



THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

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Letter to Members of Alcoholics Anonymous

A Call to Action

10 February 2021

As you may be aware, the impact of COVID 19 on the General Service Office caused an unexpected and substantial reduction in normal revenues. This has continued into 2021 with the literature sales declining and the Adelaide Convention Committee having to make the decision to cancel the convention. It is clearly not sustainable to rely on these avenues any more for our revenue. It has been shown that our General Service is vulnerable and our services will suffer.

The table below demonstrates our current revenue decline

	January 2021	December 2020	30 Nov 20	30 Oct 20	30 Sep 20
Income					
Action Club	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$550.00	\$655.00	\$720.00
Birthday Club	\$0.00	\$297.00	\$188.00	\$160.00	\$219.00
Central Region	\$1,720.00	\$4,412.00	\$7,615.87	\$8,715.12	\$9,311.32
Eastern Region	\$7,267.00	\$7,366.00	\$47,813.20	\$49,810.51	\$50,198.28
Northeastern Region	\$3,297.00	\$9,079.00	\$24,033.28	\$27,967.42	\$35,663.00
Northern Region	\$265.00	\$2,157.00	\$1,746.73	\$1,759.89	\$1,500.92
Personal	\$13,086.00	\$6,859.00	\$54,304.56	\$59,592.07	\$76,570.83
Southern Region	\$2,239.00	\$1,998.00	\$19,475.16	\$22,694.93	\$25,774.77
Western Region	\$1,354.00	\$4,330.00	\$15,653.89	\$15,038.89	\$11,537.39
Total Income	\$29,238.00	\$36,508.00	\$171,380.69	\$186,393.83	\$211,495.51

In 1974, The Australian General Service Conference on behalf of all members made this pledge:

“That the Australian Service Conference on behalf of all AA members in Australia pledges that we accept responsibility for the maintenance of a General Service Office and ask the groups in Australia to provide the necessary finance to carry out this task.”

A.A. groups or individuals support A.A.'s essential services because the services benefit all A.A. members. Our Seventh Tradition states that “Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” A.A.s want our Fellowship to endure, and to be readily available for the still-suffering alcoholic to come. This means to be fully self-supporting this funding needs to come from members to ensure that General Service will happen.

Your contributions pay for

- Our 1300 number
- Underwriting Conventions
- Literature Printing and sales
- Facilitating the Australian General Conference which is the Group Conscience of Australia
- Public Information and producing video and radio community service announcements
- Our National Website
- Running of GSO
- Funding our presence at National professional events
- Your Group's Insurance

These are all very important functions and without these the ability to carry out our primary purpose is impacted.

Our long form of Tradition 7 states that “We view with much concern those AA treasuries which continue beyond prudent reserves to accumulate funds for no stated AA purpose”

The General Service Board is asking groups and members to review what they are doing with their contributions and, if they have excess funds, to forward that money to the Board so that it can continue to carry out the vital purposes outlined above. In this regard it would be helpful if your Group could pledge regular contributions to support these services.

Contributions to the General Service Board of AA made by individuals are tax deductible. Contributions to the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous can be deposited in the following bank account:

BSB: 012 006
A/C: 009750529

Or online at G.S.O.'s A.A. website www.aa.org through the donations portal.

Andy Poad
Chairman
General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia