiring attention and a flurry of activity to implement Conference decisions.

I would also like to acknowledge that our Southern Region Trustee, David M, has recently stepped down from the role. We are grateful for his service and send him our very best wishes. Fortunately the Southern Region Trustee position has been filled on an interim basis by Clifford P (Read more about this below in the Nominations Committee Report)

It has been my great privilege to serve on the General Service Board for the last four years as the Central Region Trustee. I have genuinely enjoyed the role, which has given me a deep sense of fulfilment, purpose, and connection. I hope that my service has been of some benefit to AA. I am proud of the combined efforts of the Board, our World Service Delegates, Conference, local Delegates, and—most importantly—the steady work of Areas, Districts, and Groups throughout South Australia in helping alcoholics find AA and get sober.

Some real highlights have included involvement in the last two Conventions, several Public Information initiatives, and the development of our new website at www.aa.org.au.

For comments or questions email: generalservicetrustee1@aa.org.au

Incoming Chair - Andrew T

It is an honour to have been elected Chair for 2026, and I would like to begin by expressing, on behalf of the Board, our sincere thanks to our outgoing Chair, Grant T.

Grant has worked tirelessly throughout his term, and there is no doubt that AA in Australia is stronger for his leadership. His memorable performance depicting South Australia's early AA history at the 80th Anniversary Convention in Sydney was a highlight for many. Grant has been an exceptional Central Region Trustee, giving freely of his time and energy in service to AA in Australia. He has served the Fellowship with distinction and will no doubt continue to offer his wisdom and experience in the years ahead. He will be greatly missed on the Board.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our outgoing second-term World Service Delegate, Brian F, who will rotate out at the end of the year. Brian has been a wise, insightful and steady presence on the Board, with an uncanny knack for offering just the right words at just the right time. He is a true elder statesman, and his connection to some of AA's early figures, along with the story of how he first entered service, shared below, has enriched our understanding of AA's history and spirit.

Finally, it is a pleasure to welcome our incoming World Service Delegate, Judy W. Judy brings a wealth of experience, having previously served on the Board, including in the role of Chair. Her return as World Service Delegate will provide valuable continuity and a steady hand to support the Board in the year ahead.

Regional Roundup

Central Region

There was an Area A Assembly at the Port Hughes Camp on Saturday, 29 November, with an overview presentation of the Conference outcomes. Following a successful presentation in Whyalla, a Remote Communities PI Day in Cummins was also well attended this month. Area B held an Assembly prior to Conference, and another is scheduled early in the new year to elect new office bearers. Hospitals & Institutions work continues steadily, and several Public Information initiatives—such as banners on fences—are now rolling out across the region.

As many will know, my term as Central Region Trustee concludes at the end of this year, and the position will shortly become vacant. At present, however, we do not yet have a candidate willing to step into the role. I'd like to gently encourage the SA Fellowship to look thoughtfully at the service landscape and consider whether someone you know—or perhaps you yourself—might be ready to enquire further and consider stepping forward.

This position is vital to the functioning of AA in Australia. A full Board helps ensure the Fellowship's work continues smoothly, and—true to our Seventh Tradition—South Australia has long aimed to be self-supporting by supplying a Trustee to represent our region. The role is not about expertise or perfection; it is about willingness, steadiness, and a love for AA.

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If you feel even a small spark of curiosity or willingness, please reach out. I would be very happy to talk about the position, share my experience, or walk through the role description in our Service Manual (linked below):

[Service Manual - Section 9](#)

Once again, my heartfelt thanks to all who have supported me throughout my term. I remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to experience AA through service.

Grant T - Central Region Trustee

Eastern Region

The Eastern Region Forum this year, hosted by Area E at an excellent venue in northern Sydney, was a real highlight.

The event exceeded all expectations, with strong attendance and a wonderful spirit of participation. The Area E Committee demonstrated an outstanding example of Unity, embracing the spirit of Love and Service and supporting trusted servants in carrying our life-saving message more effectively.

Similarly, the online meetings of the National CSOs have been highly productive, keeping CSOs across Australia well informed about each other's initiatives and strengthening our collective efforts. These gatherings continue to reinforce how essential it is to put Unity first, recognising that personal recovery depends upon it.

Looking Ahead

Conference has agreed to reorganise the Guidelines and clarify their relationship to the Service Manual, allowing this important work to now begin. I am deeply grateful for the tireless effort of the many trusted servants I have had the privilege of working with this year. Your love, service, and commitment continue to inspire me and remind me of the strength and generosity within our Fellowship.

Garry S - Eastern Region Trustee

Northeastern Region

I am privileged to serve as the Regional Trustee for the Northeastern Region of Australia.

This past year has brought many highlights along with a few challenges, and I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve.

The commitment to service shown by our three Delegates—Shane M (Area C), Ric C (Area B), and Dann (Area A)—has been substantial. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Ric and Dann for their dedication during their terms as Delegates.

Ric played an important role in the Area's growth and the re-establishment of six Districts, while Dann has continued to meet the ongoing challenge of keeping his Area active and functioning. Shane, now in his first year, has already made a positive mark through his strong emphasis on Unity in Area C.

The Tag-alongs continue to be a source of inspiration, encouraging members to travel to remote parts of our Region to carry the message to both alcoholics and professionals.

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They have become a highlight of the year for many remote members, and professionals consistently express gratitude for receiving AA's message of recovery face-to-face.

Attracting members to participate in the General Service Structure remains an ongoing challenge. However, it is heartening to see a number of younger members stepping forward, bringing fresh ideas and renewed enthusiasm.

Our local CSOs are also facing challenges, and greater cooperation with Districts and Areas is proving to offer mutual strength and support.

The Northeastern Region has many active Districts, with a strong program of service work, workshops, and rallies taking place throughout the year.

We are also proud to be hosting [NATCON 2026](#) on the Gold Coast from 1–4 May.

Members across Queensland and Northern NSW are already heavily involved in planning, and excitement is steadily building. We look forward to presenting a Convention that is inclusive, offers connection, and celebrates the joy of living sober. We are grateful for this opportunity—thank you, AA Australia.

John O - Northeastern Region Trustee

Western Region

The fellowship is very active over here in Western Australia at the moment.

Recently, we held an Old-Timers Day filled with nostalgia, including a re-enactment of the founding of AA in Western Australia. This gave members who were unable to attend the 80th Anniversary Convention in Sydney—where a similar play about AA's early days in Australia was performed a chance to experience something comparable.

WAYPAA also successfully hosted the AUSYPAA Convention, which was very well attended.

A newly formed district recently organised a barbecue to encourage local group participation, and around 50 people came along.

One of the groups hosted its annual "Santa at the Beach" event for families at Coogee Beach. This tradition has been running for about 20 years and continues to be a favourite.

In the South West, the district is hoping to transition into an Area, which if endorsed by Conference, will bring us to three Areas within the Western Region, an encouraging sign for our continued growth and service capacity.

I would like to express my personal thanks to all the members involved in service and in carrying the AA message far and wide across our State. Your commitment continues to strengthen the fellowship in Western Australia.

Dom H - Western Region Trustee

Committee Spotlights

Service that Connects Us

Trustee Services Committee

A strong focus this year has been on expanding and improving our Public Information and Public Awareness resources. Following the successful publication and AA launch of Message Stick in Adelaide last year, the audio version has now been completed and is available across multiple digital platforms.

Work is also well underway on a new video designed specifically for members of the Military, which is currently in pre-production. In addition, an anthology of stories from Australian members with experience in Correctional Facilities is being prepared, with contributions now being gathered.

A flowchart to guide the development and approval of PI/PA material is also in progress. We now have a National Online Coordinator overseeing the growth and organisation of our online meeting space—another important development.

These initiatives represent exciting new ways of making AA's message more accessible, relevant, and welcoming to a diverse range of people. For example, the audio edition of Message Stick offers First Nations members a culturally relatable way to hear stories of recovery, whether they prefer listening, connect more strongly with spoken storytelling traditions, or simply find it meaningful to hear voices and experiences that reflect their own communities. Each of these projects helps broaden our reach and deepen our capacity to meet people where they are, in the spirit of inclusiveness, respect, and service.

Trustee Nominations Committee

At the 2025 National Conference, several important service positions were confirmed. Judy W was elected as World Service Delegate (Panel 2). Andrew Mc was ratified as the National Online Services Coordinator, and Greg D was ratified as the National Coordinator for Technology and Social Media. Alcoholics Anonymous Australia welcomes each of them, and we are grateful for their willingness to serve.

Conference also received and ratified two excellent bids: NATCON 2027 will be hosted in Geelong, Victoria (Southern Region), and the Combined National Forum will be hosted in Canberra by Eastern Region Area B. The standard of both bids was truly first-class.

Northern Region — Area A

We are delighted to share some very positive news from the Northern Region Area A General Assembly, held on Sunday, 30 November 2025. Margaret M was nominated by her Area for the position of Northern Region Trustee and was elected by the Board on an interim basis on Tuesday, 16 December. Michael G was also elected as the Area A Delegate at the Area A Assembly.

Both Margaret and Michael bring experience, enthusiasm, and a strong commitment to service. Their willingness to step forward is warmly welcomed, and we look forward to the valuable contributions they will make to the wider Fellowship. This is wonderful news for the Northern Region, and we extend our congratulations and gratitude to them both.

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Southern Region

As noted earlier in Grant's report, David M has unfortunately been unable to continue in his role as Southern Regional Trustee. We extend our very best wishes to David and look forward to seeing him back in action when he is ready.

We are grateful to report that Clifford P was nominated by Areas within the Southern Region and has been elected by the Board as the Southern Regional Trustee on an interim basis.

Both interim Trustees, Clifford and Margaret, will go to Conference at the end of the year for ratification or disapproval.

The Board is very appreciative that these two important positions are now filled, particularly as several Trustees are due to rotate out at the end of 2026. Having Trustees in place at this time is clearly in the best interests of the Fellowship. Clifford and Margaret both bring a wealth of service experience, and we look forward to working alongside them in the year ahead

Upcoming Service Opportunities

AA thrives because members are willing to step up and serve. If you're looking for a meaningful way to give back, we need people like you. Service offers the chance to support our Fellowship, strengthen our unity, and help ensure AA's message reaches the next suffering alcoholic.

Explore our current and upcoming service roles and see where you might fit.

John O - Northeastern Region Trustee

Further information about each role can be found in the AA Service Manual on the Members Website:

- Central Region Trustee – Available now [Apply now](#)
- Remote communities coordinator - Available now [Apply now](#)
- North-Eastern Region Trustee available 01/01/2027 [Apply now](#)
- Western Region Trustee available 01/01/2027 [Apply now](#)
- Eastern Region Trustee available 01/01/2027 [Apply now](#)
- General Service Trustee available 01/01/2027 [Apply now](#)
- Board Secretary - Available 01/01/2028

Read more about these positions in the AA Australian Service Manual available on the [Members Website](#) or contact your local Regional Trustee via the General service office by emailing gso@aa.org.au

How to Apply

Visit the Service Opportunities page on the [members website](#). Applications are open from 6 months prior to the commencement date.

Class A Perspective

Service from a non-alcoholic point of view

I recently attended my second National Conference. It was an energy-packed weekend of intense discussions and debates... along with the odd well-timed joke! I felt uplifted as clear action plans unfolded. I had the opportunity to attend an AA meeting on the Friday evening.

While it was not my first meeting, I honestly believe I experienced that "penny drop" moment regarding the AA refrain, 'Keep coming back!' This could also be applied to my service role. The more I become involved, the more I learn about myself and others.

Service to me means a shared sense of community, purpose and empathy. Therefore, anything that improves the ability of members to connect and potential new members to get the information needed to embark on the path of recovery resonates with me.

I was especially interested in Conference agenda items which facilitate and improve communication and connection, like the 1300 number and the collecting stories for a third edition Australian Big Book.

I would like to extend my gratitude to all members and Delegates for your incredible support, camaraderie and teamwork.

2026 promises to be an exciting and busy year; in addition to my work with GSB, I have joined the CSFAB26 Forum as Treasurer and will be participating in several other AA events throughout the year. I look forward to seeing familiar faces as well as meeting new people.

Meanwhile, best wishes for the holiday season!

Rochelle D - Class A Trustee



End of Year Closure Notice

The General Service Office will be closed from Monday 22 December 2025 and will reopen on Monday 5 January 2026.

The AA helpline will continue to operate as usual.

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General Service Trustees

Income	Goal Per Quarter	Quarter 1: July, August, September 25
Contributions (Self Support)	\$151,221.00	\$119,353
Literature Sales		\$114,433
Total Income		\$233,786

Expenses		Quarter 1: July, August, September 25
Cost of literature sales		\$67,754
Operating Expenses		\$130,579
Total Expenses		\$198,333
Net Profit / Loss		\$35,453

Our literature sales and operating expenses were slightly higher this quarter, largely due to significant annual costs such as insurance premiums and an increase in literature purchases. As a result, we were a little further from our target of being fully self-supporting through members' contributions alone, that is, meeting our operating expenses purely from donations without relying on literature sales.

Even so, this remains a solid result. As reported at Conference, we continue to be in a strong financial position, which allows us to maintain investment in essential service infrastructure and to support several inspiring new projects emerging from Conference.

We are deeply grateful to all our members for their ongoing contributions, both financial and in service. It is your generosity, commitment, and hard work that make this stability and progress possible. Wishing everyone a safe, restful, and joyful holiday season, and our heartfelt thanks for all you do for AA in Australia.

Andrew T & Gabrielle N, General Service Trustees

World Service Delegates

As Brian F comes to the end of his four year term as World Service Delegate and Andy P. concludes his first two-year term, they provide the following report on recent developments in international service and Australia's continued involvement in the Asia–Oceania region.

In October, both delegates attended the Asia–Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) in Singapore. The gathering was widely regarded as a success, demonstrating the strong spirit of unity and cooperation that continues to characterise the region.

Australia remains an active and respected participant in these international efforts, contributing to the ongoing exchange of experience, strength and hope across borders and languages.

Andy has recently taken on the role of Chairperson of the AOSM Website, Literature and Publishing Committee, where efforts are underway to strengthen and expand the regional website, aosmaa.org.

The region's sponsorship activities also continue to develop, supported by Australia's International Literature and Sponsorship Fund. These funds, generated through the Brown Paper Bag Appeal—enable vital outreach to emerging fellowships, and the continued support of the Australian membership remains essential to this work.

During the year, Andy and the Board Secretary, Cheryn P, delivered a presentation to the delegates and trustees of the Iranian Fellowship on the structure and operation of the Australian General Service Conference. This contribution was well received and assisted in the development of service frameworks in a rapidly growing fellowship.

Brian and Andy wish to express their gratitude to the Australian Fellowship for its ongoing commitment to our primary purpose and for the support that enables Australia to participate effectively in international service. Both at the World Service Meeting and the Asia–Oceania Service Meeting, Australia's contribution was clearly recognised and respected.

We wish to welcome Judy W as the incoming World Service Delegate. Judy brings extensive experience, including prior service on the Board, including as Chair, and brings considerable wisdom and stability in this important role. Her appointment marks a strong next step for Australia's international service work.

Brian and Andy close this report with appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Fellowship at this level.

Brian F & Andy P - World Service Delegates

From the Archives

AA Comes of Age in Australia: Building Our Structure

This article tells the story of how AA in Australia found its footing and built an Australian General Service Structure. Beginning with the return of our World Service Delegates from the first World Service Meeting in New York, and their strong encouragement for Australia to take responsibility for its own affairs. It recounts the story of the dedicated trusted servants who worked together to overcome obstacles and build a service structure almost entirely from the ground up. It is the story of collaboration, persistence, and vision, culminating in our very own “Coming of Age” moment at Rockdale Town Hall in Sydney in 1970, and laying the foundations of the national service structure we rely on today.

Following the first World Service Meeting in New York in 1969, where two delegates represented Australia, the 1970 Australian Conference was held at Rockdale Town Hall in Sydney. Inspired by the message from the World Service Meeting, and from Bill W himself, that each country’s AA Fellowship could and should take responsibility for its own structures and services, Australian members began laying the groundwork for national organisation. At the 1970 Conference, a plan known as ‘Operation 76’ was introduced to establish a General Service Board, and Dr Bill Spence was appointed as Australia’s first non-alcoholic trustee.

In a pivotal moment, the Conference also passed a number of resolutions, including a resolution modelled on AA’s historic Coming of Age resolution from the 1955 St. Louis Convention of the US/Canadian Conference:

“... that The Australian General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous should become of this date, 29th March 1970, the guardians of our society, the voice of the Group Conscience of our entire Australian Fellowship.

One to Another, page 374

In January 1971, Alcoholics Anonymous mourned the passing of its co-founder, Bill W, a profound moment in the history of our Fellowship. Later that year, the Australian Conference was held in Hobart under the theme ‘The Task’. Among other business, the Conference passed a resolution to begin compiling an Australian service manual.

In 1972, the Australian GSO was established at the Strand Arcade in Sydney, providing a central point for coordinating AA’s national services. At the 1976 Conference, held at Rockdale Town Hall, the name of the Australian Service Conference was changed to the General Service Conference. It was also resolved that future Conferences would no longer be held alongside conventions, but instead become dedicated annual events.

In 1977 the Australian service manual was ratified and printed for distribution. It was also resolved that future Conferences would be held in Sydney, due to the proximity of the GSO and budget forecasting. This evolution continued with the incorporation of the General Service Board as the legal entity of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia in 1979, further strengthening the structure, stability and accountability of AA’s national service framework.

In our next instalment, we’ll follow the unfolding story of the General Service Conference itself—how it has grown, adapted, and helped shape AA in Australia across the decades.

Feature Article

Stacking Chairs to World Service Delegate

Hello, my name is Brian F, and I am an alcoholic. I am currently serving as the second-term World Service Delegate for Australia. My home group is the Early Birds Breakfast Group, which meets every Wednesday morning at 7.00 a.m. in Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. I first attended AA in Sydney on Easter Monday in 1971, but my declared sobriety date is 18 August 1985, as I consumed a mouthful of alcohol at a Vietnam Veterans' Reunion on that date.

My journey in service beyond the group began thirty-eight years ago, when I moved from Sydney to a rural coastal town on the mid-North Coast of NSW.

It was in Taree that I met a man who profoundly shaped my understanding of service in AA. His name was Tom K, also known as Tom the Finn, and often referred to as the "Godfather of Service in Australia."

The first time I met and spoke with him, the conversation went like this:

"Hey Brian, you do service?"

I quickly said, "Yes Tom; I stack the chairs and wash the cups."

He smiled and replied, "You sit in the chair and you make the cup dirty — so maybe that's just good manners."

He then asked me, "Who is the most important person in the meeting?"

I gave the usual answers: the newcomer, the older member who can no longer drive, yourself, and every person in the room.

Once again he smiled and said, "Perhaps it is the person who is not here. If they are not here, then we are not doing our work. Brian, always remember: it is anonymity, not invisibility. Our responsibility is to create awareness within the wider community."

He then asked, "What is the symbol of AA?"

I replied, "A triangle in a circle" — which it was at the time.

Again he said, "No — it is an equilateral triangle, and we should give equal attention to all three sides: Recovery, Unity and Service. Remove one and it's like removing a leg from a three-legged stool — you'll fall flat on your back."

Sometimes in meetings, Tom would have us leave a chair vacant for the person yet to arrive. It was a simple gesture, but it made a lasting impression on me.

Over the next few months, he introduced me to service in the District and Area where I lived. Over time I served as GSR, DCM, and as Secretary and Treasurer at District level, and as Chair, Registrar, Treasurer and Alternate Delegate at Area. I also held the Public Information role at Group, District and Area.

Tom stressed that AA needs a relationship with health agencies, allied health workers, and others in the community where our meetings are based —and he showed us how AA could build those relationships. My journey in AA service had well and truly begun.

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I would also like to explain how AA in Australia developed its capacity to provide financial assistance to countries where resources were scarce and financial constraints limited AA's growth.

In 1994, our then World Service Delegate—Tom—became aware that Australia had contributed only \$60.40 to what was then the Foreign Literature Fund (now known as the International Literature Fund) over the four-year period from 1991 to 1994.

Tom and AA in Australia were largely unaware this fund even existed, apart from those who had made the one-off contribution. Tom wrote to the District and Area where I lived, expressing his disappointment at Australia's level of support compared to other countries.

I suggested to him that perhaps each group in Australia could make a single contribution by donating the collection taken closest to the 10th of June—Founders' Day—to the fund. He embraced the idea wholeheartedly, and the AA General Service Board of Australia carried the proposal to Conference, where it was unanimously supported.

This became known as the Brown Paper Bag Appeal, and in its first year—1995—more than \$26,000 was contributed.

Australia has held this appeal every June since. Originally all funds went to the Literature Fund, but it was later revised so that each year 75% supports sponsorship in our region (Asia–Oceania) and 25% goes to the International Literature Fund.

As the saying goes, "From little things big things grow."

Why do we do all this service at every level of AA? Because it is stated:

"I am responsible.

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,

I want the hand of AA always to be there.

And for that — I am responsible."

Brian F, World Service Delegate

**Brown Paper Bag
Appeal 2025**
Supporting Our AA Family in the Asia-
Oceania Region

