

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.