



March 2017

Alcoholics Anonymous Australia Newsletter for Professionals



AA National Convention July 7th—10th, Cairns

It's clear that AA get-togethers beyond the group level have become an established part of AA life.

Our main internet presence aa.org.au along with other websites and newsletters around Australia, show how many Regional Forums, Area Conventions, Young People's Conventions, Rallies, 'Round-ups' and other AA events are being held by AAs throughout the country.

One reason for holding rallies/get-togethers/'AA events' is that it is a natural thing to do. Almost any association of people likes to take time out now and then to observe some phase of its own development. But in AA, such an event is far more than a routine cause for celebration. A get-together also sets up a useful opportunity to share the AA experience in a broader way.

What makes an AA event click for its participants? Well, it's probably not style or form that matters so much as the spirit and feeling behind it. As one member puts it, the best AA rally is "just a darned good AA meeting blown up big." Just watch members at any enthusiastic AA event and you'll get what he means. The atmosphere alone is worth the trip. Here you'll find fellowship, laughter, warmth, and understanding – "heaped up, pressed down, and running over".

But get-togethers require a lot of preliminary work

and planning, as well as smooth direction while they are in progress. Now that AA has come of age, Regions and Areas may have Conventions and Forums attended by dozens to hundreds, so a get-together can actually be a major enterprise involving lots of people and money.

This year, the 52nd AA National Convention will be held in Cairns, the first time it's been held in that city. The Cairns Host Planning Committee are all AA members that have volunteered their time to ensure the Cairns convention has just the right mix of good old fashioned Far North Queensland hospitality and a variety of AA meetings to satisfy the hundreds of visitors that will surely come along.

Members of the public are invited to come along and experience not only how AA can save lives, but also see how AA members celebrate their miracle of sobriety. The National Convention is as much about carrying the message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic as it is celebrating how we have managed to stay away from a drink — One Day at A Time.

So if you happen to be in Cairns in July, come along and say Hi, you'll be assured of a very warm welcome.

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A free offer to keep in your desk drawer

The A.A. General Service Board's Committee on Cooperation with the Professional Committee has been set up to bring about more communication, understanding, respect and cooperation between Alcoholics Anonymous and any professional person who works with alcoholics—so that more alcoholics may recover. We have a common aim in wanting to help the 'sick' alcoholic and ask that in dealing with sufferers and their problems you keep Alcoholics Anonymous in mind. At every turn, whether it's at the Doctor's Surgery, the roadside RBT, the Marriage Guidance Counsellor, the lawyers office or any number of other scenarios that an alcoholic may come into contact with a professional it would be beneficial for them to hear that AA is an option for their problem.

To that end we're offering an AA information desk pack that briefly outlines what AA does and doesn't do, how AA works and how AA can help Professionals.

The DL sized **Alcoholics Anonymous folder** has a flap inside that will hold secure, three pamphlets and a folded A4 information sheet - AA Basics. Its sturdy construction means it can kick around with your highlighter and stapler for many years

If you are a professional

- DOCTOR
- CLERGYMAN
- PSYCHOLOGIST
- PERSONNEL OFFICER
- ARMED FORCES NURSING SISTER
- COUNSELLOR
- EDUCATOR
- LABOR/MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT
- SOCIAL WORKER

A.A. wants to work with you

If you are a professional outlines how the Professional community can help AA, how AA can help the professional community, what services AA offers and the best way to get AA help for a problem drinker. *"Long before AA came into existence in 1935, physicians, hospitals, churches and other agencies and professional people provided lifesaving aid to alcoholics and still do. We are profoundly grateful for the unselfish dedication of people like you to the welfare of people like us."*

Anyone who has seriously examined AA knows that our early members were enormously helped or influenced by non-alcoholics. Many were family members, friends and others who often rescued and befriended alcoholics in many ways. This assistance continues so it is not true that only an alcoholic can help an alcoholic. Our history clearly shows that non-alcoholics can do many things for alcoholics that AA cannot

AA at a glance briefly covers many of the more important points about AA; how to find AA, how AA members maintain sobriety, who can attend AA meetings and what AA does not do. *"It is estimated that there are more than 104,000 groups and over 2,000,000 members in over 180 countries"*

A.A. at a glance

What is A.A.?
Alcoholics Anonymous is a voluntary, worldwide fellowship of men and women from all walks of life who meet together to attain and maintain sobriety. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership.

Current Membership
It is estimated that there are more than 104,000 groups and over 2,000,000 members in over 180 countries.

Relations with Outside Agencies
The Fellowship has adopted a policy of "cooperation but not affiliation" with other organizations concerned with the problem of alcoholism. We have no opinion on issues outside A.A. and neither endorse nor oppose any causes.

How A.A. is Supported
Over the years Alcoholics Anonymous has affirmed and strengthened a tradition of being fully self-supporting and of neither seeking nor accepting contributions from nonmembers. Even within the Fellowship, the amount that may be contributed by any individual member is limited.

How A.A. Members Maintain Sobriety
A.A. is a program of total abstinence. Members simply stay away from one drink, one day at a time. Sobriety is maintained through sharing experience, strength and hope at group meetings and through the suggested Twelve Steps for recovery from alcoholism.

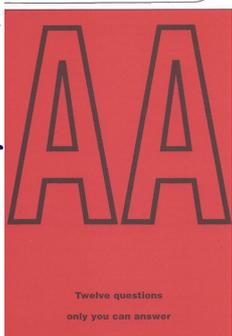
Why Alcoholics Anonymous is 'Anonymous'
Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of A.A. It disciplines the Fellowship to govern itself by principles rather than personalities. We are a society of peers. We strive to make known our program of recovery not individuals who participate in the program. Anonymity in the public media is assurance to all A.A.s, especially to newcomers, that their A.A. membership will not be disclosed. (OVER)

AA Basics is a double sided A4 page that answers a few questions people that are not covered in the pamphlets, like availability of meetings and AA helplines.



Is AA for you contains the classic "12 Questions" that help someone self identify as alcoholic.

Is A.A. for you?



If you would like one of these packs posted out to you, please send an email with your name, address and organisation to gso@aa.org.au

How Can A.A. Help You?

Would you be interested in having an A.A. presentation at one of your professional gatherings? Or would you like information about recovery from alcoholism in A.A.? If so, please contact

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