

Western Region of Alcoholics Anonymous
Agenda for Area A Assembly – 1st November 2020
Redemptorist Monastery, North Perth

Meeting Commenced: 2.06pm

Welcome: Chairperson, welcomed attendees.

Twelve Traditions and 12 Concepts of Service were read by Assembly attendees.

Apologies

Western Regional Trustee Paul sends his apologies.

Lyn M from Northbridge Lunch Time Group

Nada from Vincent St Care Group

Laura from Vincent St Big Book Study

Chantelle from Joondalup Sober on Saturday

Correctional Facilities Male Coordinator Emmanuel

Present:

Name	Role	Group
Jake	Area A Secretary	Subiaco Big Book Study
Nicholas	Area A Chairperson	Vincent St Care
Brian	Area A Delegate	Western Suburbs Group
Courtney	Area A PI/CPC	Northbridge By The Book
Robin	Area A Treatment Coordinator	Greenwood Warwick
Maria	Area A Registrar	Vincent St Care
Marjo	GSR	By the Book Speakers
Chris C	GSR	Subiaco Steps Traditions
Pat	Treasurer	Joondalup SOS
Shauna	GSR	Claremont
Liz	Correctional Facilities Female	By the Book
Brad	Alt GSR	Scarborough Candlelight
Arran	GSR	Heathridge Steps
Martin	GSR	Vincent St Wednesday
Jann M	Observer	Scarborough Candlelight
Bec L	Next Step Coordinator	Vincent St Wednesday
Adam L	GSR	PYP Saturday Subiaco

Minutes of previous assembly

Moved: Courtney Seconded: Robin

Business arising from previous minutes

1. **DONATION TO GSO** – Was voted to donate \$1500 from Area A to GSO. Treasurer to make the payment

Complete.

2. **ALTERNATE DELEGATE POSITION** – Was agreed that we vote on Alternate Delegate at this November assembly. Secretary has put as item in General Business.

Complete.

3. **MONASTERY PAYMENT** – Was agreed to pay the Monastery \$75 last time for letting us use the hall, Chairperson was going to sort payment.

Complete.

4. **PAYMENT BREAKDOWN TO CSO** - Raised by Robin to ensure we have a breakdown of payments when sent to CSO, this was to be done by Chairperson and Secretary.

Complete.

Secretary Report

Correspondence in Postal No Postal Correspondence.
Email Received approximately 15 emails and all were forwarded onto GSR's and Committee Members.
Financial Requests None.
Report My main duty has been passing on all information sent to me out to all GSR's, Committee Members and others who have asked to receive it. My apologies for sending out a prior email with the incorrect Assembly date, I should have checked the previous minutes before doing so, thanks for your understanding. I am aware we had issues in delays of money being available at GSO after last assembly but that is sorted now. Thanks to everyone for getting your reports in on time.
Matters Arising

Treasurer's Report

I have had confirmation from the General Service Office that, due to Covid, the standard Quarterly Levy is not applicable at the present time, so the reserves that have been identified for the levies are no longer required.

The Conference will take place by Zoom, and we have received an invoice for \$500 as our Levy for related costs.

As almost all meetings have returned to the rooms in the last quarter, the donations received have increased from \$532 (last qtr) to \$2011.

Please can you make sure when you donate directly, that you put either your group number (see meetings list for your group number) or the full group name. This quarter there is a donation from the City Group (there is more than one group in Perth) (assuming it IS Perth), and a deposit made at the Osborne Park branch, which I cannot trace back to the correct group.

Yours in service

Pat E
Area A Treasurer

Matters Arising

2 missing payments.

Realised that the payment of \$62 was by Jann.

And the payment of \$100 from the City Group will be chased up by Courtney as we believe it is the Thursday night monastery group.

Alcoholics Anonymous Area A Western Region Financial Report

Balance Carried Forward

From	previous report	31-Jul	\$ 5,602.11
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Monies received

Donations	direct	\$ 803.00	
	via CSO	\$ 1,208.17	
	cheques	\$ -	
		<hr/>	\$ 2,011.17

Total Receipts		<hr/>	\$ 2,011.17
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Monies paid out

To CSO	re Next Step & Treatment fac	\$ 350.00	
Expenses	PO Box annual	\$ 164.00	
Fees	fee	\$ 2.50	
	bank fees		
	total Payments		\$ 516.50

Closing Bank	(per		
Balance	statement)	245 17/10/20	\$ 7,096.78

Transactions after statement date

18/10/20	Donation to GSO	\$ 1,500.00
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Upcoming Payments

Conference Levy	\$ 500.00
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post report bankings

total post-statement transactions	\$ 2,000.00
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Funds Available	\$ 5,096.78
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Alcoholics Anonymous Area A Western Region Financial Report

Period August to October 2020

Donations and Other receipts

group ID				<u>Direct</u>	<u>CSO</u>
				\$	
21/7/20	60	Scarboro Candlelight	\$ 60.00	60.00	
				\$	
21/7/20	116	Wanneroo	\$ 31.00	31.00	
				\$	
4/8/20		NW District	\$ 100.00	100.00	
				\$	
13/8/20	134	NPerth Vincent St	\$ 100.00	100.00	
				\$	
26/8/20	134	NPerth Vincent St	\$ 100.00	100.00	
				\$	
2/9/20	131	Maylands BB study	\$ 50.00	50.00	
				\$	
7/9/20	26	Inglewood step sisters	\$ 50.00	50.00	
				\$	
8/9/20	134	NPerth Vincent St	\$ 100.00	100.00	
				\$	
25/9/20	?	City Group	\$ 100.00	100.00	
				\$	
5/10/20	?	deposit at Osborne Pk	\$ 62.00	62.00	
				\$	
15/10/20	134	Vincent St Morning Grp	\$ 50.00	50.00	
				\$	
7/10/20	CSO	Bassendean	\$ 100.00		100.00
				\$	
	CSO	Broome	\$ 30.00		30.00
				\$	
	CSO	Burns Beach Steps	\$ 25.00		25.00
		Claremont Western			\$
	CSO	Suburbs	\$ 80.00		80.00
				\$	
	CSO	Duncraig	\$ 150.00		150.00
		Heathridge Spiritual			\$
	CSO	Concept	\$ 10.50		10.50
				\$	
	CSO	Joondalup SOS	\$ 7.50		7.50
				\$	
	CSO	Joondanna (3 x)	\$ 92.00		92.00
				\$	
	CSO	Leederville By the Book	\$ 30.00		30.00
				\$	
	CSO	Maylands BB Study	\$ 50.00		50.00
				\$	
	CSO	Maylands Rainbow	\$ 10.00		10.00
				\$	
	CSO	Merriwa	\$ 16.00		16.00

CSO	Nedlands Womens	\$	240.00	\$	240.00
CSO	Nollamara El Salvadore	\$	15.00	\$	15.00
CSO	North Beach Tues	\$	34.00	\$	34.00
CSO	North Beach Women's	\$	23.97	\$	23.97
CSO	Northbridge Early Openers	\$	24.20	\$	24.20
CSO	The Beacon	\$	20.00	\$	20.00
CSO	Warwick	\$	250.00	\$	250.00

	\$	\$	
totals	2,011.17	803.00	\$ 1,208.17

Chairpersons Report

Firstly apologies for the confusion around date for this assembly and to anyone that attended this venue last week please aim your resentments towards myself.

Not a huge amount to report from the chair for this quarter, however it is always with enthusiasm that I notice the various service pursuits being undertaken within Area A. As most all meetings have returned to a level of operation that we were accustomed to pre-Covid the energy in the area has been very welcoming. A member in Perth away from their home reported to me the welcoming nature of meetings in the northern corridor of Perth and it would be remiss of me not to pass that along to the area at large.

Some tweaks have been made to process around banking which should eliminate any wait periods experienced after the last assembly.

Matters Arising

Western Regional Trustee Report

Hi All,

With most meetings being back face to face its pretty much back to normal for the fellowship in WA

AA Australia now has its own new YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-tS4S8g5CDgsCP43AESsZg>

If you have something that you think would be beneficial to AA on this platform and is in line with our traditions and our policy of anonymity email SocialMedia@aa.org.au. With your post and they will respond.

The Virtual 2020 National Convention held in Toowoomba; Qld was a smash hit.

A wonderful virtual event well run and very engaging.

Thank you to all who were involved in bringing this convention to life in these unprecedented and challenging times.

We have had the first 2023 convention meeting and have a core group of people who are setting up the bid and budget proposal for the GSB

I am privileged to be of service and if I can help in any way, please call or email me.

Please reach out & keep in touch with each other and newcomers.

Paul Jones

Western Region Trustee

0427856422

pdjnz@hotmail.com

Matters Arising

Delegate Report

Hi All,

Due to Covid 19 travel restrictions, there will be changes to the format of the, 2020, Australian General Service Conference. It has been agreed that the agenda be scaled-down to address Topics that were considered to be urgent and that the 62nd General Service Conference should be held via Zoom.

Please see attached Topics for discussion and vote plus relevant attachments. Please distribute these to your groups for discussion. These topics will be discussed and voted on by GSR's and Committee at the Area B Assembly to be held on Saturday 31 October. To help facilitate an informed Group Conscience GSR's who cannot attend in person are invited to attend via zoom. Please contact Area Delegate, Clare Szmekura, for information. (claresz74@gmail.com). Please note only those topics allocated to 2020 Conference will be discussed and voted on.

Also included for your information is Doc 3 Topic Allocation document. This sets out all Topics submitted this year and how they have been allocated. Please note that all topics are held in the highest regard and respect. Whether or not a topic has been held over to next year's conference is not a reflection of the topics' merit or importance to the fellowship but rather whether it was deemed to be time-dependent.

Where possible Topics that don't require discussion at Conference have been forwarded to appropriate service entities for action this year.

Day 1: Friday 6th November

The following committees have been allocated topics for discussion and will meet to discuss these topics and make recommendations to the Conference:

Conference Policies & Admissions Committee

Conference Agenda Committee

Conference Finance Committee

Day 2: Saturday 7th November

Introduction to Zoom for all Conference members, including orientation for new members.

Opening of General Service Conference

Discussion and Voting on recommendations from Conference Policies & Admissions, Agenda and Finance Committees on topics received this year.

Day 3: Sunday 8th November

Discussion and voting on any committee recommendations from their Action Lists or non-topic items.

Financial Reports Acceptance.

This year the financial reports as at 30 June 2020 will be distributed to all Conference members, who will be invited to submit questions prior to a given deadline date.

These questions and answers will then be addressed to Conference.

Results of selection of Conference theme 2021. This year you will be given a list of themes and asked to choose won. The theme that receives the most votes will be the 2021 General Conference theme.

TOPICS

Conference topics received were allocated as per attached sheet.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Action Lists and relevant non-topic items will be provided to all committees as soon as possible. The committees will determine whether or not they need to meet prior to Conference to make any recommendations. Time slots will be provided and you will be asked to choose 1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences for these time slots. Where possible, we will try to give you your first preference. However, as requests will be treated on a first come, first served basis, this may not be possible. Any recommendations from committees will be discussed and voted on by the full Conference on Sunday 8th November.

CONFERENCE LEVIES

There will be a Conference levy this year – cost to be determined and advised as soon as possible. For those Areas that have already paid levies you will be given two options:

- a) Have the money returned minus this year's levy or
- b) Donate the money to the General Service Office

Please note, there will be no option to carry over levies to next year.

The levies will only cover the administration costs of the Conference. Should you require accommodation (due to lack of privacy, internet difficulties, etc.) equipment (no access to computer etc.) or training (inexperience with Zoom), you should approach your Area for assistance.

Best wishes

Matters Arising

Was raised why the topics are only presented now, a week before conference, rather than a month earlier. Was raised that it should be fed back that we don't get the conference topics late again.

PI/CPC Report

Since the last assembly, I've attended a half-day health expo at John Forrest Secondary College on Wednesday 26th August; There were about 1000 students that attending this expo throughout the year. The initial response was wary but by the 2nd half of the expo, the students were more engaged, open to conversation and taking pamphlets. Some of the students even had AA pamphlets at their own health stalls for other students.

Northbridge midday meeting requested some doctor's packs; I have given them 8x packs and placed a literature order to replenish the stock taken from the health expo.

Kendall at Joondanna group is looking to create a PI position in their group to take literature into Osborne Park Hospital and Stirling Library; they haven't requested additional literature as they have plenty of literature to give as a result of COVID.

Kendall requested some cards to deliver to Graylands; I've passed her onto Treatment Coordinator, Robin, as there's an AA meeting at Graylands.

I've received the below article to the PI CPC email address from a member to share:

<http://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2020/03/alcoholics-anonymous-most-effective-path-to-alcohol-abstinence.html>

No additional requests for AA presence have come through to the PI email address since then.

If anyone is interested in participating in any AA related events such as, school talks, health expos, etc, as an AA representative, please email me your name and contact number at picpcareaawr@gmail.com

Thank you,

In Service,
Courtney O

Matters arising

Was raised that it was good to bring up the article and that we only pass on AA approved literature.

Correctional Facilities Male Report

Unfortunately, we still haven't had any success in getting back into Wooroloo to run the prison meetings since it was all shut down as a result of COVID-19.

We have had some success in communication with the Head of Security Mark Sedgwick over the last couple of weeks. There have been some developments in personnel at the prison which may help us in getting back in to run meetings.

The most notable points from that conversation are as follows:

- The prison is "very motivated to get us back in and running meetings"
 - 1)
 - Mark Sedgwick has my emails and clearance forms on his desk waiting to go through the clearance / approval process with the new Head of Security
 - 2)
 - He is being replaced and he's going through a handover process with the new guy (Callum McNeill) next week. One of the things he will be discussing is the two points above.

That's the extent of the information we have for the time being.

Matters arising

Correctional Facilities Female Report

Hi Area A

I hope everyone has been enjoying the sunshine.

The Bandyup meeting is running well again after lock down.

Thanks to the service of the ladies working at the GSO and the funding you have provided our literature is fully stocked.

After the meeting on Monday, 2 women who are attending weekly made comments about enjoying the restock of literature and the meetings.

Watching them change since they first started coming has been wonderful.

We request \$100 to keep up the literature at bandyup.

Thankyou for your time
In love and service
Elizabeth Hapi

Matters arising

Treatment Centre Report

"Helping others is the foundation stone of your recovery"

A busy time with two new meetings starting under Area A at Saint John Of God Hospital, Midland, Speaker Coordinator Martin S and Cyrenian House, Rick Hammersley Centre Therapeutic Community, Female Meeting, Speaker Coordinator Allison J.

SJOG Hospital AA Speaker Information meeting is held on the third Tuesday of each month 1.30-2.30pm with two speakers for each meeting with one speaker also chairing the meeting. Martin will liaise with speakers on where to meet, to enter locked ward and where to collect the banners and brochure box from as this will make it easy for the changeover of speaker's each month. I had a further meeting on the 20th October with Sara K, Senior Occupational Therapist, and Calum, Clinical Nurse Consultant Drug and Alcohol, Martin was unable to make the meeting due to work commitments so this information was emailed to him and is reported below in Martin's Speaker Coordinator report. Martin will email this correspondence to all new speakers so they know what we do and don't do at this meeting as No sharing by the patients in this acute mental health ward.

CH RHCTC meeting is held every Thursday night now from 7.00-8.30pm with positive feedback from the female residents and Leanne the Councillor. The first three meetings were a trial where we had approximately fifteen female residents, this was due to AA meetings outside the community being closed due to Covid. Leanne then approved meetings up to the end of November with half the residents then going outside of the community to other meetings after Covid restrictions lifted. We have a healthy ladies roster with a chair and two speakers each week sharing their experience, strength and hope. On the request of Leanne we do not have Q&A at this meeting. Residents have current speakers as their AA Sponsors.

*Since Allison's report we have been advised that Allison can take the roster through to the end of January, 2021.

After six months of meeting with Jane the CNS Alcohol Tobacco Other Drug Support the new meeting that was to start at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, MHU, Nedlands is on hold. Jane was waiting on one more signature from her bosses to get this meeting started but due to changes within the hospital, in October, Jane is not currently in this role. I have sent all relevant email correspondence to Mel the Peer Support Worker and Emma, who will be looking after Jane's previous role until further notice. All literature has been purchased for this meeting, currently in Mel and Emma's office. I had a further meeting with Mel to update her on where Jane and I were at, now leaving the ball in their court to follow up with 'the powers that be' within the hospital to get the meeting started.

Jane was CNS for Graylands also so Kendell will be making contact with Emma in regards to previous processes Jane put in place to be followed up.

A BIG thank you to the Claremont group, anonymous member and Leo F (passed) for donating banners to our new treatment facility meetings.

Funds request \$100

Please see reports from Bridge House Detox, Next Step, Graylands Hospital, Cyrenian House RHCTC and Saint John Of God Hospital, Midland, Coordinators below.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

Kind Regards Robin M

Robin - Bridge House Coordinator (temporary)

We have not been able to have our weekly AA meetings at Bridge House Detox due to Covid, this is currently still the case until further notice from Lisa Stroud, Coordinator of the Bridge House Program. Speakers have been notified in regards to this. Our literature box and library are still on the premises, I will follow this up with Lisa to see if ok to keep there or collect. Treatment has advertised this coordinator position in the Serenity Magazine plus Perth Fellowship and Greenwood Warwick fb page, no takers as yet but also no hurry as awaiting re-opening of meeting. I made contact with Lisa again on the 29th October.

Funds request \$0

Thank you Robin :)

Bec - Next Step Coordinator

Roster has been on going each Monday with speakers attending. Rebecca L might want to give a brief update in regards to the meeting after I have finished reading this report (if at Area A Assembly) An outstanding amount of \$150 worth of literature is still available from CSO from last quarters Area A Assembly funds request.

Funds request \$0

Kendell - Graylands Coordinator

We have continued to have a great turnout following the return of AA to Graylands after COVID lockdown. We would consistently have between 2 and 4 people attend, 50% being patients and the rest representing nurses or student nurses. To my record, we have only had one evening when no one attended the meeting. The TV is now often off for the duration of the meeting. The A Frame black board hasn't been out for a number of weeks and craft is left on the table. I am stripping the old yellow folders and using as literature and would like to request \$80 to purchase more Blue hospital packs and little big books.

We currently have \$49.50 leftover from last quarters fund request plus Robin from Treatment has handed over 10 blue little Big Books and 10 Hospital Welcome packs from Saint John Of God Hospital, Midland, as not needed there.

Funds request \$0 (Not needed now as Treatment has given literature to Kendell)

In love and service

Kendell

Allison B - Cyrenian House, Rick Hammersley Centre Therapeutic Community Female Meeting

Coordinator

Alcoholics Anonymous female speakers have been going into CH RHCTC to hold weekly AA meetings over the past couple of months. On average, about 6-8 female residents are in attendance each Thursday evening with 3 of us coming on property, making for a small, safe and intimate AA women's meeting. Some women identify as addicts and we encourage them to look for the similarities not the differences.

If this is their first AA meeting, we give a yellow "beginners" pack and a "little Big Book".

We display "The 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous" banners as well as "The Serenity Prayer" and Robin just acquired the banner with the "AA slogans" ie. one day at a time, easy does it etc. Gratefully, we borrow an "AA Traditions" banner from the TC office. Literature, in the form of pamphlets are on display and available free for the women, if they choose.

Recently, everyone is sharing when asked and the last couple of weeks we have closed the meeting just prior to end time of 8.30pm. We encourage the girls to ask questions or have a chat after the meeting is closed.

Currently, there are 10 speakers on a rotating roster which is in place until end of November. Some more AA's have expressed their willingness to do this service. I am planning to draw up a new roster for December and into the New Year, possibly with a few more speakers.

*I am awaiting confirmation from CH RHCTC if they would like AA to continue holding this meeting on property, beyond November and have also requested suggestions or feedback.

If this be the case, we will have a group conscience meeting.

Funds request \$80

Kind regards,

Allison J

Martin S - Saint John Of God Hospital, Midland

The first meeting was held on the 15th September with 5 patients and a nurse in attendance, October we had two patients with a nurse in attendance.

Robin, Treatment Area A, and Sara, Senior OT, and Calum, Senior Clinical Nurse had a meeting on the 20th October, unfortunately I had work commitments so I was unable to attend.

The following was discussed:

*Patients will not be sharing.

* After AA speakers share, the patients and speakers can discuss any questions the patients may have about AA.

* AA Hospital Welcome Packs are not needed at this meeting, safety concerns for patients due to staples.

* Instead patients can collect brochures from the ward or at the meeting.

* Blue little AA Big Books are not needed at this meeting.

* Flyer, as per previous email correspondence, not needed. Callum has made changes to the flyer, these will be printed by the hospital and put on the ward and given to patients so they are aware of the AA meeting day, time etc.

* AA speakers are not to give out their phone numbers to any patients.

* The AA banners and box can be stored with Sara in her office.

Treatment will give Hospital Welcome Pack and blue little Big Books to other Area A treatment facilities.

Funds Request \$0

Regards Martin

Matters arising

Registrar Report

We had one meeting closure since the last report. Current meetings are below.

If anyone notices any changes or inconsistencies please let me know on registrarareaawr@gmail.com and I will update.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Country meetings - 16

Metro meetings - 52

Prison meetings – 4

Matters arising

Where	#per week	Mtg Suburb	Grp#	Group Name	BUILDING	STREET ADDRESS	Directions	Mtg Day	Mtg Time
Country	1	BINDOON - country	38	Bindoan Steps Meeting	7th Day Adventist Church	Great Northern Highway	First Sat each month	Sat	3pm
Prison	2	ACACIA -prison x2	92	Acacia Prison AA Group	-	-	-	Wed, Thur	9.30am / 2pm
Prison	1	BANDYUP - prison	88	Bandyup Women's AA Group	Bandyup Women's Prison	Fortnightly	call Ruth 0431-261-593	Mon	1.30pm
Prison	1	ROEBOURNE - Prison	192	Roebourne Prison AA Mtg			*Clearance Required	Sun	9.30am
Prison	1	WOOROLOO - prison	119	Christopher Group	Wooroloo Training Centre	-		Sun	7pm
Country	1	CARNARVON - country	162	Carnarvon Group	Uniting Church	cnr Cleaver & Forrest Sts		Wed	6.30pm
Country	1	GERALDTON - country	55	Geraldton Friday Night I.D.		2 Fitzgerald Street		Fri	7.30pm
Metro	1	BURNS BEACH	161	Burns Beach Group	Bramston Park Community Centre	Mattingleys Approach		Thur	10.30am
Country	1	GERALDTON - country	67	Geraldton Steps Meeting		2 Fitzgerald Street		Tue	7.30pm
Metro	1	CLAREMONT	124	Western Suburbs Grp	Uniting Church Hall	cnr Princess & Chester Roads		Mon	7.30pm
Metro	1	DIANELLA	1	Dianella Universal Steps Grp	All Saints Community Centre	420 Grand Promenade	Closed Steps	Mon	7.30pm
Country	1	KALBARRI - country	56	Kalbarri Meeting	Meedac Offices	Unit 2 / 535 Hackney Street		Tue	7pm
Country	2	KARRATHA - country x2	71	Karratha Group	Salvation Army Centre	2 Bond Place	opp. Catteral Park	Sun, Tue	7.30pm
Country	1	KUNUNURRA - Country	51	Kununurra Meeting	Baptist Fellowship Church	50 Coolibah Drive	Upstairs	Thur	6pm
Metro	1	HEATHRIDGE	99	Heathridge AA Steps Group	Spiers Centre	2 Albatross Ct, cnr Poseidon Rd	Closed Steps	Tue	7.30pm
Country	1	NEWMAN - country	77	Newman AA Group	St.Joseph's Catholic Church	7a Warman Ave	in Bible Study Room	Tue	7.30pm
Country	1	PARABURDOO - country	110	Paraburdoo Meeting	Catholic Church	Meharry Road		Sun	7.30pm

Country	1	PORT HEDLAND-country	111	Port Hedland Group	Church	26 Redbank Rd nr Wilson Rd		Thur	7.30pm
Country	1	SANDFIRE - country	159	Sandfire Steps Group	Sandfire Roadhouse	Great Northern Highway		Tue	7pm
Metro	1	HEATHRIDGE	48	24 Hour a Day Women's Group	Salvation Army Church	Caridean / Ord Streets	Children very welcome	Fri	10.45am
Metro	1	LEEDERVILLE	109	By The Book Speakers Group	Leederville Function Centre	246 Vincent Street, Leederville		Wed	7pm
Metro	1	BASSEDEAN	121	Bassendean / Morley Group	33 Hanwell Way	Bassendean		Wed	8pm
Metro	2	BASSEDEAN x2	170	Bassendean Group	Shire Community Hall	48 Old Perth Road	entrance at rear, Tue Steps	Tue, Fri	7pm, 8pm
Metro	1	BUTLER	45	Butler "Sunday at 7" Beginners Steps Meeting	Butler Primary School	Kingsbridge Park, Camborne Parkway	enter from Camborne Pkw, Junior Carpark	Sun	7pm
Metro	1	DUNCRAIG	125	Duncraig Group	Sorrento/Duncraig Leisure Ctr	cnr Marmion Ave/Warwick Rds	Mildenhall Hall behind tennis courts	Tue	8pm
Metro	1	NOLLAMARA	100	El Salvador Reuniones Group	The Hall, upstairs	73 Nollamara Avenue		Sat	3pm
Metro	1	ELLENBROOK	94	Ellenbrook Steps Group	Salvation Army Building	66 Woodlake Blvd		Tue	7.30pm
Metro	2	HEATHRIDGE x2	128	Heathridge A.A. Group	Spiers Centre	2 Albatross Ct, cnr Poseidon Rd		Fri, Sun	8pm, 9am
Metro	1	INGLEWOOD	26	Inglewood Women's Group	Child Health Centre	cnr Beaufort St & 9th Ave	Creche available	Fri	6.30pm
Metro	1	INNALOO	TBC	Innaloo ID Meeting	Living Faith Community Church (LFCC), 2 Grant Street			Tue	6pm
Metro	1	JOONDALUP	44	Joondalup 'SOS' Grp	Family Centre	25 Jolstra Cresc.	behind Primary School	Sat	8pm
Metro	3	JOONDANNA x3	70	Joondanna Sundowner Group	St.Peters & Emmaus Comm Church	cnr Green & Banksia Streets		Mon, Wed, Fri	5pm
Metro	1	MARANGAROO	73	Marangaroo Friday Group	Marangaroo Family Care Centre	64 Highclere Blvd	Marangaroo	Fri	7pm
Metro	1	MAYLANDS	105	Maylands BB Study Group	Anglican Church Hall	cnr Rowlands & George Sts		Wed	6pm
Metro	2	MAYLANDS x2	48	Maylands Daybreak Group (CLOSED)	Polish Church	35 Eighth Avenue	Maylands	Tue, Thur	6.30am
Metro	1	MAYLANDS	152	Maylands Group (1hr ID)	Anglican Church Hall	cnr Rowlands & George Sts		Sat	8pm
Metro	1	MAYLANDS	131	Maylands Rainbow Group	St.Lukes Church	cnr Rowlands & George Sts	non-restrictive	Tue	7pm
Metro	1	MERRIWA							

DCM Reports

Mid West – No report received

Swan Districts – In Recess

GSR Reports

Heathridge	No big update, still virtual as a result of the venue situation with COVID restricting that and groups preference to remain at the venue when it becomes suitable to do so.
Claremont Western Suburbs	8 active home group members, up to 15 people attending meeting. Older members have complained that the hall has a bad echo. Are low on funds so didn't make a contribution at the last conscience. Will have a group conscience on the 14 th December. Now has a dedicated COVID safety manager.
Nedlands Friday Night	Group had to leave church that the meeting was in after 30 years of continuous attendance there. Has another 2 weeks to find a new venue but there is potential of good venues very close by. Has a full committee.
Subiaco Big Book Study	Has had a change of venue and change of name from Monday in Subiaco to Vincent St Big Book Study at the Monastery Wednesday 7pm. Has around 15 home group members with regular group consciences and practice a COVID safe plan and do not serve tea and coffee. Encourage members to bring own books.
Joondalup	Still have between 6 and 10 people. Community centre has given keys to a bigger room so can go there when have a lot of people. Distributed funds direct to CSO and GSO.
Northbridge Lunch Group	Northbridge Lunch Time group is going well with a regular core of attendees. Average attendance: 14.
Subiaco Thursday Night Steps	Going really well, have a new location at Salvation Army hall. Has a café inside which is good. Has 25 people attending. 10 active home group members and has a rehab group attending each week.
PYP Subiaco	Usually get around 25-35 attending main meeting, currently have 5 active home group members, not financially well but is picking up. A lot more newcomers at the meeting and getting involved in the fellowship. Not holding hands with COVID.
Scarborough Candlelight	15 people, 60-30-10 split donation and put in a motion to advertise on buses.
By the Book Speakers Group	At Leederville function centre two nights a week, between 20 and 50 people attending, both are speaker meetings. Go out for fellowship afterwards.
Scarborough Encouragement Group	7 active members in homegroup, had a newcomer join, averaging low numbers of attendance after COVID with around 10 people a meeting.
WAYPAA	WAYPAA have continued to successfully run fund raising events with the goal of holding the annual WAYPAA convention in 2020. Whilst we are unable to hold the convention at the usual location, the Mercure, due to their being commandeered by the state government as a quarantine hotel, we have been successful in securing the Hiltons Doubletree hotel on James street in Northbridge which will run on the weekend of December 4 th through to 6 th inclusive.

	We are currently in the process of finalising speakers and format for the event.
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MOTION: To accept all previous reports.		
Moved: Maria	Seconded: Liz	CARRIED

Financial Requests

Motion: Area A authorises the Area A Treatment Coordinator to be allocated funds of 180 for Treatment.		
Moved: Courtney	Seconded: Jake	CARRIED
Motion: Area A authorises the Correctional Facilities Female Coordinator to be allocated funds of \$100 for literature.		
Moved: Courtney	Seconded: Jake	CARRIED
Motion: Area A donation to GSO for \$4000		
Moved: Robin	Seconded: NOT SECONDED	NOT CARRIED
Motion: Area A donation to GSO for \$1500		
Moved: Maria	Seconded: Jake	NOT CARRIED
Motion: Area A donation to GSO for \$2500		
Moved: Courtney	Seconded: Adam	NOT CARRIED
Motion: Area A donation to GSO for \$2000		
Moved: Marjo	Seconded: Jake	NOT CARRIED
Motion: Area A donation to GSO for \$1000		
Moved: Jake	Seconded: Maria	NOT CARRIED

General business

- 1) Confirm Monastery as location for all assemblies in 2021.

MOTION: Confirm Monastery as location for all assemblies in 2021.		
Moved: Brian	Seconded: Marjo	CARRIED

- 2) Request for advertising on buses, raised by GSR of the Scarborough Candlelight Group, at previous assembly asked to be moved to this one. – Moved to Next Assembly.

- 3) How much will we pay the Monastery for letting us use the venue for this Area Assembly?

MOTION: To pay \$25 p/hour as a rate to use Monastery for next year.		
Moved: Jake	Seconded: Chris	CARRIED

- 4) Vote on Alternate Delegate

MOTION: Marjo nominated to be Alternate Delegate.		
Moved: Jake	Seconded: Chris	CARRIED

TOPICS FOR CONFERENCE

TOPICS ARE EXPLAINED BELOW IN ATTACHMENTS

TOPIC #009/2020 –In Favour - CARRIED

Create a cyber or 'virtual' Region/Area as part of the General Service Structure that groups operating only in the virtual space can join.

TOPIC #012/2020 -In Favour - CARRIED

Move the *General Service Conference* structure online

TOPIC #023/2020 - Not In Favour – NOT CARRIED

To form new Eastern Region Area.

TOPIC #024/2020 - Not In Favour – NOT CARRIED

To return the money to the Australian Government received from the JobKeeper payment. And If unable to return monies, donate equivalent value to alcohol related services.

Close at 5.15pm.

7th Tradition & Close with Serenity Prayer

ATTACHMENTS

TOPICS ALLOCATION SHEET

2020

Legend:

Referred to Conference 2021

Referred outside Conference

Decision to be made at 2020 Conference

Mail poll vote

TOPIC NO.	TOPIC	SUGGESTED CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ALLOCATION
001 ATTACHMENTS	The General Service Board recommends that the General Service Conference considers changing the Conference Committee system by having three committees instead of the current eleven. The Board makes this recommendation having reviewed the committee system of the Great Britain General Service Conference. Two documents are attached. Document 1 is the proposed new committee system. Document 2 shows how many topics each current Conference Committee has been allocated in the last five years.	Agenda Committee Referred to Conference 2021
002 1 VOTE	To update the online group registration on the National Website to include notes about accessibility for those with special needs.	This topic has been referred directly to the General Service Office for action.
003 1 VOTE	1. Amend the topic form to include a reference to checking your topic against past/recent topics to ensure that an idea or issue has not been previously dealt with by Conference. This may provide information that explains why your topic was rejected previously, or help focus thinking on providing new information or arguments. 2. The Conference agenda committee should be allowed to decide on minor amendments such as this without the need for it to potentially take up time in the conference schedule	This topic has been referred to the Agenda Committee for action.
004	That conference look at developing a "CHAT NOW" feature on the aa.org.au website, which would allow a newcomer to "talk" (typing questions in real time to a live person / volunteer AA member, on a national roster)	Pi&CPC Committee Referred to Conference 2021

<p>005</p> <p>1 VOTE</p>	<p>AA Australia is currently suffering financial hardship. One means of minimising AA's cost of doing business is to reduce its outgoing expenses, some of which relate to the realisation of previously agreed to conference advisory actions. For example, new posters, visual design, copywriting of new AA publications, website improvements, video production, etc, incur costs. The development and availability of a 'needed skills' register would enable members, under our legacy of service, to use their skills to do work that AA would otherwise need to pay for. There is much evidence throughout the fellowship of members willing to use their skills for AA when there is a clear, identified need. A centralised register would make the process national and efficient and inform members when and where skills are specifically needed.</p> <p>Service keeps us sober. Why can't it also assist in ensuring and maintaining AA Australia's solvency?</p>	<p>Finance Committee</p> <p>This topic has been referred directly to the General Service Board for action</p>
<p>006</p>	<p>Creation of 2 additional radio community service announcements (CSAs) to supplement our existing CSAs. One targeted at Indigenous Australians, another at the LGBTI+ community.</p>	<p>Pi&CPC</p> <p>Referred to Conference 2021</p>
<p>007</p> <p>1 VOTE</p>	<p>To make a series of engaging videos aimed at Professionals within the health, prisons and Armed Forces sectors.</p>	<p>PI&CPC</p> <p>Referred to Conference 2021</p>
<p>008</p> <p>1 VOTE</p>	<p>Amend the Group Handbook to add that all groups, Districts and Areas be transparent with members who donate to their group, District or Area about how funds are distributed at Group, District or Area. This is so members can make an informed choice when making their contribution.</p>	<p>LITERATURE</p> <p>Referred to Conference 2021</p>

<p>009</p> <p>2 VOTES</p>	<p>Some virtual meetings will continue after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. These meetings will not necessarily be associated with AA meetings that are also held in a physical location and the groups that run them are likely to be made up of members from diverse physical locations. As such, they will not be located in a physical AA Area or Region. Creation of a virtual Area/Region would enable such groups to participate in the structure of AA by electing GSR's, running virtual Assemblies and electing a Delegate to the General Service Conference. The existing process for requesting creation of a new Area (AA Service Manual pp.53-54) cannot assist in this situation, because it assumes a request from an existing Area which is no longer able to provide adequate service and communication to all the groups that are <u>within its geographical area.</u></p>	<p>POLICIES & ADMISSIONS</p> <p>Committee will make recommendations to Conference 2020.</p>
<p>010</p>	<p>Taking the advantages and benefits we have seen from the use of online meetings forward, Alcoholics Anonymous in Australia (or Oceania Region) should scope the possibility of developing and using an AA owned and supported Online Video-Conferencing Platform (Our own Version of Zoom etc.).</p>	<p>PI&CPC</p> <p>Referred to Conference 2021</p>
<p>011</p>	<p>That a 4-year AA service position of Editor of AA Around Australia be created and advertised on aa.org.au</p>	<p>LITERATURE</p> <p>Referred to Conference 2021</p>

<p>012</p> <p>2 VOTES</p>	<p>That conference considers moving <i>all</i> of its activities on line for a reasonable period, to be designated by Conference, as an experiment. This would include <i>The General Service Conference</i> in November, <i>Conference Committee</i> meetings, meetings of the <i>General Service Board</i>, and the <i>Office Management Group</i>. The Covid crisis has demonstrated just how quickly and efficiently our fellowship can adapt and change to new technology, when the need arises. It may be prudent for the fellowship to take full advantage of this unique period to see if we cannot do things better.</p>	<p>AGENDA COMMITTEE</p> <p>Committee will make recommendation to Conference 2020</p>
<p>013</p>	<p>This submission proposes AA utilise modern technology to streamline the Australian AA Two Arms of Service Structure to minimise duplication of effort and expense, by establishing a national online literature sales and distribution service. This includes the availability of electronic literature where possible.</p>	<p>LITERATURE</p> <p>Referred to Conference 2021</p>
<p>014</p> <p>3 VOTES</p>	<p>That ALL the National Coordinators be invited to submit a plan of action over the next 12 months of how AA's profile can be raised in institutions, and that the Fellowship be made more aware of the greater need for service in all these 4 areas.</p>	<p>TREATMENT</p> <p>CORRECTIONAL</p> <p>REMOTE</p> <p>Referred to co-ordinators for action.</p>
<p>015</p> <p>1 VOTE</p>	<p>Remove the reference to CSO's from the AA Guidelines and call them local service offices directly responsible to their local groups.</p>	<p>REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL</p> <p>Referred to Conference 2021</p>
<p>016</p>	<p>That the Guidelines on National Conventions be sent to a working committee to better reflect the single purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL</p> <p>Referred to Conference 2021</p>

017 1 VOTE	That each area delegate be asked to do an audit of all groups and meetings in their area to see where new districts and potential new areas could be set up in each Region.	POLICIES & ADMISSIONS Referred directly to Area Delegates
018	That the Service Manual be changed to suggest that the outgoing Area Delegates be given the responsibility to be the AAAA rep for that Area	REPORT CHARTER & SERVICE MANUAL Referred to Conference 2021
019 3 VOTES	That Conference approve the Special Edition 'A Vision for You' Souvenir Book to celebrate the 75 th anniversary of the birth of AA in Australia.	LITERATURE Decision to be made by mail poll vote 2020. Copies will be sent to all Conference members.
020 5 VOTES	That the Finance Committee research and develop a plan which provides a contingency fund for emergency situations such as COVID-19.	FINANCE General Service Board requested to provide report on action taken.
021	Request that the webmaster and/or responsible committee, source and implement a live chat function on aa.org.au	PI&CPC Referred to Conference 2021
022	<p>This topic proposes that AA Australia, together with the National and Area PI Committees, develop a series of videos, similar to the UK https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Professionals/Videos-for-Professionals, targeting the professional community including health, employment, correction services and armed forces. These videos should incorporate current evidence supporting the efficacy of AA in helping alcoholics to recover ¹ and use recovery language relevant to the respective professions rather than the unique recovery language of AA. Subject matter experts who are friends of AA should be involved in the production of these videos</p> <p>An audit into AA communications² suggested that professionals are keen for information to address alcoholism but that AA resources designed for the Professional Community do not speak in a language relevant to the respective professions; are not delivered across platforms that professionals use; and that those within the Conference structure are not necessarily trained (or</p>	PI&CPC Referred to Conference 2021

	armed with tools) to forge cooperative relationships with the Professional Community. This is negatively impacting A.A.'s relevance and its effectiveness in reaching the still-suffering alcoholic	
023 4 VOTES	Application to form new Area –Eastern Region	POLICIES & ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE Recommendation to be made by Policies & Admissions Committee for discussion and voting Conference 2020
024 4 VOTES	For all monies received from the Australian Government for the JobKeeper payment be returned.	FINANCE Recommendation to be made by Finance Committee for discussion and voting Conference 2020.

TOPIC #009/2020

Some virtual meetings will continue after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. These meetings will not necessarily be associated with AA meetings that are also held in a physical location and the groups that run them are likely to be made up of members from diverse physical locations. As such, they will not be located in a physical AA Area or Region. Creation of a virtual Area/Region would enable such groups to participate in the structure of AA by electing GSR's, running virtual Assemblies and electing a Delegate to the General Service Conference. The existing process for requesting creation of a new Area (AA Service Manual pp.53-54) cannot assist in this situation, because it assumes a request from an existing Area which is no longer able to provide adequate service and communication to all the groups that are within its geographical area.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. The necessity of virtual meetings, eg held via Zoom, Skype, etc during the COVID-19 lockdown has created a chance for AA members to experience an alternate access to recovery.
2. This is particularly relevant to members in regional and remote areas, those physically unable to attend face-to-face meetings, members with carer responsibilities (eg small children) or restricted access to transport. Others may just prefer the virtual option.
3. It is likely that some virtual meetings will continue after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and will be run as separate groups consisting of members drawn from diverse geographical locations, across existing Areas. (This is already happening in some virtual meetings where e.g. both city and country members are carrying out service roles).
- 4 All members have the right and the responsibility to participate in the General Service Structure.
5. These groups will not have a 'home' within the existing General Service Structure.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. Create a cyber or 'virtual' Region/Area as part of the General Service Structure that groups operating only in the virtual space can join.

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

1. Provides opportunity for members who would otherwise be excluded from participation in the General Service Structure
2. Acknowledges the wider options available for participation provided by the virtual space.
3. The move to virtual meetings during COVID-19 restrictions has identified that technology can provide alternative meeting formats that provide valuable additional support in particular, to members who may find it difficult to access physical meetings on a regular basis for a variety of reasons.
4. Enabling those groups and members to be fully active members of AA will benefit both their recovery and the Fellowship as a whole.

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?

Process of going through Group, District, Area not applicable which is what this Topic is addressing

TOPIC #012/2020

That conference considers moving *all* of its activities on line for a reasonable period, to be designated by Conference, as an experiment. This would include *The General Service Conference* in November, *Conference Committee* meetings, meetings of the *General Service Board*, and the *Office Management Group*. The Covid crisis has demonstrated just how quickly and efficiently our fellowship can adapt and change to new technology, when the need arises.

It may be prudent for the fellowship to take full advantage of this unique period to see if we cannot do things better.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

Advantages:

1. Enable the *GSB*, *Conference Committees* and the *Management Group* to meet more frequently, as required, at little cost or inconvenience.
2. On-line *Conference* and *Board* meetings would cost a fraction of current meetings yet could be attended from anywhere.
3. Encourage more *Areas*. Without hefty levies and finding members free to travel, often vast distances, to attend assemblies and *Conference*, this could help solve our intractable 2/3rd's majority issue.
4. *GSB* could meet more frequently, without prohibitive cost, rather than the twice yearly marathons demanded of current board members, between conferences.
5. Potential Class A trustees may be more amenable to virtual board meetings, which would be more convenient and time efficient, especially for the people we seek – highly motivated, busy professionals.
6. On-line *Management Group* meetings would allow *Conference* to broaden eligibility of *General Service Trustees*, currently selected from a small pool within the Sydney metropolitan area.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. Move the *General Service Conference* structure online

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

1. By expanding participation in the *General Service Conference*, the group conscience of AA in Australia, this initiative could further unify the fellowship and enhance our ability to better carry the message. .
2. By more easily facilitating the creation of new areas, this initiative could aid in addressing the lack of 2/3's majority representation of groups on the conference floor.
3. It offers the opportunity for the fellowship to divert much needed funds to more immediate and direct efforts to carry the message: Public Service Announcements, literature production and distribution etc
4. Easy on-line access would also help demystify *General Service* and facilitate greater interest and participation.

Note: Should this plan be implemented, the need for **Regional Forums**, as opportunities for the board and staff members to meet and share with the general membership, would be greatly enhanced.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

The financial savings to the fellowship would be substantial. *Conference* costs around \$60,000.00 a year and the two annual board meetings many thousands more.

The time saved by members would also be substantial.

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

The topic has been widely circulated for discussion and feedback. There has been enthusiastic support. The home group has given the topic unanimous support. Three districts have also given the topic unanimous support. The topic was also given unanimous and enthusiastic Area support at an extraordinary topic meeting.

TOPIC #023/2020

To form new Eastern Region Area. Topic attached separately due to size.

TOPIC #024/2020

For all monies received from the Australian Government for the JobKeeper payment be returned.

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OR REASON FOR THE TOPIC?

1. Receipt of this money for the JobKeeper payment is a perceived breach of Tradition 7.
2. The letter to the GSB from Southern Region Area D dated 14/06/2020 clearly outlines all of Saturday Night Living Sober's concerns. Please refer to this letter as the background for this topic. Referenced letter is attached.

DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTED SOLUTION?

1. To return the money to the Australian Government received from the JobKeeper payment.
2. If unable to return monies, donate equivalent value to alcohol related services.

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

1. A breach of any tradition or concept and the underlying intent of those principles could seriously damage the AA Fellowship. Consequences and fallout, such as those in the Southern Region in recent years, are not good for the unity of the fellowship. This perceived breach has the capability of de-unifying the AA fellowship nationally, as acceptance of outside funds has done in the Southern Region. AA is based on an equilateral triangle of Recovery, Service AND UNITY. *"For on A.A. unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come"*.
2. Both newcomers and old-timers are confused by the appearance of double standards associated with the perceived breach.

WHAT ARE THE ESTIMATED COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SUGGESTION?

The cost would be the amount received from the Australian Government for the JobKeeper payment and therefore the equivalent amount would need to be returned or donated.

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

Given the discovery of this issue in June, there has been insufficient time to raise this as a topic of discussion at either a District or Area level. However, Saturday Night Living Sober as a group and many other individual members, both newcomers and old-timers, in the Bendigo District have expressed overwhelming approval to submit this topic/.



THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

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26th June 2020

To Westhope Rule 62, Laverton Primary Purpose and Footscray Friday Groups

Thank you for taking the time to write to us with your concerns around the recent GSB decision to apply for the Australian Government Jobkeeper assistance funding. We on the Board acknowledge that this is a serious issue and are glad of the opportunity to explain the rationale behind our decision and explain our adherence and maintenance to our most valued Traditions and Concepts.

In February and March of this year, the full extent of the Covid-19 virus pandemic was first being felt in Australia and all of the physical AA meetings were being closed and members were forced onto online virtual meetings. As the General Service Board of AA Australia, one of our primary responsibilities is the financial health of the fellowship as a whole to ensure that we have enough operating funds to support carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic. The COVID-19 pandemic's most noticeable impact on the fellowship was the drop in literature sales that occurred between CSO's and groups and between the GSO and the CSOs.

The timeframe given by the Government was very short and did not give us enough time to gather feedback from our members before the cut off deadline and as trusted servants voted in by Conference we made the decision to accept the subsidy on behalf of the Fellowship. Please also bear in mind that the Board has the right to decide when to ask the full Conference and when to act on its own.

The Board has a legal responsibility to remain solvent and has embarked on a number of initiatives to ask members to increase member donations so that we can remain self-supporting and can continue to carry our message. The increase in donations has been good but unfortunately is not enough to cover our decline in literature sales.

In answer to your the specific points;

1. **Advisory Action 321/1999** Although the Conference could not have envisaged the devastating effects of Covid-19, we believe that employment is 'a purchased service' and as such falls under Advisory Action #21/1999. It is a subsidy available to other charitable organisations.
2. **The AA preamble** The long form of Tradition 7, mentions large gifts or contributions carrying obligations. It is clear that the Jobkeeper subsidy is not a gift nor carries any obligation. Charitable organisations such as ours, receive special treatment and conditions from Government, which are clearly not in contradiction to Tradition 7.

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3. Tradition 10 In regards to the compliance requirements of participating in the Government Job Keeper program, Alcoholics Anonymous Australia is a registered charity and listed with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and as such must comply with all Australia Government laws and compliance regulations. We do not see this as breaking any rules or Traditions as it is a requirement for us to operate legally.

4. Tradition 1 In response to Tradition 1, it is our common welfare that the Board was protecting. The Jobseeker subsidy was applied for to ensure our Fellowship would remain solvent in order for us to continue our primary purpose.

5. Finances The current situation is that the Fellowship of AA in Australia is not fully self-supporting through member contributions and relies heavily on literature sales to provide necessary income to maintain our activities. Like many organisations affected by COVID-19, we were staring down the barrel of a sudden loss of more than half our revenue and this required us to relook at our finances and how we report our financial health. As part of this process we revised our calculation of our Prudent Reserve, This reserve is basically made up of our revenue and cash in the Bank minus any liabilities we would legally and ethically have to pay out in the event of bankruptcy. Upon review of this important measure we discovered that we have less than 6 months of "reserves" available (as opposed to the 8 that we had previously stated). A good guiding principle of any organisation is to have at least 1 years' worth of operating provisions. This gap became an alarming point of concern and emerged as the biggest threat AA has faced in recent times. Given our delicate financial position, our heavy reliance on disappearing literature revenue, and not knowing how long the situation will last, the Board decided to accept the proposed Jobkeeper subsidy. This would ensure we could remain operating and solvent. Our sister organisations over the world were also being faced with this challenge and some have decided to go down similar routes. A precedent for Government assistance had previously been set with the HIH Insurance collapse when we received Government assistance.

6. Article 12 of the Conference Charter. The Board did not make the decision to apply for the Jobkeeper subsidy lightly. The Traditions and Concepts were fully taken into account. The decision was made in the best interest of the Fellowship as a whole.

Yours in Service

Andy Poad

Chairman

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia.