General Service Conference 2016

**THEME: A DESIGN FOR LIVING**

### TOPIC FORM

**CLOSING DATE: 4pm Friday 24th June 2016**

***No Topics can be accepted after the closing date****.*

Topics are a mechanism by which members can get something discussed at the Australian General Service Conference. Conference serves the members and Topics allow the AA movement to express its views upon all matters of vital AA policy and all hazardous deviations from AA Tradition. The diagram below illustrates how Topics progress through Conference.

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| --- | --- |
| Member or Group puts forward Topic  Area Assembly considers Topic  Agenda Committee allocates Topic to a Conference Committee  Groups & Area Assemblies advise Delegates  Conference Committee may recommend Topic to Conference for Action  Conference votes: Topic Lost, Carried or Advisory Action  Every Board meeting reviews Advisory Actions until completed  Conference gets report from Board on progress  Area Assemblies,  AA Around Australia & www.aaservice.org.au let the Fellowship know the outcome |  |

Conference prefers you to submit your Topic though your Area Assembly. However, if necessary, you can submit your Topic anonymously direct to National Office [gso@aa.org.au](mailto:gso@aa.org.au) or post to 48 Firth Street, ARNCLIFFE, NSW 2205. Either way, Conference asks that you provide at least one way to contact you in case it needs to clarify anything. (N.B. National Office keeps your contact details confidential and does not forward them to Conference.)

**PLEASE DO NOT ALTER THE FONT ON THIS FORM.**

**IF SUBMITTING BY EMAIL PLEASE SEND AS WORD DOCUMENT – NOT PDF**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name:** | **Address:** |
| **Email:** | **Phone:** |
|  |  |

# Ways to help get your Topic adopted

It is worth getting your Topic right because you cannot resubmit it next year unless Conference asks for its return.

Here is a checklist of requests that Conference makes so it can help get your Topic adopted:

* are Delegates able to readily understand what your Topic is about?
* is the Topic clear about anything you want Conference to do?
* is all content trustworthy and accurate?
* does it leave out any names of members?
* is it free of abusive or intemperate language?
* is it within the word limits noted on the Topic Form?
* does it reference AA literature rather than include lengthy quotes?
* does it avoid Conference assuming responsibilities that belongs to Groups, Districts or Areas?
* does it avoid trying to force any AA entity to take a particular action?
* does it avoid any change to the Steps, Traditions or the first 164 pages of the Big Book? (N.B. The Australian Conference decided to leave such matters to the North American General Service Conference.)
* does it avoid any endorsement of personal opinions?
* does any new piece of literature seeking Conference approval fill a gap not already covered by existing Conference-approved AA literature?
* do you specify which of the following three categories of Conference approval you are requesting for any new piece of AA literature seeking Conference approval:
* Category 1: Conference-approved **text**; or,
* Category 2: Conference-approved **production and distribution of individual sharing** produced by an AA entity under the supervision of a Group Conscience (for example, anthologies of ‘meetings in print’ like *Language of the Heart)*; or,
* Category 3: Conference-approved **production and distribution of AA service items** (for example, newsletters or information about AA produced for the media)?
* have you considered submitting the Topic though your Group and Area Assembly?
* have you added extra information as attachments or used a separate sheet of paper if you need more space?
* have you provided contact details if the Topic does not need to be anonymous?

**TOPIC:**

That Conference consider adopting Area E Eastern Region’s new document on the General Service Conference (GSC) process that visually displays in a simple and clear way the annual timeline and various stages as AA’s collective group conscience is expressed through our service structure each year and make it available to all AA members.

**WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?**

The GSC can at first be difficult to comprehend, especially for newer members to service. Therefore, there is a need to communicate the process in a simpler and easier to understand way. This gap is not adequately filled by current Conference Approved literature.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

To fill this gap, Area E Eastern Region created a new document on the GSC that successfully communicates the annual GSC process in a simpler and easier to understand way.

It is presented in a A4 Z-fold pamphlet format (available as a PDF for both online viewing and printing).

Refer to AA\_Australia\_GSC\_Annual\_Process\_Map\_v1.0.pdf online at [www.areaeeraa.info](http://www.areaeeraa.info)

The document is also available in an animated GIF and PowerPoint formats.

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION?**

The fellowship of AA will benefit from this suggestion as if the whole GSC process was to be communicated to all AA members around Australia in a simpler and easier to understand way (as was done in Area E), it is hoped to lead to greater participation and engagement around Australia in the annual process and help Groups and Areas more easily plan, prepare, discuss and communicate GSC proceedings.

**WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?**

Relatively small. A design has already been developed, so only time costs for preparation of new literature, and subsequent low printing costs for small run pamphlets.

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOUR GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Topic idea was presented at the Area E Eastern Region Assembly on the 28th May 2016 and was approved for submission.