AA Australia - Eastern Region - Area E Committee Meeting

Location: NSCSO Office, 177 Rosedale Rd, St Ives NSW 2075
Date & Time: 23rd October 2025 @ 7:30pm

1. Attendance and Apologies

- **Present:** Grant C, (Chair), Martin G (Secretary), Chelly p, (Alt Delegate), Andrew S (Delegate), Kate G (Liaison Area E), Bri (Treasurer), Janine R (Registrar), Aaron D (PI/PA), GSR's: Colin S Pymble), Corey (RTR), Amanda S (Seaforth), Morgan (Curl Curl Living Sober), Mel, Curl Curl Breakfast), Lee, (Mona Vale Sun 10am), Christiane C (Curl Curl Sun 4pm), Taylor, Curl Curl Thurs 6pm), Michael (Gordon).
- **Apologies:** Pauline O (Hornsby Weds).

2. Read Twelve Traditions

The Twelve Traditions were read by all.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting adopted as true and correct record

Moved: Morgan & Aaron after names of attendees corrected.

4. Action Items

Action	Who	Due	Status
Open Committee Roles • None **AGM Rotations (Feb 2026):** • Secretary	All		Open
Handover Treasurer responsibility to Bri and arrange access to NAB Bank account.	Grant C / Bri B	23/10/25	Open
Area E committee will work together to create a working group for the NSCSO & Area E topic of merging.	Kate G, Committee	TBD	Open

5. Updates

Written and verbal updates to be tabled and discussed:

a. Area E Committee

- **Chairperson (Grant C):**
  - Welcomed all attendees and noted the excellent representation from GSRs.
  - **Treasurer Handover:** Grant has had a catch-up with the outgoing treasurer, Bri. The final step is to visit the bank to finalize signatory changes.
  - **Bank Account:** The committee plans to update the bank account to require two signatories/approvers for transfers, possibly with a set dollar limit to ensure security while maintaining practicality.
- **Treasurer (Bri B):**
  - (Update provided by Grant C) A contribution of $746 was received from the NSCSO for the quarter. This was noted as being significantly lower than the previous quarter's contribution of approx. $1,400.
- **Secretary (Martin G):**
  - The Area E Mailchimp list currently has 65 subscribers who receive minutes and meeting notifications.

- **Registrar (Janine R):**
    - Janine has developed an information sheet/slide detailing the GSR role, its qualifications, and its obligations within the service structure.
    - She requested that all members take copies of this sheet to hand out at other meetings they attend, to help encourage more groups to elect a GSR and participate in Area E.
    - Janine expressed gratitude for the growth in GSR participation, noting that the meeting has grown from one or two GSRs to the current level of attendance.
- **PIPA Officer (Aaron D):**
    - (PIPA: Public Information / Cooperating with the Professional Community)
    - There are currently three AA banners rotating through local council areas: Hornsby, Lane Cove, and North Sydney.
    - "Little bit books" are being purchased for public information purposes.
    - **Action:** Aaron will bring the books to the next meeting. He requested that each member take five books to distribute in their local area (e.g., shopping centres, community notice boards).
- **NSCSO Liaison (Kate G):**
    - Kate formally apologised for any confusion caused at the last meeting regarding the NSCSO merge topic, noting she may have been "three steps ahead" in her previous explanation.
- **Delegate (Andrew S):**
    - Andrew provided a brief update on the upcoming General Service Conference.
    - The conference will run for two and a half days, with half-days on Friday and Sunday.
- **Alternate Delegate (Chelly P).**
    - Shelly noted that she and Janine had previously run a GSR workshop (approx. 30 minutes long) via Zoom.
    - They are happy to run this workshop again in the new year to help new and existing GSRs understand the role.

b. Group Service Representatives reports & updates.

- **Living the Solution (Kate):** The group is strong, with 25-30 regular attendees. They hold a group conscience meeting once per month. Big Books placed in street libraries. Epping, Chatswood, Manly, St Ives, Narrabeen. Included were business cards and flyers.
- **Curl Curl Breakfast Group (Melissa):** The group maintains a small core of members and also gets newcomers. Their group conscience is held on the first Friday of every month. SPP clients attend.
- **Gordon (Michael):** A first-time GSR attendee reported their group had not held a group conscience for some time. After some issues arose in a WhatsApp chat, the GSR called a group conscience to address things formally. It was successful, and the group has suggested holding a regular group conscience every few months.
- **Pymble (Colin S):** The group is strong, with 25-30 regular attendees. Aim to have meeting about the CSO manual.
- **Road to Recovery (Corey):** Consistent members and attendance. Held men's weekend at Shaol Bay.
- **Curl Curl Thursday (Taylor):** 40-50- people. Chicken sandwiches are a hit.
- **Mona Vale (Lee):** 14-20 members. Gc coming up.

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6. New Topics for discussion/voting

Following topic was present by Chelly:

Topic	**Proposal to form a working group to explore merging Area E and the North Sydney Central Service Office (NSCSO)**
Background / Reason	Shelly P provided a detailed presentation on the current two-service-body structure. * **Area E (General Service Structure):** Represents the "voice" of the groups, facilitates information flow to the General Service Conference, and promotes unity. It has 7 elected trusted servants. * **NSCSO (Central Service Structure):** Functions as the service arm, operating the 24/7 phone line, selling literature, and coordinating H&I and other activities. It has 10 service roles plus trustees and operates similarly to a not-for-profit business. The proposal is to form a working group to explore merging these two entities, as has been done in other Areas (e.g., Area G, Area I). The NSCSO committee voted unanimously last week in favour of exploring this.
Discussion	**Pros:** * Reduces duplication of meetings (one per month instead of two). * Simplifies the service structure, making it less confusing for newcomers and members. * Combines finances and resources for greater efficiency and transparency. * Eliminates duplicated service roles (e.g., Chair, Secretary, Treasurer). * Creates a stronger, more unified, and GSR-focused service body. * Opens possibilities for new service roles (e.g., multiple Registrars to better support groups). **Cons:** * Change takes time and requires very clear communication. * The finances of the two entities are currently managed differently and would require careful planning to merge. The motion is **not** to merge, but to *form a committee* (with members from both Area E and NSCSO) to investigate what a merged structure would look like. This committee's findings would then be presented back to the GSRs to take to their home groups for a group conscience vote.
Outcome / Action	A motion was put forward: "To set up a committee to look at merging Area E and NSCSO." **The motion was passed.** Volunteers for this new working group were requested. It was decided to finalise the members of the working group at the next meeting.

Topic deferred to next meeting.

Topic	Improving participation at committee meetings and assemblies
Detail of Motion	Discussion, agreement and planning on ways to improve participation; GSRs and committee members. Include discussion on number and dates for 2026 Assemblies.
Voting Type	
Background / Reason	
Suggested Solution	
Tradition 5 Alignment	
Consultation	

7. Other Matters

Topic	2026 AGM Agenda & December Meeting Date
Discussion	**AGM:** The committee was out of time to discuss the AGM agenda in full. Grant noted the date is set for **Saturday, 14th February 2026,** to be held at the NSCSO office. **December Meeting:** Grant raised a concern that the final meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday, 23rd December, which is very close to Christmas.
Outcome / Action	AGM discussion deferred. Grant will coordinate with the committee online to find a more suitable date for the December meeting, likely one week earlier.

Committee meetings for 2025:

Area E (7:30pm)	NSCSO (7:00pm)
Assembly Saturday 20th September	
Monday 24th November	Monday 17th November
Tuesday 23rd December	Tuesday 16th December
AGM 2026	
Saturday, 14th February 2026,	Location tba

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Bank Reconciliation as at 16/9/2025

		Date
Opening Balance	**$6,632.91**	**26/08/2025**
Income		
ERSF Ticket sales	$2,725.00	27/08/2025
Expenses		
ERSF: Food Handler Meat	$533.18	27/08/2025
ERSF: Food Go Fresh Providores	$400.20	27/08/2025
ERSF: Food Bidfood	$1,136.23	27/08/2025
ERSF: Stickers	$122.06	08/08/2025
Transfer cash sales 3xAA80 BB to NSCSO	$57.00	02/08/2025
TOTAL INCOME	**$2,725.00**	
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$2,248.67**	
Closing Balance	**$7,109.24**	**16/09/2025**
Bank Balance	$7,109.24	16/09/2025
Reconciliation	$0.00	
TOTAL ERSF Expenses	**$3,536.87**	
ERSF Income (cash Tickets)	$175.00	
ERSF Income Humanatix	$2,725.00	
TOTAL ERSF Income	**$2,900.00**	
Total ERSF Cost funded by Area E	**$636.87**	

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AI Summary
Part 1
AA Group Meeting Updates
Transcript
https://otter.ai/u/xj9YkMC3VRinuPGecvQeasnoR5Q?view=summary
The AA Group Meeting discussed the need to start meetings with traditions and addressed attendance and apologies. Key points included the transition of the Secretary role, the importance of committee roles and AGM rotations, and the need for a third signatory for the bank account. The group also discussed the potential merge between the nscso and Area E, and the importance of maintaining personal anonymity. Updates from various roles highlighted the distribution of literature, the need for GSR workshops, and the success of public information efforts. The meeting concluded with updates from GSRs, noting strong group attendance and monthly group consciences.
Action Items
- [ ] Distribute the "Little Big Book" pamphlets to local community boards and centers.
- [ ] Distribute the GSR information brochure to other groups and consider running a GSR workshop.
- [ ] Organize a working group to present a proposal on the potential merger between the NSCSO and Area E.
- [ ] Finalize the handover of the Treasurer role and ensure two signatories on the bank account.

Outline
Meeting Introduction and Traditions
- Speaker 1 discusses the failure of last month's plans due to occasional hallucinations and mentions the Christmas party.
- Speaker 1 suggests starting with the traditions instead of reading them after the meeting.
- Speaker 2 reads the first tradition: "For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as expressed through our group conscience."
- Speaker 3 reads the second tradition: "Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

Attendance and Apologies
- Speaker 1 moves to attendance and apologies, listing the GSRs and committee members.
- Speaker 6 introduces themselves as the GSR for area E and the liaison for the nscso.
- Speaker 7, Melissa, introduces herself as the GSR for the 8 am group.
- Speaker 2, Colin, introduces himself as the GSR for the Saturday morning group.
- Speaker 7, Shelly, introduces herself as the delegate and mentions her home group.
- Speaker 1 asks for any formal apologies, noting one from Pauline via WhatsApp.

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes
- Speaker 1 asks if anyone has the printed copies of the minutes from the last meeting.
- An unknown speaker acknowledges the accuracy of the minutes.
- Speaker 1 thanks everyone and moves on to open action items.
- Speaker 1 discusses the committee roles and AGM rotations, noting that the Secretary position is changing.

Discussion on Committee Roles and AGM Rotations
- Speaker 8 confirms the Secretary position is changing and mentions the need to clarify rotations.
- Speaker 1 emphasizes the importance of starting to get the word out about the upcoming AGM in February.
- Speaker 1 discusses the merge between the nscso and area E, noting the need for a working group.
- Speaker 6 apologizes for any confusion caused and suggests starting again.

Updates from Committee Members
- Speaker 1 encourages verbal updates and mentions the area E Google Drive for written updates.
- Speaker 1, as chairperson, mentions the hectic year and the handover of the treasurer role.
- Speaker 7 asks about the number of signatories required for the bank account.
- Speaker 1 explains the current setup and the plan to require two signatories for transactions over a certain amount.

Secretary's Report and Public Information Update
- Speaker 8, the Secretary, reports that 65 people subscribe to the mail app for meeting notifications.
- Speaker 5, Janine, reports on her activities as the registrar, including attending meetings and distributing information about the GSR role.

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- Speaker 4, Aaron, provides an update on public information activities, including the distribution of literature and banners.
- Speaker 4 mentions the need for volunteers to help distribute literature and build public interest.

Treasury Report and GSR Updates

- Speaker 1 discusses the treasury report, noting a lower contribution this quarter compared to the previous one.
- Speaker 6 mentions the topic of the merge between the nscso and area E.
- Speaker 1 asks if the contribution topic was discussed in the treasury report.
- Speaker 2 provides updates from their group, mentioning strong attendance and monthly group consciences.

Part 2

Area E Structure Proposal

Transcript

https://otter.ai/u/N_buWbYeaCoHtNcEnp8hQeO5FdY?view=summary

The Area E Structure Proposal meeting discussed the integration of Area E and the Northern Sydney Central Service Office (NSCSO). Key points included the current structure, which involves seven Area E service roles and the need for clearer communication and more efficient service. The proposal suggests merging the two entities to streamline operations, reduce meetings, and create more supportive roles for GSRs. Benefits include better service, less confusion, and more transparency. Concerns were raised about merging finances and ensuring smooth operations. A committee was proposed to explore the feasibility of the merger, which would then be presented to the groups for a vote.

Action Items

- [ ] Take the committee's proposal to the groups for their feedback and vote.
- [ ] The committee to report back to Area E and NSCSO on how the merged structure could look like.
- [ ] Establish a committee to explore the possibility of merging the Area E and NSCSO service structures.

Outline

Men's Weekend and Meeting Philosophy

- Speaker 1 discusses the men's weekend event, mentioning a turnout of about 100 people.
- The philosophy behind the event is to engage in activities beyond just meetings, emphasizing the broader benefits of AA.
- Speaker 1 highlights the importance of making friends and making phone calls to support each other.
- The essence of the event is to show that AA can improve one's life and provide a sense of community.

Alcoholic GSR and Meeting Schedule

- Speaker 2 talks about their role as the alcoholic GSR for the 8 am Pearl breakfast meeting.
- They have adjusted their meeting schedule to focus on their sobriety and group consciousness.
- Speaker 2 mentions attending the group conscience meeting and the small core of members who participate.
- They bring up the topic of regular group consciences to keep the group informed and engaged.

Group Conscience and Regular Meetings

- Speaker 3 shares their experience of calling a group conscience due to a WhatsApp discussion among members.
- They suggest having regular group consciences every few months to stay on top of things.
- Speaker 4 supports the idea of monthly group consciences to manage the large group effectively.
- The discussion moves towards the working group topic carried over from the last meeting.

Area E Structure and General Service Structure

- Speaker 5 explains the structure of Area E, emphasizing the importance of groups and GSRs.
- The structure involves groups, GSRs, the General Service Board, and the General Service Conference.
- Area E has seven area E service roles, and the purpose is to ensure groups have a voice in AA decisions.
- The structure involves communication between groups, area E, and the General Service Board.

Committee Roles and Responsibilities

- Speaker 4 outlines the roles of the committee members, including the chair, secretary, treasurer, and other service officers.
- Committee members are voted in at the Annual General Meeting, and temporary positions can be filled if needed.
- The committee's responsibility is to work on behalf of the groups and GSRs, organizing themselves effectively.

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- The chair's role is to help the committee organize and ensure smooth operations.

Area E Committee Members and Roles

- Speaker 5 lists the current committee members, including Grant, Martin, Bree, Aaron, Janine, and Andrew.
- Kate serves as the liaison between Area E and the Northern Sydney Central Service Office (NSCSO).
- The committee's roles include managing meetings, assemblies, and service opportunities.
- The purpose is to promote unity and share the purpose of AA within the area.

NSCSO Structure and Functions

- Speaker 5 explains the structure and functions of the Northern Sydney Central Service Office (NSCSO).
- NSCSO is staffed entirely by volunteers and supports local AA groups in the northern and northwestern region of Sydney.
- The office has 10 service roles, including an office manager, trustees, a treasurer, a secretary, and others.
- NSCSO's primary function is to sell literature and manage a 24-hour helpline, with contributions from groups funding its operations.

Pros and Cons of Merging Area E and NSCSO

- Speaker 5 discusses the pros and cons of merging Area E and NSCSO, including reducing meetings and creating more roles to support GSRs.
- The pros include better service, less confusion for newcomers, and more efficient use of group contributions.
- The cons include the need for clear communication, careful merging of finances, and ensuring the new structure works smoothly.
- The proposal is to set up a committee to explore the feasibility of merging the two structures.

Committee Formation and Next Steps

- Speaker 5 suggests forming a committee to explore the possibility of merging Area E and NSCSO.
- The committee would include members from both Area E and NSCSO to understand the implications and benefits.
- The committee's role would be to come up with a plan and present it to the groups for a vote.
- The discussion ends with a motion to consider forming the committee to explore the merger further.

Part 3

Committee Formation Meeting

Transcript

https://otter.ai/u/Z714h1JTIZzJ38uxQUBRm3ZsiwU?view=summary

The Committee Formation Meeting discussed the establishment of a committee to merge area E and MS, with a call for volunteers. Speaker 1 mentioned three members from NSCSO, including themselves, Christian, and another unspecified person. Speaker 4 brought up the AGM agenda for 2026, scheduled for February 14th, and suggested moving the final meeting of the year from December 23rd to avoid conflicts with the NSCSO schedule. The meeting concluded with no further points raised for the weekend.

Action Items

- [ ] Finalize the committee members for the merger of area E and MS.
- [ ] Coordinate online to potentially move the final meeting of the year to an earlier date.

Outline

Committee Formation and Membership

- Speaker 1 proposes setting up a committee to merge area E and MS, and asks for a show of hands in favor.
- Unknown Speaker confirms the proposal and asks for volunteers to be on the committee.
- Speaker 2 suggests looking at who will be on the committee next time, indicating an appetite to form it.
- Speaker 3 inquires about suggestions for people who might volunteer outside of the current committee.

Discussion on Committee Composition

- Speaker 1 mentions that there are three members from NSCSO, including themselves, Christian, and another person.
- Unknown Speaker notes that the current members are also part of the committee.
- Speaker 4 thanks Shelley and brings up the AGM agenda for 2026.
- Speaker 4 discusses the need to print out a few flyers and mentions questions posed to various chat groups.

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AGM Agenda and Scheduling

- Speaker 4 confirms the AGM date as the 14th of February and notes that it was covered in the meeting but ran out of time.
- Unknown Speaker apologizes for the oversight and confirms it is on the agenda.
- Speaker 4 raises a concern about the final meeting for the year being scheduled on the 23rd of December.
- Speaker 4 suggests bringing the final meeting forward a week to avoid conflicts with the NSCSO schedule.

Final Remarks and Next Steps

- Speaker 4 proposes coordinating the final meeting online if necessary.
- Speaker 4 asks if there are any other items to discuss for the weekend.
- Unknown Speaker thanks everyone and concludes the meeting.
- The meeting ends with no further points raised or discussed.