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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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 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

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# 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:

# This should be a succinct statement of the issue or your idea. Clearly state your desired outcome.

Start writing your text in the space below. Maximum 100 words please for TOPIC + BACKGROUND.

We think that internal communication within AA Australia could be improved to better connect members and assist in the promotion of AA events and service opportunities. Our inability to communicate effectively within the wider fellowship is a stumbling block to the engagement and participation of AA members in intergroup events and service.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

Start writing your text in the space below.

In 2013 Area E hosted the Eastern Regional Forum. Although the event was successful for many reasons, the attendance was low. It was difficult to invite members from outside Area E, as there was no direct method to let the wider fellowship know what was happening.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

Start writing your text in the space below. Maximum 50 words please.

We propose that the GSC review the internal communication systems being used within Area E, Eastern Region in an effort to produce helpful guidelines on how other AA Areas may want to structure their internal communications to improve direct communication within the AA membership.

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

Start writing your text in the space below. Maximum 50 words please.

By establishing some guidelines on ways to improve AA internal communication we believe that we will we increase the overall engagement and participation of the existing AA membership in attending events and taking part in services that are designed specifically to benefit the still suffering alcoholic.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

Start writing your text in the space below. Maximum 50 words please.

There would be no cost in reviewing the internal communication systems used in Area E, Eastern Region in an effort to produce guidelines on internal communication.

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

Start writing your text in the space below. Maximum 50 words please.

We brought this topic to a recent forum at Area E, Eastern Region and workshopped the topic with the members attending that forum into its current form.