



THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

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22nd June 2021

To All Groups & Members

MESSAGE FROM YOUR GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

CHANGE TO PREAMBLE

A letter to the Australian AA Fellowship concerning change to the Grapevine Preamble (often called the AA Preamble and traditionally read at meetings).

The General Service Board has received advice that the Grapevine Preamble has changed. The new Preamble is as follows. (The change is indicated in bold)

*Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of **people** who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.*

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

The following background information was received from the Acting Publisher of Grapevine, Inc.

“The topic was actively discussed in AA groups across the United States and Canada for two years over both the 70th and 71st General Service conference panels. As a result of those conversations the Delegates of the General Service Conference passed a series of votes, in a sequence of events that culminated with the final advisory action requesting:

“The Preamble revision replacing the words ‘men and women’ with the word ‘people’ be presented to the General Service Board for approval as the new revised A.A. Preamble.”

Having been accepted by the General Service Board and forwarded to Grapevine for fulfilment, the publisher and editorial staff at AA Grapevine went to work to carry out the Conference action with love and service. The revised A.A. Preamble will first appear in the July 2021 AA Grapevine.” Please note the following advice from the General Service Board of Australia.

The Preamble is copyrighted by AA Grapevine Inc., so the Australian Fellowship have to accept their changes.

There is no issue regarding worldwide consultation. Any change to the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions or Article 12 of the Conference Charter require the written consent of three-quarters of the AA Groups worldwide, as described in the resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention, North America. However the Preamble does not require this worldwide consent.

If the preamble is reproduced in Australian literature, in local newsletters ,etc then no changes can be made to it as it is copyrighted by AA Grapevine Inc.

Yours in Service

Andy P

Chairman

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia