



2026 Conference Topics





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Introduction

These are the Topics that will be discussed and voted on by Conference in November 2026.

These are usually distributed via the Area Delegates to the GSRs who then in turn ensure their group members are aware of the Topics and have discussed them so that their GSR be informed of their Home Group's Group Conscience on the Topics when they attend their Area Assembly. Doing this means that they can be part of an informed discussion there. This in turn allows the Area Delegates to be informed with the Group Conscience of their Area on each topic when they take part in the General Service Conference.

Assemblies and Delegates alike should remember that Area Delegates are not representative of Areas in the usual political sense. Conference is the collective Conscience of AA Australia as a whole. Area Delegates do not go to the Australian General Service Conference to push for special benefits for their respective Areas. They go primarily to render a service to Australian and to world AA, to ensure that AA continues to function – as a whole. Certainly, they should bring with them the viewpoints of their own Areas on Australian issues, or such local problems as may affect AA as a whole. But Area Delegates are always servants, never senators. Based on a bigger picture gained from sharing with others at Conference, a Delegate may well gain a different understanding of an issue and should be free to follow his or her conscience in voting. (The Australian AA Service Manual – p61).

See Concept III on "Right of Decision" for a full explanation. The Conference Steering Committee will aim to provide the Conference Topics Document by the end of July each year. This will give GSRs Area Delegates (and) two months to organise group conscience discussions and Area Topic Assemblies. This timeframe is suggested as Conference Committee meetings are scheduled to take place starting in early October.



Note from the Conference Steering Committee

regarding the acceptance of late Topics (numbers 31, 32, 33).

At 12pm on the 14th May the CSC received a request to consider 3 Topics with the acknowledgement they were submitted after the cut-off date for consideration for Conference 2026 (which was 11:59pm, 1 May). The CSC was due to meet on the 16th May to consider which Topics would be on the agenda for Conference 2026.

The CSC first agreed to decide if we would allow these Topics to be considered by us. It was unanimously agreed to leave the decision on whether to include them until the end of our business on Day 2 of our meeting, in order to provide enough time for each Committee member to pray and reflect on the request, so that we could have a robust conversation guided by the spirit of Tradition 2 (group conscience) and Concept 3 (right of decision).

We checked if there were any other late submissions, and we were told these were the only 3. We concluded that we would have considered any other late submissions, if they had also arrived prior to our deliberation meeting.

The CSC unanimously voted to consider the 3 Topics.

We then discussed the Topics and unanimously accepted them as they met the rationale under Guideline 28. Our decision was based on the importance of the Fellowship contributing to meaningful conversations about Conference Topics.

We wish to also ensure that the Fellowship is aware that the Conference Steering Committee involves 5 Delegates and 2 Trustees – acting as Trusted Servants of the Fellowship as a whole.

The next step in the Conference process is for Conference committees involving all Conference voting members to discuss allocated Topics prior to Conference, in September 2026, and make recommendations about them. These committees will be chaired by the Delegates who are on the CSC.



Topic #001/2026

Produce a Conference-Approved 'Inverted Triangle' Service Banner to strengthen the third legacy and support service education

What do you want Conference to do?

The General Service Conference to approve the development, production, and distribution through General Service Office of a Conference-approved Inverted Triangle service banner for use by Groups, Districts, and Areas.

What issue does this proposal address?

There is currently no Conference-approved Inverted Triangle service banner available through the General Service Office.

Many members are unaware of the interconnected Service structure of AA.

As a result:

- Service bodies often produce unofficial versions.
- Designs vary in proportion, wording, and presentation.
- There is a lack of understanding of the opportunity for growth through General Service

The inverted triangle is closely associated with the Three Legacies — Unity, Recovery, and Service — and is frequently used in service workshops, assemblies, and educational presentations to explain AA's structure and responsibilities. However, without a standardised, Conference-approved banner, there is no uniform representation available to support consistent service education across the Fellowship.

This banner will give members a simple graphic introduction to the unique democratic structure of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Background information that supports this proposal

Many new members are unaware that the groups are the ultimate authority in AA through their representatives.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Approval of a Conference-approved Inverted Triangle Service Banner would strengthen the Third Legacy by providing a clear, consistent, and dignified visual representation of AA's service structure.

An official banner would:

- Support service education at Group, District, and Area events.
- Promote unity through consistent presentation across the Fellowship.
- Reinforce understanding of the relationship between Unity, Recovery, and Service.
- Provide a Conference-approved resource in place of unofficial variations.

Stronger service education supports better-informed trusted servants, healthier group conscience, and more effective Twelfth Step work. In this way, the proposal supports the Fellowship as a whole and ultimately benefits the still-suffering alcoholic by strengthening the service structure that carries the message.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

The anticipated costs would be limited to standard product development and production expenses, including:



- Graphic design standardisation (likely minimal, as the inverted triangle design already exists within Conference-approved materials).
- Preparation of print-ready artwork.
- Initial production run of banners.
- Normal warehousing and distribution through General Service Office.

No additional structural, staffing, or administrative costs are anticipated beyond ordinary product development procedures.

As with other Conference-approved materials, production costs could reasonably be offset through sales revenue. The banner could be priced to recover design, production, and handling costs in alignment with AA's principle of self-support.

This proposal is not expected to require ongoing subsidy or create a financial burden on the Fellowship.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

As this group is a meeting, not a group, this topic was developed and discussed as a workshop. After full discussion, substantial unanimity was reached to submit this topic for Conference consideration

Notes

Image link: <https://members.aa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Upside-Down-Triangle.png>



Topic #002/2026

New pamphlet titled "THINKING OF STARTING A NEW AA GROUP"

What do you want Conference to do?

That the general service Conference approve and adopt the new pamphlet as Conference-approved literature, to be used as a tool and guide along side the AA group handbook for members when considering and planning the establishment of a new meeting.

What issue does this proposal address?

In Alcoholics Anonymous we have many meetings but not as many groups

With the ever-growing AA fellowship, new meetings are being established regularly. While this is a positive development, it can sometimes impact existing groups operating in the same geographical area at similar days and times. This may lead to a dilution of attendance and contributions to the General Service structure, as well as increased costs associated with rent, literature, banners, and refreshments.

Background information that supports this proposal

There have been many new meetings established in our area which, in turn, has contributed to some existing meetings closing. This has had a negative impact on groups involved in the General Service structure. Additionally, there have been instances of newcomers attending meetings that are no longer operating, as some groups have had to close due to an inability to remain self-supporting. This is particularly concerning, as we may only have one opportunity to connect with the newcomer.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

With the dilution of much-needed contributions to the General Service structure, many of the valuable initiatives undertaken by Districts and Areas across all regions may become difficult to sustain. As a result, some of these efforts may not reach the still-suffering alcoholic who has not yet found us.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

There is no cost, as the tri-fold pamphlet has already been designed and developed.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The pamphlet has been discussed at Individual, Group, District, and Area levels. Which was well received.

Notes

[AA-Pamphlet4.pdf](#)
[AA-Pamphlet41.pdf](#)

purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Will this new group increase the membership of Alcoholics Anonymous, if so how.

Will starting a new meeting increase or decrease the self-supporting nature of Alcoholics Anonymous through incurring more expenses of rent and overheads, thus dividing the basket and the overall ability to support the Alcoholics Anonymous service structure.

Additional considerations:

Responsibilities of the treasurer

Banking kit and setting up of accounts

Requirements for opening an Alcoholics Anonymous group bank account

A minimum of 2 persons required to sign or initiate and approve payments from the group bank account

Have all the following positions been filled

Group Secretary

Group Treasurer

General Service Representative

Central Service Representative

Have the interested members read or looked at the Alcoholics Anonymous Group Handbook.

A.A. PREAMBLE

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

There are no dues or fees for A.A.

membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.

A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organisation or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

**For more information about
Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia:
General Service Office (GSO)
Australia
1300 222 222**

THINKING OF STARTING A NEW AA GROUP?

This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER

Points to consider

Before starting a group, the following points should be considered thoroughly

In Alcoholics Anonymous we have many meetings, but not as many groups. A group is an organised structured entity that has all service rolls filled and participates within all the Alcoholics Anonymous service structures, the minimum group positions are;

Group Secretary

Group Treasurer

Central Service Representative CSR

General Service Representative GSR

What is an AA Group?

The long form of Tradition Three and a section of Warranty Six in Concept 12, aptly define an AA Group:

Tradition Three:

"Our membership should include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor should AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or more alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA Group provided that, as a Group, they have no other affiliation.

Warranty Six, Concept Twelve:

"... much attention has been drawn to the extraordinary liberties which the AA Traditions accord to the individual member and to the Group, viz: no penalties to be inflicted for nonconformity to AA principles; no fees or dues to be levied - voluntary contributions only; no member to be expelled from AA - membership always to be the choice of the individual; each AA Group to conduct its internal affairs as it wishes - it is merely requested to abstain from acts that might injure AA as a whole; finally, as stated above, any group of alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA Group provided that, as a Group, they have no other purpose or affiliation."

To reiterate: An AA Group consists of two or more alcoholics who gather together for meetings on a regular basis. These meetings are the start of recovery for the alcoholic who wants to stop drinking.

As a Group, they are fully self-supporting, have no outside affiliations and no opinions on outside issues. Because AA's public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion, the Group members maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV and film.

Before starting a new AA group, the following Alcoholics Anonymous tradition should be considered.

Tradition Four:

With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the Trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount. Points to consider before starting a new Alcoholics Anonymous Group:
Proposed time, day and format for the meeting
Other similar groups within the geographic precinct at the same time, will this group impact or affect the other meetings in the area
Many new meetings have impacted long standing meetings in the same area
Motivation for starting a new group
Will starting of a new group of Alcoholics Anonymous enhance tradition 5
Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary



Topic #003/2026

Rescind Advisory Action 2010/055 directing AA Australia to publish a “Newsletter for Professionals

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference rescind Advisory Action 2010/055

What issue does this proposal address?

Advisory Action 2010/055 directed that Alcoholics Anonymous Australia publish a quarterly “Newsletter for Professionals” on the national website and distribute it by email to subscribers. The Advisory Action also established a service position of editor to oversee the publication.

The intention of this Advisory Action was to provide information about Alcoholics Anonymous to professionals who may encounter people with alcohol problems in their work.

Since that time, the range of professionals interacting with people experiencing alcohol problems has broadened significantly. Today this may include not only medical practitioners, but also counsellors, psychologists, social workers, correctional staff, community service workers, educators, and others working in related fields.

Producing a publication intended for such a diverse professional audience requires sustained editorial capacity, subject-matter expertise, and regular contributions in order to ensure that the information provided is accurate, current and appropriate for a professional readership. In recent years, AA Australia has not had the service capacity or subject-matter resources necessary to consistently produce such a publication.

The most recent edition of the “Newsletter for Professionals” was published in March 2023, and the publication has not been produced on a regular quarterly basis in recent years.

AA Australia continues to communicate effectively with professionals through other channels, including Conference-approved literature, the national website, and Public Information and Professional Awareness (PI/PA) activities, which focus on sharing AA’s experience of recovery.

Alcoholics Anonymous seeks to maintain the confidence of professionals by providing clear and reliable information about what AA is and what AA does. Producing material intended for a professional audience without the appropriate capacity or expertise may risk providing information that does not meet the expectations of that audience.

Background information that supports this proposal

The intention of this Advisory Action was to provide information about Alcoholics Anonymous to health professionals and others who may encounter people with alcohol problems in their work.

Over time, communication with professionals has evolved. Information about Alcoholics Anonymous is now shared through a range of channels including Conference-approved literature, the national AA website, Public Information and Professional Awareness (PI/PA) service work, and direct engagement with professionals by members and service committees.

The most recent edition of the “Newsletter for Professionals” was published in March 2023, and the publication has not been produced on a regular quarterly basis in recent years.

Conference may therefore wish to review whether maintaining Advisory Action 2010/055 continues to be necessary.



How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Rescinding this Advisory Action would:

- Align Conference guidance with the current service capacity of the Fellowship.
- Allow trusted servants to focus their efforts on carrying the message directly to alcoholics and professionals at the local level, rather than maintaining a national publication that requires ongoing editorial resources.
- Reduce duplication of effort where similar information is already conveyed through Conference approved literature, the AA website, and PI/PA activities.
- Help ensure that information shared with professionals remains accurate, relevant, and consistent with AA principles.
- Support the Fellowship in directing scarce service resources toward activities that most effectively assist the alcoholic who still suffers

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Discussed and endorsed by X

Notes



Topic #004/2026

Discontinue “Corrections Correspondence – a special kind of A.A. Service”

What do you want Conference to do?

Approve the discontinuation of the pamphlet “Corrections Correspondence – a special kind of A.A. Service” and the associated Corrections Correspondence service administered through the General Service Office (GSO), including removal of references to this service from Guideline GL-22.

What issue does this proposal address?

The Corrections Correspondence service is no longer being utilised. Despite the pamphlet being available and the service remaining in place, there has been no recent uptake, and the infrastructure required to maintain it continues to incur cost and administrative overhead without delivering benefit to the Fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic.

Background information that supports this proposal

The Corrections Correspondence pamphlet was developed as a Conference-approved resource to enable incarcerated individuals to connect with A.A. members through written correspondence. The process involves an incarcerated person completing a form, which is sent to a GSO-managed post office box. GSO then facilitates connection with an A.A. member who undertakes correspondence.

At present:

- No correspondence request forms have been received in over two years.
- There is no known current participation in the service by members or inmates.
- The service requires ongoing maintenance, including the management of a dedicated PO Box.
- The PO Box incurs an annual cost of approximately \$110.
- The service is referenced in Guideline GL-22, which would require updating if the service is discontinued.

While the original intent of the service aligns strongly with A.A.’s primary purpose, current evidence suggests it is no longer functioning as an active or effective channel for carrying the message.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Discontinuing an inactive service allows the Fellowship to focus time, energy, and resources on services that are actively carrying the message. It also ensures that A.A. literature and guidelines remain accurate and reflective of current practice, avoiding confusion for members and professionals.

Resources currently allocated to maintaining this service—however small—can be redirected toward more effective Corrections work or other areas of service where there is demonstrated need and engagement. There is also a reduction in warehousing costs and administrative costs to the GSO.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

There is a small cost saving of approximately \$110 per year through the cancellation of the PO Box. There is also a reduction in warehousing costs and administrative costs to the GSO.

There may be minor administrative effort required to update Guideline GL-22 and cancel the PO Box.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This proposal arises from operational review at the X level.



Notes



Topic #005/2026

Update and Digitise the old PI/CPC Planner into a new PI/PA Planner as a Free Download on the Members Website

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the replacement of the current Australian PI/CPC Planner with an updated version, and that the revised planner be made available as a free downloadable resource on the members website (members.aa.org.au). (refer Advisory Action 2008/017)

What issue does this proposal address?

The current PI/CPC Planner is outdated in name, content, presentation and references obsolete contact details and communication methods. The document also exists primarily as a static printed service item, limiting accessibility and ease of use for members and committees throughout Australia.

Public Information (PI) and Co-operation with the Professional Awareness (PA) work has evolved significantly in recent years. Committees now interact with professionals and the public through both traditional and digital channels, yet the current planner does not reflect these changes.

Making the planner available as a downloadable resource on the members website would improve accessibility for members across Australia, reduce printing and distribution costs, and allow updates to be made more efficiently in future.

Background information that supports this proposal

The current "PI/CPC Planner" was produced as a printed service item by the Australian General Service Office and includes outdated references such as fax numbers and old mailing addresses.

The planner was designed to help PI and CPC committees organise and track yearly activities and maintain continuity between committee rotations. While the purpose remains valuable, the format and examples no longer fully reflect current PI/PA practices or communication methods.

An updated version could include: • Modernised language and formatting • Current GSO contact details • Space for both in-person and digital PI/PA activities

- Guidance on digital outreach where appropriate
- A fillable PDF or printable format for easier use by committees
- Links or references to current Conference-approved resources available online

Hosting the planner on the members website would also allow future revisions without the need to reprint physical stock.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

An updated and accessible PI/PA Planner would better support members carrying the AA message to professionals and the wider community.

Improved planning resources may help PI/PA committees work more effectively and consistently, encouraging better follow-up, continuity between rotations, and broader outreach efforts.

Providing the planner as a free downloadable resource would make it easier for members in regional and remote areas to access and use the material immediately.

By improving the effectiveness of PI and PA service work, the proposal may help ensure that alcoholics seeking help – or professionals working with alcoholics – can more easily find accurate information about Alcoholics Anonymous and how to access help.



What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Costs are expected to be minimal. The updated planner would likely be developed by a Working Group and implemented by the General Service Office. If professionally formatted, minor design costs may apply. Making the planner available digitally may reduce or eliminate future printing and postage costs associated with distributing the current printed version.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This topic has been discussed informally amongst X and members involved in service work and concerns have been raised regarding the outdated nature of the current planner and the lack of easily accessible downloadable resources for PI/PA committees.

Notes

SUGGESTED TARGETS

(Note: There may be other targets within your community that you could add to this list)

January:

Press, Radio, TV, Ethnic Press, Indigenous Organisations

February:

Indigenous Organisations, Ethnic Press, Nursing Homes, Racing, Football & Sporting Clubs

March:

Racing, Football & Sporting Clubs, Clergy, High Schools, TAFE, Universities, Youth Organisations & Clubs, CYSS

April:

Clergy, High Schools, TAFE, Universities, Youth Clubs & Organisations, CYSS

May:

Councils, Welfare Organisations, Chambers of Commerce, Women's Clubs

June:

Councils, Welfare Organisations, Chambers of Commerce, Women's Clubs

July:

RSL Clubs, Interact, Masonic Lodges, Probus Clubs, Industry Assoc., Navy, Army & Airforce, Senior Citizen and Bowling Clubs

August:

RSL Clubs, Interact, Masonic Lodges, Probus Clubs, Industry Assoc., Navy, Army & Airforce, Senior Citizen and Bowling Clubs

September:

Rotary, Rotaract, Lions, Leo & Apex Clubs, Psychiatrists, **Public Awareness Meeting**

October:

Rotary, Rotaract, Lions, Leo & Apex Clubs, Psychiatrists, Police, Magistrates, Solicitors, Prisons

November:

Police, Magistrates, Solicitors, Prisons, Hotels, Motels, Caravan Parks, Doctors, Hospitals

December:

Hotels, Motels, Caravan Parks, Doctors, Hospitals, Press, Radio & TV

Helpful references, materials:

Australian PI Workbook and Kit

AA Guidelines on PI and CPC

Public Information Posters

AA Videos: *Hope-Alcoholics Anonymous*, *AA-An Inside View*, *AA-Rap With Us*, *AA-It Works*

Flyers: *AA at a Glance*, *Message to Teenagers*

Pamphlets:

Speaking at Non-AA Meetings, *If you are a Professional*, *How AA Members Co-operate with Professionals*

AA Membership Survey

AA in Correctional Facilities, *AA as a Resource for Health Professionals*, *AA in Treatment Facilities*, *Bridging the Gap*

.... And others available at your GSO.

**This is a Service Item
prepared by the
Australian General Service Office**

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PI/CPC PLANNER

for use by

Public Information

and

**Co-operation with the
Professional Community**

Committees



®

PI/CPC PLANNER

Introduction:

This Planner is prepared especially to assist PI and CPC Committees to plan their activities for a year in advance.

It will enable them to maintain a record of activities already carried out so that the AA message can be carried more efficiently and less haphazardly throughout the community.

The completed Planner will become a useful record to pass on to the next committee after rotation takes place. In this way those targets not yet covered will be known, and also those which need continuous follow-up (*such as literature racks*).

How to use:

A list of suggested targets is provided overleaf. Suitable targets, e.g. *Police*, are chosen and written onto the calendar with a brief note explaining the activity, e.g. "*placing posters*" or "*letters to police chief re speakers*".

If it is felt the activity will require more than one month the same entry can be made in the next calendar block as well.

Follow-up activities need also be marked on the calendar as a reminder to the committee. It is a good idea to vary the kinds of activities that are planned for the year, to maintain variety and enthusiasm.

Public Awareness Meetings could also be included on the calendar, perhaps during the national Drug & Alcohol Awareness Week in June.

January	July
February	August
March	September
April	October
May	November
June	December



Topic #006/2026

Establish a Website & Literature Review Committee

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference establish a standing Website & Literature Review Committee responsible for oversight, review, and recommendations relating to AA Australia's websites and Australian Conference-approved literature.

That the committee consist of:

- one General Service Trustee
- one Regional Trustee
- one General Service Office staff member
- two Delegates

The committee would provide ongoing review and recommendations to Conference and/or the General Service Board and Management Group regarding website content, digital communication resources, and Australian Conference-approved literature, with particular attention to ensuring consistency in language, tone, messaging, and presentation across official AA Australia communication channels.

What issue does this proposal address?

AA Australia's websites and literature are increasingly important points of contact between Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship, the still suffering alcoholic, professionals, and the general public.

For many newcomers, the website may now be the first contact they have with AA before ever attending a meeting or speaking to a member. At the same time, literature remains one of the primary ways AA carries its message.

There can be differences in language, tone, terminology, and messaging between website content and printed literature. A more coordinated review process may help ensure that official AA Australia communications present a clearer and more consistent voice across both digital and printed materials.

Currently, there is no dedicated Conference-connected body specifically tasked with ongoing oversight and coordinated review of both website content and literature.

Background information that supports this proposal

Conference has previously recognised the importance of oversight and review relating to AA Australia's websites.

Advisory Action 2001/027A resolved that the AA website (www.aa.org.au) "be reviewed annually at Conference."

Over subsequent years, Conference has continued to make Advisory Actions relating to website governance, website guidelines, website content, online communication, and digital service tools.

Despite this history, there is currently no dedicated standing body responsible for ongoing coordinated review of website content and its alignment with Conference-approved literature and official AA Australia communications.

The AA Australia websites now serve multiple important functions including:

- providing information to newcomers and the public
- supporting members and trusted servants
- distributing service resources



- publishing Conference-approved materials
- providing meeting information supporting communication across the Fellowship

Likewise, literature remains one of the primary ways AA carries its message. Periodic review may help identify:

- outdated content
- duplicated material
- gaps in available resources
- opportunities for revision or improvement
- literature no longer widely used
- areas where clearer Australian service material may be beneficial

A combined committee may help ensure stronger alignment between printed literature and digital content published through official AA Australia channels, particularly in relation to:

- language and terminology
- tone of voice
- descriptions of AA service structures
- presentation of AA principles
- guidance provided to members and newcomers

The proposed composition seeks to balance:

- Board oversight
- Fellowship representation
- Conference participation
- operational knowledge from the General Service Office

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

This proposal may help ensure that AA Australia's websites and literature remain clear, accurate, accessible, and aligned with AA principles.

Benefits may include:

- improved consistency in language and messaging across official AA Australia communications
- stronger alignment between website content and Conference-approved literature
- clearer review processes for website and literature content
- greater Fellowship participation in oversight of important communication tools
- improved continuity and accountability more regular review of outdated or underused materials
- improved experience for newcomers accessing AA online
- stronger support for members and trusted servants using official resources because many alcoholics first encounter AA through websites or literature, ensuring that both communicate in a consistent and unified way may strengthen AA's ability to carry a clear and recognisable message to the still suffering alcoholic.



What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Costs are expected to be minimal.

The committee would primarily operate through volunteer participation and existing General Service Office support structures. Meetings could largely occur online to minimise travel expenses.

Potential minor costs may include:

occasional meeting or administrative costs

literature review and drafting work

possible future design or publication updates resulting from committee recommendations

These costs would likely arise only where specific recommendations are later approved for implementation.

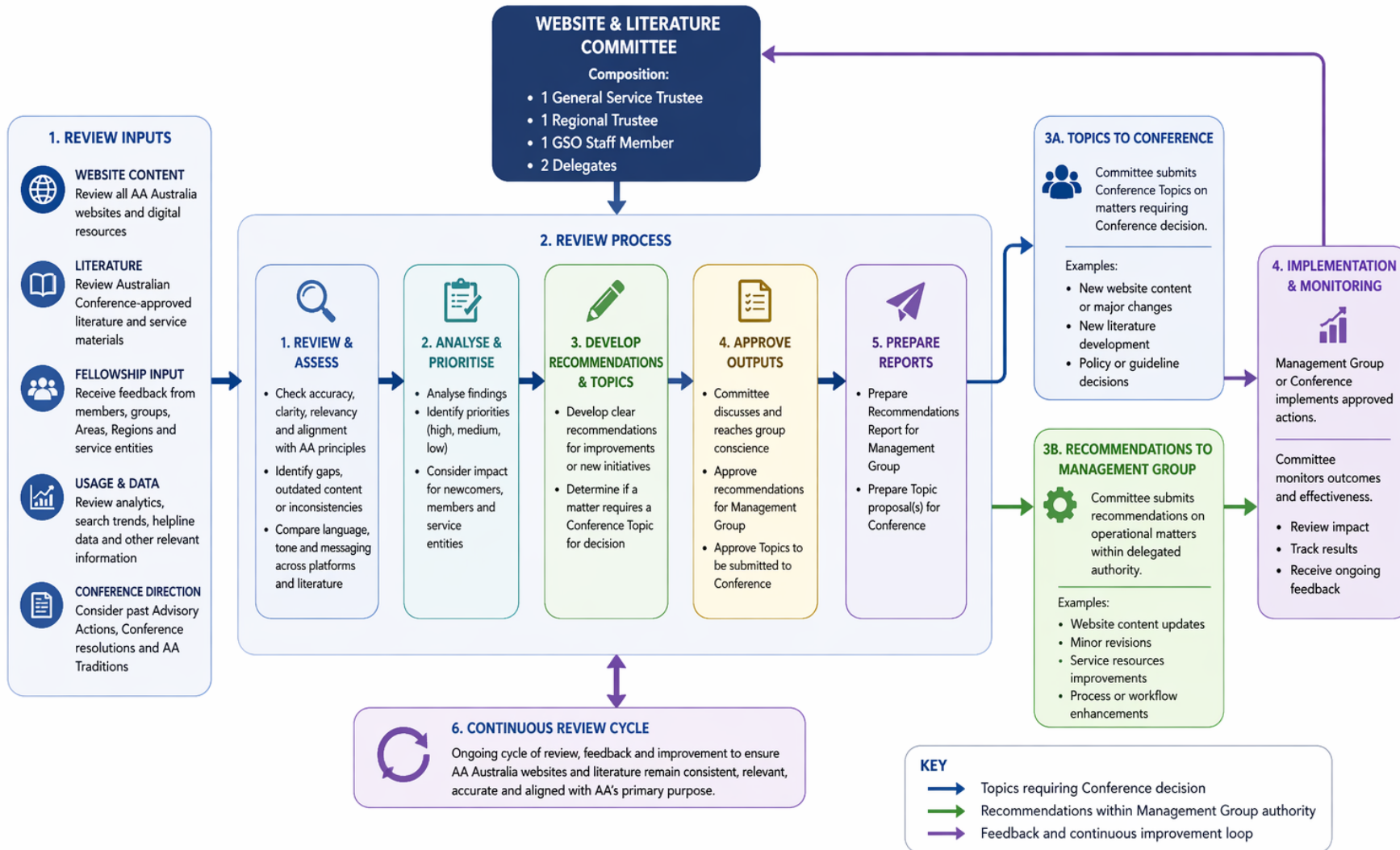
At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This topic has been discussed informally amongst members involved in service, website administration, literature work, and communication projects within AA Australia.

Discussions highlighted the increasing importance of digital communication within AA service and the value of establishing clearer and more consistent review processes for both websites and literature.

WEBSITE & LITERATURE COMMITTEE – REVIEW & REPORTING FLOW

Review → Develop → Recommend → Inform → Support





Topic #007/2026

PIPA Radio Ad

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the provided radio ad recording to be added to the list of currently downloadable radio ads on the member's website.

Unlisted YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/P6CQmJGBzU0>

What issue does this proposal address?

Currently AA Australia has no radio ads specifically aimed at a PIPA audience. This seems like a missed opportunity.

Whilst it has a general radio application, the submitted radio ad could be more specifically used in such areas as business hours on the radio, podcasts aimed at professionals, etc.

Background information that supports this proposal

AA Australia has a rich history of using radio advertising to raise public awareness as to what we do, and who we help.

Some of our current radio ads – e.g. the 2025 LGBTIQ plus example – are already aimed at a specific target audience.

An ad aimed at our many 'friends of AA' seems like a positive step in the same direction. Equally, the Big Book chapter 'To Employers' has long-encouraged us to seek out making such connections with non-alcoholic professionals. Lastly, with the aa.org.au website being newly relaunched, what better time to make professionals aware that the website has a whole section just for them.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

The Big Book chapter 'To Employers' makes the benefit of this proposal abundantly clear. AA's history has always been partly-shaped by supportive, non-alcoholic professionals, beginning with Dr Silkworth himself; understanding what AA is and what we do. Any PIPA resource that encourages professionals – i.e. those who encounter the potential newcomer before we do – to learn more about AA seems entirely linked to our Primary Purpose.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil. The ad has already been professionally recorded and mastered. It's ready for immediate inclusion with AA's other PI radio ad resources. Even edits would be free of charge.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This Topic was discussed, the text modified, and then endorsed at an Area Assembly.

Notes

[Click Here to Listen: AA-PIPA-RADIO-AD](#)



Topic #008/2026

Update of the PI/CPC Planner to Reflect PIPA (Public Information and Professional Awareness)

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the review, update, and reissue of the existing PI/CPC Planner to reflect the current service area name PIPA – Public Information and Professional Awareness, along with updated GSO contact details, a review of suggested targets to ensure alignment with contemporary Australian organisations, and verification of referenced resource material.

What issue does this proposal address?

The PI/CPC Planner, while still a valuable and widely useful service resource, is now outdated. The service role known as Public Information and Co-operation with the Professional Community (PI/CPC) has evolved and is now referred to as Public Information and Professional Awareness (PIPA).

The Planner currently:

- Uses the former PI/CPC service name
- Contains outdated GSO contact details
- Lists some suggested targets that are no longer current or well aligned with present-day Australian organisations
- References some resource material that requires confirmation of ongoing availability

Without updating, members engaged in this important service may rely on incorrect details or find the resource less relevant, despite its ongoing usefulness as a simple planning and continuity tool.

Background information that supports this proposal

The PI/CPC Planner was designed as a simple, practical annual planning tool to assist service committees to plan, record, and maintain continuity of Public Information service activities. The resource already clearly explains its purpose, how it is to be used, and the value it provides to rotating service committees.

The required changes are limited to:

- Updating the service area name from PI/CPC to PIPA
- Correcting and updating GSO contact details, including website address
- Reviewing suggested targets to ensure they remain appropriate and relevant within the Australian context
- Confirming that referenced resource material remains current and available

No substantive redevelopment is required. The work involved is primarily review, adjustment, and formatting, representing modest labour while preserving an existing, effective service resource.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

- Ensures members engaged in PIPA service have access to a clear, accurate, and current planning resource
- Supports more effective Public Information and Professional Awareness activity, helping carry the AA message more consistently into the wider community



- Reduces confusion for members new to service roles by reflecting correct terminology and contact information
- Preserves a proven, simple guide that supports continuity and confidence in service work
- Enhances AA's ability to engage appropriately with professionals and organisations likely to encounter the still-suffering alcoholic

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Minimal.

The update would involve modest labour associated with reviewing, adjusting, and formatting existing content and reissuing the resource in updated form. No new material development is required. Any updated document could be distributed electronically (e.g. emailed to members upon request), therefore avoiding printing and associated costs.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The topic was identified after the Area Assembly at which Conference topics were discussed, and therefore it was not able to be raised at that Assembly/Area level. It was subsequently discussed at the Area PIPA Sub-Committee level, where there was agreement to use this resource to support PIPA service efforts during the upcoming two-year committee tenure.

Notes



Topic #009/2026

Group Guidelines – speaking at schools – recorded messages

What do you want Conference to do?

Produce messages that can be forwarded to High Schools when presentations cannot be arranged. First message. A 6 or 7 minute audio visual about the History of Alcoholics Anonymous. Second message. Two 5 or 6 minute audio visual shares by two young members, on their journey to Alcoholics Anonymous. Members to be a sober male and female. The completed videos to be available in a format suitable for despatch or delivery to schools. If possible, AI could be used in producing these presentations if AA has approved use of this method.

What issue does this proposal address?

It is becoming more difficult to arrange student talks. If we are unable to do a presentation, the audio visual presentations could be sent to the school for use as and when they see fit. Offer to have members of Alcoholics Anonymous address students should be made in all contacts with the school.

Background information that supports this proposal

The District school sub committee contacted every high school in the district last year. First contact was an email followed by telephone contact. Success rate was poor based on time and effort expended. Reasons for not allowing the talks included no vacancies for outside speakers, school time is totally related to the curriculum.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

These presentations allow us to let students know about Alcoholics Anonymous. At some stage in the future if they wish to stop consuming alcohol but can't, they will know that Alcoholics Anonymous may be able to assist. Students should be aware that they could also enter relationships where alcohol is a problem. They may also be able to help friends and family who have trouble with alcohol consumption. The existence of Alateen and AlAnon may be helpful information.

Many students will go into occupations where they will come into contact with the still suffering alcoholics. They may be Doctors, nurses, member of the legal fraternity, ambulance or police officers or health care workers.

This data could be made available for use by any Area or District in Australia.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Much of the information needed for this video could be available on GSO records. Some of our District talks have been taped and could be made available if needed. If schools accept this information as an email attachment, cost would be negligible. There would be some cost to forward or deliver the information using a USB flash drive.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Discussed and supported by District schools subcommittee as well as District. Delegate encouraged presenting this topic.

Notes

Click here to see an AI generated example: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LoKeG0HigL4gT57u1bK7gS5cdkPPny03>



Topic #010/2026

AA Banners half the size

What do you want Conference to do?

Please can the General Service Conference approve having specific banners made half the size for members or volunteers to display at certain facilities, they share the A.A. message of hope, i.e., rehabs and detox centres.

What issue does this proposal address?

- This would make it more convenient to store banners at facilities.
- Less embarrassing to get out and display the banners. It's very weird getting huge banners and trying to hang them up to display (make it much easier to hang up, with less weight and height needed to hang them).
- Less confronting when patients/residents see them.
- Provides opportunity for volunteers to talk and reflect on the '12 steps' our program of recovery. When not displayed, it makes it difficult for patients or residents to understand what we are talking about or even for volunteers to talk about them.

Background information that supports this proposal

I have coordinated many facilities and never felt comfortable asking volunteers to display such huge banners we have.

I also share at these places and would feel awkward putting them up because they're so big and hard to display. You need to hang them high for visibility. They take up a lot of wall space and I feel the facilities would not allow this as they may see it as a risk or hazard.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

This proposal will benefit volunteers to display banners and talk about them.

This will benefit the still suffering alcoholic because they will have a banner to visualise and follow what we may be talking about.

The intended/expected outcome is to be beneficial to all: coordinators, volunteers, patients/residents and the facilities themselves.

The intended outcome is to not change anything but reduce the size of the banner fonts, which will reduce the size of the banner required to display the font. Resulting in mini banners for sale at our General Service Office.

Suggested mini banners:

THE TWELVE STEPS

SERENITY PRAYER

I AM RESPONSIBLE

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

I can't be sure. This would have to be investigated by a working group or someone who has knowledge of these costs.

I would guess around 60-70% of the production cost of a normal banner.



At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Individual

Notes



Topic #011/2026

Print our own medallions (anniversary chips).

What do you want Conference to do?

Consider the appetite and viability for The GSO to print our own anniversary medallions in Australia.

What issue does this proposal address?

This addresses a cost issue for groups who utilise medallions at their meetings. Cost savings on the medallions would ensure an increase in Groups contributions being diverted to other initiatives locally as opposed to going overseas.

Background information that supports this proposal

Medallions are printed in the USA and then shipped here and sold for a \$1.50 to \$5.00 each. CSO's also incur a postage and handling fee.

Local production will reduce costs including postage and handling fee. Some savings are incurred through the exchange rate discrepancy between USD to AUD.

Local production will reduce the need to hold additional stock on hand.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

1. Create an income stream for GSO to contribute towards carrying the message.
2. After the initial outlay on a 3D printer the production cost will decrease.
3. Overheads from GSO & increase in wages would be minimal.
4. Easily adapt for special runs eg National AA Convention.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Bambu Lab A1 Combo High-speed 3D Printer with AMS Lite Print Size: 256x256x256mm \$649.00. ANY 30 PLA+ 3D Filament 1.75mm - 1KG per roll \$ 599.90 (30kg or 30,000 grams in total). Total equipment cost is \$1248. Lets add 10 hours for Wage Cost and Super \$400 plus \$102 for overheads. Total \$1750.00.

A genuine aluminium medallion weighing 3.118 grams divided into 30000 grams would roughly create 9621 medallions. So $\$1750.00 \div 9621 = 18.18$ cents each.

So lets look at the 2nd print run when the cost of the printer is negated. ANY 30 PLA+ 3D Filament 1.75mm - 1KG per roll \$ 599.90 (30kg or 30,000 grams in total). Total equipment cost is \$599.90. Lets add 10 hours for Wage Cost and Super \$400 plus \$102 for overheads. Total \$1101.90.

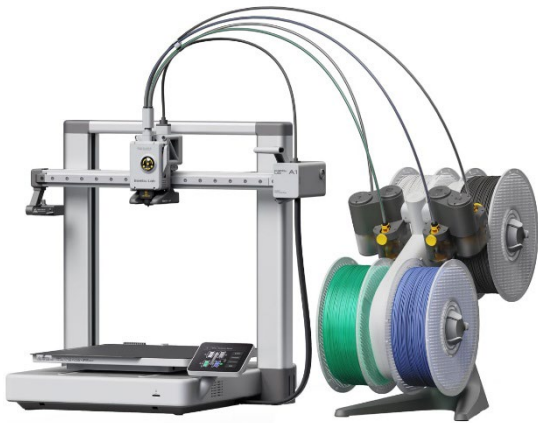
A genuine aluminium medallion weighing 3.118 grams divided into 30000 grams would roughly create 9621 medallions. So $\$1101.90 \div 9621 = 11.45$ cents each.

Thankyou for your consideration and service.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Area X April 2026 Assembly.

Notes



Bambu Lab A1 Combo High-speed 3D Printer with AMS Lite
Print Size: 256x256x256mm **\$649.00.**



ANY 30 PLA+ 3D Filament 1.75mm - 1KG per roll **\$ 599.90.**



This is a photo of a genuine aluminium medallion weighing 3.118 grams.



Topic #012/2025

Eligibility Gap Between Conference and Board Service Positions

What do you want Conference to do?

That Conference adopt a principle of rotational separation between key General Service Board and Conference leadership positions by requiring a minimum twelve-month break before a member may move from one eligible role into another eligible role.

That this principle apply to positions which sit on, directly participate in, or influence the work of the General Service Board and Conference structure, including:

- Area Delegates
- Regional Trustees
- General Service Trustees
- Class A Trustees
- World Service Delegates
- Board Secretary

That all relevant service documents, guidelines, and procedures be updated to reflect this principle.

What issue does this proposal address?

This proposal addresses concerns around concentration of influence, insufficient rotation between senior service positions, and limited opportunities for broader participation in key service roles within the Australian General Service Structure.

While AA strongly values rotation in service, current practice allows members in some circumstances to move directly from one influential service role into another without a meaningful period of transition or reflection.

This can unintentionally create perceptions of entrenched leadership pathways and may reduce opportunities for other members to step into trusted service positions and contribute their experience and perspectives to the Fellowship.

A defined twelve-month gap would strengthen the principle of rotation, encourage wider participation in service, and provide a clearer separation between major leadership responsibilities within the Conference and Board structure.

Background information that supports this proposal

The principle of rotation is deeply embedded within AA service structure and practice. The Australian AA Service Manual repeatedly emphasises the importance of rotation in service roles.

Conference has already recognised the importance of a separation period between major service roles through previous Advisory Actions.

Advisory Action 1984/021 resolved:

"A General Service Conference Delegate is not eligible to be Trustee candidate until one year after their term as Delegate expires."

This was later broadened by Advisory Action 1997/011, which states:

"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."



The current Australian Service Manual continues to reference this principle in relation to Trustee appointments. This proposal seeks to clarify, strengthen, and consistently apply that principle across all major Board and Conference leadership positions that either:

- sit on the General Service Board;
- directly participate in Board governance; or
- hold significant influence within the Conference and Board structure.

The proposal is not intended to prevent experienced trusted servants from serving again in the future. Rather, it seeks to strengthen the principle of rotation, create greater opportunity for other members to step into service roles, and allow members time to step back from one major responsibility before undertaking another.

The proposal also reflects concerns already acknowledged within the Service Manual regarding concentration of roles and influence:

“When a member wears two hats, there is a real danger of a conflict of interest and an inclination to undue influence.”

This proposal would replace and expand upon the principles contained within Advisory Actions 1984/021 and 1997/011 by applying a consistent twelve-month rotation separation across major Conference and Board leadership positions.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Healthy rotation helps maintain trust in AA service structures and encourages wider participation from the Fellowship.

A defined transition period between major leadership positions may:

- create greater opportunity for newer trusted servants to participate in leadership roles;
- encourage development of future service leaders within the Fellowship;
- reduce perceptions of concentrated influence or entrenched leadership pathways
- strengthen the principle of rotation;
- support healthier governance practices; and
- reinforce the spiritual principle that service positions are temporary responsibilities rather than ongoing authority roles.

Broader participation in service strengthens the Fellowship by bringing forward new experience, perspectives, and energy in carrying the message.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

No significant financial cost is anticipated.

Minor administrative work may be required to:

- update the Australian AA Service Manual;
- update relevant Guidelines and nomination procedures; and
- communicate revised eligibility requirements to Areas and Conference members

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Discussed at home group

Notes



Topic #013/2025

Application for New Area C in Western Australia

What do you want Conference to do?

Consider the Application for New Area (form)

Application-for-new-Area-C.pdf

What issue does this proposal address?

Converting South West District to Area C in Western Australia

Background information that supports this proposal

District has been running successfully and feels now is a good time to convert to Area given the strength of committee and responsibilities/projects being run in the area.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Increased representation at National Level.

Stronger representation in state

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Delegate/ Conference fees to be paid by new Area committee.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

District

Notes



APPLICATION FOR FORMATION OF NEW AREA

(To be submitted prior to June 30)

**TO: Conference Policy/Admissions Committee C/o- The
General Service Office**

FROM: [REDACTED] (Secretary of South West District)

DATE: 27th April, 2026

1. Reasons or need for additional Area: Committee has been operating as a District since 2018 and would like to convert to Area to increase representation at National level.

2. Attach map of Region as it now exists. (Must cover entire Region)

Boundaries for the South West District are as follows: Northern Boundary joins Peel District through Waroona – extends south to Augusta, Walpole, Denmark and Albany – then follows Great Southern Highway through Tambellup, Katanning and Wagin.

3. Attach map of Region showing areas as they will exist if a new Area is allowed.

Boundary would stay the same as above with TWO exceptions. Northern Boundary would commence SOUTH of Waroona (Australind) and extend down to include Esperance.

4. Total population of Region:

- a. Two years ago: approx. 200,000
- b. At present: approx. 201,659

5. AA population in entire Region (approximately)

- a. Two years ago: 40
- b. At present: 45

6. Number of AA Groups in entire Region:

- a. Two years ago: 11
- b. At present: 13

7. Proposed geographic area:

- a. Size – approx. 100,000 square kilometres

b. Terrain- mountains, desert, lakes, coastal towns, isolated areas.

8. Specific problems remoteness of some groups due to size of area

9. Structure and function of area and districts:

- a. Assemblies-Currently South West District meets every two months (a minimum of 6x per year. It is a hybrid meeting, utilising Zoom for those in remote areas.
- b. Average attendance expected – 7-10
- c. Would you elect an alternate delegate? Yes
- d. How many districts would the area encompass? One, as it is a matter of simply converting District to Area.

- e. Average attendance at each district meeting - 7-10
- f. Number of active GSRs in proposed new area- 12
- g. Number of GSRs in each district- 12

10. Applicants shall acknowledge, by initialling each of the following sub-sections, their ability and willingness to meet these requirements:

a. Current cost equalisation commitment to be met for:

- 1. Delegate to General Service Conference
- 2. Regional Trustee to General Service Board meetings

SV. A

SB

b. Appoint delegates and alternates in accordance with the Australian AA Service

Manual, of significant length of sobriety and well read in AA functional and historical literature.

SV. A GP

11. If Region has more than one area, space provided below for opinion or feeling of

Regional Trustee and all delegates. (All must sign)



Topic #014/2025

Regional Coordinator Roles to Be Formally Defined in the Australian Service Manual

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference formally consider and define the role of Regional Coordinators within the Australian Service Manual, including guidance regarding: the purpose and scope of the role, its responsibilities and limitations, the accountability and reporting relationships, the relationship to existing service structures and positions, the selection criteria and appointment processes and appropriate Fellowship accountability mechanisms.

Further, that Conference consider whether Regional Coordinators should require endorsement through an Area Assembly or other appropriate Fellowship service structure.

What issue does this proposal address?

Regional Coordinator positions currently exist and operate within parts of the Fellowship in Australia. These positions have been appointed by the Board; however, the roles have not been formally ratified or described by Conference within the Australian Service Manual.

At present, there is no clear Fellowship-wide guidance regarding the purpose of the role, responsibilities or limitations, rotational periods, accountability structures, appointment or selection criteria, and relationship to Areas, Districts, Trustees, and other trusted servants.

Background information that supports this proposal

The Australian Service Manual currently outlines many trusted servant roles and service structures within AA Australia; however, Regional Coordinator roles are not formally described within the manual.

Despite this, Regional Coordinators are currently operating within the Fellowship following Board appointments.

Without formal Conference consideration or documented guidance, there may be differing understandings throughout the Fellowship regarding the intended function of these roles, how authority (if any) is delegated, who the roles are accountable to, how appointments are made or how these positions interact with existing Area and structures.

This proposal seeks to allow Conference to consider whether clearer guidance and Fellowship-approved documentation would assist in improving transparency and consistency.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

This proposal may benefit the Fellowship by improving clarity and consistency within service structures, helping members better understand the role and purpose of Regional Coordinators, improving transparency around appointment and accountability processes, reducing confusion regarding authority and responsibilities, supporting stronger communication between service entities, helping ensure service roles remain aligned with AA principles and General Service Conference processes.

Clearer service structures and accountability may also assist trusted servants in carrying the message more effectively and consistently throughout the Fellowship.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Minimal.

Any costs would likely relate to review, drafting, and updating of the Australian Service Manual and associated service documentation



At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Individual submission based on observations and discussions regarding current Fellowship service structures and practices.

Notes



Topic #015/2026

Discontinuation of Guideline GL-01 and incorporation of relevant content into the Group Handbook

What do you want Conference to do?

That Guideline GL-01 "Suggestions for Leading Beginners' Meetings" be discontinued, and that relevant, current and useful content be reviewed and incorporated into the Australian AA Group Handbook.

What issue does this proposal address?

Key information relating to group function and beginners' meetings is currently dispersed across multiple documents.

This creates duplication, inconsistency in tone and authority, and makes it more difficult for members—particularly newer members—to locate clear, Conference-approved guidance.

Background information that supports this proposal

Guideline GL-01 contains useful experience-based suggestions; however, key information relevant to group function and beginners' meetings is currently fragmented and dispersed across multiple service documents.

The Australian AA Group Handbook is intended as a primary, accessible resource for groups and members.

Consolidating relevant material from GL-01 into the Handbook would improve clarity, accessibility, and consistency of guidance.

Additionally, some elements of GL-01 reflect language and tone that may be considered dated or less accessible to contemporary members. A review process would allow retention of valuable content while presenting it in a clearer, more unified format.

Guidelines are advisory in nature and can be revised, replaced, or retired where they no longer serve a clear purpose.

Care would be required to ensure content remains advisory rather than prescriptive. Broader implications for other Guidelines may need further consideration.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Improved accessibility of key principles and points for group guidance in a single, primary document

Greater consistency in tone and messaging

Reduction of duplication across service literature

Enhanced usability for newcomers and trusted servants

This proposal supports clearer communication of Conference-approved material and strengthens the role of the Group

Handbook as the primary reference for AA groups in Australia.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Minimal financial cost, volunteer hours to make editorial changes.

(Several volunteers from online Service Manual Study meeting are available for working group.)

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This topic was discussed and formulated by a regular online Service Manual Study meeting.



Several delegates and trustees were contributors.

Notes



Topic #016/2026

Board Charter – General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the Board Charter of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous as a foundational governance document to promote clarity, accountability and effective decision making.

What issue does this proposal address?

For not-for-profit organisations in Australia regulated by the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC), a Board Charter clearly outlines the purpose and responsibilities of the board. It distinguishes between governance, the board's domain, encompassing strategy, oversight, risk management, and financial stewardship, and operations, which refers to the day-to-day running of the organisation's services carried out by office staff and the General Service Office manager.

Without this clarity, boards can drift into operational matters, while operational staff may unintentionally find themselves making decisions that properly belong at the governance level. A Board Charter prevents this kind of role confusion and supports a healthy, well functioning organisation.

Background information that supports this proposal

The Board previously operated under a Board Consciousness document which lacked purpose and responsibility.

The Board Charter sits under the Constitution and explains how the board carries out its responsibilities (see attached draft Board Charter). It establishes the legal and ethical responsibilities of directors under Australian law and governance standards ensuring it fulfills its obligations under frameworks such as the Corporations Act 2001 and ACNC governance standards.

The charter sets out how decisions are made, including quorum requirements, voting procedures and escalation processes, improving transparency and reducing governance risk.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Working with the Constitution (legal authority) the Board Charter provides operational guidance ensuring our organisation remains aligned with its primary purpose.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

No cost

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Draft Board Charter presented to the General Service Board for discussion. The General Service Board resolved for this document to be brought to Conference.



General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Board Charter

1. Purpose

This Board Charter guides the General Service Board (GSB) of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) in Australia in fulfilling its responsibilities as planners and administrators of AA matters, including policy and financial management.

Members of the Australian General Service Conference (AGSC) are hereinafter referred to as "Conference members."

2. Role of the General Service Board

2.1 The GSB exists solely to serve the AA Fellowship. It is a custodial body entrusted with maintaining services for those seeking recovery through AA. The Twelve Steps form the basis of the recovery program on which Alcoholics Anonymous is founded.

2.2 The GSB claims no proprietary right to the Twelve Steps, which form the foundation of AA's recovery program and are considered freely available to all.

2.3 In all deliberations and decisions, the GSB is guided by the Twelve Traditions of AA ("The Traditions").

2.4 The GSB is also guided by the spirit of the Twelve Concepts for World Service ("The Concepts").

3. Board Composition

3.1 The GSB is an incorporated body comprising up to ten (10) Trustees, both non-alcoholic (Class A) and alcoholic (Class B). Trustees become Board members upon appointment and cease membership upon leaving the role.

3.2 Class A Trustees are selected for their professional experience and familiarity with AA. Candidates are vetted by the Trustees Nominations Committee (TNC) and appointed by the Board, subject to AGSC disapproval. They serve for five years, with the possibility of reappointment for a further five (5) years.

3.3 Class B Regional Trustees are nominated by Areas. Résumés and application forms are submitted to the TNC for eligibility checks. One Trustee per vacancy is elected at the AGSC. Terms are for four (4) years.

3.4 General Service Trustees (two positions) must reside within commuting distance of the GSB office. They are elected by the GSB and confirmed by the AGSC for a four (4) -year term, providing consistent service to the Board throughout the year.

3.5 In the event of a vacancy due to resignation, removal, or death, the GSB may appoint a Trustee on an interim basis or leave the position vacant until the next AGSC.

3.6A Trustee must resign if requested to do so by the AGSC. Such a request requires a two-thirds majority vote of Conference delegates.



4. Board Conduct

4.1 Trustees must act in a manner consistent with AA principles, guided by the Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.

4.2 Upon election, each Trustee shall sign a statement agreeing to comply with the spirit and regulations of the GSB.

4.3 The GSB may establish new corporate entities to serve AA purposes. Any such entity must be wholly owned by the GSB and reflect its governance structure.

4.4 Trustees hold no proprietary interest in GSB assets. Their rights to vote or manage GSB assets end when they cease to be Trustees.

4.5 The Board shall elect office bearers at the Annual General Meeting or as required by law when a vacancy occurs.

5. Board Chair

5.1 The Chair presides over the Board and Business Meetings and carries duties as determined by the Board or customary to the role. In the Chairpersons absence the Trustees present elect one of their number to preside.

5.2 By custom, the Chair of the GSB, or their Board nominee shall act as co-Chair of the AGSC.

5.3 The Chair is elected by serving Trustees for a one-year term. Re-election may occur annually, but no Chair may serve for more than four consecutive years.

5.4 The Chair may be removed at any time by a majority vote of the GSB or the AGSC.

6. Board Secretary

6.1 The Board Secretary is accountable to the Board, through the Chair, for governance and Board functioning.

6.2 The Board Secretary is elected by the Board and serves a two-year term, renewable once, not exceeding four years.

Duties include:

- Meeting Support: Organising three Board and three Business Meetings annually; preparing agendas; distributing meeting papers; recording and circulating minutes; maintaining the Board Resolutions and Committee Action lists.
- Governance & Compliance: Assisting with legal and governance obligations (e.g., ACNC, ASIC), overseeing compliance with policies and constitutional documents.
- Support to Chair & Trustees: Assisting the Chair, onboarding new Trustees, and supporting Trustee development.

7. Board Meetings

7.1 The GSB and any subsidiary entities shall meet via face to face in Board Meetings three (3) times a year and via online video platform in Business Meetings three (3) times a year and as otherwise required.



7.2 Notice of meetings must be given by the Board Secretary at least twenty one (21) days in advance. The Chair determines the order of business.

7.3 Trustees are expected to attend all Board, Business, and Committee meetings. Absences must be communicated in advance. Three consecutive unapproved absences will result in automatic vacancy.

7.4 A quorum for a Board Meeting is five (5) Trustees, including at least one Class A and one Class B Trustee. Decisions require a majority vote. The Chairperson has a casting vote in the event of a tie.

7.5 If no quorum is present, those attending may adjourn and reconvene the meeting.

7.6. A resolution in writing (circular resolution), including electronic communication approved by at least two-thirds (2/3) of all Trustees has the same effect as if passed at a meeting.

7.7 Meeting minutes must be approved within one month and stored in the Board Folder.

7.8 If one-third of Trustees believe a proposed action affecting AA policy or principle should be delayed, the matter must be submitted to an electronic vote of the AGSC. If the majority opposes, the GSB will not proceed.

7.9 The GSB and its subsidiaries must present annual reports and financial statements to the AGSC.

7.10 For electronic AGSC votes, four (4) weeks' notice is required. Results are tallied and announced by the Chair and Secretary or their delegates.

8. Board Meeting Agenda & Papers

8.1 Agendas must be agreed upon with the Chair two weeks before the meeting and uploaded to the Board Folder.

8.2 Draft minutes are to be:

- Sent to the Chair within one week
- Distributed to Trustees within two weeks

8.3 Items submitted outside these timelines require the Chair's approval.

9. Committees

9.1 Committees are formed by Board resolution to meet service needs and may be altered as required.

9.2 Committees may exercise delegated authority from the Board. Their decisions are Board decisions when such authority is granted. The Board retains the right to override any committee decision and may vary or withdraw delegated authority at any time. Certain decisions, as determined by the Board, are reserved to the full Board and may not be delegated.

9.3 Committees and Working Groups may co-opt external members to bring necessary skills and experience.

9.4 Unless explicitly empowered, Committees may not make binding decisions or speak on behalf of the Board. Their primary role is to make recommendations.

9.5 The Board Chair and Trustee Nomination Committee appoint Committee members and Chairs.

9.6 Committee Chairs, with Board input, may appoint up to four Board members based on relevant expertise.



9.7 Committee composition, scope, and procedure are the responsibility of the Committee Chair and members.

9.8 All members must declare actual or perceived conflicts of interest, which are recorded in the Conflict of Interest Register and addressed per this Charter.

10. General Service Office Manager (GSOM)

10.1 The GSOM manages the General Service Office under delegated authority, subject to GSB oversight and strategic direction.

10.2 General Service Trustees oversee the GSOM through Management Group meetings and act as a liaison to the Board.

10.3 GSOM responsibilities include:

- Operational management aligned with GSB strategy
- Policy implementation
- Making recommendations to the Board through General Service Trustees
- Reporting on performance and strategic outcomes

10.4 The GSB, via the General Service Trustees, is responsible for:

- Selecting, monitoring, and (if necessary) replacing the GSOM
- Defining a clear annual performance agreement
- Conducting an annual performance review prior to the July Board Meeting

10.5 GSOM staff performance is assessed by the GSOM, with a joint report presented to the Board.

10.6 Review timing may be adjusted to align with appointments, strategic reviews, or operational needs.

11. Conflicts of Interest

11.1 As per the Conflict-of-Interest policy, Trustees must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest at Board meetings. These must be recorded in the Register of Interests.

11.2 All entries are to be reviewed and minuted at the next Board meeting.

12. Grievances

11.1 As per the Grievance Policy, whenever possible, individuals are encouraged to resolve concerns informally through open and respectful dialogue directly with the person(s) involved. This can often lead to a quick and effective resolution without the need for a formal process. If informal resolution is not possible or appropriate, the Formal Grievance Procedure should be followed.

13. Governing Documents

12.1 The GSB's Memorandum and Articles of Association (to be changed to Constitution) and this Charter may be amended by a 75% majority vote of all GSB members.

12.2 In the spirit of AA, any proposed amendments should be submitted to Conference delegates by mail, electronic means, or at the annual AGSC. If a majority of AGSC delegates oppose an amendment, the GSB shall refrain from proceeding, though not legally required.



Board Charter Approved by: General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia

Date Approved:

Review date:....., being 12 months since this Approval.



Notes



Topic #017/2026

That the General Service Board produce a third edition of the Australian AA Big book

What do you want Conference to do?

Produce an updated edition of the Australian Big Book stories that continue to reflect the current AA membership and are relevant to the still suffering alcoholic.

This proposed edition ought to include the body of the current American Edition, including all forwards and prefaces and appendices.

The Forward to this edition ought to reflect the current membership demographic at the time of printing.

What issue does this proposal address?

There is a need for the stories in the book to reflect the contemporary Australian experience of Alcoholics Anonymous, so that newcomers may identify more easily.

The inclusion of all the forwards, prefaces and appendices as per the American 4th edition of Alcoholics Anonymous will remedy much of the criticism the last Australian edition received.

Background information that supports this proposal

Members have already been asked to submit their stories. The vetting and editing of these stories will take several years. The last Australian edition was printed in 2015, we need to remain current and relatable with our stories.

There is widespread anecdotal evidence that many members are not using the Australian edition because it does not include the forwards, prefaces and appendices of the American 4th edition of Alcoholics Anonymous at the beginning of the book. These are a vital part of our AA story.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

The still suffering alcoholic will better relate to the more contemporary stories.

Sponsors will be more inclined to recommend the new Australian edition with all its inclusions to new sponsees.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

The initial production costs will be offset by sales. There are no long term costs of implementing this suggestion.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Notes



Topic #018/2026

Allocation of Funds from the International Sponsorship Fund (Brown Paper Bag Appeal)

What do you want Conference to do?

Conference to Rescind Advisory Action 005/2003 (See below).

Conference to pass an advisory action allowing the World Service Delegates (WSDS) together with the Trustees of the General Service Board (GSB) to decide where contributions should be allocated from the International Sponsorship Fund to the various International Service Funds.

What issue does this proposal address?

The Chair of AAWS indicated at a recent meeting that the International Literature Fund was adequately funded for several years. However, the World Service Meeting Fund was currently underfunded. In addition, the Asia Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) is held every two years and so far in 2026 no funding requests or literature requests have been made from the region.

Allowing the WSDs and the GSB to make decisions on how contributions should be allocated to international funds would allow flexibility and ensure the fund was used where it can be of most use. To give the WSDs and the GSB flexibility in allocating funds from the International Sponsorship fund according to need

Background information that supports this proposal

Advisory Action 005/2003 (International Literature/Sponsorship Fund): Conference resolved that 75% of funds donated to the International Literature Fund (later known as the International Sponsorship Fund) be retained for use within the Asia/Oceania Zone to assist with literature and Public Information/Cooperation with the Professional Community (PI&CPC) activities.

The AOSM and the International Literature Fund are not always in need of contributions.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

This proposal would ensure contributions to the International Sponsorship Fund are used where they are of best use to carry the message to the suffering alcoholic in the international arena. Funds from the International Sponsorship Fund will be of use where the need is greatest.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

None

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Endorsed by X

Notes



Topic #019/2026

Twelve Concepts for World Service – Inclusion of an Australian Adaptation in the Service Manual

What do you want Conference to do?

Conference is asked to approve the inclusion of an adapted version of the Twelve Concepts for World Service in the AA Australia Service Manual (see below). This adaptation would sit alongside the original Twelve Concepts and Bill W.'s accompanying essays, providing Australian context without replacing or altering the original material.

What issue does this proposal address?

The Twelve Concepts for World Service are foundational to understanding how AA's service structure operates. However, Bill W.'s original essays were written in reference to the North American service structure, and members of the Australian Fellowship can find it difficult to see how the Concepts apply directly to their own service experience.

This proposal addresses the gap between the principles as originally expressed and the practical reality of how they operate within the Australian General Service Structure. Without an accessible Australian reference, the Concepts can remain abstract or unfamiliar to many trusted servants, limiting their effectiveness as a guide to service.

Background information that supports this proposal

The Twelve Concepts for World Service describe the checks and balances that sustain the General Service Structure. First published in 1962, they address the balance of authority, representation, and responsibility across the Fellowship's service framework, and explain how leadership, delegation, and accountability operate in practice.

Bill W.'s essays remain invaluable. However, they reference structures, relationships, and terminology specific to North America. The Australian service structure — including the relationship between the groups, the Conference, the General Service Board, the General Service Office, and World Service Delegates — has its own distinct character, and trusted servants benefit from having the Concepts explained in that context.

An adapted version of the Twelve Concepts has been developed that applies the principles set out in each Concept to the Australian setting. The adaptation does not alter the Concepts themselves, nor does it seek to replace Bill's original interpretation. Its purpose is to illustrate how the same principles find expression within Australia's service structure, increasing awareness and practical understanding among trusted servants at all levels.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

At its heart, AA's service structure exists to support the primary purpose — carrying the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers, just as it was carried to us. That structure works best when trusted servants at every level understand the principles that sustain it.

Trusted servants who have a clear and practical understanding of the Twelve Concepts are better equipped to fulfil their service responsibilities, to work within the spirit of AA's traditions, and to contribute to a service structure that is healthy, accountable, and focused on its primary purpose. The adapted version makes the Concepts more accessible to Australian members, grounding them in the structures and relationships that trusted servants actually encounter in their service.



A stronger understanding of the Concepts across the Fellowship supports good governance, protects the integrity of AA's service structure, and ultimately strengthens the Foundation from which the message is carried.

Intended and Expected Outcomes

That the adapted version of the Twelve Concepts for World Service be included in the AA Australia Service Manual alongside the original Twelve Concepts and Bill W.'s essays. That trusted servants across Australia have access to a clear and practical explanation of how the Concepts apply within the Australian service structure. That awareness and understanding of the Twelve Concepts increases at all levels of service, supporting more informed and principled participation in AA's General Service Structure.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The X

Notes



Twelve Concepts for World Service adapted for the Australian General Service Structure

The Twelve Concepts for World Service describe the checks and balances that sustain the General Service Structure. The original concepts as originally developed are set out below this section.

The purpose of this section is to illustrate how the principles set out in the Twelve Concepts apply within the Australian context. They highlight the balance of authority, representation, and responsibility in our service framework, and explain how leadership, delegation, and accountability operate in practice.

The aim is to increase awareness of the Concepts and their practical application in Australia—not to alter the principles themselves, nor to replace Bill W’s original interpretation of AA’s World Service structure. It is important to remember, however, that Bill’s interpretation was written in reference to the North American structure. His essays remain invaluable and illustrative, but in some respects they may not apply directly to the Australian setting.

The 12 Concepts as they Apply in the Australian General Service Setting Concept I

The final responsibility and ultimate authority for Australian AA services should always reside in the collective conscience of the whole Fellowship of Australia.

Concept II

When, in 1970 the Australian AA groups confirmed the permanent charter for their General Service Conference, they thereby delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our services and thereby made the Conference - excepting for any change in the Twelve Traditions or in Article Twelve of the Conference Charter - the actual voice and the effective conscience of the Fellowship of Australia.

Concept III

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relationship between the groups, the Conference, the General Service Board, and the General Service Office, World Service Delegates, and the various service committees, of thus ensuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested we endow each of these elements of service with a traditional “Right of Decision”.

Concept IV

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

Concept V

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

Concept VI

On behalf of AA, in Australia, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognises that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by



the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia.

The Conference recognizes that the Memorandum and Articles of Association (to be replaced with Constitution if approved by Conference) of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the Australian service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.

Concept VIII

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

Concept IX

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

Concept X

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

Concept XI

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

Concept XII

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



Topic #020/2026

Constitution of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the Constitution of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous to replace the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association to simplify the company governance documents.

What issue does this proposal address?

Historically the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous has operated in Australia under 2 governing documents, Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association. Changes in modern corporations' law and governance practices shifted in Australia with the introduction of the Corporations Act 2001 which simplified company governance documents. Under the Corporations Act 2001 companies can adopt a single Constitution. This simplifies governance documentation, removes unnecessary complexity and aligns governance with modern company law.

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia is an Australian not-for-profit registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission in which a Constitution is now the standard governing document.

Background information that supports this proposal

The older Memorandum structures are very rigid, which can restrict activities and require legal amendments to expand scope.

The Memorandum of Association defines the purpose and powers of the organisation and sets out what the organisation is allowed to do. The Articles of Association set out the internal governance rules like appointment of directors, meetings, voting and membership rules. The older documents lack detailed expectations of directors, contain minimal financial oversight provisions and outdated governance language.

The Constitution effectively replaces the two documents with one comprehensive governing document (see attached Draft Constitution).

The modern Constitution allows broader purpose clauses and governance rules to be updated more easily through member approval and supports ACNC governance standards and clearer financial accountability to members.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

A single Constitution is easier for members and directors to understand, modernises governance, reduces legal ambiguity, aligns with regulators and improves transparency and accountability

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Cost of registering

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Class A Trustee brought it to the General Service Board for discussion and has drafted the Constitution. The General Service Board resolved for this document to be brought to Conference.



Constitution of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia Ltd

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001

Registered Charity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012

Part 1 – Preliminary

1. Name of the Company

1.1 The name of the Company is **The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia Ltd** (“the Company”).

Comment: Modern replacement for Clause 1 of the Memorandum. The “Ltd” suffix is required under the Corporations Act unless exempted.

2. Type of Company

2.1 The Company is a public company limited by guarantee.

2.2 The liability of each member is limited to the amount the member undertakes to contribute to the property of the Company if it is wound up and is not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50).

Comment: Replaces Clause 7 and 8 of Memo. The guarantee structure replaces share capital and establishes the \$50 member guarantee.

3. Interpretation and Definitions

3.1 In the Constitution, unless text requires otherwise:

- **Act** means the *Corporations Act 2001*.
- **ACNC Act** means the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.
- **Board** means the Board of Directors of the Company, who are also referred to as **Trustees**.
- **Board Secretary** means the person appointed to perform the duties of Secretary of the Company (as outlined in the Board Charter) and includes an honorary secretary (*Comment: as per Article 1 of Articles of association*).
- **Class A Trustee** means a non-alcoholic member of the Board.
- **Class B Trustee** means an alcoholic member of the Board.
- **Conference** means the *Australian General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous* (AGSC) established under its Charter.
- **Corporations Act** means the *Corporations Act 2001*.
- **Responsible Person** has the meaning given in the ACNC Governance Standards.



- **Registered Office** means the Company's registered office located in Sydney, New South Wales, or such other place as the Board determines.
- **Twelve Traditions, Twelve Steps** and **Twelve Concepts** mean the guiding principles of Alcoholics Anonymous as adopted by the Fellowship.

3.2 Words importing the singular include the plural and vice-versa: and references to "person" include corporations and unincorporated bodies.

Comment: This updates Article 1 for modern legislative references, definitions, and A.A. terminology.

4. Replaceable Rules

4.1 The replaceable rules contained in the Corporations Act 2001 do not apply to the Company, except where expressly stated in this Constitution.

Comment: Clarifies that this Constitution overrides default rules under the Act.

Part 2 – Charitable Purposes and Powers

5. Charitable Purpose

5.1 The Company is established for charitable purposes only and must pursue the following principal purpose:

To serve the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous in its work of helping alcoholics to achieve and maintain sobriety.

To implement the decisions of and assist the *Australian General Service Conference* (AGSC) in maintaining the various services necessary for those who may seek, through Alcoholics Anonymous, the means of arresting the disease of alcoholism.

To act as the chief service arm of the Australian General Service Conference and be guided by its conscience and decisions; and

To undertake any activity consistent with these objects that promotes the physical, mental, and spiritual welfare of alcoholics and the community.

5.2 The Company must operate as a **not-for-profit charitable institution** advancing health and social and public welfare.

5.3 The income and property of the Company must be applied solely towards the promotion of its charitable purposes.

Comment: Consolidates and modernises Clauses 3(a)-(h) and 4 of the Memorandum, using language consistent with the ACNC charity subtypes "advancing health" and "advancing social and public welfare."

6. Guidance by the Twelve Traditions, Steps and Concepts



- 6.1 In all its deliberations and decisions, the Board shall be guided by the **Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions** and **Twelve Concepts for World Service** of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- 6.2 The Board shall ensure that these principles and traditions are maintained in the conduct of the Company's affairs.

Comment: The above allows that our spiritual principles are preserved within a compliant governance framework.

7. Powers

- 7.1 Subject to the Corporations Act and this Constitution, the company has the legal capacity and powers of an individual and of a body corporate, including to:
- (a) acquire, hold, lease, or dispose of company assets;
 - (b) enter into contracts;
 - (c) engage employees and consultants;
 - (d) establish subsidiary or related entities subject to approval of the AGSC;
 - (e) publish or distribute A.A. literature as approved by the AGSC; and
 - (f) do all things necessary or convenient to carry out its charitable purpose.

Comment: Modern general powers clause replacing the former detailed objects under Clause 3 of the Memo.

8. Not-for-Profit Nature

- 8.1 The Company must not distribute any income or company assets directly or indirectly to its members, except for:
- (a) reimbursement of reasonable expenses properly incurred on behalf of the Company;
 - (b) payment for services rendered in good faith, provided the amount is reasonable and approved by the Board; or
 - (c) payment of reasonable rent for premises leased to the Company.

Comment: Modern restatement of Clause 4 of the Memo, aligning with ACNC Governance Standard 1 and ATO charity requirements.

9. Winding Up

- 9.1 If the Company is wound up, and after payment of all debts and liabilities there remains surplus property, it must be transferred to another registered charity:
- (a) with similar charitable purposes to the Company; and
 - (b) which prohibits the distribution of income or property to its members to at least the same extent.



9.2 The identity of the charity to receive any surplus property shall be determined by special resolution of the members (Trustees) at or before the winding up.

9.3 If no determination is made, the surplus property must be transferred in accordance with the *ACNC Act 2012* to a charity with similar purposes.

Comment: Modern rewrite of Clause 9 of the Memo, making it compliant with ACNC and ATO charitable status requirements.

10. Guarantee

10.1 Each member of the Company undertakes to contribute an amount not exceeding **fifty dollars (\$50)** to the assets of the Company if it is wound up while the member is a member or within one year of ceasing to be a member.

Comment: Carries forward Clause 8 of the Memo unchanged, required for a company limited by guarantee. Consistent with Clause 2 of this draft Constitution

Part 3 – Membership and Governance

11. Membership of the Company

11.1 The members of the Company are the persons who from time to time hold office as **Trustees** of the Company.

11.2 There shall be a maximum of **ten (10) Trustees**, of whom:

- (a) at least **eight (8)** shall be alcoholic members of the Fellowship, referred to as *Class B Trustees*;
and
- (b) at least **two (2)** shall be non-alcoholic members, referred to as *Class A Trustees*.

11.3 Membership commences upon appointment as a Trustee and ceases when the person ceases to be a Trustee.

11.4 Membership is personal and may not be transferred or assigned.

Comment: Combines and modernises Articles 3 and 4. Defines the company as a “membership = Board” structure in compliance with the Corporations Act, while preserving A.A.’s Class A / B composition.

12. Qualifications of Trustees

12.1 **Class B Trustees (alcoholic Trustees):**

- (a) Must be members of Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia who have maintained continuous sobriety for at least five (5) years, and preferably ten (10) years.
- (b) Must be actively involved in service within the Fellowship.

12.2 **Class A Trustees (non-alcoholic Trustees):**



- (a) Must not be members of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- (b) Should possess professional, community, or service experience beneficial to the work of Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia.

12.3 All Trustees must be natural persons over the age of 18 and not disqualified under the *Corporations Act* or *ACNC Act* from managing a corporation.

Comment: Retains the A.A. distinction while adding legal eligibility requirements from both Acts

13. Term of Office

13.1 Class B Trustees shall serve a term of **four (4) years** from the date of appointment.

13.2 Class A Trustees shall serve a term of **five (5) years** from the date of appointment, with the option of an extension period of an additional five (5) years.

13.3 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.

Comment: based on Article 4; updated for clarity and compliance with the Corporations Act's director rotation principles.

14. Appointment of Trustees

14.1 Regional Trustees (Class B):

- (a) Six (6) Class B Trustees shall be nominated by the *Australian General Service Conference*, one from each Region
- (b) Each Region may nominate one candidate.
- (c) The Board shall, by ordinary resolution, appoint the candidate nominated by the Conference as a Trustee.

14.2 General Service Trustees (Class B):

- (a) Two (2) additional Class B Trustees shall be appointed by the Board and shall be known as *General Service Trustees*.
- (b) Such appointments shall be subject to disapproval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all registered Conference Members at the next annual Conference.

14.3 Class A Trustees:

- (a) The Board shall appoint up to two (2) Class A Trustees following consultation with the Trustee Nominations Committee.
- (b) Such appointments shall be subject to disapproval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all registered Conference Members at the next annual Conference.

14.4 The Board may at its discretion, fill a **casual vacancy** in any Trustee position after consultation with the Conference Steering Committee, using a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, and shall be subject



to disapproval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all registered Conference Members at the next annual Conference.

Comment: This simplifies Articles 5 and 17, while maintaining the traditional Conference nomination and disapproval process.

15. Cessation of Membership/Office

15.1 A Trustee ceases to hold office if the Trustee:

- (a) resigns by written notice to the Company;
- (b) ceases to meet the qualifications of a Trustee under clause 12;
- (c) becomes bankrupt or is disqualified under the *Corporations Act* or *ACNC Act*;
- (d) becomes physically or mentally incapable of performing their duties;
- (e) is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board without leave;
- (f) fails to declare a material personal interest in any matter as required by law; or
- (g) is removed from office by direction of the *Australian General Service Conference* in accordance with clause 20.

Comment: Based on Article 6, updated to include statutory requirements for directors and ACNC Governance Standard 5 duties.

16. Rights and Duties of Trustees

16.1 Trustees shall act in good faith and in the best interests of the Company, having regard to:

- (a) the charitable purposes of the Company;
- (b) the guidance of the Twelve Traditions, Twelve Steps, and Twelve Concepts; and
- (c) the decisions of the Australian General Service Conference.

16.2 Trustees must comply with the duties of *responsible persons* under the *ACNC Governance Standards*, including to:

- (a) act with care and diligence;
- (b) act honestly and in good faith;
- (c) not misuse their position or information;
- (d) disclose and manage conflicts of interest; and
- (e) ensure the financial affairs of the Company are managed responsibly.

Comment: Modernises Articles 18–19 and incorporates ACNC’s Governance Standard 5 – Responsible person duties).



17. Chairperson

17.1 The Board shall elect one of the Trustees to serve as **Chairperson** for a term of one (1) year.

17.2 The Chairperson may be re-elected annually but may not serve more than four (4) consecutive years.

17.3 The Chairperson may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all Members of the AGSC.

17.4 In the Chairperson's absence, the Trustees present shall elect one of their number to preside over any meeting.

Comment: Based on Article 13, modernised.

18. Relationship with the Australian General Service Conference

18.1 The *Australian General Service Conference* (AGSC) is recognised as the **spiritual and traditional authority** for Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia.

18.2 The Company shall act as the **chief service arm** of the Conference and shall be guided by its decisions.

18.3 The Conference may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all registered Members, direct the Board to convene a general or special meeting to implement the decisions of such Conference vote.

18.4 The Board shall, in exercising its statutory powers, pay due regard to any resolution of the Conference disapproving a proposed change to this Constitution.

18.5 The Conference may, by a three-quarters (¾) vote of all registered Members, request the resignation of a Trustee or nominate a new Trustee.

Comment: Modern rewrite of Articles 15 and 16. This recognises the Conference's traditional authority while keeping the Board as the legal governing body under the Corporations Act.

19. Regional Structure

19.1 For the purpose of electing Regional Trustees and ensuring national representation, the Company recognises the following six Regions:

- (a) North Eastern Region – Queensland;
- (b) Eastern Region – New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory;
- (c) Southern Region – Victoria and Tasmania;
- (d) Central Region – South Australia;
- (e) Northern Region – Northern Territory and that part of Western Australia north of latitude 20° South; and
- (f) Western Region – Western Australia south of latitude 20° South.



Comment: Retains the regional definitions from Article 1, modernised.

Part 4 – Meetings of Members and Board proceedings

20. General meeting of Members

20.1 The Company must hold an **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** within five (5) months after the end of each financial year.

20.2 All other general meetings are **Special General Meetings**.

20.3 The Board may convene a Special General Meeting whenever it considers appropriate, or when directed by the Australian General Service Conference under clause 18.3.

20.4 The Board Secretary must give all members at least **twenty-one (21) days' written notice** of every general meeting.

20.5 A notice must specify the place (or online platform), date, and time of the meeting and the general nature of the business.

20.6 A quorum for a general meeting is **five (5) Members** personally present or participating by technology.

20.7 Each Member (Trustee) has **one vote**. Decisions are by **simple majority**, except where this Constitution requires a higher majority.

20.8 Voting may be conducted by show of hands, poll, or secure electronic means approved by the Chairperson.

20.9 The Chairperson presides at all general meetings; in their absence, the Members present elect one of their number to chair.

20.10 Minutes of every general meeting must be kept by the Board Secretary and signed by the Chairperson as a true and correct record.

Comment: Modernises Articles 20–30; introduces electronic meetings and notice requirements consistent with the Corporations Act

21. Meetings of the Board

21.1 The Board shall generally meet at least four (4) times each year and whenever necessary for the proper conduct of the Company's affairs.

21.2 A meeting may be called by the Chairperson or by any three (3) Trustees.

21.3 Notice of a Board meeting must be given to every Trustee at least seven (7) days before the meeting unless all Trustees agree otherwise.

21.4 A quorum for a Board meeting is five (5) Trustees, including at least one Class A and one Class B Trustee.



21.5 The Chairperson presides, or in their absence the Trustees present elect one of their number to preside.

21.6 Questions are decided by majority vote, the Chairperson has a casting vote in the event of a tie.

21.7 Meetings may be held by electronic means if all participating Trustees can hear or be heard by each other.

21.8 A resolution in writing (including electronic communication) approved by at least two-thirds (2/3) of all Trustees has the same effect as if passed at a meeting.

Comment: Rewrites Articles 9-14, 18-19, adding flexibility for hybrid meetings and written resolutions under s.248A of the Corporations Act.

Committees

22.1 The Board may establish committees or working groups to carry out specific functions.

22.2 Each committee must include at least one Trustee and operate under terms of reference approved by the Board.

22.3 Committees are accountable to the Board and may not incur expenditure or obligations except as authorised.

Comment: Based on former Article 18, updated to allow modern delegation while maintaining Board oversight.

Conflict of Interest

A Trustee who has a **material personal interest** in a matter being considered must:

- (a) declare the nature and extent of the interest to the Board as soon as practicable;
- (b) not be present during the discussion or vote unless the Board resolves otherwise; and
- (c) the Board Secretary ensures the declaration is recorded in the minutes.

This clause operates subject to sections 191–195 of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ACNC Governance Standards.

Comment: Incorporates mandatory conflict-of-interest rules consistent with both Acts.

Minutes and Records

The Company must keep minute books in which it records:

- (a) all proceedings and resolutions of general meetings and Board meetings;
- (b) all resolutions passed without a meeting; and
- (c) declarations of interest.



The Board Secretary is responsible for maintaining the Minutes and Records.

Minutes must be approved by the next succeeding Board meeting and signed by the Chairperson of that meeting.

The Company must retain all records in accordance with the Corporations Act and ACNC Act for at least seven (7) years.

Comments: Modern rewrite of Articles 32–35, ensuring statutory record keeping compliance.

Execution of Documents

25.1 The Company may execute a document without using a common seal if the document is signed by:

- (a) two Trustees; or
- (b) one Trustee and a person authorised by the Board for that purpose.

25.2 If the Company has a common seal, it must be kept in the custody of the Chairperson and may only be affixed to a document by authority of the Board and in the presence of two Trustees who sign the document.

25.3 A document may be executed in electronic form and may be signed electronically by the persons authorised under clause 25.1, provided that the method used identifies the signatory and indicates their intention to sign the document.

25.4 For the purpose of this Constitution a 'document' includes any deed, agreement, instrument, contract, certificate, notice, record or other document, whether in physical or electronic form.

Comment: Updates the antiquated "seal" provisions (Articles 36–37) to current Corporations Act practice.

Notices

26.1 Any notice required under this Constitution may be given:

- (a) personally;
- (b) by post to the Member's or Trustee's registered address; or
- (c) by electronic communication to the Member's nominated email address.

26.2 A notice sent by post is taken to be received **five (5) days** after posting; by email, when successfully transmitted.

Comment: Simplifies the former notice clauses, making electronic service valid under the Corporations Act.

Board Charter and Policies



27.1 The Board may make, amend, or repeal any of its charter, or policies consistent with this Constitution to regulate:

- (a) its own procedures;
- (b) the administration of the Company's affairs; and
- (c) the coordination of services and relations with the Fellowship.

27.2 All such changes must be reported to the next Annual General Meeting and may be reviewed by the Australian General Service Conference.

Comment: Gives flexibility for internal governance rules while preserving Conference oversight.

Part 5 – Finance, Audit, Indemnity & Compliance

Financial Management

28.1 The financial year of the Company ends on **30 June** each year, or such other date as determined by the Board.

28.2 The Board must ensure that:

- (a) proper accounting and other financial records are kept;
- (b) financial statements are prepared in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* ("ACNC Act") and any applicable Australian Accounting Standards; and
- (c) those financial statements are audited or reviewed by a qualified accountant as required by law.

28.3 The General Service Trustees must present to each Board meeting a financial report and ensure proper stewardship of funds.

28.4 All monies must be deposited in bank accounts held in the name of the Company.

28.5 Payments must be authorised by any two of:

- (a) General Service Trustees
- (b) General Service Office Manager
- (c) another person authorised by the Board

28.6 No payment of any kind may be made to a Trustee except for:

- (a) reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses;
- (b) payment of interest at a rate not exceeding that charged by commercial banks for similar loans; or
- (c) reasonable rent for premises leased to the Company.



Comment: Modernises Clause 4 and Articles 33–35, aligning with ACNC Governance Standard 5 and current financial-reporting law.

Audit and Inspection

29.1 A properly qualified **Auditor** (or Reviewer, if permitted by law) must be appointed by the Members at the Annual General Meeting.

29.2 The Auditor holds office until removal or resignation in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*.

29.3 The Auditor has the right of access at all reasonable times to the books and records of the Company and may require from the officers such information and explanations as necessary.

29.4 The Auditor's report must be presented at each Annual General Meeting.

29.5 All books and records are open for inspection by the Australian General Service Conference on reasonable notice.

Comment: Preserves transparency to the Conference while ensuring statutory compliance.

Insurance and Indemnity

30.1 To the extent permitted by law, every Trustee, officer, or authorised committee member is indemnified out of the assets of the Company against any liability incurred by them in good faith in the performance of their duties.

30.2 The indemnity does not apply where the liability arises from wilful misconduct, fraud, or a criminal offence.

30.3 The Company may pay the premium on a contract of insurance insuring a Trustee or officer against such liability.

Comment: Updated version of Article 39, compliant with sections 199A–199B of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)

Winding Up or Dissolution

31.1 If the Company is wound up or dissolved, and after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities any property remains, that property must **not** be distributed to Members or Trustees.

31.2 Such remaining property must be given or transferred to one or more **charitable institutions**:

(a) having similar purposes to those of the Company; and

(b) which are endorsed as charities under the *ACNC Act* and *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

31.3 The recipient institution(s) must be determined by the Members at or before the time of winding up, and if not determined, by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Comment: Possibly redundant (see Clause 9 in this draft Constitution) Ensures charitable-status preservation and compliance with ACNC Guidance – “Not-for-profit and dissolution clauses



Amendment of Constitution

32.1 This Constitution may only be amended by:

- (a) a **special resolution** of the Members passed in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* (requiring at least 75% of votes cast); and
- (b) the **prior review and endorsement of the Australian General Service Conference (AGSC)** by at least a two-thirds majority of all Registered Members of Conference.

32.2 Any change must be notified to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission within the prescribed time.

Comment: Modernising Memo Clause 5 and Articles 15–16, maintaining Conference authority while meeting legal requirements.

Compliance with Law and A.A. Traditions

33.1 The Company must comply with:

- (a) the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*;
- (b) the *ACNC Act* and Governance Standards; and
- (c) any other law applicable to registered charities in Australia.

33.2 In all its activities the Company and its Trustees must be guided by:

- (a) the **Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts for World Service** of Alcoholics Anonymous; and
- (b) the decisions of the **Australian General Service Conference**, which represent the collective group conscience of Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia.

Comment: Reinforces the spiritual and service foundations of the organisation within a compliant legal framework



Notes



Topic #021/2026

Sunsetting the Trustee Emeritus Position

What do you want Conference to do?

Conference is asked to retire the position of Trustee Emeritus from AA Australia's service structure, such that no new appointments to the position will be made going forward. This would allow the current arrangement to continue undisturbed while ensuring the position does not persist as an ongoing feature of our governance.

What issue does this proposal address?

This proposal seeks to address the question of how AA Australia can best preserve institutional memory and ensure access to experienced perspective within its service structure, without relying on permanent, non-rotating positions to do so. The Trustee Emeritus position was established with genuinely worthwhile objectives, and those objectives remain important. The question this proposal puts to Conference is whether a life tenure role is still the most appropriate way to achieve them, or whether AA Australia's evolved service structure – including its Class A Trustees, World Service Delegates, and strengthened knowledge systems – now provides better and more sustainable ways to honour those same goals while remaining true to AA's principle of rotation.

Background information that supports this proposal

The position of Trustee Emeritus was reinstated by Conference in 1995 with the stated objectives of retaining skills and corporate memory, and providing experienced perspective to the Board and Conference. Conference has reviewed the position on several occasions since, most recently reaffirming it in 2016, recognising it as an invaluable ongoing resource for the Fellowship.

The Australian Fellowship currently has one Trustee Emeritus, appointed by Conference in 2009 following a ten-year term as a Class A Trustee. In recent years that appointee has stepped back from the role for health reasons. The position as defined in the Australian Service Manual is held for life, or until the Trustee Emeritus wishes to resign, with participation but not voting rights at Board and Conference.

It is worth noting that the approach taken in North America differs in one significant respect. The US/Canadian Service Manual describes Trustees Emeriti as typically being former Board chairs who have rotated off, and who are invited, rather than permanently appointed, to attend Board and Conference meetings as a resource of corporate memory. The Australian model, by contrast, confers a life appointment. This distinction is relevant as Conference considers whether the current Australian approach remains fit for purpose.

The Fellowship already has strong mechanisms that support continuity and institutional knowledge, including Class A Trustees serving five-year terms with the option of extension, and World Service Delegates serving four-year rotating terms with deep General Service experience and an active advisory role at Board and Conference. These existing structures, alongside improved documentation and knowledge systems, provide a solid foundation for considering whether a separate life-tenure position continues to serve a distinct and necessary purpose.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

AA's primary purpose is to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers, and everything in our service structure exists to support that purpose. A service structure that is transparent, sustainable, and grounded in AA's own principles is one that functions well over the long term – and a Fellowship that functions well is better placed to reach those who need it.

Sunsetting the Trustee Emeritus position is not about diminishing the value of experience or the contribution of those who have served. It is about ensuring that institutional knowledge and experienced perspective are



preserved in ways that are accessible to the whole Fellowship, renewed through rotation, and embedded in systems that outlast any individual. When knowledge and continuity are distributed across the service structure rather than concentrated in a single role, the Fellowship becomes more resilient — less dependent on any one person and better equipped to serve members and newcomers alike across changing circumstances and generations.

There is also a question of fairness to those who serve. Life-tenure positions, however well intentioned, can place an ongoing and undefined burden on the individual who holds them. Achieving the same objectives through rotating positions and well-maintained knowledge systems honours past service without asking more of individuals than is reasonable, and keeps the spirit of rotation — one of AA's most enduring service principles — at the heart of how we organise ourselves.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

General Service Board

Notes



Topic #022/2026

Meeting Listing Registration Process

What do you want Conference to do?

Conference is asked to endorse the principle that listing on the AA Australia national website is an administrative service subject to eligibility criteria, and to support the Board in adopting and implementing a policy for national website listing along the following lines.

In endorsing this approach, Conference is asked to affirm that to be eligible for listing on the national meeting list, a meeting should be supported by a host group that:

- is formed and operates within the Australian Fellowship
- conducts its group conscience through members who reside in Australia
- regards Australia as its primary General Service home
- is not also listed on a website hosted by another service structure as its primary listing · is intended primarily to serve members in Australia, and
- has provided contact details including residential address for a group secretary and/ or nominated contact person who has confirmed the meeting's eligibility and is willing to act as a point of contact for communication purposes

In registering a meeting, groups are also asked to provide contact information for primary group service holders, including place of residence. This information is collected solely to support eligibility assessment and to enable necessary communication regarding the listing. It will be held in confidence by the GSO, will not be used for any other purpose, and will not be disclosed to any third party or made publicly available.

What issue does this proposal address?

This proposal seeks to address the absence of clear eligibility criteria for the listing of AA meetings on the AA Australia national website. At present, the registration process requires little more from a group contact than a name and email address, with no requirement that the hosting group or its members reside in Australia, conduct their group conscience within the Australian Fellowship, or maintain any connection to the Australian General Service structure.

The Board has a duty of care to members who attend meetings listed on the national website, and carries legal, insurance, safeguarding, and reputational responsibility on behalf of the Fellowship as a whole. It is not reasonable to ask volunteer Board members, who give their time freely in service to AA, to carry that responsibility for meetings they have no basis to assess, no relationship with, and no practical means of supporting if something goes wrong. Clear eligibility criteria are not about restricting AA or telling groups what to do. They are about ensuring that the Board is only asked to stand behind meetings it can reasonably be accountable for, and that is a fair thing to ask of those who serve in this way.

Background information that supports this proposal

AA's Traditions make clear that each group is autonomous, and this proposal does not seek to change that. It addresses the narrower question of what the Board can reasonably stand behind when listing a meeting on the Australian national website.

The growth of online meetings since 2020 has been a genuine blessing, particularly for members in remote areas, but it has also created a category of meeting that did not exist when current practices were



established – meetings that may be nominally hosted by an Australian group but operate across time zones, draw membership from many countries, and have little practical connection to the Australian General Service structure. AA Australia was a pioneer in establishing the Virtual Area to bring online groups into that structure, and that initiative reflects well on the Fellowship. As the Virtual Area has grown, however, an honest question has emerged: where a group's membership is substantially drawn from outside Australia, what does it mean for that group to participate in Australian Conference and group conscience processes? The Board raises this not to question anyone's sincerity, but because it is a matter of fairness and integrity for the Australian Fellowship as a whole.

There are also practical considerations. The Board's public liability insurance applies to AA activities conducted within the Australian Fellowship and does not extend to meetings hosted or effectively conducted outside Australia, potentially leaving members exposed to uninsured risk. The attached draft policy sets out eligibility criteria for national website listing – including that a meeting be supported by a host group operating within the Australian Fellowship, that its group conscience be conducted by members residing in Australia, and that it regards Australia as its primary General Service home – to ensure that listed meetings operate within a framework of reasonable accountability.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

A well-maintained and trustworthy national meeting list is one of the most important tools the Australian Fellowship has for helping the still suffering alcoholic find AA. When someone reaches out for help, the meeting list may be the first thing they encounter. It matters that the meetings listed on it are genuinely accessible, accountable, and operating within a framework that protects those who attend them.

Clear eligibility criteria benefit everyone, including the groups and members who host meetings. When expectations are explicit and consistently applied, hosting members know where they stand, and the Board is able to discharge its governance and safeguarding responsibilities with confidence. This is not about restricting AA's reach. International members remain warmly welcome to attend meetings hosted by Australian groups. It is about ensuring that the hosting responsibility, accountability, and duty of care for those meetings rests clearly with the Australian Fellowship, and that the Board is not asked to list, and implicitly endorse, meetings it has no reasonable basis to stand behind.

A meeting list that is reliable, accountable, and well-governed ultimately serves the still suffering alcoholic better than one that is unrestricted but carries hidden risk. It also protects the integrity of the Australian Fellowship and the trust that members and the broader community place in it.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Minimal cost of changing our online meeting registration process

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The X

Notes



Topic #023/2026

Governance of Board Working Groups – Scope, Duration and Rotation

What do you want Conference to do?

That Conference endorse the following principles to guide the establishment and management of all future Board working groups and that these be set out in the service manual:

- **Defined scope:** Every working group shall be established with a clearly documented scope that describes the specific task or outcome it is responsible for delivering.
- **Defined timeline:** Every working group shall have a stated timeframe or sunset clause. Where work is ongoing, the working group's mandate shall be reviewed at least annually by the Board.
- **Rotation:** Working group members shall serve defined terms consistent with AA's principle of rotation. No individual should serve in the same working group role for more than three years without formal Board review and reappointment.
- **Appropriate use of volunteers:** Volunteers are well suited to discrete, bounded tasks. Where work is complex, technical, ongoing, or carries significant risk to AA's assets or operations, the Board should ensure that paid professional arrangements are in place, with volunteers supporting rather than carrying primary responsibility.
- **Transition to BAU:** Where a working group's output involves ongoing management of assets, systems, or services, the working group's mandate should include a defined handover plan to Business as Usual management under the GSO, with the working group formally dissolved upon completion of that handover.

What issue does this proposal address?

Working groups established without a defined scope, timeline, or clear conclusion point can become open-ended. This is not in the interests of the fellowship or of the volunteers themselves. Without clear boundaries, willing members can find themselves carrying responsibilities that were never clearly defined, for longer than anyone anticipated, and without a fair exit point. That is not a reasonable thing to ask of volunteers, and good governance should protect them from it. When this occurs, a number of practical and principled problems can arise:

- **Accountability becomes unclear,** particularly where work extends beyond the tenure of the Board members who established the group – leaving volunteers without adequate oversight or support.
- **The principle of rotation of service is compromised** where individual volunteers continue in roles indefinitely, denying both them and others the opportunity to serve and step back in the spirit AA intends.
- **Organisational memory and institutional knowledge become concentrated** in individuals rather than embedded in the service structure, placing an unfair burden on those individuals and creating fragility for the fellowship.
- **Reliance on volunteers for complex, ongoing, or technical work creates risk** where there is no contractual obligation to deliver work to a standard or in a timely way – and can place volunteers in an invidious position when outcomes are uncertain.
- **Progress can stall** where there is no clear mechanism to conclude a working group's mandate and transition its work to ongoing management, leaving dedicated volunteers in limbo.

Background information that supports this proposal



AA's Twelve Concepts of World Service and the service manual both affirm the importance of rotation as a foundational principle of AA's service structure. Concept Nine notes that leadership in AA is most effective when it remains temporary and accountable. Open-ended volunteer roles with no defined term are inconsistent with this principle, regardless of the quality of the individual's contribution.

Tradition Seven's emphasis on self-support through AA's own contributions also implies responsible stewardship of AA's resources – including its people, time, and operational assets. Where complex or ongoing technical work is required, it is prudent governance to ensure that work is carried out under appropriate professional arrangements rather than left to indefinite volunteer commitment.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

AA Australia has been fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who have given generously of their time and expertise in service to the fellowship. This proposal is not a reflection on any individual or group, but a recognition that good governance structures serve everyone – volunteers included – by providing clarity, support, and fair boundaries around what is being asked of them. Clear boundaries around the scope, duration and membership of working groups strengthen AA Australia's ability to serve both the fellowship and the still suffering alcoholic. When working groups operate with defined purposes and timelines, the Board can ensure that AA's resources, including the time and goodwill of its volunteers, are directed where they are most needed, rather than being absorbed in open-ended processes. Rotation of service brings fresh perspectives, prevents the concentration of knowledge and influence in any one individual, and keeps our service structure connected to the broader fellowship it exists to serve. Where complex or technical work is properly supported by professional arrangements, it is more likely to be completed reliably and on time, meaning the digital platforms, communications tools, and other assets that help the still suffering alcoholic find AA are maintained to a consistent standard. Ultimately, a service structure that is accountable, efficient, and true to AA's own principles is one that is better placed to carry the message – and that is the purpose to which all of our service is directed.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

There might be additional costs in engaging professionals to undertake technical work, however that needs to be balanced against the risks of not doing so as set out above.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The X

Notes



Topic #024/2026

Adoption of International Conference Approved Literature Process

What do you want Conference to do?

That Conference replace advisory action 1996/019, and any other advisory actions providing for automatic adoption of literature approved by the North American General Service Conference, with an endorsement process applicable to literature approved by any established AA General Service Conference internationally. Literature already in circulation under existing advisory actions would not be affected; the new process would apply to future endorsements only.

Under the proposed process:

- Literature submitted for Australian Conference endorsement is brought before Conference through the normal Topics Process
- Conference makes an active endorsement decision, turning its mind to the content and its suitability for the Australian fellowship
- Prior approval by another service body is treated as a credible recommendation, not an automatic determination.
- Where there is demand, (overseas Conference approved) literature submitted for Australian endorsement could be sold by the GSO on an interim basis clearly marked as pending Australian Conference endorsement.
- Where literature requires adaptation for the Australian context, whether for cultural, linguistic, or other reasons, the process will include seeking appropriate permission from the originating service body before endorsement is finalised
- It is recognised that the timeline for this process may vary. In most cases an expedited pathway will be appropriate, simply bringing the literature to Conference for endorsement, particularly where literature has already been through a rigorous approval process elsewhere.

What issue does this proposal address?

The Australian fellowship currently recognises literature approved by the North American Conference as Conference Approved for Australian purposes, reflecting the longstanding and valued relationship between the two fellowships. This arrangement has served AA Australia well historically. As our fellowship has matured, however, the Board considers it timely to reflect on whether automatic recognition – without consideration by our own Conference, remains consistent with AA Australia's responsibility to its members and with the autonomy that underpins each Conference's integrity. No other Conference's approvals are adopted on this basis, and the Board believes our approach to North American literature should reflect the same deliberate process we would apply in any other case.

Background information that supports this proposal

In 1976, when Australia's General Service Structure was still being established, a decision was made to automatically endorse literature approved by the North American Conference for the Australian fellowship. Standing advisory action 1996/019 reflects that decision.

Conference Approved Literature holds a special place in Alcoholics Anonymous. It is literature that has been carefully reviewed and found to be consistent with AA's principles, Steps, Traditions and Concepts. When literature carries Conference approval, members and groups can trust that it has been examined



thoughtfully and reflects the collective conscience of the fellowship. That designation carries weight precisely because it is not given lightly or without care.

Tradition Four reminds us that each group, and each service body, is autonomous. But autonomy carries responsibility. A Conference that automatically adopts the decisions of another body, without actively turning its own mind to those decisions, is not fully exercising the responsibility the fellowship has placed in it.

Much has changed since 1976. The Australian General Service Structure is now well established, and our Conference is well placed to take genuine ownership of this responsibility. This proposal does not diminish the respect owed to other established AA service bodies. The expedited endorsement pathway proposed here reflects that respect. But it affirms a simple principle: the determination of what is Conference Approved Literature for Australia belongs to the Australian Conference.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

When someone in need picks up a piece of Conference Approved Literature, they are placing real trust in it. They are trusting that it faithfully reflects AA's principles and is suitable for someone seeking recovery. That trust is only meaningful if the endorsement behind it is genuine – given consciously and with care by people who have read the material and considered it seriously. An automatic process, where literature is adopted by default rather than by deliberate judgement, cannot provide that assurance.

Australian AA members understand and practice the AA program as well as anyone in the world. A process that defers automatically to another Conference's decisions, rather than exercising our own considered judgement, quietly undermines that. It keeps the fellowship looking to an external source for authority rather than developing confidence in its own trusted servants. Over time, that matters: a fellowship that trusts its own members to exercise genuine discernment is a stronger and healthier one.

The expedited pathway proposed here also means that valuable literature from other established international AA service conferences can reach Australian members within a reasonable timeframe. Because prior approval by another Conference is treated as a serious and credible recommendation, the review is simpler and faster than it would be for literature produced from scratch. Speed and integrity are not in conflict here – the process is both more conscious and more practical.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

The costs involved are modest and justified. The primary expense is distributing literature to Delegates for review. This can be managed by limiting complimentary distribution to Delegates, while other members who wish to review the material are free to purchase copies through the GSO in the meantime.

The due diligence this process provides is worth that cost. A genuine endorsement – one that protects the integrity of Conference Approved Literature for every member who relies on it – is not free, but it need not be expensive.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The X

Notes



Topic #025/2026

World Service Delegates – Recommended Minimum Continuous Sobriety Requirement

What do you want Conference to do?

Conference is asked to amend the recommended minimum continuous sobriety requirement for World Service Delegates from five years to ten years.

What issue does this proposal address?

This proposal addresses the question of whether the current recommended minimum sobriety requirement for World Service Delegates adequately reflects the depth of experience, organisational knowledge, and service background that these roles demand.

World Service Delegates represent AA Australia at the World Service Meeting and the Asia– Oceania Service Meeting. They attend General Service Board meetings, present to and vote at Conference, and carry significant responsibility for maintaining Australia's relationships with international service structures.

Background information that supports this proposal

These positions have a great deal of responsibility and require an in depth understanding of the Australian General Service Structure. While length of sobriety is not on its own sufficient, that along with extensive service experience is likely to be a good indicator that a delegate is well equipped to represent the Fellowship with the care and competence the role deserves.

Several considerations support an increase in the recommended minimum:

Depth of service experience. Members with five years of sobriety, while committed and capable in many respects, will in many cases have had limited exposure to the General Service structure. Familiarity with the Twelve Concepts, the relationships between groups, areas, the Conference, and the Board, and the history and traditions of AA's service framework typically develops over a longer period. World Service Delegates benefit from having navigated that structure themselves before representing Australia on an international stage.

Organisational memory. World Service Delegates attend Board meetings and vote at Conference. In these capacities they can serve as a stabilising presence – carrying institutional knowledge, contextualising current questions against AA's longer experience, and helping newer trusted servants understand the principles that have guided the Fellowship over time. This is a role better suited to members with a longer and broader service history.

Stewardship of Fellowship funds. The cost of sending Delegates to international meetings is significant. The Fellowship has a reasonable interest in ensuring that those appointed to these positions have demonstrated, over a sustained period, both the commitment to service and the depth of experience that justifies that investment.

Alignment with other service roles. In AA's service structure, greater responsibility brings greater accountability to the Fellowship rather than greater authority over it. A higher sobriety threshold for positions carrying this level of responsibility is consistent with that principle, and with the expectations that apply to other trusted servants in comparable roles.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?



At its heart, every service role in AA exists for one purpose – to help carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers, just as it was carried to us. World Service Delegates serve that purpose by representing Australia in the international forums through which AA's reach continues to grow, and through which the Fellowship's experience, strength, and hope is shared across borders and cultures.

Delegates who bring a deeper foundation of sobriety and service experience are better placed to represent Australia's experience effectively, to engage substantively with complex international discussions, and to contribute to the Board and Conference in a way that draws on genuine organisational knowledge. This strengthens the quality of Australia's participation in world service and ensures that the Fellowship's investment in these positions is well placed.

Strong and experienced international representation supports the broader work of carrying the message – including through the International Sponsorship Fund and the relationships that sustain AA's growth in the Asia–Oceania region. Ultimately, what happens in these international forums finds its way back to the group, and to the still-suffering alcoholic who walks through the door.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The X

Notes



Topic #026/2026

Funding and Organisation of the National Services Forum

What do you want Conference to do?

That the Conference amend the organisational and funding arrangements for the National Services Forum so that Board seed funding is provided to a Host Planning Committee, and that the Forum be planned through the Trustees' Services Committee with the involvement of the National Coordinators.

What issue does this proposal address?

The National Services Forum is intended to be held every two years, but it can be difficult to get off the ground because the host Area is expected to provide the seed funding and carry much of the organising. Many Areas are already stretched by their existing service responsibilities, which can make them reluctant or unable to host it. Board seed funding, together with planning support from the Trustees' Services Committee and the National Coordinators, would remove much of that burden from host Areas and may encourage bids from smaller or less active Areas, including those outside the larger metropolitan centres.

Background information that supports this proposal

Current Conference material recognises that Board seed money may encourage bids to host large national events such as the National Convention. Guideline GL-30 shows that National Forums are also major national service events, but current practice places seed funding on the host Area or Areas. This proposal applies an established AA funding model to the National Services Forum, while adapting its planning structure to suit the Forum's purpose by involving the Trustees'.

Does not relate to any identified previous Conference topics.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

This proposal would make the National Services Forum more likely to be held regularly by removing a major financial and organisational barrier for host Areas. With seed funding in place and a consistent planning structure that includes the National Coordinators, the Forum could be organised more efficiently and to a higher standard from one event to the next. This would strengthen the Fellowship's ability to work together in service, improve AA's connection with the professional community, and better carry the message to the still-suffering alcoholic.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

The main cost would be seed funding from the General Service Board. Conference has already established a precedent for Board seed funding of major national events through the National Convention. As the National Services

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Was discussed with the current X and discussed at X

Notes



Topic #027/2026

Distinguishing Marks and statements for Conference-Approved Literature – Categories 1 and 2

What do you want Conference to do?

Conference is asked to formally define and distinguish the marks carried by Category 1 and Category 2 literature, and to adopt the following policy:

- Category 1 literature – Conference-Approved Literature that has been through the full rigorous approval process and carries AA's agreed message – continues to carry the Conference Seal of Approval, being the Circle and Triangle bearing the letters AA with the words Alcoholics Anonymous Australia around the inside of the circle, together with the statement: "This is AA General Service Conference-approved literature."
- Category 2 literature – magazines, newsletters, and member stories approved by Conference for production and distribution only – carries a distinct statement acknowledging Conference endorsement of its publication, without implying that its content has been through the rigorous approval process or that it carries AA's agreed message. The form of words to be adopted is: "This is an AA Category 2 publication, endorsed by the Australian General Service Conference for production and distribution. The content reflects individual sharing and experience and has not been through the Conference approval process for Category 1 Conference-Approved Literature."
- Category 3 covers practical and administrative material such as guidelines, meeting directories, and service bulletins, which is produced as needed to support the work of the Fellowship and does not require formal Conference approval.

What issue does this proposal address?

This proposal addresses the absence of a clear and formally adopted distinction between the marks carried by different categories of AA literature in Australia.

AA Australia produces and distributes literature across three categories, each with a different scope and level of Conference involvement. Category 1 literature – books, the Service Manual, and nationally produced pamphlets – has been through a rigorous, consultative, word-by-word approval process and carries AA's agreed message as understood by the Fellowship as a whole. Category 2 literature – magazines, newsletters, and member stories – reflects individual sharing and experience, and is approved by Conference for production and distribution only, not as an expression of AA's agreed message.

At present there is no formally adopted statement or mark that clearly communicates this distinction to members and to the public. This creates a risk that Category 2 publications may be understood as carrying the same endorsement as Category 1 literature, or alternatively that their connection to the Conference is unclear. A formally defined and consistently applied distinction would bring clarity to both categories and strengthen the integrity of the Conference Seal.

Background information that supports this proposal

A review of AA Australia's Service Manual has identified that while the categories of literature and their respective levels of approval are described in the manual, no formal policy exists governing the marks or statements to be carried by each category. This proposal seeks to address that gap.

The Conference Seal – the Circle and Triangle with the words Alcoholics Anonymous Australia – is currently used to identify Category 1 literature. Its significance is described in the Service Manual as follows: it is an



assurance of consistency, that the material reflects the group conscience of the Fellowship and can be trusted as a reliable expression of AA's message, wherever in the world it is read.

This proposal does not seek to change the meaning or application of the Conference Seal for Category 1 literature. It seeks to complement it with a formally adopted statement for Category 2, so that all Conference-endorsed literature in Australia carries an appropriate and clearly understood mark.

The distinction matters because the two categories serve different purposes. Category 1 literature carries the message that Tradition Four reminds each group it holds in trust, and that Step Twelve calls every member to carry. Category 2 literature offers a living record of the Fellowship in action, valued, and Conference-endorsed for publication, but not claiming to necessarily carry AA's agreed message in the same sense.

A clear and consistent approach to marking both categories serves the Fellowship by ensuring that members, groups, and the public can readily understand the nature and authority of the literature they are reading.

A useful illustration of this distinction is Bill W's *Language of the Heart*, a compilation of his essays originally published in the *Grapevine*. Although the essays are Bill's own writing and carry great weight within the Fellowship, the book has not been through the rigorous Conference approval process and is therefore Category 2 rather than Category 1. The Twelve Traditions, by contrast, were also first articulated through the *Grapevine*, but have since been through the full Conference approval process and are now embedded in Conference-Approved Literature. The origin of a piece of writing does not determine its category – the process it has undergone does.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Clarity about the nature and authority of AA's literature ultimately serves the still-suffering alcoholic. When someone reaches for a piece of AA literature, they deserve to know whether what they are reading carries the Fellowship's collective endorsement of its content as AA's agreed message, or whether it is valued sharing and information endorsed for publication but reflecting individual experience.

A formally adopted and clearly communicated distinction between Category 1 and Category 2 marks strengthens the integrity of the Conference Seal and the trust that members and the public place in it. It also gives Category 2 publications their own clear identity – acknowledged and endorsed by Conference, without being misrepresented as something they are not.

This benefits the Fellowship as a whole by bringing consistency, transparency, and honesty to the way AA Australia presents its literature – values that are central to AA's principles and to the trust the Fellowship has built over decades.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Implementation costs would be limited to the redesign and reprinting of Category 2 publications to incorporate the new statement at the time of their next scheduled reprint or revision. No significant additional costs are anticipated beyond normal production expenses.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The X

Notes



Topic #028/2026

General Service Trustees — Recommended Minimum Continuous Sobriety Requirement

What do you want Conference to do?

Conference is asked to amend the recommended minimum continuous sobriety requirement for General Service Trustees from seven years to ten years.

What issue does this proposal address?

This proposal addresses whether the current recommended minimum sobriety requirement for General Service Trustees adequately reflects the depth of experience, maturity of judgement, and level of accountability that this role demands.

General Service Trustees serve as directors of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia. In that capacity and particularly in their Management Group roles they carry formal financial and corporate governance responsibilities under the Corporations Act, including oversight of AA Australia's assets, approval of budgets, and accountability for the organisation's legal and fiduciary obligations. They also carry broader responsibilities for the stewardship of AA's service structure in Australia, and serve four-year terms during which their continuity and organisational knowledge contribute significantly to the stability and effectiveness of the Board.

A review of the Service Manual has identified that the current seven year requirement does not adequately reflect the demands of this role, is inconsistent with the ten year recommended minimum that applies to Class B Regional Trustees, and that ten years better reflects the standard of experience and judgement the position requires.

Background information that supports this proposal

This proposal arises from a review of the current Service Manual undertaken by the General Service Board. The Board considers that the current seven year requirement for General Service Trustees falls short of what the role demands, and that an increase to ten years is appropriate for the following reasons:

Financial and corporate governance responsibility. General Service Trustees serve as directors under the Corporations Act and carry direct responsibility for the financial oversight and governance of AA Australia. This includes stewardship of the Fellowship's assets, approval of budgets, and accountability for the organisation's legal and fiduciary obligations. The level of maturity, judgement, and organisational understanding required for these responsibilities is considerable, and supports a higher sobriety threshold than currently applies.

Depth of service experience. Members with seven years of sobriety, while committed and capable in many respects, may not yet have developed the full breadth of exposure to AA's General Service structure that this role requires. Familiarity with the Twelve Concepts, the relationships between groups, areas, the Conference, and the Board, and the history and traditions of AA's service framework typically develops over a longer period. General Service Trustees benefit from having navigated that structure thoroughly before taking on responsibility for its governance.

Organisational memory and stability. General Service Trustees serve four-year terms and their continuity provides stability to the Board's governance and decision-making. Members with a longer sobriety foundation are better placed to serve as a stabilising presence — carrying institutional knowledge, contextualising current



questions against AA's longer experience, and contributing to the Board's collective wisdom over the course of their term.

Alignment of responsibility and accountability. In AA's service structure, greater responsibility brings greater accountability to the Fellowship rather than greater authority over it. A sobriety threshold that reflects the significance of the General Service Trustee role is consistent with that principle, and with the expectations the Fellowship reasonably holds for those entrusted with its governance.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Every service role in AA exists for one purpose — to help carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers. General Service Trustees serve that purpose by ensuring that AA Australia's service structure is well governed, financially sound, and able to fulfil its obligations to the Fellowship and to the still-suffering alcoholic now and into the future.

Trustees who bring a deeper foundation of sobriety and experience are better placed to exercise sound governance, steward the Fellowship's resources responsibly, and provide the stability and continuity that effective Board oversight requires. Good governance at the Board level strengthens the entire service structure — from the Board through the Conference, the regions, the districts, and ultimately back to the group and the alcoholic who walks through the door for the first time.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The X

Notes



Topic #029/2026

Clarify and update the Process for Developing and Approving Category 1 Conference Approved Literature replacing the current flow chart

What do you want Conference to do?

Conference is asked to adopt a revised process for the development and approval of Category 1 Conference-Approved Literature, replacing the current process, which is outdated and insufficiently detailed for the importance of this work.

What issue does this proposal address?

This proposal (see attachment below) addresses the absence of a clear, detailed, and current process for the development and approval of Category 1 Conference-Approved Literature in Australia.

Category 1 Conference-Approved Literature, books, the Service Manual, and nationally produced pamphlets carrying the Conference Seal, represents the AA message. It is the most important instrument through which AA Australia preserves and carries its message. It is the body of material any alcoholic anywhere can return to and trust as a faithful expression of AA's agreed message and shared experience.

The current process lacks sufficient detail on how a need is identified, how the Fellowship is consulted, what standards must be met before a draft proceeds to Conference, and how the Board's role fits within the broader process. These gaps leave significant unknowns in a process that deserves the greatest care and rigour.

Background information that supports this proposal

The revised process has been developed by the General Service Board drawing on the AAWS flow chart for pamphlet development, the AA GB Conference process, and reflection on AA Australia's own service structure and values.

The proposed process consists of seven stages:

- Stage 1 – The need may be identified at any level of the Fellowship, by an individual member, a group, district, area, region, or GSO, and is brought to Conference through the service structure, using the topics process
- Stage 2 – Conference determines whether the need is genuine and widespread enough to proceed
- Stage 3 – The Board takes responsibility for overseeing development, forming a working group drawn from Conference members
- Stage 4 – A rigorous consultation process involving the full Board, GSO staff, and a specially formed panel; multiple rounds of detailed review and revision
- Stage 5 – A formal Board resolution that the draft is ready to proceed to Conference
- Stage 6 – The draft, accompanied by a summary of the consultation process undertaken and the Board's formal resolution to proceed, is referred to Conference for consideration. Conference conducts a higher level review
- Stage 7 – Conference votes; if the required majority is reached, the material carries the Conference Seal of Approval, and proceeds to production

The process is explicitly format-neutral, applying equally to written, audiovisual, and digital material. It reflects the principle that Conference-Approved Literature is initiated by the Fellowship, not by the Board, and that the Board's role is to steward the development process once Conference has determined a need exists.



The full process is set out in the attached document, which it is proposed would be included in the Service Manual.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Category 1 Conference-Approved Literature is ultimately in service of one purpose – carrying AA's message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers. A rigorous, transparent, and well understood process for producing that literature gives the Fellowship confidence that what carries the Conference Seal truly reflects AA's agreed message and shared experience.

The proposed process benefits the Fellowship in several ways. It ensures that any member can initiate the process, consistent with AA's non-hierarchical values. It establishes clear accountability at each stage, so the Fellowship understands how its group conscience is expressed in the literature it uses. It provides a rigorous consultation process that tests drafts word by word across a wide cross-section of the Fellowship before anything proceeds to Conference. And it gives the Conference itself a clear and confident basis on which to exercise its approval.

A clearer process also protects the integrity of the Conference Seal – ensuring that it remains a meaningful assurance of quality and trustworthiness for every alcoholic who reaches for a piece of AA literature.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

The process itself carries no direct additional cost beyond the existing costs of Conference and Board operations. Costs associated with specific literature projects – working group formation, consultation, and production – will arise on a project by project basis and will be subject to the Board's normal financial oversight.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The X

Notes



Category 1 Conference Approval Process

Stage 1 – Identifying the Need

The process may be initiated by any member of AA in Australia, or by a group, district, area, or region, who identifies a need for new or revised literature. The GSO may also identify a need through correspondence and requests received from across the Fellowship. However a need arises, some work to establish that it is genuine and broadly felt is valuable before it is brought to Conference – whether through local discussion, sharing at service meetings, or correspondence through the service structure. The means will vary depending on the nature of the need and who has identified it.

At this stage the need is not yet a proposal – it is an observation that something may be missing or would serve the Fellowship.

Stage 2 – Conference Assessment

The need is brought to Conference, as a Topic for Conference, for the Fellowship's collective consideration. Conference determines whether the need is sufficiently widespread and clearly enough felt across the Fellowship to justify proceeding. If not, the matter is deferred or set aside. If Conference agrees there is a genuine need, a decision is made to move forward.

Stage 3 – Board and Document Review Committee

Following Conference's decision to proceed, the Board takes responsibility for overseeing the development of the literature. The Board's Document Review Committee manages the drafting process and may form a working group drawing on Conference members and others with relevant experience.

Stage 4 – Consultation and Refinement

Once an initial draft has been prepared by the working group, a rigorous consultation process begins. The draft is circulated to:

- the Board's Document Review Committee, GSO staff who have extensive experience of currently available literature
- a special panel formed from members selected for their interest in, knowledge of, or experience relevant to the subject matter

Each of these parties is invited to review the text carefully and provide detailed feedback – word by word where necessary – with the goal of ensuring the literature faithfully reflects AA's shared experience and message, is consistent with AA's Traditions and Principles, and will serve the Fellowship well into the future.

The working group considers all feedback received and produces a revised draft. This process of circulation, feedback, and revision continues through as many rounds as necessary until the working group, the Document Review Committee, and the Board are satisfied that the text has been thoroughly tested and refined.

Those involved in the consultation are asked to complete their review in a timely way, recognising that thoroughness and care are more important than speed, and that the process may take months or years depending on the nature and complexity of the material.

Where the material may be of value to other countries, World Service Delegates may also be included in the consultation at an appropriate stage.



Stage 5 – Board Resolution to Proceed

When the Document Review Committee is satisfied that the consultation process has been completed thoroughly and in good faith, it brings a recommendation to the full Board. The Board considers whether the draft has been sufficiently tested across the Fellowship and resolves formally that the draft is ready to proceed to Conference for consideration. This resolution is the gateway to the final stage of the approval process.

Stage 6 – Conference Committee Review

The draft, accompanied by a summary of the consultation process undertaken and the Board's formal resolution to proceed, is referred to Conference for consideration. Conference conducts a higher level review, satisfying itself that the material faithfully represents AA's message and shared experience, that it is consistent with AA's Traditions and Principles, and that the consultation process has been thorough and conducted in good faith. Conference may recommend minor edits before proceeding to a vote.

If the required majority is achieved, the material is approved to carry the Conference Seal and proceeds to production. If it is not approved, the process concludes.

Stage 7 – Production

Following Conference approval, the approved material is passed to GSO for production. The following steps are followed, adapted as appropriate to the format of the material – whether print, audiovisual, or digital.

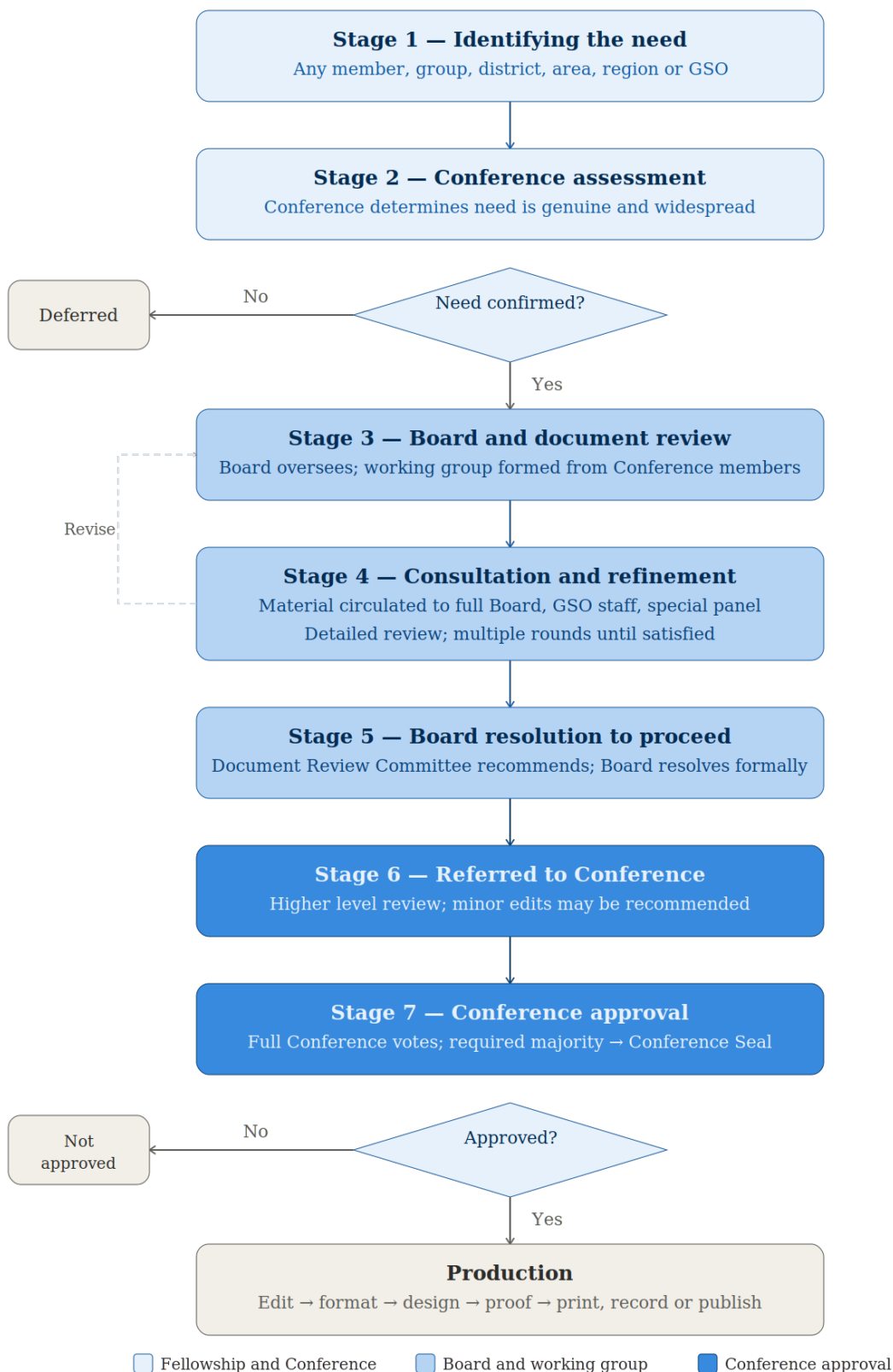
1. Final editing – the approved material is reviewed and edited by GSO staff and the Document Review Committee, incorporating any specific edits approved by Conference. The content is not subject to substantive change at this stage – editing is limited to matters of consistency, accuracy, and presentation.
2. Formatting and design – the material is prepared for its intended format. For print, this includes layout, typography, and cover design consistent with AA's visual identity. For audiovisual material, this includes editing, sound, and visual production. For digital material, this includes formatting appropriate to the platform or medium.
3. Final review – a final proof or equivalent review is completed before publication or release, to ensure the material accurately reflects the approved content.
4. Production and distribution – the finished material is printed, recorded, or published as appropriate, and made available for distribution through GSO.

The Conference Seal of Approval is applied at this stage, signifying that the material has completed the full approval process.



Process for Developing Conference-Approved Literature

Alcoholics Anonymous Australia





Topic #030/2026

Modernisation of the “Yellow Wallet” / Beginner’s Pack for Newcomers

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference approve the development of a simplified Australian Conference approved newcomer resource to replace the current combined “Yellow Wallet” / Beginner’s Pack format.

The proposed resource would consolidate the most essential content from the existing newcomer pamphlets and cards into a single cohesive and accessible publication using plain language and Australian-focused wording where appropriate.

The individual pamphlets and cards currently included in the pack may continue to remain available separately for groups or members who wish to continue using them independently.

What issue does this proposal address?

The current “Yellow Wallet” / Beginner’s Pack consists of

- A Newcomer Asks pamphlet (US version)
- Is AA For You? Pamphlet (US version)
- Frequently Asked Questions (US version)
- Just For Today Card
- I2&I2card and
- the outer gold wallet packaging.

While the material in the pamphlets is valuable, there is overlap between the information contained. The amount of separate material to read may be overwhelming or difficult to navigate for some newcomers to AA.

The proposal also aims to improve accessibility for newcomers by presenting the information in a shorter, clearer, and more cohesive format that may be easier to read and retain during early recovery.

In addition, the current pack requires assembly of its components by the GSO before distribution and resale, this is a manual process that creates unnecessary labour and handling.

This proposal seeks to simplify and modernise the newcomer pack by combining the key information into a single easy-to-read pamphlet while retaining the overall spirit and design intent of the current pack.

Some of the language and examples contained within the current materials no longer fully reflect the language, tone, or communication style currently used within the Australian Fellowship and AA Australia’s newer public-facing resources.

The content has been updated to be more reflective of the fellowship in Australia. The two cards have been designed as a tear out from the back cover, so that they are still small, portable resources.

Background information that supports this proposal

The questions and answers currently used across some newcomer literature and introductory resources are largely based on older US-origin material that has not undergone significant review in the Australian context for many years.



Since the relaunch of the updated public website, aa.org.au, the Fellowship has already begun moving toward clearer, more accessible, and more contemporary language in the public-facing “Questions & Answers” sections. The language currently used online is no longer fully aligned with the wording and tone used in some existing pamphlets and newcomer materials.

This proposal seeks to bring greater consistency between AA Australia’s public-facing newcomer information and its printed newcomer literature by developing a simplified and cohesive Australian Conference-approved resource.

The intention is not to change the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, but to improve accessibility and readability by:

- simplifying overlapping or repetitive content;
- using clearer and more accessible plain language;
- presenting information in a more cohesive and easier-to-follow structure; and
- ensuring examples, terminology, and tone better reflect the Australian Fellowship and Australian experience.

The proposal also recognises that newcomer literature is often one of the very first points of contact a still suffering alcoholic may have with Alcoholics Anonymous. Clear, accessible, and locally relevant communication may improve understanding and engagement during what is often a difficult and overwhelming time.

In addition, this proposal seeks to move toward Australian Conference approval of this material rather than relying solely on future revisions from AA World Services (AAWS). This would allow the Australian Fellowship, through its own Conference process, to review and update this newcomer-focused material as needed to reflect Australian usage, accessibility needs, and evolving communication practices while remaining consistent with AA principles and message.

This may also allow future updates and revisions to occur in a more timely and locally responsive manner rather than depending on external revision cycles.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

This proposal may benefit newcomers by providing a simpler and more accessible introduction to Alcoholics Anonymous through a single cohesive publication that is easier to carry, read, and understand.

Reducing overlap and simplifying the presentation of information may assist newcomers in focusing on the key messages and resources most relevant in early recovery.

Plain language and simplified formatting may also improve accessibility for members with lower literacy levels, cognitive difficulties, neurodivergence, English as a second language, or those experiencing distress in early sobriety.

A more cohesive and accessible newcomer resource may improve the ability of groups, PI&P/CPC committees, treatment facilities, and members to carry the message effectively to newcomers and professionals.

The proposal will also reduce production and labour costs, allowing literature resources to be produced and distributed more economically while maintaining the Fellowship’s ability to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?



Preliminary quotes (April 2026) suggest that producing a single combined pamphlet with integrated tear-out cards could reduce the unit production cost to approximately \$0.80 per item, compared to a current estimated cost exceeding \$2.00 per completed wallet pack.

Additional savings may also be achieved through reduced labour and assembly time at the General Service Office, as the current packs require manual collation and assembly before resale and distribution.

The simplified format will also reduce printing storage requirements, shipping costs to members and handling time.

As many groups distribute newcomer packs free of charge, reducing production costs may improve accessibility and availability across the Fellowship.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

This submission is based on observations regarding production costs, duplication of material within the current pack, operational handling requirements, and accessibility of information for newcomers by X.

Notes



I am responsible
When someone approaches
me and for help I want the
hand of A.A. always to be there
And for that I am responsible.

**National AA
helpline**

1 300 22 22 22

www.aa.org.au

Your local A.A. Group:

**JUST FOR
TODAY**

*God grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can,
and wisdom to know the difference.*

A.A.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organisation or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Who is this guide for?

This guide is for anyone questioning their relationship with alcohol, looking for help for themselves or someone else, or wanting to better understand Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

Many people who come to AA once asked themselves the same questions about their drinking. This guide brings together common questions and answers about alcoholism, recovery, meetings, and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Your anonymity and privacy will always be respected.

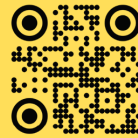
Finding Help

How can I find a meeting or contact AA?

- meetings.aa.org.au
- aa.org.au
- National Helpline: 1300 22 22 22
- Online chat available through aa.org.au

What if I still have questions?

Many people find the best answers come from speaking directly with AA members and attending meetings. Recovery from alcoholism is possible, and help is available.



Chat Live Online Now with a Member of Alcoholics Anonymous

JUST FOR TODAY I will try to live through this day only and not tackle my whole life's problems at once. I can do something for twelve hours that would appall me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY I will be happy. This assumes to be true what Abraham Lincoln said, "that most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be".

JUST FOR TODAY I will adjust to what is, and not try to adjust everything to my own desires. I will take my luck as it comes and fit myself to it.

JUST FOR TODAY I will try to strengthen my mind. I will study. I will learn something useful. I will not be a mental loafer. I will read something that requires mental effort and concentration.

JUST FOR TODAY I will exercise my soul in three ways. I will do somebody a good turn and not get found out. If anybody knows of it, it will not count. I will do at least two things I do not want to do - just for exercise. I will not show anyone that my feelings are hurt; they may be hurt, but today I will not show it.

JUST FOR TODAY I will be agreeable, will look as well as I can, dress becomingly, talk low, act courteously, criticize not one bit, not find fault with anything and not try to improve or relegate anybody except myself.

JUST FOR TODAY I will have a programme - I may not be able to follow it exactly, but I will have it. I will save myself from two pests: hurry and indecision.

JUST FOR TODAY I will have a quiet half hour all by myself and relax. During this half hour, some time I will try to get a better perspective of my life.

JUST FOR TODAY I will be unafraid, especially I will not be afraid to enjoy what is beautiful, and to believe that, as I give to the world, so the world will give to me.

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference

The 12 Steps of AA

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

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The 12 Traditions of AA

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity. 2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. 3. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking. 4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AAs alike. 5. Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic - no matter what his condition. 6. The AA group ought never to endorse, accept, or lend its name to any related institution or outside enterprise for our promotion; if we do so, we are no longer AA. 7. Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. 8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service should, upon empty, special workers. 9. AA as such ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve. 10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversies. 11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films. 12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

Is Alcohol Becoming A Problem?

Ask yourself these questions

Am I really an alcoholic?

Only you can decide whether alcohol has become a problem in your life. Many people who eventually joined AA once believed they simply needed more willpower or better control over their drinking.

Alcohol problems can affect people differently, and alcoholism often develops gradually over time.

Have I tried to stop drinking but found I couldn't?

Many people make promises to themselves or others that they will stop drinking, only to find themselves drinking again despite their intentions.

Do I drink more than I planned to?

Many alcoholics discover that once they begin drinking, they lose control over how much they consume.

Have I tried controlling my drinking?

Some people try switching drinks, limiting drinking to weekends, or restricting how much they drink. While this may seem to work temporarily, many eventually return to the same drinking patterns.

Do I need a drink to start the day?

Needing alcohol early in the day can be a sign that alcohol has gained too much control over a person's life.

Do I envy people who can drink normally?

Many people struggling with alcohol wonder why others seem able to drink casually while they cannot.

Does my drinking affect relationships or home life?

Alcohol can create difficulties in relationships, family life, work, and friendships.

What if I can stay sober between binges?

Some people go long periods without drinking before suddenly returning to uncontrolled drinking. Even with long sober periods, alcohol can still remain a serious problem.

Should I join AA if others say I'm not an alcoholic?

Ultimately, only you can decide whether alcohol has become unmanageable in your life.

Not sure if you're an alcoholic? Take the Quiz



Understanding Alcoholism

What does AA believe about alcoholism?

Many members of AA believe alcoholism is a progressive condition that cannot be cured but can be managed through complete abstinence from alcohol.

Why can't some alcoholics drink normally again?

Many alcoholics find that once they begin drinking again, they eventually return to destructive drinking patterns despite attempts to control it.

Can an alcoholic safely drink beer or wine instead?

For many alcoholics, alcohol is alcohol regardless of the type. Attempts to switch drinks often still lead back to uncontrolled drinking.

Is complete abstinence really necessary?

Many AA members find that completely avoiding alcohol is the safest and most reliable solution.

What Is Alcoholics Anonymous?

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other so they may solve their common problem and help others recover from alcoholism.

What is an AA group?

AA groups are communities of people who come together to help each other stay sober and help others achieve sobriety.

How are AA groups organised?

AA groups are autonomous and self-supporting. Members volunteer for service roles to help meetings function smoothly.

Does AA have leaders?

AA has trusted servants rather than governing leaders. No person or group has authority over AA members.

What is the only requirement for membership?

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

How AA Helps People Recover

How can AA help me?

AA members share their experiences of alcoholism and recovery with one another. Many people find support from others who understand their struggles firsthand.

Why do AA members keep attending meetings after they stop drinking?

Many people find that ongoing meetings and connection with other sober alcoholics help maintain emotional and mental wellbeing.

Can someone recover just by reading AA literature?

Some people stop drinking after reading AA literature, but many find recovery easier when connected to other recovering alcoholics.

Why do AA members help other alcoholics?

Many members find that helping others strengthens their own sobriety.

Can someone already sober still join AA?

Yes. Some people who have already stopped drinking join AA for ongoing support and fellowship.

Meetings and Membership

How does someone become an AA member?

Most people simply attend a meeting. There is no formal application process.

What happens at an AA meeting?

Meetings usually involve members sharing their experiences with drinking, recovery, and sober living.

What are open meetings?

Open meetings may be attended by anyone interested in learning about AA. Family and friends are often welcome at open meetings.

What are closed meetings?

Closed meetings are intended for people who have a desire to stop drinking.

What if I see someone I know at a meeting?

Confidentiality and anonymity are important principles in AA. Members respect each other's privacy.

Will people know I'm in AA?

No one is required to publicly identify themselves as an AA member.

How often should members attend meetings?

There are no attendance requirements. Some members attend frequently while others attend less often.

Do AA members attend meetings forever?

Attendance is always a personal choice. Many members continue attending because meetings help support their sobriety.

Can I attend meetings outside my local area?

Yes. Members are free to attend any AA meeting.

Does it cost anything to join AA?

AA has no dues or fees. Meetings may collect voluntary contributions to help cover expenses.

Is AA a religious organisation?

No. AA is not affiliated with any religion or denomination.

Does AA believe in God?

Members hold many different beliefs. AA encourages individuals to understand spirituality in their own way.

Can atheists or agnostics attend AA?

Yes. People of all beliefs — or no beliefs — are welcome in AA.

Does AA have rules?

AA has very few formal rules and relies on mutual respect and shared purpose.

Does AA run hospitals or rehabilitation centres?

No. AA does not operate hospitals or treatment centres.

Does AA organise social activities?

Many AA groups and members organise informal fellowship gatherings and events.

Is AA for young people?

AA includes people of all ages, including many younger members.

Do women attend AA?

Women make up a significant part of the AA fellowship and participate equally in recovery and service.

Living Sober

What advice is often given to newcomers?

Many members suggest:

- Avoid the first drink
- Attend meetings regularly
- Spend time with sober members
- Practice recovery principles daily

What does “One Day at a Time” mean?

AA encourages members to focus on staying sober today rather than worrying about the future.

Will I lose my friends or social life if I stop drinking?

Many people discover healthier friendships and more meaningful relationships in sobriety.

Can someone succeed professionally without drinking?

Many sober alcoholics find they become more productive and reliable in work and professional life after stopping drinking.

Can recovery help repair family relationships?

Many people find that sobriety helps improve damaged relationships over time.

What are relapses?

Sometimes people return to drinking after a period of sobriety. Many relapses occur when individuals drift away from meetings or forget the seriousness of alcoholism.

The Twelve Steps Of Alcoholics Anonymous

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

The Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
6. An AA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the AA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centres may employ special workers.
9. AA, as such, ought never be organised; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.



Topic #031/2026

How Conference Votes Are Counted – Treatment of Abstentions

What do you want Conference to do?

Conference is asked to adopt the same approach to abstentions as the North American and Great Britain General Service Conferences: abstentions are recorded but do not count for or against a motion. Voting thresholds are calculated on the basis of members who vote for or against, provided a Conference quorum is present.

What issue does this proposal address?

This proposal addresses how Conference votes are counted. Under the current procedure, a two-thirds or three-quarters majority is measured against all registered Conference members. This means that a member who abstains has exactly the same practical effect on the result as a member who votes against – an abstention is a silent no vote.

In most democratic settings, abstaining means choosing not to vote, not casting a vote against. The North American and Great Britain General Service Conferences both calculate their voting thresholds against members who actually vote for or against, provided a quorum is present. This proposal asks Conference to adopt the same approach.

Background information that supports this proposal

A couple of examples help illustrate the problem.

Suppose 30 members are registered at Conference. Two-thirds of 30 is 20. So 20 votes in favour are needed for a binding direction. In the vote: 18 vote for the motion, 4 vote against, and 8 abstain. 18 out of the 22 who voted is 82% support. Under our current system: 18 is less than 20 – so the motion fails. Under our current system, the 8 members who chose not to vote decided the outcome.

Under the proposed amendment: 18 out of 22 votes cast is 82% – the motion passes.

When the threshold is 75%, the problem becomes even more stark. Three-quarters of 30 is 22.5. So 23 votes in favour are needed to pass. For example, say in a vote: 22 vote for the motion, 3 vote against, and 5 abstain. 22 out of the 25 who voted is 88% support. Under our current system: 22 is less than 23, so the motion fails. Under the proposed amendment: 22 out of 25 votes cast is 88% – the motion passes. Under our current system, five abstentions have defeated a motion that only three members actively opposed.

For those sitting in their home group reading this topic, it might not seem like a big deal. But when members go to the trouble of researching and preparing a topic, something they genuinely believe will help the Fellowship carry out its primary purpose, and see it defeated not by opposition but by abstentions, it can be very disheartening. There may be perfectly valid reasons for abstaining on a motion – uncertainty, insufficient information, or a genuine sense that the matter does not fall within one's area of knowledge or experience. This proposal does not question any of that. The point is simply that an abstention should not decide the outcome of a vote. People put real thought and care into bringing topics to Conference.

Concept XII also reminds us that the principle of substantial unanimity has practical limits, and that there are times when the majority must be trusted to act. A counting system that allows abstentions to silently defeat a motion supported by a clear majority of those who engaged does not serve the spirit of that principle, whatever



the intention behind the abstentions may be. This proposal simply asks that the result reflect the genuine sense of those who chose to participate.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Conference exists to support the service structure that carries the message of recovery. A Conference whose decisions accurately reflect the view of its members is better placed to fulfil that purpose with clarity and confidence.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The X

Notes



Topic #032/2026

Floor Actions – Update the definition and process in the Service Manual

What do you want Conference to do?

Conference is asked to replace the floor actions procedure established by Advisory Action 1996/032 with updated wording that accurately reflects how floor actions have been used in practice, acknowledges their broader and constructive role in the life of Conference, and provides clear guidance on when the normal topic and group conscience process should be the preferred path. The proposed new wording is set out in Attachment A.

What issue does this proposal address?

This proposal addresses a gap between what the current floor actions procedure says and how floor actions have actually been used over nearly thirty years of Conference practice.

The current wording does not reflect that established practice and does not give members accurate guidance about when and how floor actions may appropriately be used. The proposed new wording corrects this. It also introduces a considered caution about floor actions that seek to bypass the group conscience process entirely – something the current wording does not address.

Background information that supports this proposal

The floor actions procedure has been in place since Advisory Action 1996/032 and has not been updated since. The current wording establishes emergency use as the norm –

"normally the only time a floor action is considered is when an emergency has arisen." That framing is inconsistent with both the actual practice of the Australian Conference and the approach taken by the North American General Service Conference, where floor actions are a routine and recognised part of how Conference does business, available for any matter not yet concluded by a committee, with no emergency threshold.

The term "emergency" is not defined and is necessarily subjective. Experience suggests that the situations most likely to feel urgent to Conference members, those involving strong feeling or controversy, are also the situations where AA's own wisdom counsels restraint and measured consideration rather than immediate action. A matter with genuine real-world consequences that cannot reasonably wait is a different case, and the floor actions process remains available for it. But a threshold that is met whenever feeling runs high is not really a useful threshold at all.

A review of the Key Conference Resolutions shows that floor actions have in fact served a range of legitimate purposes that the current wording does not capture. The following examples illustrate the pattern.

Building on committee deliberations and existing work: a committee process generates a proposition or refinement that was not part of the original topic submission. Rather than losing that work or waiting twelve months, Conference has used floor actions to act on the insight that the committee process and subsequent floor discussion produced. A good example is the work currently being undertaken by a working group looking into the feasibility of having AA literature translated into AUSLAN. This work came out of an advisory action, which the board were struggling to implement, however it was rescued through a floor action, which built constructively on an existing advisory action. This is precisely the constructive role the proposed new wording seeks to recognise explicitly.

Practical administrative matters. Advisory Action 2007/046 directed the Board to produce a plan for archival storage. Advisory Action 2005/048 arranged for the Conference Folder to be marked 'Confidential.' These are straightforwardly practical matters – the kind of administrative tidying that it would be inefficient to defer for twelve months. Neither required an emergency to justify it, and neither would have met a strict emergency threshold.



How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

The fellowship and the still-suffering alcoholic is best served by a Conference that can respond to what matters, when it matters. Floor actions allow Conference to act on insights that emerge during deliberations at Conference, to build on good thinking, resolve practical questions, and direct the Board's attention where it is needed, without waiting twelve months for the next topic cycle. Procedures that accurately describe this capacity help Conference use it well. Procedures that mislabel it as an emergency measure create unnecessary hesitation and uncertainty.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The X. The X endorses this proposal and invites Areas and Regions to discuss it with their members in advance of Conference.

Notes



Floor Actions Topic: Attachment A

The following wording is proposed to replace the current Advisory Action 1996/032 floor actions procedure. It is intended to reflect established practice accurately, acknowledge the broader and constructive role floor actions play, and provide appropriate guidance on when the normal topic process should be preferred.

Proposed wording

Floor actions may arise as a consequence of committee deliberations, including as part of a committee's own recommendation back to Conference, or in response to discussion during general session. They are generally confined to matters already on the Conference agenda, allowing Conference to refine or build on ideas that have emerged through the topic and committee process in ways that serve the best interests of the Fellowship.

Experience has shown that floor actions can also serve a broader and constructive role in the life of Conference. They have been used to improve how Conference itself operates, to refine the topic and committee process, to resolve practical administrative matters arising during Conference, and to direct Board action on matters where Conference has reached a clear view. Floor actions are also a legitimate tool for initiating follow-up work or requesting that a matter be brought back to a future Conference as a topic. In this sense, floor actions reflect Conference's capacity to take stock of itself responsively and in real time.

A floor action that introduces an entirely new proposition, one that has had no opportunity to go through the Fellowship's year-round group conscience process, should be considered carefully and with a cool head. The process, by which topics are circulated to groups for consideration before Conference, is generally the appropriate path for new propositions, and bypassing it is a significant step that requires good reason. Practical necessity may justify doing so where time constraints or other circumstances mean that a matter cannot reasonably wait twelve months for the normal topic process.

Floor actions are brought in good faith and are not a substitute for the normal topic process where that process is available and practical. They are considered as the last item of Conference business, and if unsuccessful may be submitted as a topic the following year.



Topic #033/2026

Revision of Conference Voting Thresholds

What do you want Conference to do?

Conference is asked to revise the voting thresholds applicable to changes in Conference service documents and procedures, as set out in the attached table, and to request the Document Integration Group to incorporate those thresholds into the Australian AA Service Manual and to make any necessary secondary changes to other service documents.

What issue does this proposal address?

This proposal addresses a structural problem in the way Conference votes on changes to its own service documents and procedures. The voting thresholds currently in force, established by Advisory Actions 2002/064 and 2003/043, require a three-quarters supermajority of all registered Conference members to amend the Australian AA Service Manual, the Conference Charter (Articles 1–11), the Conference Administrative Procedures, and related documents. This threshold is higher than the two-thirds majority required to issue a binding direction to the General Service Board.

Background information that supports this proposal

The current three-quarters supermajority for service document changes was established by Advisory Actions 2002/064 and 2003/043. However, the 75% threshold applied to operational documents has created an unintended consequence – harder for Conference to exercise its proper authority over its own service structure than it is to issue a binding direction to the Board.

The self-entrenching problem. The three-quarters threshold that applies to changes in the Charter, Service Manual and related service documents also applies to any attempt to change that threshold itself. The rule determines its own amendment threshold. To lower it, Conference must first clear the very threshold it is trying to lower. The effect is that the procedural freedom of every future Conference has been constrained in a way that is not easily undone. No Conference should place that kind of limitation on those that follow it. The Warranties of Article 12 already protect what must never be changed without the consent of the whole Fellowship. Everything else, including how Conference conducts its own business, should remain readily within Conference's reach.

Inconsistency with Concept XII. Concept XII, adopted by the Australian General Service Conference as part of the Twelve Concepts for World Service, explicitly describes Articles 1– 11 of the Conference Charter as an "elastic document" whose "first eleven Articles can be readily amended by the Conference itself." A 75% supermajority for Charter amendments directly contradicts this. Concept XII also warns that a minority should not be permitted to use the principle of substantial unanimity to block clearly needed action, and that in such an event it is the plain duty of the majority to override such a misuse. The current thresholds create precisely the conditions Concept XII warns against. Advisory Actions 2002/064 and 2003/043 are referenced for the Conference's information.

Inconsistency with comparable AA Conferences. The North American General Service Conference specifies no supermajority for amendments to Articles 1–11 of its Charter, and updates its Service Manual by simple Conference approval. The Great Britain Structure Handbook – the GB equivalent of the Australian AA Service Manual – states on its cover page that future alterations require a two-thirds majority of Conference. Neither Conference has found that more accessible thresholds for procedural documents led to instability or harm. Australia is the outlier.

How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

Every service role in AA exists for one purpose – to help carry the message of recovery to the alcoholic who still suffers. A Conference that is free to review and update its service documents as needs arise – without procedural barriers that make ordinary housekeeping unnecessarily difficult – is better placed to keep its attention on that primary purpose."



The current thresholds have made it harder to keep the Australian AA Service Manual current, to align procedures with the Fellowship's actual needs, and to correct accumulated inconsistencies. A Conference that holds its procedures with an appropriately light hand – requiring genuine agreement for change, but not placing it beyond reach – is better placed to serve the still-suffering alcoholic by maintaining a service structure that is fit for purpose.

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Nil

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

The X. The X endorses this proposal and invites Areas and Regions to discuss it with their members in advance of Conference.

Notes



Attachment A — Proposed Revised Conference Voting Thresholds

Conference Topic: Revision of Conference Voting Thresholds | Submitted by the General Service Board of AA

Action	Current threshold	Proposed threshold	Why the proposed threshold is more appropriate
Shading key: Change proposed (amber = current threshold) Change proposed (green = proposed threshold) No change (grey = retained as is)			
Routine Conference decisions			
Binding direction to the Board (Advisory Actions)	2/3 of all registered members	2/3 of members voting (quorum required); delegate vote weighting applies	Aligns with North American practice (amended 1986) and UK practice. Under the current formula, a member who abstains has exactly the same effect as one who votes against — the abstention is a silent no vote. Counting only those who vote for or against removes that distortion. <i>Delegate vote weighting</i> preserves the Charter guarantee that Delegates hold no less than two-thirds of the total voting weight at Conference.
Simple majority vote	Majority — suggestion to Board	<i>No change</i>	The suggestion/direction distinction is fundamental to AA's service structure and is not in dispute.
Structural documents			
Amend Conference Charter Articles 1–11	75% of all registered members	2/3 of members voting (quorum required); delegate vote weighting applies	Concept XII explicitly describes Articles 1–11 as an 'elastic document' whose 'first eleven Articles can be readily amended by the Conference itself at any time.' A 75% supermajority directly contradicts this. North America specifies no supermajority for Charter amendments. The AA GB Structure Handbook requires a 2/3 majority to amend its equivalent document. A 2/3 threshold provides stability while honouring Concept XII.
Amend Conference Charter Article 12, Twelve Traditions or Twelve Steps	Written consent of 3/4 of responding Groups worldwide; 6 months notice	<i>No change</i>	Article 12 and the core spiritual texts occupy a uniquely protected category, as they should. Identical to North American practice. Not in dispute.
Amend the Australian AA Service Manual	75% of all registered members	2/3 of members voting (quorum required); delegate vote weighting applies	The Service Manual is a working document — a practical guide to how AA in Australia conducts its service affairs, not a constitutional instrument. North America updates its manual by simple Conference approval. The AA GB Structure Handbook requires a 2/3 Conference majority to amend its equivalent document. A 2/3 threshold provides stability without placing routine updates beyond Conference's reach.
Amend Conference Administrative Procedures (including voting)	75% of all registered members	2/3 of members voting (quorum required); delegate vote weighting applies	These are operational provisions governing how Conference conducts its business. Following Conference's 2025 redefinition of the scope of Guidelines, the structural voting provisions in GL-27 belong in the Service Manual or



Action	Current threshold	Proposed threshold	Why the proposed threshold is more appropriate
thresholds currently in GL-27)			Administrative Procedures rather than a Guideline. In either location, a standard 2/3 binding threshold is appropriate and proportionate.
Amend Composition, Scope and Procedure documents	75% of all registered members (primary change); 2/3 disapproval of all registered members (secondary change)	2/3 of members voting (primary); 2/3 disapproval of all registered members (secondary — no change)	CS&P documents define committee structures and responsibilities. These are not constitutional documents and do not warrant a supermajority. Reducing the primary threshold to the standard binding threshold (2/3 of members voting) is appropriate. The secondary disapproval mechanism is retained unchanged.
Board Memorandum and Articles of Association (Constitution)	3/4 of all Board members (Corporations Act requirement); Conference may disapprove by 2/3 of all registered members	3/4 of all Board members (no change — legally required under Corporations Act); Conference disapproval reduced to simple majority of members voting	The 3/4 Board requirement is mandated by the Corporations Act and is outside Conference's power to change. The Conference disapproval threshold is reduced to a simple majority of members voting, consistent with North American practice, where a simple majority of Conference delegates is sufficient to block a Board amendment.
Board reorganisation and Trustee appointments			
Reorganise the General Service Board or require resignations	3/4 of all Conference members	3/4 of members voting (quorum required); delegate vote weighting applies	The 3/4 threshold for this extraordinary measure is appropriate and is retained. The change is technical: 'all members' is replaced with 'members voting, provided a quorum is present,' consistent with the revised treatment of the binding 2/3 threshold. Delegate vote weighting applies.
Disapprove a Trustee appointment	2/3 of all registered Conference members	Simple majority of members voting	North America operates on a simple majority disapproval for all Trustee appointments. The current 2/3 threshold sets a high bar for overturning an appointment and risks entrenching unsuitable leadership. The disapproval mechanism is a safeguard for extraordinary circumstances; it should be accessible to a simple majority.
Other provisions — no change proposed			
Change of Region boundary	2/3 of Delegates from each Region affected, then Conference approval	<i>No change</i>	Identical to North American practice. No change.
Secondary / indirect Service Manual changes	2/3 disapproval of all Conference members	<i>No change</i>	The 2/3 disapproval mechanism for secondary changes (those flowing directly from an Advisory Action) is sensible and proportionate. No change.

Note on delegate vote weighting: where a threshold is calculated on 'members voting,' the Charter guarantee that Delegates hold no less than two-thirds of the total voting weight at Conference is preserved through the existing weighting mechanism. Where Delegates naturally constitute two-thirds or more of those voting, no adjustment is required.

Note on quorum: a Conference quorum of two-thirds of all registered Conference members must be present for any these proposals.



vote to be valid. This requirement is unchanged by



Topic #034/2026

Remove inconsistencies relating to National Forums from Guidelines 14 and 15 and include guidance about the AA National Combined Services Forum in Guideline 30.

What do you want Conference to do?

That the General Service Conference confirm the following Section of GL14 in the AA Australian Service manual and update the wording to reflect the title of the event as the AA National Combined Services Forum.

1. The AA Guideline GL 14 Paying the Bills Point 3 states

"The underwriting system is different for the National Convention and the national Public Information Forum, as these are considered subcommittees of the General Service Board, which underwrites the event and receives any net surplus funds."

2. The AA Guideline GL 15 The National Convention, in the section Fund Raising, the Guideline states

"The Region that intends to bid for the Convention should realise, prior to making a bid that they are responsible for the funding of the Convention." The underwriting by the GSB should be regarded as an emergency recourse only. This section then mentions a refundable amount of \$10,000.

Does the General Service Conference consider the bi-annual National Combined Services Forum to be an equivalent event to the Annual National Convention?

A separate topic has been submitted about the status of the National Combined Services Forum – that topic has Board support.

What issue does this proposal address?

This topic seeks to address two issues:

The Service Manual and Guidelines guide members undertaking service. Inconsistencies and contradictions undermine service activities and create confusion.

Secondly, while the GS Board underwrites and supports the annual national Convention as a national event, the biannual National Combined Services Forum is considered a regional event. GL15 section Fund Raising lists the GSB as an emergency recourse and suggests calling on resources that are no longer available – printing for example.

A national event supporting services delivery is significant in connecting members delivering AA Australia national policies. These issues can be resolved by amending the sections noted and adding advice to GL 30.

Background information that supports this proposal

The When Eastern Region Area B proposed to host the 2026 Bi-annual National Combined Services Forum we asked if the Forum was considered as a subcommittee of the General Service Board. We were told that was not the case despite the advice in Guideline 14.

The Committee applied for an ABN, registered an unincorporated not-for-profit association called the AA National Combined Services Forum 2026 ABN 97136703804. The entity has FBT exemption, GST exemption and is under the \$75,000 reporting threshold.

The Association is located in the ACT and is an ACNC Registered Charity. The association Governing Rules are available for review.

The association has access to subscription free and heavily discounted software as a not-for-profit. The domain aancsf2026.org.au is registered to the Forum. Legally all Australian AA groups should use .org.au domain names. Exclusively for Australian based non-commercial organisations, Organisations involved in arts, recreation, sports, education, religion and health are using .ORG.AU domain names to communicate their purpose, build trust and convey their Australian focus.

References The AA Services Manual, AA Guidelines, AA Concepts



How will this proposal benefit the fellowship or the still suffering alcoholic?

1. Clarity and clear guidance about the legal and financial arrangements in AA for Groups wishing to host events like the National Combined Services Forum.
2. Groups and events can focus on carrying the message and building Unity within the fellowship rather than interpreting and second guessing inconsistent and confusing Guidelines
3. There will be greater clarity and trust within the Fellowship while protecting the reputation of AA Australia

What are the estimated costs of implementing this suggestion?

Minimal dollars, time and advice needed from members with a good grounding in the Traditions and Concepts and an understanding of the role of the Guidelines.

At what level of group conscience (if any) was this topic discussed?

Individual Group, Forum Committee and Area

Notes