**FULL CONFERENCE**

**TOPIC: #001/2017**

**The General Service Conference requests that the Fellowship considers the Structure Review Committee’s attached *Investigations* and *Structure Review Plan for the Australian AA Structure*.**

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

Advisory Action #008/2015 formed a Structure Review Committee of ten Delegates and three Trustees (two members later resigned) with the following Terms of Reference:

1. Investigate information contained in the background of Topic #008/2015; and,
2. Formulate a plan of how to conduct an inventory of the Australian AA Structure.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

As requested, the Committee reported back to 2016 Conference with two attached documents:

1. ***Investigations****;* and,
2. ***Structure Review Plan****.*

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

The 2015 Topic implied that lack of unity is a threat to AA in Australia and makes reference to the Big Book’s suggestion that any business needs to take regular inventory as a ‘fact-finding and fact-facing process’ (p64).

The 2015 Topic also suggested that Australia may better satisfy AA’s Three Legacies of Recovery, Unity and Service if it were to restructure. Greater unity would allow members to re-focus on carrying the AA message and has the potential to make AA in Australia more cost effective by removing current duplications in services.

The 2015 Topic suggested, ‘we need to change for the benefit of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia…’

Bill W wrote in Concept II: *‘The power of the groups and members to alter their world service structure and to criticise its operation is virtually supreme.’*

Thus, as the 2015 Topic posed, the questions for 2016 Conference are:

* what is Conference’s ‘vision to the future’; and,
* can Conference ‘embrace a better way of doing AA in Australia’?

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

The Structure Review Plan estimates that holding a possible national gathering of representatives with responsibility to review the Australian AA Structure would cost $78,433 in the 2018/19 financial year. However, there would be savings of around $50,000 if Conference were not held that year as the Structure Review Plan suggests. It also proposes that existing entities pay for the attendance of their representatives but Conference would still be the funder of any shortfall of venue and facilitation costs.

Please note that if any restructure went ahead there could be subsequent one-off costs which Conference would consider in due course. However, there may also be on-going annual savings from a more efficient and united structure.

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

The Structure Review Committee of Delegates and Trustees achieved substantial consensus in assembling this report to Conference. Groups, Districts and Areas will consider this Topic before 2017 Conference and advise their Delegates in the normal way.

**CONFERENCE REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #002/2017**

**That a Register is created of Australian AA members with fifty years plus of sobriety, which will be held in the Australian AA Archives. The responsibility for the initial gathering of members names for the Register, and the maintenance of the records thereafter, to be included in the role of the Area Registrar, and that pages 54/55 of the Australian AA Service Manual are updated accordingly.**

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

1. To provide an historical record in honour of members who have contributed to the furtherance of AA in Australia and to help with membership statistics. This record will also be a valuable resource for any future history projects undertaken by the Australian Fellowship because we will have a contact list of members who may be able to participate.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. Already included in topic, and reason for topic.

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

1. Included in reason for topic.

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

Nil

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

**TOPIC #016/2016**

**The Board recommends to Conference that clearer guidelines for submission, allocation and rejection of Conference topics be formulated and included in the Composition, Scope and Procedure document of the Conference Agenda Committee. Guideline GL-28 should be referred to.**

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

1. Conference topics are often confusing, with no clear indication of what result the topic submitter is expecting.

2. Quite often there has been no indication of cost.

3. Topics sometimes contain misleading or inaccurate information.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Contained in topic.

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

Fellowship will have a chance of forming a fully informed opinion.

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

Minimal financial cost.

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

Agreed at July 2017 Board meeting.

**CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

**No topics were allocated to this Committee.**

**CONFERENCE TREATMENT FACILITIES & SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #008/2017**

**That the Advisory Action #020/2014, ‘Conference resolved that Regional PI&CPC, Treatment and Correctional Facilities Co-ordinators be appointed to assist with the work of the National Co-ordinators’, be rescinded and the Fellowship asked if they see the need for these service positions.**

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

The roles may lead to a duplication of service work in Areas. The Australian General Service Structure does not include regional committees & there is no service entity for these roles to report to as per Tradition 9.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Discussion by Conference.

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

There is difficulty attracting members to positions at all levels of the service structure & the fellowship would benefit by eliminating unnecessary roles. These roles were created 3 years ago & the GS Board been unable to fill them so does the Fellowship see a need for the Regional Coordinators roles.

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

Nil.

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

Discussed at Area Assembly on 7 May 2017 where it was approved to be submitted to the 2017 General Service Conference for processing.

**TOPIC #015/2017**

**The Board recommends that Conference considers the viability of having separate National Forums for Treatment Facilities, Special Needs, Correctional, Public Information, Co-operation with the Professional Community and Remote Communities, so that there was specific focus in each of these areas.**

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

When there is more than one focus at a National Forum, sometimes focus can be greater on one area that another. Some areas where more work needs to be done are neglected

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Contained in topic.

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

Contained in topic and background.

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

There will be a cost. However, probably not necessary for each forum to be more than one day.

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

Agreed at July 2017 Board meeting.

**TOPIC #018/2017**

**The Board resolved to recommend to Conference that a series of Australian pamphlets for members with specific special needs be produced.**

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

1. Current range of pamphlets is not adequate.

2. Will encourage research into what members with special needs require, so that we have a greater awareness.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Contained in topic.

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

All alcoholics requiring the services of Alcoholics Anonymous will be reached.

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

Cost of each producing and printing each pamphlet can be advised when pamphlets come back to Conference for approval. It is envisaged that to print two years supply would cost approximately $2500 per pamphlet.

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

Agreed at July 2017 Board meeting.

**CONFERENCE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #008/2017**

**That the Advisory Action #020/2014, ‘Conference resolved that Regional PI&CPC, Treatment and Correctional Facilities Co-ordinators be appointed to assist with the work of the National Co-ordinators’, be rescinded and the Fellowship asked if they see the need for these service positions.**

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

The roles may lead to a duplication of service work in Areas. The Australian General Service Structure does not include regional committees & there is no service entity for these roles to report to as per Tradition 9.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Discussion by Conference.

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

There is difficulty attracting members to positions at all levels of the service structure & the fellowship would benefit by eliminating unnecessary roles. These roles were created 3 years ago & the GS Board been unable to fill them so does the Fellowship see a need for the Regional Coordinators roles.

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

Nil.

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

Discussed at Area Assembly on 7 May 2017 where it was approved to be submitted to the 2017 General Service Conference for processing.

**TOPIC #015/2017**

**The Board recommends that Conference considers the viability of having separate National Forums for Treatment Facilities, Special Needs, Correctional, Public Information, Co-operation with the Professional Community and Remote Communities, so that there was specific focus in each of these areas.**

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

When there is more than one focus at a National Forum, sometimes focus can be greater on one area that another. Some areas where more work needs to be done are neglected

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Contained in topic.

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

Contained in topic and background.

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

There will be a cost. However, probably not necessary for each forum to be more than one day.

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

Agreed at July 2017 Board meeting.

**CONFERENCE POLICIES AND ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #004/2017**

**That the boundaries of the Areas within Western region be changed as per attached map.**

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

Not supplied.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

Agreed by Areas A and B.

**TOPIC #010/2017**

**When a Delegate cannot or will not complete their term and the Alternate Delegate has to attend conference in their place the Alternate delegate will assume the duties and term as a full delegate thus eliminating them from a 4 or 5 year term and possible burn out (1 or 2 years as alternate and 3 years as delegate).**

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

We are all aware of how many Alternate Delegates were at Conference 2016 and could face possible burn out with a four or five year term and it will support the spirit of rotation

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Simply allow Alternate Delegates who have too replace a delegate after their first year to automatically become Delegate. It would be highly unlikely that the Alternate Delegate would not have been voted in as the next Delegate in most cases.

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

Conference can be both “exciting” and exhausting and it has been a fear of Delegate burn-out, adding more years to a 3 year term would not help alleviate burn-out, Most Delegates would go on forever if they could but that would not be in the “spirit or rotation”.

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

Minimal just an addition to the wording at the next re-print of the service manual.

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

All present at District and Area Assembly are in agreement

**TOPIC #011/2017**

**That it be written into the Service Manual that the only time an Alternate Delegate can attend Conference in a non-Delegate position, is when the elected Delegate cannot attend. If the Delegate position has been vacated and the Alternate Delegate or anyone else is not willing or unable to take on the position, another person from the Area should be elected to attend Conference once only. If the Area wishes to send the Alternate Delegate, they will be considered to be the Delegate Elect and have served one year of the Conference agreed three year term.**

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

1. The Alternate Delegate position is only a position if there is an existing Delegate.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1.Addressed in topic.

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

1. Principle of rotation adhered to.

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

No cost.

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

Yes. Discussed by concerned members.

**TOPIC #017/2017**

**The Board resolved to recommend to Conference that discount on literature to Areas and Districts only be available for PI&CPC initiatives by Areas and Districts. When there is a local Central Service Office, groups should purchase their literature from that office.**

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

It has come to the Board’s attention that some Areas and Districts are submitting literature orders to GSO and requesting that literature be sent direct to groups.

The original discount structure set in 1985 only applied to Central Service Offices.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Contained in topic.

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

More harmony between the General Service Structure and Central Service Offices.

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

No cost.

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

Agreed at July 2017 Board meeting.

**CONFERENCE PUBLIC INFORMATION & CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #003/2017**

**The production of 2 new Public Information postcards aimed at attracting young people with drinking problems into recovery in AA. The postcards have 2 separate images. One for male and female. The images used were accepted at Conference in 2015 as PI Posters and are in circulation now. The questions on the reverse of the postcards are off the conference approved teenage brochure currently available at GSO. The postcards are not to replace the current literature but to offer an alternative means of attracting younger people into AA. These postcards are easy to put on coffee tables and doctors waiting rooms and indeed any professional organization we go to in the course of our normal PI activities. They are also good to have at meetings especially newcomers meetings. The aim is to raise awareness that AA is available to anyone no matter what age and young people can go too.**

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

To raise awareness to the younger generation through 3rd parties i.e. the professionals and at meetings that young people can come to AA too. Also to help them identify by answering the questions on the back if they are in trouble because of Alcohol. They can decide for themselves.

Over the course of the last 18 months we have been using these postcards when visiting professional organizations, rehabs, counsellors and we also have made them available when we have had an AA table at Conventions such as Gen Next, GPCE, Rural Mental Health, APNA and several others. The professionals really took to the colourful postcards as an extra to the usual brochures. They all mentioned they caught the eye, appealed to younger people because were a good size. They posed the question “Has drinking got a grip on you?” on the front with the AA contact numbers and then the self analysis on the back. The fact they did not immediately scream AA they felt could attract younger people. But they also mentioned the fact that AA contact details were all there was very beneficial.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

To produce 2 postcard versions of the already approved teenage posters featuring young females and males and having the questions from the teenage brochure which are approved by world services on the reverse. These cards attract younger people and then they have the opportunity for the self analysis on the reverse. The AA contact details are on these cards which will assist them to get more in formation.

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

The problems associated with young peoples drinking to excess is very heavily advertised. By having postcards that are colourful and have an image relative to the younger age group. The intention is to raise the awareness that AA is there for all ages and for both males and females and to encourage them into AA. Not all young people know they can come to AA.

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

.There is no cost for Artwork as this has been done by a member of the fellowship who is a professional Graphic Designer. There would be initial print set up costs but the postcards would be for sale to groups by the GSO which would cover the cost of printing. Copies of the postcards are attached.

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

I am submitting this topic as outgoing Area D Southern Region PI Co-ordinator. It has not been discussed at group level but was taken to the Area D Southern Region Assembly on

4 June 2017 and gained unanimous Assembly approval.

**TOPIC #008/2017**

**That the Advisory Action #020/2014, ‘Conference resolved that Regional PI&CPC, Treatment and Correctional Facilities Co-ordinators be appointed to assist with the work of the National Co-ordinators’, be rescinded and the Fellowship asked if they see the need for these service positions.**

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

The roles may lead to a duplication of service work in Areas. The Australian General Service Structure does not include regional committees & there is no service entity for these roles to report to as per Tradition 9.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Discussion by Conference.

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

There is difficulty attracting members to positions at all levels of the service structure & the fellowship would benefit by eliminating unnecessary roles. These roles were created 3 years ago & the GS Board been unable to fill them so does the Fellowship see a need for the Regional Coordinators roles.

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

Nil.

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

Discussed at Area Assembly on 7 May 2017 where it was approved to be submitted to the 2017 General Service Conference for processing.

**TOPIC #015/2017**

**The Board recommends that Conference considers the viability of having separate National Forums for Treatment Facilities, Special Needs, Correctional, Public Information, Co-operation with the Professional Community and Remote Communities, so that there was specific focus in each of these areas.**

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

When there is more than one focus at a National Forum, sometimes focus can be greater on one area that another. Some areas where more work needs to be done are neglected

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Contained in topic.

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

Contained in topic and background.

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

There will be a cost. However, probably not necessary for each forum to be more than one day.

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

Agreed at July 2017 Board meeting.

**CONFERENCE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #012/2017**

**The General Service Board recommends that the General Service Conference 2017 discusses how Alcoholics Anonymous will remain adequately funded if our society becomes cashless within the next few years, as predicted by financial experts.**

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

1.Australian AA Groups currently operate on a cash basis.

2.Some experts are predicting Australia could be cash free by 2020.

3.Decline in the use of ATMs

4.82% of financial transactions in Australia are already cashless.

5.Real time payments are being introduced by the Big Four Australian Banks, with the roll out due in November 2017.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. Groups consider setting up bank accounts, so that members will be able to make a direct payment into that group’s account.

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

1. Addressing the issue before we are impacted will ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous has adequate funding to continue to provide services for its members and for the benefit of the still sick and suffering alcoholic.

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

No cost to the Fellowship.

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

Discussed at July 2017 Board meeting.

**TOPIC #017/2017**

**The Board resolved to recommend to Conference that discount on literature to Areas and Districts only be available for PI&CPC initiatives by Areas and Districts. When there is a local Central Service Office, groups should purchase their literature from that office.**

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

It has come to the Board’s attention that some Areas and Districts are submitting literature orders to GSO and requesting that literature be sent direct to groups.

The original discount structure set in 1985 only applied to Central Service Offices.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Contained in topic.

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

More harmony between the General Service Structure and Central Service Offices.

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

No cost.

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

Agreed at July 2017 Board meeting.

**CONFERENCE REMOTE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #008/2017**

**That the Advisory Action #020/2014, ‘Conference resolved that Regional PI&CPC, Treatment and Correctional Facilities Co-ordinators be appointed to assist with the work of the National Co-ordinators’, be rescinded and the Fellowship asked if they see the need for these service positions.**

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

The roles may lead to a duplication of service work in Areas. The Australian General Service Structure does not include regional committees & there is no service entity for these roles to report to as per Tradition 9.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Discussion by Conference.

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

There is difficulty attracting members to positions at all levels of the service structure & the fellowship would benefit by eliminating unnecessary roles. These roles were created 3 years ago & the GS Board been unable to fill them so does the Fellowship see a need for the Regional Coordinators roles.

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

Nil.

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

Discussed at Area Assembly on 7 May 2017 where it was approved to be submitted to the 2017 General Service Conference for processing.

**TOPIC #015/2017**

**The Board recommends that Conference considers the viability of having separate National Forums for Treatment Facilities, Special Needs, Correctional, Public Information, Co-operation with the Professional Community and Remote Communities, so that there was specific focus in each of these areas.**

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

When there is more than one focus at a National Forum, sometimes focus can be greater on one area that another. Some areas where more work needs to be done are neglected

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Contained in topic.

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

Contained in topic and background.

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

There will be a cost. However, probably not necessary for each forum to be more than one day.

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

Agreed at July 2017 Board meeting.

**CONFERENCE LITERATURE COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #005/2017**

**I would like to see the story My Southern Friend added to the Next Australian Edition of the Big Book Alcoholics Anonymous , on Pg 56 in We Agnostics- who are you too say there is no God and the Doctors Opinion – the man that hid in a deserted ban determined to die are the same man Fitz M who story is our Southern Friend pg 208 4th edition of the Big Book**

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

1. I sponsor members through our program in the Big Book and as with DR. Bob , Bill D. its nice to point new members of AA to their full story

2.Connect program with members stories

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1.Add too next publication of the Australian Edition of the Big Book

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

1.They will be able to know we don’t disregard our program and our History

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

There are always changes to the stories

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

Supported by Area

**TOPIC #006/2017**

**Disruptive behaviours within AA**

**Additional information for Group Handbook.**

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

1. The continuation of predatory behaviours within the fellowship and the resulting reputation of AA

2. The repeated call for this topic to be addressed

3. Concerns within the fellowship and a need for resolution.

4. Great Britain and USA have guidelines accepted at Conference

5. This topic touches a lot of member’s recoveries.

6. Harassment of any form is an offence; members should not be immune to prosecution for unlawful behaviours .Anonymity within AA is not an excuse

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. GSO Australia contact USA World Service Office and request that we use the attached guideline in the Australian AA Group Handbook.

2. Particular reference to this addition to be published in the next available copy of AA Around Australia

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

1. Currently the only reference is on pg 37 in the AA Grp handbook…..” What do we do about a member who is preying on a newcomer for sexual or financial gain” So while it is acknowledged as a “problem,” there is no suggestion as how to deal with it.

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

Reformatting the Australian AA Group Handbook to include the suggested guidelines and bring us in line with UK and USA

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

Several members across Australia were undecided to submit this until this week, it was too late to take to Assemblies or Group Consciences.

**TOPIC #014/2017**

**The Board recommends to Conference that whenever a new piece of literature or project is initiated by the General Service Conference, the Conference Committee that has made the recommendation should be fully involved in the process.**

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

1. The Board does not have enough manpower to carry out all Conference Advisory Actions within a year, particularly when they are large projects.

2. The Board has other matters to attend to.

3. Fair distribution of work.

4. Relevant Conference committee will be involved and up to date on progress of projects.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Contained in topic and background.

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

Advisory Actions will be more likely to be implemented in a reasonable period of time.

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

Minimal cost.

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

Agreed at July 2017 Board meeting.

**TOPIC #019/2017**

**The Board resolved to recommend to Conference that a section be included in the AA Group Handbook concerning members with other addictions. Some members have more than one addiction and, if only attending AA meetings, may not get the help they require. Directing them on where to seek help from other organisations for problems other than alcohol is not endorsing, but providing information.**

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

Contained in topic.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

Contained in topic.

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

AAs singleness of purpose will be maintained.

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

Minimal.

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

Agreed at July 2017 Board meeting.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEES**

**No topics were allocated to this Committee.**

**CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE**

**TOPIC #007/2017**

**Increase word limits on new topic form**

**Further clarity needed for the form before next year’s conference**

**Delete all 50 word limits in each section of this topic form and use 6 numbered points in each section to help with submitting topics**

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

1. By doing 6 points for the topic in each section it is easy to exceed the word limit for all sections

2. See examples below - Both sets of 6 points exceed the allowed word limit

3. There are over 100 words already in these 4 points for the “issue and idea”. The words in this submission are already over the limit and could/would be grounds for rejection

4. The form needs this small revision

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

1. Delete the 50 and 100 word limits in the designated sections of the form

2. The points numbered here, though as concise, as possible, exceed the allowed limit .

3. This is an example of the topic itself

4. These 5 points exceed the maximum allowance as there are 73 words used here and 56 in the next section

5. The point system makes the form easy to read and understand

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

1. This will allow better presentation of the points

2. It may help with the voting process

3. There will be less confusion for first time submitters and voters

4. It may enhance the participation in the topics

5. It may clarify the topic better

6. It may help at Area Assembly where time is limited

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

NONE at all.

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

Didn’t realise until drafting another topic that this form needed adjustment

**TOPIC #009/2017**

**That: Each topic for conference should contain a single issue.**

**The desired outcomes are clarity, unity and inclusiveness in the Topic process.**

**BACKGROUND**

1. Some previous topics are very confusing because they contain more than one issue.
2. This creates difficulty in following the point of a topic.
3. It creates difficulty and confusion re voting on a topic, as people may see value in and want to vote “yes” on one part of the topic, and “no” on another.
4. Multiple issues lead to disunity, and exclusiveness within the fellowship.
5. It is accepted conference practice to present clear topics, which seems especially relevant when we are asking people from many and varied walks of life, to rationally discuss and vote on issues presented to the fellowship.

**SUGGESTED SOLUTION:**

1. Each submitted topic should contain a single issue
2. Any second or third issue should be submitted under a separated topic

**HOW WILL THE ALCOHOLIC WHO STILL SUFFERS OR THE FELLOWSHIP OF AA BENEFIT FROM THIS SUGGESTION.**

1. It would be easier for members to read the topics.
2. It would be easier for members to understand the topics.
3. Hopefully it will engender increased inclusiveness in the topic process.
4. It would reduce any possible opportunity to sabotage topics process
5. It should simplify the voting process at all levels including conference.

**COSTS:**

Nil. A simple change to the printed form stating that a single issue only may be submitted. Anything outside of that will be returned for amending.

**HAS THE GROUP, DISTRICT OR AREA MADE A DECISION ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND, IF SO, WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**

Yes. This proposal has been passed by Group, Area and District, with full approval from the membership.

**TOPIC #013/2017**

## **The Board recommends to Conference that an agenda and procedures for the Delegates meeting should be produced, so that it is clear that the original intent of this meeting was an induction for new delegates and that it cannot be used as a means to introducing a subject which should have been submitted as a Conference Topic. Refer Advisory Action Advisory Action #30/99: Conference recommends that, following the opening and roll-call of Conference, the first matter of business be an orientation session conducted by Delegates who have previously attended Conference, to explain to the new Delegates what will happen, what their role will be, and hence how they may be expected to participate. In particular this could include explanations of the committee system, the Robert’s rules meeting procedures followed, how the voting system works and the right of a minority voice.**

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

1.Contained in topic.

**DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?**

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

All new Delegates will have the opportunity to have any questions or concerns they may have, addressed prior to Conference.

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

Minimal cost.

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

Agreed at July Board meeting.