



THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

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TO ALL MEMBERS

Coronavirus and what it means for Alcoholics Anonymous

It is not a time for panic but it is a time for common sense.

We would not be as foolish as to issue directives to any alcoholic or AA Group since, as we are all well aware, "Each group should be autonomous ..." However the Board strongly suggests that each member and each group take note of the directives of the Australian Government Health Dept. In following our Statement of Purpose, which instructs us to provide leadership to the Australian Fellowship, the General Service Board issues the following.

In line with the Australian Government's Health recommendations around the COVID-19 pandemic the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia encourages its members to follow these helpful health and Safety suggestions during this time

- Refrain from shaking/holding hands at meetings.
- Ensure your hands have been well washed before entering a meeting.
- Groups may provide hand sanitiser for members to use
- If you feel physically unwell then stay at home.

If you are required to stay at home then we suggest you make use of online AA meetings.

Monitor the Department of Health website (linked below) and follow advice given by them. The website is updated each day.

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

Some buildings and spaces may be closed and so members should look to alternative locations for their meetings if this happens. Some premises may also have their own safety conditions of entry. Please be mindful of these.

It may be necessary for you to defer Rallies, AA Weekends etc., (where larger groups of members gather) if the situation worsens, so please be mindful of that in your planning. Obviously, if possible, all events should proceed as planned and cancellation should be the last option.

We would suggest that each group considers all of our Traditions in any decisions that they make particularly considering our common welfare as in Tradition One.

Our World Service Delegates are monitoring the situation in other countries and gathering and sharing information.

The Board will continue to monitor the situation and post updates on the website (aa.org.au) as required.

Yours in Service

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia
