

Conference Summary
NZ Al-Anon Service Conference
5th – 8th June 2025

Being
Hopeful, Open and Willing



The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the
Serenity
to accept the things I cannot
change,
Courage
to change the things I can,
and **Wisdom**
to know the difference

~~~

## *Te Inoi Mahurutanga*

E te **Atua** tukua mai ki a au  
te **mahurutanga**  
ki te whakaae ki ngā mea  
e kore nei e taea e au te whakarerekē,  
te **kaha**  
ki te whakarerekē i ngā mea ka taea e au,  
me te **mātauranga**  
e mōhio ai au he aha te aha

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                                            |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Board Meeting and Conference Orientation</i> Tracy B, Rose S & Jax C.....               | 1         |
| <i>Spiritual Goals Workshop (from WSC)</i> Anna M & Sally-ann M .....                      | 1         |
| <i>Welcome from the Board Chair</i> Tracy B.....                                           | 2         |
| <i>Spiritual Goals for Conference</i> .....                                                | 3         |
| <i>Voting Procedure</i> .....                                                              | 3         |
| <i>Conference Motions and Trials</i> .....                                                 | 4         |
| <i>Al-Anon Selected Committees</i> .....                                                   | 4         |
| <i>Workshop: Being Hopeful, Open and Willing</i> Louren P & Helen P.....                   | 5         |
| <i>Summary of Delegates' Meeting</i> Di D & Diane W.....                                   | 6         |
| <i>Workshop: Alateen</i> Paula B & Robyn D.....                                            | 8         |
| <i>Workshop: OPEN Session</i> Louren P & Sally-ann M.....                                  | 9         |
| <i>Presentation: Annual Accounts and Budget</i> Tina M.....                                | 10        |
| <i>Presentation: Regional Board Member (RBM) Process</i> Robyn D.....                      | 12        |
| <i>Presentation: IAGSM Report</i> Liz A & Rana S .....                                     | 12        |
| <i>Workshop: Creating Enthusiasm for Service</i> Renée S & Christina V.....                | 14        |
| <i>Presentation: Succession Planning Within Groups &amp; Areas</i> Paula B & Teena S ..... | 15        |
| <i>Presentation: Public Outreach</i> Rana S & Chris W.....                                 | 17        |
| <i>NZAGSB Traditional Approval</i> .....                                                   | 18        |
| Board Nominees (nominated for the next 12 months).....                                     | 18        |
| <i>Chosen Selected Committees</i> .....                                                    | 19        |
| <i>Themes and Service Goal</i> .....                                                       | 19        |
| NZASC Theme 2026 .....                                                                     | 19        |
| NZASC Goal 2025/2026 .....                                                                 | 19        |
| AA Convention Theme 2026 .....                                                             | 19        |
| Next Board Road Trip.....                                                                  | 19        |
| <i>Reflection on Spiritual Goals Workshop</i> Anna M & Sally-ann M.....                    | 19        |
| <i>Unfinished Business</i> .....                                                           | 20        |
| <b>Area Delegate Reports .....</b>                                                         | <b>21</b> |
| <i>Area One Delegate's Report</i> Diane W.....                                             | 21        |
| <i>Area Two Delegate's Report</i> Louren P .....                                           | 23        |
| <i>Area Three Delegate's Report</i> Renée S .....                                          | 24        |
| <i>Area Four Delegate's Report</i> Di D.....                                               | 26        |
| <i>Area Five Delegate's Report</i> Teena S.....                                            | 28        |
| <i>Area Six Delegate's Report</i> Helen P.....                                             | 29        |
| <i>Area Seven Delegate's Report</i> Christina V.....                                       | 31        |
| <i>Area Eight Delegate's Report</i> Anna M.....                                            | 32        |
| <i>Area Nine Delegate's Report</i> Chris W.....                                            | 34        |
| <b>Board and Selected Committee Reports .....</b>                                          | <b>36</b> |
| <i>Board Chair Report</i> Tracy B .....                                                    | 36        |
| <i>Treasurer</i> Tina M.....                                                               | 38        |
| Financial Performance to 31st March 2025 (FY25).....                                       | 38        |
| Proposed Budget 2025/2026 (FY26).....                                                      | 44        |
| <i>General Secretary</i> Sally-ann M .....                                                 | 45        |
| <i>IAGSM</i> Liz A (Year 2) / Tracy B (Year 1) / Rana S (Alt).....                         | 47        |
| <i>Alateen Coordinator</i> Paula B .....                                                   | 54        |
| <i>Conference</i> Arnold H / Rose S .....                                                  | 55        |
| <i>Convention</i> Robyn D .....                                                            | 56        |
| <i>Public Outreach</i> Rana S .....                                                        | 61        |
| <i>NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO)</i> Sally-ann M / Liz A.....                 | 64        |
| <i>Northern Regional Board Member (RBM)</i> Robyn D .....                                  | 67        |
| <i>Delegates' Liaison Support</i> Paula B .....                                            | 69        |
| <b>Outgoing Shares .....</b>                                                               | <b>70</b> |
| <i>Outgoing Share, Area Six</i> Helen P.....                                               | 70        |
| <i>Outgoing Share, Area Three</i> Renée S.....                                             | 70        |
| <b>Feedback questions asked of Conference members .....</b>                                | <b>72</b> |
| <b>Close of Conference 2025 .....</b>                                                      | <b>72</b> |
| <b>Conference Members 2025.....</b>                                                        | <b>73</b> |

## Board Meeting and Conference Orientation

Tracy B, Rose S & Jax C

The NZ Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB or 'Board') met from 11am-4pm with Delegates invited to observe (no voice/no vote). Due to inclement winter weather across both motu on the Wednesday, many out of town Conference members' travel plans were disrupted, though all made it in the end.

The 2025 NZ Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) began at 5pm with everyone joining in the Serenity Prayer and a warm welcome from the Acting Conference Chair.

The Conference Chair and Conference Host [I'm guessing there's a reason titles are used instead of names, but usually I'd expect title followed by name in first instance and then name used in subsequent mentions] welcomed everyone to the 56th New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference, and introduced its theme: "Being Hopeful, Open and Willing".

Conference members got to meet their Buddies in person (Buddies support the newer Conference members during the Conference). There was a workshop on the Spiritual Goals of Conference (see below) and we were reminded that all participants would be invited to 'sign up' to honour the Goals on Friday morning.

Members enjoyed a shared dinner together. This was followed by orientation with the Conference Chair and Conference Host, who spoke to the purpose of Conference and encouraged active participation. Members were also given information about the voting and general procedures of the Conference and informed that all sessions would be recorded as well as transcribed by volunteer members.

## Spiritual Goals Workshop (from WSC)

Anna M & Sally-ann M

At the very beginning of Conference, two members facilitated a short workshop and advised members that they would have the opportunity to circle back to it at the very end of Conference. Each member was invited to "paws and reflect" on the Spiritual Goals of Conference (see page 3) and choose their own personal 'spiritual goal' throughout Conference. Members shared this goal with their buddy and wrote down the steps they would take to practice the goal each day at Conference.

The two written tasks were:

1. My personal spiritual goal to practice this weekend (include using HOW [Honest, Open, Willing] I will demonstrate / achieve it. What will my steps to success look like?)
2. The spiritual goal I'm taking back to my Area (include HOW [Honest, Open, Willing] we will demonstrate / achieve it. What will my steps to success look like?)

One example a member was willing to share was:

1. "To be respectful in all my affairs throughout Conference – inside the Conference room and everywhere else. To be obviously listening and to speak calmly, clearly and succinctly when I have something worthy of being said."
2. "To share the why of my Conference topic highlights with the Groups at the July Assembly. I shall use my personal goal to achieve this and take appropriate notes to support my memory."

At the end of 2025 Conference, multiple members shared that having the three Spiritual Goals printed out in front of them each day helped them focus more on these goals than in previous years (see Sunday's session on page 19).

**MY SPIRITUAL GOAL Paws & Reflect**

TASK: PLEASE READ THE 3 SPIRITUAL GOALS BELOW. CHOOSE A GOAL THAT SPEAKS TO YOU IN THIS MOMENT AS YOUR PERSONAL SPIRITUAL GOAL OF CONFERENCE. SHARE IT WITH YOUR BUDDY FOR FEEDBACK. THEN USE THE SPACE BELOW TO WRITE PERSONAL STEPS THAT YOU'LL TAKE TO HELP YOU PRACTICE THAT GOAL DURING EACH DAY AT CONFERENCE AND BACK IN YOUR AREA. REFLECT WITH YOUR BUDDY ON YOUR PROGRESS AT THE END OF EACH DAY AT CONFERENCE.

|                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Spiritual Goals of our NZ Service Conference</b>                                                                                                           | <b>Spiritual Goal 1:</b><br>That the spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail through mutual respect and acceptable conduct of its members.<br><b>Spiritual Goal 2:</b><br>Conference members will understand the purpose of Conference, the relationships within Conference and be able to articulate Conference elections.<br><b>Spiritual Goal 3:</b><br>Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group consensus, and we will presume goodwill. |
| <b>My personal spiritual goal to practice this weekend</b><br><small>Include HOW I will demonstrate/achieve it. What will steps to success look like?</small> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>The spiritual goal I'm taking back to my Area</b><br><small>Include HOW we will demonstrate/achieve it. What will steps to success look like?</small>      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

"Let's walk softly, like cats—with presence, purpose, and respect."

## FRIDAY

An optional meditation meeting was held at 7am each morning, followed by an optional sharing meeting at 7:30am. These optional meetings, hosted by a Conference member, were provided following members' feedback after the 2024 Conference.

On Friday afternoon, there was an opportunity for Area Delegates to update Conference with relevant activity occurring after the March reporting deadline, as well as the opportunity for all Conference members to ask any questions regarding the Area Delegate Reports. These updates and Q&A are included under the relevant 'Area Delegate Reports' section later in this Summary (starting on page 21).

After dinner, some Conference members attended the Friday Friendship Discussion AFG meeting.

## Welcome from the Board Chair

Tracy B

On behalf of the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board, I am honoured to welcome you to the 2025 New Zealand General Service Conference.

Our theme, *"Being Hopeful, Open, and Willing,"* will guide us through this Conference, encouraging us to embrace the future of our fellowship here in New Zealand.

Reflecting on my journey, I remember my first Al-Anon meeting, where I was so focused on changing someone else's behaviour that I was unaware of how much Al-Anon would transform my life. I came burdened by chaos and lacking the principles that now restore my peace and give me hope. In those early days, I was missing the structure, trust, and wisdom found in our spiritual foundations. I found all of that and more through my honest and sincere commitment to working the Twelve Steps.

The spiritual principles of Al-Anon – our three Legacies – provide the strength and framework to navigate life. They guide me toward self-love, trust, faith, and a deeper connection with my Higher Power. As our literature states, *"The more we practice the principles of the Al-Anon program, the deeper our understanding of ourselves grows, and the more spiritual we become."* For this, I must remain openminded and willing.

Had you told me at my first meeting that I would one day stand before you as Board Chair, I would have struggled to imagine it. Yet here I am, supported by fellow members and the wisdom this program has given me. It reminds me that I am never alone.

As we explore Concept Eleven, which focuses on active service, and Concept Nine, which emphasizes leadership, let us embody the qualities of good leaders who put principles above personalities. Let us engage in respectful, open dialogue, aligning with Tradition One and our common welfare.

During this Conference, we will challenge assumptions and deepen our understanding of hope and willingness. By connecting with each other and inviting our Higher Power into our discussions, we can tap into our collective wisdom and build a brighter future.

This year, the Board has embraced the principle of *"First things First"*, fostering new connections and focusing on building a strong fellowship. We have kept our Strategic Plan and mission at the forefront, and our Board Development session illuminated insights and reinforced our commitment to the higher principles of service and our legal and moral responsibilities in governance: integrity, accountability and responsibility. Our work with the International Team at the World Service Office has also deepened our understanding and dedication in the worldwide fellowship we are part of.

As we gather, let us embody these principles, recognising that our shared experience brings us closer together. Let us weave them into every discussion, decision, and connection, fostering a compassionate environment where love, joy, and understanding flourish. Together, we can guide the New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups toward a bright future, honouring our common purpose.

**NZ AL-ANON  
FAMILY GROUPS  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### Vision & Mission

We are determined to continue offering help & hope to friends and whānau of alcoholics and making a positive impact in our community. Let's take a look at what we have been working on and what our future plans are:

**VISION**

By practising the 12 steps of AA and strengthening our service structure, our vision is to support healthy groups, secure Al-Anon Family Group's recognition and ensure the long-term sustainability of Al-Anon and Alateen.

**MISSION**

To help friends and families of alcoholics ensuring essential resources remain available.

**PRIORITIES**

1. Essential Board roles strategically filled.
2. Keep the annual Conference goal in the forefront of activities and add it to the Board Agenda.
3. Work towards more Alateen groups.
4. Road Trip to be held in 2025.
5. Hold Conference 2025.
6. Hold Board Development Day.
7. Online payment gateway.

## Spiritual Goals for Conference

### *Why have goals for the Conference?*

The Board is responsible for keeping the Twelve Traditions safe, and the Conference is the main protector of Al-Anon and Alateen's unity and longevity.

Having mutually agreed upon, shared goals helps Conference members remain focused and accountable in their service work. Additionally, Al-Anon is spiritual in nature, and *spiritual* goals serve as a reminder of this.

### *These particular goals*

By focusing on the spiritual side of our Conference, members are encouraged to take responsibility for how they work together and for their personal behaviour. This supports the practice of Knowledge-Based Decision-Making: open communication between leadership and membership, dialogue before deliberation, ensuring all decision-makers have common access to comprehensive information, promoting a culture of trust and the practice of presuming goodwill.<sup>1</sup>

### *Spiritual Goal 1*

“That the spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail through mutual respect and acceptable conduct of its members.”

### *Spiritual Goal 2*

“Conference members will understand the purpose of Conference, the relationships within Conference and be able to articulate Conference decisions.”

### *Spiritual Goal 3*

“Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, and we will presume goodwill.”

*The above Spiritual Goals for Conference were mutually agreed upon by attendees, each of whom committed to uphold these goals throughout Conference.*

## Voting Procedure

The Conference Chair explained the voting procedure as outlined in the latest *NZ Service Handbook*:

- All Area Delegates have voice and vote. Board votes are proportional to Delegates present, with the total Board votes accounting for no more than half the number of Delegates. When all nine Area Delegates are present, the Board has a maximum of four votes.
- Ballot is used to decide which Board members will vote taking into account any Board members who had voting rights at the previous Conference. For the 2025 Conference, the voting Board members were Tina M, Sally-Ann M and Robyn D.
- The Host, Technical Assistant/Co-Host, Scribe and Observers in attendance have **voice but no vote**. They may make announcements and comments related to the position they hold.
- Voting procedure is by written ballot for personnel and show of hands for principles. If the motion involves a person, voting is by an anonymous written ballot. If it involves a policy or concept, voting is public, via a show of hands.
- Two non-voting members agreed upon by all present count the votes and report the result.
- All decisions are to be reached by discussion, vote and whenever possible, by unanimity. The NZ Service Handbook defines unanimity as agreement by at least two-thirds of those voting.
- Once a vote is carried, further discussion is closed for that session.
- If a decision cannot be readily reached, the Board Chair or Conference Chair can elect to appoint an ad hoc committee to discuss the matter and report back to Conference.

---

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed explanation of Knowledge-Based Decision-Making, see the 2006, 2008 and 2014 *World Service Conference Summary*, available on the Members menu at al-anon.org. The KBDM process is also referenced in the latest Service Manual and NZ Service Handbook (pages 34-37).

For clarity on voting procedures as well as the responsibility and authority of Conference, members were instructed to read the following sections of the 2022-2025 Service Manual prior to attending Conference:

- Warranty Three (pages 220-221),
- Concept Ten, point [a] (pages 204-205).

To ensure non-Conference members were able to fulfil their duties while at Conference, the following motion was proposed:

***Motion: That the NZASC approve all scribes and tech support to be present in their service roles throughout Conference***

**CARRIED**

Conference Chair agreed to introduce new scribes at the start of each session.

## Conference Motions and Trials

### *NZASC 2025 Motions*

#### **Motion 1**

*That the NZASC approve all scribes, tech and host members to be present in their service roles throughout Conference. **CARRIED***

#### **Motion 2**

*That the NZAGSO 2024/2025 annual financial accounts be accepted as presented. **CARRIED***

#### **Motion 3**

*The Board Chair seeks approval to have a single vote. **REJECTED***

#### **Motion 4**

*The Board Chair seeks approval to have a single vote by written ballot to approve all Board nominees. **CARRIED***

#### **Motion 5**

*That the NZASC give traditional approval of the Board Member nominations presented for the NZ Al-Anon General Service Board. **CARRIED***

#### **Motion 6**

*That the NZAGSO 2025/2026 annual budget be accepted. **CARRIED***

### *NZASC 2025 Trials*

**No current trials**

## Al-Anon Selected Committees

Selected Committees are created by the Board to take care of various elements of our fellowship. They operate under the guidance of our Traditions and Concepts, especially **Tradition Nine** and **Concept Nine**. The committee members are directly responsible to the fellowship through their respective Committee Chair.

The NZ Service Handbook lists a number of existing committees and describes their purpose:

- Alateen Committee – arranges national Alateen initiatives.
- Conference Committee – organises NZASC.
- Convention Committee – arranges the New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups (NZAFG, which includes Alateen) participation in the annual NZ Alcoholics Anonymous Convention.
- Editorial Committee – edits a New Zealand magazine (*Messenger*).



- Executive Budget Committee – ensures that NZAFG remains solvent and administers New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO).
- Literature Committee – revises the *New Zealand Al-Anon/Alateen Service Handbook (PN-27)* and adapts World Service Office (WSO) Guidelines and pamphlets to make them relevant to NZAFG.
- Public Outreach Committee – provides knowledge and generates public goodwill.

The term for a Selected Committee member begins at the conclusion of the September Board meeting and continues until August 31 the following year (page 96, NZ Service Handbook 2022).

Each Delegate is requested to be a member of a Selected Committee. With the exception of ex-officio members, no member shall serve on more than one Selected Committee.

## Workshop: Being Hopeful, Open and Willing

Lauren P & Helen P



Our journey in Al-Anon takes us along many roads, peaks and valleys, twists and turns in life. If we are 'hopeful, open and willing' we are living the program and sharing our experience with others.

### What does it mean to be H.O.W?

- Hopeful – to have faith, gratitude, be brave and trust that with the program, life will get better.
- Open – to be inclusive, not always right, presume goodwill, and accept and trust in a higher power.
- Willing – to take action and be open-minded.

### What does H.O.W. mean for a newcomer?

- Hope – bravery to enter the rooms, not being afraid of the future, sobriety, faith that chance can happen one day at a time.
- Open – an element of desperation.
- Willing – from unwilling to willing takes desperation.

Conference members broke up into groups to discuss H.O.W. from a newcomer's or service member's perspective.

### The questions to the groups were:

- What practices help me start my day with hope and serenity?
- If I were not so worried about someone else's situation, what would I be doing?
- How are my relationships, as I understand them now, a reflection of my own strengths and weaknesses?



| <b>Newcomers' perspective</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Service members' perspective</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Hopeful: Taking care of ourselves.</p> <p>Willing: Starting with serenity prayer, having planned activities, giving myself permission to focus on myself.</p> <p>Open: Open to others' perspectives, my way isn't the only way.</p> | <p>Hopeful: Self-care, clean, clothed, have I eaten? Am I exercising? Simple basics.</p> <p>Willing: Giving people space to come to service, and contemplate my motivation, how do I show up for service in terms of my attitude? Putting out what we want back.</p> <p>Open: moving from endurance to enjoyment, surrender.</p> |

We help ourselves by 'sharing willingly with others' the love and understanding we have been privileged to receive. This is the priceless gift of serenity.





The Delegates brought eight topics to the Conference floor, though only two were able to be covered in depth due to time. With the summary to Conference immediately following the 'Delegates Only' meeting, it was noted that future agendas might benefit from more gentle scheduling.

### *History of holding a 'Delegates Only' Meeting at Conference*

The Delegates shared a snippet from *Many Voices One Journey* (B-31, page 179) to provide the origin of the 'Delegates Only' meeting. This Conference tradition, which originated in Alcoholics Anonymous, began at the 1966 Al-Anon World Service Conference (WSC). The Delegates shared that nowadays they meet in camera-on electronic meetings between Conferences.

### *Topic 1: Service for experienced members*

The New Zealand 2023 membership survey of the fellowship showed 70% of respondents were over 50 years of age compared with 50% in 2006.

Some of the possible reasons noted at Conference about why older members do not return to Group service, or beyond, included feeling that they have stayed too long in role, personalities being placed above principles, the feeling of "having done my bit", moving into other organisations, moving away from Al-Anon, family commitments, fear of technology, health reasons and feeling unable to complete a role's three year term.

Suggestions to take back to the Areas:

- Using the Service Manual and NZ Service Handbook to share about what service is.
- Members undertaking their own personal inventory on the topic of service.
- Delegates reflecting on how they have grown in service
- Delegates reflecting how they serve their Group, Area and New Zealand
- Making plans to grow in service across time
- Delegates planning for a supportive and nurturing handover to the next member taking on the role.

**Responses to the discussion question asked by the Delegates: "Is there more we could do to encourage service for experienced Al-Anon members?"**

- Succession planning starting at the Group level, strong sponsorship, and strong service sponsorship, encouraging sponsees into service, shoulder tapping experienced members.
- Sharing our own experience with others in the fellowship. Talking about the skills and confidence gained from service roles, revisiting services roles again after some time has passed, especially locally.
- Finding balance, supporting new people into a role while learning from the experience of members who went before. Highlighting the joys that come with service.
- Reminding ourselves to place principles above personalities, using the NZ Service Handbook to focus on the role's tasks, flexibility around the size of commitment. Regarding the length of time outlined for service roles: knowing a commitment can be made in principle and ideally the full three years will be completed but it may not be possible (it's spiritual progress not spiritual perfection and we serve as we live – one day at a time).
- Sharing what succession planning looks like, goes with the shoulder tapping. Talking with the rest of the group officers or committee members about suggestions for people coming through. One thing to think about as I am nearing the last year of my own service term, who can I support into the role. And what will I do next?
- Sponsorship is a great tool for shoulder tapping. We come in without experience. We get experience from doing. A sponsor knows where the sponsee is in terms of step work, and progress.

### *Topic 2: Al-Anon members who are also members of Alcoholics Anonymous*

Prior to 2018, members of Al-Anon who are also members of AA could not hold office beyond the Group level. However, since 2018, the Service Manual has been amended so that these members can hold office

beyond the Group, other than a few specific roles – roles where voting could affect another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole.

In the NZ Service Handbook a dual member<sup>2</sup> is eligible to hold office within the Al-Anon or Alateen group and may serve as an AMIAS sponsor or speaker. These members are not eligible to serve as GR or for other service position beyond the group.

**Discussion question:** “Should our NZ service participation guidelines for Al-Anon/Alateen members who are also members of Alcoholics Anonymous, better align with our Senior Conference?”

- All Al-Anon members can do Public Outreach, be committee members for events like Serenity Weekends and “dual” members can also be AMIAS. The Conference members were encouraged to re-read Bill W’s Concept 9 essay on leadership (in the Service Manual).
- An Area Delegate mentioned that one of the Area Committee roles is being temporarily filled by a member who is also a member of AA.
- As with all members, it’s ideal for the member to have an Al Anon Sponsor and Al-Anon service sponsor. If they are wanting to do service in Al-Anon, we should welcome that.
- A Board member asked how we bring our NZ Service Handbook into alignment with the Service Manual and another member noted that Board is capturing changes that are already happening. There is a file being updated, but the NZ Service Handbook cannot be produced until the Literature Chair role is filled. The Literature Chair would bring the changes to Conference for discussion and vote.
- There was also the suggestion that NZ adopt a similar process as the WSO noting that the NZ Service Handbook could show as valid for three years, not the one year on the cover.
- It seems from the Service Manual that it’s a matter of Area autonomy within those spiritual principles. It’s really none of my business what other fellowships a member attends unless the Al-Anon member self-identifies as AA member.

Following the above discussions, it was noted that the answer to this question is **yes** given the Conference Charter, included in our WSC Service Manual, clearly states “Certain countries of the world [have] their own General Service Office and national conference. This World Service Conference is now the senior conference.”

However, the discrepancy highlighted the gap in our service structure at the bottom of the triangle – our General Service Board. The volunteer’s role of Literature Chair is vacant which means that any updates made by WSO aren’t making it to our Conference and then into our NZ Service Handbook. WSO has paid employees who summarise the WSC discussions and decisions, putting out a new Service Manual – with tracked changes - every three years.

*Other key issues discussed at the Delegates Only meeting, and interim online meetings*

Topic 3: that although brief mentions of non-CAL is appropriate at Group sharing meetings, only CAL materials may be used at meetings (pages 63 and 114 of Service Manual).

Topic 4: that with the explosion of online meetings, ‘lone’ members is no longer a term used within the Al-Anon World Service structure.

Topic 5: given NZAGSO registered electronic meetings are part of the NZ structure, can we amend how they’re displayed on the NZ Al-Anon website so they show within their NZ Area as well as in an electronic only section?

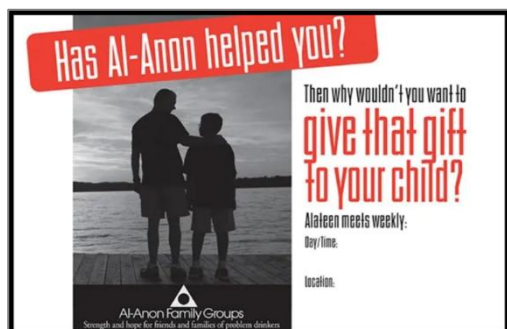
Topic 6: how to best inform members of non-NZ online meetings about local in-person Al-Anon events?

Topic 7: carrying out Area Committee inventories.

Topic 8: workshops and meeting the Area’s needs.

---

<sup>2</sup> Note: the term “dual member” is no longer used in our senior structure. Members are simply referred to as members of AFG who are also members of AA.



Conference members were asked the question on the Alateen table card (M-80) – if Al-Anon has helped them. If their individual answer was “yes”, they it was suggested that giving that gift to your own child might be desirable. They were also asked to reflect on whether becoming an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) was part of their own spiritual journey.

The history of Alateen (which started in 1957 by a son seeing the benefits the 12 steps gave his parents in their AA and Al-Anon membership and wanted it for himself), Alateen resources and

where to find them was shared: NZ Service Handbook 2022 (pages 43-53), WSO Service Manual (page 93). An AMIAS application process visual was shared by the Executive Budget Chair in their NZAGSO report (see page 65) which is also available on the Al-Anon website in the members section under AMIAS service.

Members also have the following available on the NZAFG website: Alateen Service e-Manual; Al-Anon Safety Guidelines; AMIAS Application process, AMIAS profile form, AMIAS police Vetting Request and Consent Form.

It was noted that questions re the AMIAS application process should **not** go to the NZAGSO Office Manager. Instead members should ask either their Area Alateen Coordinator or, if none, the National Alateen Coordinator.

Delegates broke into groups to come up with a future Alateen Plan for their Area (see an example below). It’s prudent to have a process in place for renewals so they don’t all lapse, as has happened recently in one Area.

Conference was reminded that Alateens in New Zealand can access the USA electronic Alateen meetings via the official WSO **Al-Anon app** ➔



Check the developer is “Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters”.



Remember that Alateens are welcome to attend Al-Anon meetings, and Al-Anon meetings are welcome to use Alateen literature in Al-Anon meetings – Alateen is PART of Al-Anon. Members were encouraged to share information with other Areas to help each other out. Start with a group of AMIAS willing to support an Alateen meeting for up to two years. Sponsors can encourage sponsees to bring their children to meetings. Publicising Alateen and AMIAS can start at the Group level and filter down to Area. Share the process and show the

easy one-pager visual mentioned above

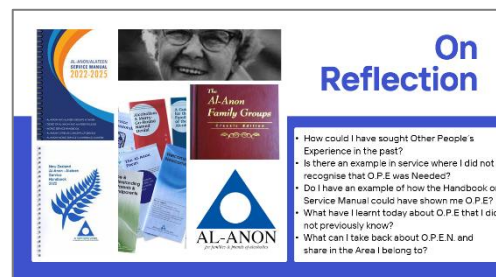
The WSO Service Manual (page 94) includes an “Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP)”. Area 7 has one as they don’t have an Area Alateen Coordinator and have AMIAS and Alateen meetings.



We held an Open Session. OPEN was an acronym that stood for **Other People's Experience Needed**. A Delegate shared that they were a bit lost in service until they started reading the NZ Service Handbook and the Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual. These two books guided them to find solutions that led to serenity. The books were full of Other People's Experience. The Conference members found out that these two 'books' aren't 'books' at all – instead they're a portal to another universe. A universe CHOCK FULL of Other People's Experience!

Open minds open CAL<sup>3</sup> - we all have access to Other People's Experience when we open our CAL! The 3 service C's - Confusion, Chaos, Criticism which create Conflict in service - can be solved by having and using a Service Sponsor. Find a Service Sponsor who has successfully served at and completed the role that you're currently serving in and beyond. The workshop concluded with some questions for our reflection.

- How could I have sought Other People's Experience in the past?
- Is there an example in service where I did not recognise that O.P.E. was Needed?
- Do I have an example of how the NZ Service Handbook or Service Manual could have shown me O.P.E?
- What have I learnt today about O.P.E. that I did not previously know?
- What can I take back about O.P.E.N. and share in the Area I belong to?



Delegates were encouraged to take the reflection questions back to their Area after Conference.

#### Simple questions quickly answered by CAL included:

Q: *What are our Al-Anon ideals?*

A: That all Al- Anon discussions should be constructive, helpful, loving, and understanding

Q: *Can AA members serve in AFG?*

A: Yes.

Q: *Can our shares mention outside literature?*

A: Yes, a brief mention.

#### The Delegates used this session to ask questions of their own:

Q: *How do we increase our search optimisation re Al-Anon?*

A: Google ads were done in the past, but the resource is no longer available.

Q: *What were the Ask it Basket questions?*

Four Ask it Basket questions were read out and have been answered directly to the members who asked them. Afterwards the questions and answers were shared with the Delegates via the service structure.

<sup>3</sup> Conference Approved Literature (CAL)

## SATURDAY

The day started with two optional meetings – a meditation meeting, followed by a sharing meeting.

The agenda included the opportunity for Area Delegates to ask questions of the Board and Selected Committee Reports on Saturday afternoon. The updates and Q&As are included under the relevant report in the Board and Selected Committee Reports section later in this Summary.

As Saturday is the last ‘full day’ of Conference, those exiting Conference have the chance to give an outgoing share, and be presented with a Certificate of Appreciation. The transcriptions are included towards the back of this Summary.

After dinner, some Conference members choose to visit NZAGSO, making the most of being there by purchasing Conference Approved Literature (CAL) from the Office Manager who kindly came in for the evening.

## Presentation: Annual Accounts and Budget

Tina M

*“All I had to do was become the least bit willing to open my clutched fist a tiny, grudging bit and miracles happened. That’s god as I understand him today”*  
As We Understood

Knowing that reporting terms aren’t necessarily known to every Conference member, the National Treasurer covered the basics that create our yearly results. Profit and Loss (P&L) statements are made up of money coming IN (Income) and money going OUT (Expense) which leads to an OUTCOME (Surplus if we have money left at the end, or a Deficit if we have a loss at the end).

A Balance sheet does exactly that: balances. What we own are our ASSETS and what we owe are our LIABILITIES. The Equity (in our case, an ample reserve) is the difference between these two plus our yearly result.

Our operating funds are used for:

|                                                                    |                                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Support to our Service Arms                                        | NZ Al-Anon News (monthly)                               |
| Literature for sale via Import from WSO                            | Management of the toll-free number                      |
| The website, with regular updates and resources for the fellowship | Assistance for Group Registrations and Renewals         |
| Group services and support                                         | Management of the day-to-day finances and bank accounts |

| Profit & Loss  | 2025           | 2024           |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Income (IN)    | 78,091         | 81,849         |
| Expenses (OUT) | 79,820         | 77,696         |
| <b>Result</b>  | <b>(1,730)</b> | <b>4,153</b>   |
|                | <b>Deficit</b> | <b>Surplus</b> |

Balance Sheet

Equity 157,848

The donations by month show spikes in September and February, the months of our bi-annual appeals. Thank you to all Al-Anon New Zealand members who organise fundraising events!

### Financial Year Wrap Up

- Donations increased by 2,123 from last year and we exceeded budget by 9,379 (noting the budget is based off Group donations, not individual donations).



- The “profit” from our literature sales halved which was a mixture of the exchange rate dropping and lower sales. We don’t specifically aim to make a profit; we aim to cover the costs of purchasing and holding stock, and sending it out to members and to New Zealand events.
- Other income: the Al-Anon portion of any AA Convention surplus was not received until after end of financial year. If we’d known the amount, the FY25 deficit would have been a surplus. Instead, the donation will roll into the 2025/2026 year.
- Expenses were 3% higher than last year, however many of these are considered investments for NZ Al-Anon General Services (NZAGS) such as purchasing new blinds for our service office; holding a 4 day Service Conference in 2024; making a larger than normal donation to WSO; sending two IAGSM Delegates to the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting in Virginia Beach, USA. We also saved costs on Board Member national flights compared to last year.

### *What Areas need to know*

- We have incurred a deficit so need ongoing support. Bi-annual appeals and donations appreciated!
- Literature sales have dropped – please purchase your Conference Approved Literature (CAL) from our Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland based General Service Office.

### *Audit*

- Our audit is still underway and should be finished in July/August 2025. The new auditor we have is more thorough. There is stringent reporting due to our charitable status. We need to file our report by the end of September with the Charities Services | Ngā Rātonga Kaupapa Atawhai.

**Motion: That the NZAGSO 2024/2025 Annual Financial Accounts be accepted as presented  
CARRIED**

### *Budget 2025/2026*

(the budget figures are in the Treasurer’s report, page 44)

We use the spiritual principle of abundance when setting this budget, we plan for having our service roles filled, we plan for Board Road Trips to be held, we plan to have volunteers to reimburse.

### *Budget income*

- Kept \$1.70 donation per member per meeting again this year. Based on the 2023 membership survey, our meeting attendees have slightly **increased**, and this is reflected in the new budget
- Interest received also increased, though conservatively as interest rates have been dropping.
- Our literature sales budget has increased for this year as we are hoping the lower re-pricing will generate more CAL sales.

### *Budget expenses*

- High inflation similar level to last year
- Public Outreach budget kept the same – exciting things to come!
- Board investing in further Board Development
- Planned Board Road Trip is in Area 4 so there will be increased travel costs compared with the earlier Road Trip to Area 6.
- We have budgeted for a loss, and usually make a small profit. We currently hold approximately twice our ample reserve.

The following motion was voted on at the end of Conference to allow for any agreed changes in focus.

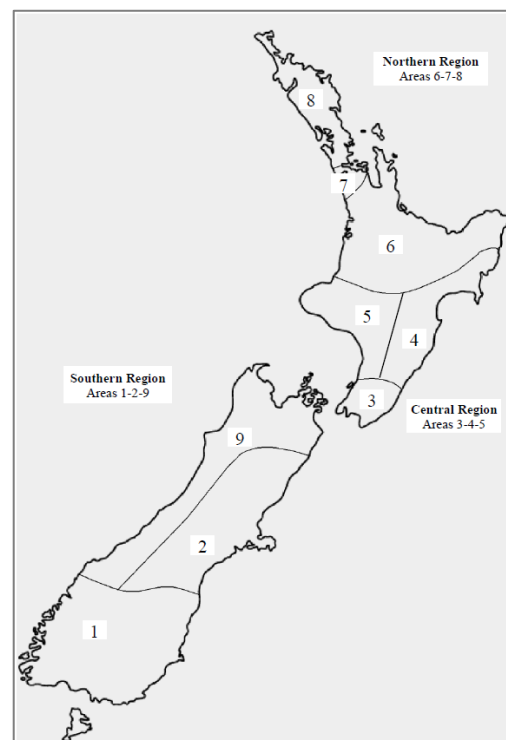
**Motion: That the NZAGSO 2025/2026 Annual Budget be accepted as presented  
MOTION PRESENTED AT END OF CONFERENCE, CARRIED**



As the roles of Regional Board Members (RBM) have been vacant in New Zealand's recent history, this quick presentation described both the role and the process for Areas to nominate, then the Conference to elect a Regional Board Member (RBM). Check out this map from page 3 and the RBM section on pages 105-107 in the NZ Service Handbook 2022.

### *Key RBM info for Area Delegates & the NZ fellowship:*

- **All RBM nominations must come from the Area** – nominated by the member's home group, voted at Area Assembly by the Group Representatives (GRs)
- Ideally the candidate has 5+ continuous years of Al-Anon membership, and must reside within the region. They may also have special skills that would be helpful to the fellowship (e.g. management, finance, business, or Al-Anon service)
- Area Delegates are not eligible for the RBM role until one year has passed after completing their term as Area Delegate
- All successful nominations are sent to the General Secretary by 30th April for discussion and vote at the upcoming Service Conference (June)



The fellowship continues to have two vacancies:

Central (Areas 3, 4, 5)

Southern (Areas 1, 2, 9)

The Northern RBM shared that being RBM has supercharged their service, catapulting them out of their comfort zone and given plenty of opportunity to “stick with the winners and win with the stickers”.

### **Answers to Questions**

- The members in the Northern Region have been very accepting. At a recent workshop, previous members shared their experience, strength and hope. It's been a great chance to mix with different Areas and gain different perspectives.
- Regarding shoulder tapping and timing: the RBM was supported through the Area Seven members. Such an opportunity for growth – personally and my life outside of Al-Anon. It seems we get the chance to re-invent ourselves anytime with new experiences.
- Having both a Sponsor and Service Sponsor has been great as they've kept me focused on future roles when rotating off a role.
- Comment from a new Area Delegate who was Alt Delegate when the member in the role stepped down before their term finished: the RBM approached me; I was closed minded, saying no to completing their term. The RBM kept supporting me, reminding me don't do it alone.

## Presentation: IAGSM Report

Liz A & Rana S

Check out the full IAGSM report in the Board and Selected Committee Reports section of this Summary (see page 47).

The International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) was explained.

- Interestingly the voting procedure was two votes for New Zealand as New Zealand had sent two Delegates, rather than one vote per structure. This was tabled as “unresolved” as the Delegates did not see this as equitable as some countries can only send one delegate and are therefore potentially under represented.
- NZ has consistently sent two Delegates every second year since 1980.
- The ‘Big Question’ for IAGSM 2024 was “**What do structures think the value of IAGSM is?**”



- The main session (focused on the Big Question) was hybrid which had its challenges.
- The tour of the World Service Office (WSO) including the Warehouse & Archives was incredible (an observation from one of the Area Delegates was the joy emanating from the two Delegates that went to WSO was “palpable”). A special moment was seeing a New Zealand member’s original artwork of “Lois’ missile” – especially given the artist was there!

### The Al-Anon fellowship – there is no standing still

Finland’s presentation challenged the IAGSM Delegates to “remember the future” using an X-Y-Z method. X = what do you love? Y = who is a person you like? Z = where have you been once? The Conference spent time imagining this process and were invited to reflect on:

- Is my message attractive? Does it offer inclusivity and hope?
- Get alongside Areas and Groups – many members don’t know what their questions are.
- Think abundantly, imagine a prosperous and thriving Al-Anon fellowship in Aotearoa.
- Lois said that there is no standing still, that “stagnation is retrogression” (Lois Remembers, page 195) which is reiterated in our Service Manual (see page 119).
- Start from the bottom up – show the fellowship the importance of being face-to-face, whether that’s online or in person. What’s the vibe like where I am?
- Share the knowledge I pick up from the fellowship between the business.
- Members talked about aiming to work alongside AA more in their immediate Area, holding Al-Anon meetings in same locations and times of Alateen/AA meetings.
- Being brave and facing the future with curiosity and open hearts.

### Conference Approved Literature (CAL) Global Strategy

The aim is that more members are able to attain access to literature **in their language**, quickly. Intention to have literature accessible quickly and as cheaply as possible. Groups then buy from where they want, and structures buy from where they want.

Two structures are trialling this to see how it will work and will be concluded in “about a year” (so late 2025).

What this means for our fellowship: we may be able to buy CAL closer to home.

### Alateen attendance – when teens attend electronically from another country

There will be an international task force set up to ensure the language is “Internationally Friendly” with the upcoming Global Electronic Alateen Safety Minimums.

In the meantime, English speaking Alateens can now attend meetings on the official Al-Anon app. In New Zealand we can recommend young members attending Alateen meetings via the Al-Anon app as New Zealand law doesn’t apply to meetings hosted outside of New Zealand. (Current Australian law says whoever hosting is responsible i.e. the USA for app-based Alateen meetings.) Unfortunately, the times that Alateen meetings are held on the app means they may not be suitable for Kiwis.

### Electronic Groups

It was very clear that most structures are now registering their own electronic groups, some with their own Electronic Area and some within the existing Areas.

Poland is trialling a region for electronic Polish speaking groups. A decision on the outcome of the trial will be made in 2025.

### The Big Question: does your GSO consider the IAGSM purpose still relevant to Al-Anon as a whole?

During the IAGSM there were a total of six sessions dedicated to this topic including three hybrid sessions for inclusivity. There was a great deal of discussion and work to focus on the most important aspects identified by IAGSM 2024. Interestingly, Delegates were only asked the question two weeks out from the meeting which meant we had little time to consult widely. Many of the Delegates came armed with all the reasons why we did not want the IAGSM to stop. We heard from structures who were unable to attend for various reasons, and both in-person and electronic attendees had a voice.

In summary it was agreed three priorities to focus on:

- (1) Exploring different funding options for IAGSM
- (2) Reimagining IAGSM's purpose (to be a decision making/recommendation body around international structures)
- (3) Delegate ownership/participation in the meeting and its agenda

At the close of IAGSM 2024, a motion was carried to have an interim, electronic meeting to focus on these points.

### IAGSM Summaries

Similar to this Conference Summary you're reading, IAGSM Summaries are available to download free of charge from the members section of the WSO website: [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)

## **Workshop: Creating Enthusiasm for Service**

**Renée S & Christina V**

At the heart of Al-Anon is a powerful truth: service brings healing. Conference members gathered to explore this theme in depth through a presentation that was both personal and historical, practical and spiritual. The presenters drew inspiration from Al-Anon co-founder Lois W. They invited conference members to reflect on their own journeys and reignite their passion for service.

The aim was twofold; to look at ways of inspiring enthusiasm for service and to generate new ways of encouraging enthusiasm for service.

It covered the history of service in Al-Anon with the presenters sharing their joys and challenges - in cultivating and also sustaining this enthusiasm for service. They drew on personal experience and historical insights from our co-founder, Lois W.

The presentation began with this reminder from Lois – on the power of prayer.

*“Prayer had a miraculous power of its own, a power far greater than any human power.”*

— Lois Remembers

Conference members were encouraged to think about an agreed shared **definition of service**. To guide the workshop. To focus on building enthusiasm around it.

They shared personal service stories; highs and lows. Conference members were asked to meditate on:

- Are you enthusiastic about service today?
- What sparked or hindered that enthusiasm?
- What brought you to the conference?

Then there was a deep dive into the historical roots of service, what that service looked like and Lois's reflections on service from Lois Remembers (1979). Lois's reflections on service emphasised that:

- Service is rooted in mutual need and identification.
- Her journey included resistance, growth, and eventual deep commitment.
- Lois emphasised the importance of group conscience and inclusive decision-making.

Conference members broke out into groups to share and discuss their own:

- Personal “throwing the shoe” moments – times when they resisted service or felt overwhelmed.
- Wisdom gained from overcoming resistance to service.

Lois emphasised some key messages:

- Sponsorship is vital and often overlooked.
- Living the 12 step programme is central to Al-Anon's purpose.

---

*“Anybody can start something but carrying it out is the real challenge. And all the rest of you are doing that job. You're all founders in your own right, carrying the message”.  
“When we aid newcomers to live by the Al-Anon program, we are not only benefitting them but strengthening ourselves as well”.  
Lois W*

---

- Twelve Step work must remain voluntary to preserve its value.
- Personal authority should not overshadow group principles.
- Growth in spirit is more vital than growth in numbers.

Conference members were then encouraged to share ideas on takeaways from the workshop that they can share with their Area.

Members shared their experiences of personal growth and learnings from service roles:

- Hosting AA meetings at home was done in the early days – a member shared that this would be unthinkable, highlighting the importance of creating safe spaces for recovery.
- Reluctance and growth in service – A member shared their reluctance into stepping into a Delegate role when approached by an RBM. They questioned their ability and readiness for service. A candid phone conversation led to a moment of reflection and empowerment.
- Post Convention 2025 – A member shared that they did not handle this well.
- Committee dynamics – A member on the Conference Committee shared how fresh ideas from a new member when they were in year three made them “want to leave” but ultimately helped them they were a tactical person.

Broader reflections:

- Obedience to the unenforceable: Volunteers sustain democratic vitality.
- Inclusivity in decision-making: Lois advocated for wide representation.
- Partners of alcoholics need support too—the foundational purpose of Al-Anon.

One member shared a creative acronym they created on the spot. **ENTHUSIASTIC** stands for **E**xperience – **N**eeding sponsorship – **T**radition 5 – **H**istory of 12 step recovery – **U**nderstanding – **A**ttending AA meetings – **S**piritual foundation – **T**hree Ts (tell the truth) – **I**nformation – **C**onference Approved Literature (CAL)

The workshop closed with the Al-Anon Declaration of Unity

*“Each member of the fellowship is a significant part of a great circle of hope. While respecting each other’s individuality, our common welfare must come first. Our recovery depends on our mutual need and an atmosphere of trust”*

## **Presentation: Succession Planning Within Groups & Areas    Paula B & Teena S**

This presentation/workshop was about what is happening surrounding succession planning in Al-Anon Family Groups - starting at the top of our upside down triangle (i.e. our Groups) and filtering down the layers.

Delegates had been sent a collection of questions to be distributed to their Groups and the answers were to provide content for discussion at this workshop. The questions (and responses) were:



### **Q1. What is a healthy group?**

Various answers included the use of the legacies: Concept 4 - participation is the key to harmony; Tradition 5 - our purpose; Tradition 7 - being fully self-supporting; regular business meetings and group inventories, is welcoming to newcomers, has an active sponsorship programme and uses CAL to solve problems.

### **Q2. Does your group have GR and Alternative Group Representative (Alt GR) role filled?**

Answers ranged from: some Areas have all groups with GRs, many have alt GRs in addition to GRs and a few areas that have groups without GRs or any alt. GRs.

### **Q3. What are the advantages of an Alternate GR?**

Sharing the load - leads to succession of roles/planning.

**Q4. Does your Area have an Alternate Delegate?**

Four of the nine Area Delegates said yes, so five do not.

**Q5. What are the disadvantages of an Alt Delegate for the Area?**

NZ Service Handbook implies that Alt Delegate does everything if Area role person not there; If main role is not filled, then Alt Delegate becomes the general job person; Reminder: that the NZ Service Handbook says “may”, not must in relation to backfilling.

**Q6. What are the advantages of an Alt Delegate for the Area?**

Someone to bounce ideas and share at the Area level; Sharing the load when visiting Groups.

**Q7. Is your Area at a crisis point filling service roles?**

Three Area Delegates said yes, six did not.

**Q8. Does your Area discuss succession planning?**

Five Areas said yes, four did not.

**Q8a. What is discussed/what is the result of that?**

- Some Areas “go into committee” so it’s not minuted. We discuss names and who we have shoulder tapped.
- Some Areas regularly raise the issue of what roles are vacant and remind everyone that no one does service alone and that the previous role holder can assist; encourage service sponsorship.

**Q8b. What is a Service Sponsor?**

A Sponsor who helps you to discuss and learn your role, gives you tools, strategies and has experience to share with you. It’s best if the service sponsor has had experience in that role.

**Q8c. What are some ‘maintenance of succession planning’ suggestions?**

To make sure that there is clarity around when a role finishes, and to allow for adequate time to discuss that this is happening and to ask/tap/find a possible replacement. This would then be followed by a pathway of support/scaffolding for the replacement from the previous position holder.

Have a one page “contact sheet” with all Area roles lists, including which are vacant; also show their terms (e.g. Area Secretary 2023 – 2025). Are they willing to be contacts for future members in those roles i.e. Service Sponsors.

Encourage all members to have the dates of when the Area has an Election Assembly (if they do) or when the roles finish so they can celebrate the passing-on of that role.

**Q8d. Is it a good strategy to do another term because role is vacant?**

It depends on the individual, groups and Areas: e.g. I said I was willing to do the role of Area Delegate again if (a) there is an Alt Delegate to assist and (b) I’m voted back in.

**Q9. What does the Board do for succession planning?**

Have it on the agenda for every Board meeting and allow enough time to have a robust discussion (e.g. had one hour at Thursday’s Board meeting).

Try and share the load – if someone knows someone in the Area, then contact someone to put in a profile form (links in members section of website [www.al-anon.org.nz/members/board-profile-forms/](http://www.al-anon.org.nz/members/board-profile-forms/) and in NZ Service Handbook)

**Q10. Who do we rely on to get members for succession planning?**

From the membership – i.e. from the Al-Anon Groups. The responsibility does not sit with the Board or even the Area Committees (Concept 1).

**Suggestion for future Area Delegate reports:** have a table showing how many GRs and Alt GRs.

We need to remember:

*He aha te mea nui o te ao?*

*He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata*

*What is the most important thing in the world?*

*It is people, it is people, it is people*

Prior to the presentation, a quick update and opportunity for Q&As was offered. Please see the Public Outreach (PO) report section, page 61.

As set following direction given at the 2023 New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference, the Public Outreach strategy continues to be:

- Focus on the Convention
- Continue to use existing social media channels; get advertisements out
- Push on contacting local counselling services
- Linking NZAFG website to other's webpages



The imagery above shows the ripple effect ... our job is to ensure regular droplets of water, not to see where the ripple gets to! PO is about awareness, not necessarily about getting new members. We all have a responsibility to do this important outreach work – carrying the message that Al-Anon can help friends and family members of alcoholics. Look for opportunities to do PO.

### ***Suggestions for Areas without an Area PO Coordinator***

Consider suggesting a one year term with a review at the end of the year (given it is a 3 year role) to get someone interested.

All Area Delegates were encouraged to suggest to Area that there's a Public Outreach budget for Area (some Areas already have this), and those with a PO budget were encouraged to use it!

If your Area PO Coordinator isn't aware of the National PO Strategy, let them know about it, and remind them of the National PO Coordinator's contact details.

We were reminded that everyone has PO potential: PO is simple – keep it simple:

- post to social media; like posts you see
- approach counsellors
- outreach to AA e.g. putting AFG posters up where in-person AA meetings are held

Empower all members to work the 12th Step!

AFG NZ now has its own Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/NZALAnonFamilyGroups](https://www.facebook.com/NZALAnonFamilyGroups). Regarding anonymity, remember you can like it and follow the page. That doesn't imply membership of Al-Anon, just as liking and following Cancer Society NZ's Facebook page doesn't make the follower a cancer patient.

From that Facebook page, there is a paid advertising campaign – when you scroll in your social media feeds, the advertising will appear.

## SUNDAY

As with earlier days, a meditation meeting, followed by a sharing meeting were offered as optional extras.

This year, the Conference Committee's goal was to offer a kinder timetable, so Conference finished at 11:30am with the chance for all Conference members to submit feedback online. The questions asked are included at the end of this Summary.

After lunch, the Board AGM was held, with Board members stepping into their newly elected roles (see nominees below).

## NZAGSB Traditional Approval

Traditional approval is the procedure whereby the Board (NZAGSB) presents to the Conference the nominees for successors to the Board for approval by vote. Traditional approval gives expression to the principles in Concepts One, Three, Six, Seven and Ten and acknowledges the ultimate authority of the groups through their Delegates and demonstrates the oversight of the Board and the NZ Al-Anon General Service Office. The vote is an expression of general support of the functioning of the Board.

The NZAGSB selects nominations for new Board members and presents them to Conference. The NZAGSB elects its own successors; all nominees are subject to the approval of NZASC.

After Conference, at the Annual General Meeting of the NZAGSB, the Board formally makes the appointments by electing the nominees.

### Board Nominees (nominated for the next 12 months)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Board Chair – Liz A<br>Alt Board Chair – <b>VACANT</b><br>Treasurer – Tina M<br>NRBM – Robyn D<br>CRBM – <b>VACANT</b><br>SRBM – <b>VACANT</b><br>Conference Chair – <b>VACANT</b><br>Exec/Budget Chair – Tracy B<br>Delegate Liaison – Paula B<br>General Secretary – Sally-ann M | AA Convention Chair 2026 – <b>VACANT</b><br>Public Outreach Coordinator – Rana S<br>Literature Chair – <b>VACANT</b><br>Editorial Chair – <b>VACANT</b><br>WSCR – <b>VACANT</b><br>IAGSM 1 – Tracy B<br>IAGSM 2 – <b>VACANT</b><br>Alateen Coordinator – Paula B<br>National Website Coordinator – <b>VACANT</b><br>National Archivist – <b>VACANT</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Acronyms (see NZ Service Handbook): RBM = Regional Board Member (RBM); WSCR = World Service Conference Representative; IAGSM = International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (Delegate 1 or Delegate 2)

***Motion: The Board Chair seeks approval to have a single vote by written ballot to approve all Board Members.***

**CARRIED**

Voting Conference members agreed with a show of hands to have a single motion for the Board member nominations.

The nominated Board members left the room to allow Delegates to make general comments. Following brief discussion, the nominated Board members were invited back into the room and the following motion was presented to Conference for written voting.

***Motion: That the NZASC give traditional approval of the board member nominations presented for the NZ Al-Anon General Service Board.***

**CARRIED**

The outgoing Board Chair thanked Conference for their participation and ongoing support.

## Chosen Selected Committees

As noted earlier, each Delegate is requested to be a member of a Selected Committee. Their term begins at the conclusion of the September 2025 Board meeting and continues until 31 August 2026.

The following committees were selected by the Delegates:

Alateen Committee: Di D, Anna M, Teena S  
Conference Committee: Diane W, Christina V  
Convention Committee: 2026 Renée S (Southern),  
2027 Renée S (Central)  
Editorial Committee: n/a

Executive Budget Committee: Louren P, Helen P  
Literature Committee: Chris W (if Chair role filled)  
Public Outreach Committee: Chris W (if Literature  
Committee not formed)

## Themes and Service Goal

### NZASC Theme 2026

The theme chosen for the June 2026 NZ Al-Anon Service Conference is:

*Our Path to Grace, Unity and Understanding*

### NZASC Goal 2025/2026

This is the Goal that Delegates and Board members chose to take from the 2025 NZ Al-Anon Service Conference as a guide for service until the next Conference in June 2026:

*Growth Begins at the Group level*

### AA Convention Theme 2026

This is the theme chosen for the Al-Anon (which includes Alateen) participation at the AA Convention with Al-Anon participation on 16-18 January 2026 in Ōtepoti Dunedin. The AA theme is “Our Primary Purpose”:

*Our Primary Spiritual Aim*

### Next Board Road Trip

The first Board Road Trip was in Area Six. At NZASC 2024, Delegates suggested the second destination to be Area Four. At Conference 2025, Delegates were asked to make suggestions for the **following** Road Trip. The chosen Area is:

*Area One*

It was also noted that at the 2024 Conference, Delegates encouraged the Board to hold an electronic Road Trip so members can meet the Board face to face from whichever Area they're located. This was reiterated at the 2025 Conference.

## Reflection on Spiritual Goals Workshop

**Anna M & Sally-ann M**

Conference members were given the opportunity to reflect on the spiritual goals workshop, and their experience of this year's Conference in relation to reflecting on if we achieved our spiritual goals (see pages 1 and 3).

A few members briefly shared about their experiences, predominantly that the handout gave them a real opportunity to keep the goals front of mind, to personally connect to them in a meaningful way and assisted them in their attitude and behaviour. All said that this had been an excellent Conference.



## Unfinished Business

- No nominees for Central or Southern Regional Board Members.
- Is this when votes occur for the IAGSM Delegate? It's now time to find someone for this role as it's ideal to have two people. There are two role changes this year (Board Chair and Executive Budget Chair).
- This year did not present the opportunity for the voting members of Conference to (in confidence) choose the AFG theme for the 2027 AA Convention as AA hasn't chosen its theme yet. However, Al-Anon save the date flyers can still be handed out at the 2026 Convention and planning can begin. The 2027 Convention Committee may choose to suggest a theme or two to the 2026 NZASC with the decision being made in June 2026 at Conference.

### *Delegates were invited to the Conference floor*

**Question regarding voting Board Members:** isn't it a conflict of interest if voting Conference members who are standing for a Board role can vote themselves back on the Board? And if so, why don't they take part in the brief "in-committee" Delegate discussion? That doesn't seem like Knowledge-Based Decision-Making in action.

**Response:** other than not voting at Area Assemblies while also holding a Board role (i.e. cannot be a GR for my Group), this format doesn't appear as a conflict of interest. Voting for a role is the same as a GR voting for their own nomination for an Area role, or a home group member voting for their own nomination for a Group role.

As a visual learner and visual communicator, it can be challenging to read words and understand. Using hats as tools, sometimes we're at Conference with two hats. In my nominee hat, I leave the room while there is discussion about the role I'm standing for. In my voting member of Conference hat, I vote along with others when everyone comes back into the room.

In our Board meeting, our succession planning discussions are about looking for experienced future members for the roles and remaining open and transparent. Members have already had conversations about the role they've been nominated for this year.

**Question:** Without a Regional Board Member, can the Delegates' Liaison attend combined AA/AFG Area Assemblies and/or Area Assemblies? Or an alternate Board member?

**Response:** Often when we set our calendar for Board meetings it is the same time as one or more Area Assemblies and we can't attend as we're committed in service at the Board. In 2025 we trialled changing the "March" Board date to February to enable attendance at Area Assemblies to support Delegates. Reimbursement of costs can come from the unused RBM budget. Travel for service role work is reimbursed from the National general services budget. All Board members are encouraged to attend local Area Assemblies and regional events such as two Board members who recently attended the AA Southern Area Assembly. The Delegates' Liaison role was important while there were no RBMs and no member in the role of General Secretary. Now the role is filled, there are opportunities for us to revisit the workload.

**Question:** How do you fill vacant Area Committee roles? Our Alt Delegate steps in for any Area Committee roles if the member is unable to be at Assembly.

**Response:** the guidance for the Alternate Area Delegate tasks in the NZ Service Handbook 2022 state ... other duties **may** include... (see pages 77-78).

- How we read this guidance in our Area is that usually a member of Area Committee serves in their elected Area service role **and** as Alt Delegate. When the Area Delegate rotates off, or if they need to stand down before their term is up, the Alt Delegate shoulder taps a replacement for the Area role so they can serve as Delegate.
- In our Area, if – for example – the Area Secretary is unavailable for Assembly or a committee meeting, the Alt Area Delegate would step in.
- Other Delegates mentioned that whoever is unavailable to attend a service event backfills themselves with a member; that a specific role like Alt Delegate isn't presumed to immediately stand in.

# Area Delegate Reports

## Area One Delegate's Report

Diane W

### *Area geographical location/boundaries*

Area One covers the lower South Island from Ōamaru on the East Coast directly across to the West Coast.

|                         |   |                          |    |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|----|
| No. of Groups           | 8 | No. of Meetings          | 8  |
| No. of Alateen meetings | 0 | No. of AMIAS             | 0  |
| No. of Alateen members  | 0 | Area Alateen Coordinator | No |

The Dunedin Friday Lunchtime AFG was disbanded last year following a period of being supported by the Sunday Night Dunedin group. As this arrangement became unsustainable over time the decision was made to close the meeting.

Currently a member is being supported by others in Wānaka and Area One to register a new group in Wānaka.

There are no lone member meetings operating.

### *Public Outreach*

There continues to be no Public Outreach Coordinator in the Area so each group is encouraged to perform PO activities at their group level.

Following the last Conference, I shared the findings of the 2023 Membership Survey at the August Assembly and also did so during my visit with the Dunedin group in September.

Gore and Invercargill continue to advertise once a month in their local papers.

A decision was made at the August Assembly to collect cumulative data on the 0508 phone number enquiries, how many new members arrived at meetings and how they found out about Al-Anon. This will then better inform our investment into PO activities.

One Invercargill meeting held an open meeting in January specifically for counsellors and support agencies in Invercargill. Professionals were invited in person to the meeting. Unfortunately, no professionals attended the meeting, but as a result the group agreed they needed to go out into the community and speak with professionals in the first instance. Plans are underway to visit groups in pairs to share their recovery stories.

### *Area Assemblies*

We continue to hold four Assemblies a year with one part of the Area One AA Assembly in March. The format consists of a Business Meeting in the morning followed by a shared lunch and a workshop and meetings in the afternoon.

Assemblies often only attract the GRs, members of the host group and one or two other members. However, the numbers are always much larger when the Assembly is held in conjunction with the AA Assembly. This year we had a total of 49 attendees at our two Al-Anon meetings with some AA members attending their first ever Al-Anon meeting.

The Area Committee attempts to spread the Assembly venues around the Area but in the last year this has not been possible thus limiting the opportunity for host group members to attend.

Previously, workshops have been organised by the host group. We are now in discussion about the purpose of the workshops, identifying the needs of Area One and utilising the experience of those locally and nationally who have taken workshops successfully in the past.

### *Area highlights and successes*

- The Area One Literature Officer was appointed in August.
- GRs and Delegate meet electronically one month prior to an Assembly – set up after the August Assembly.
- Area One Committee members have all retained their roles over the year.

- The March AA Assembly in Ōamaru. A cohesive positive working relationship was established with AA organisers, helped by meeting in-person at the initial planning stage. Al-Anon provided supper on Friday night despite no home group in Ōamaru. Al-Anon members from both the North and South Islands supported the event. The Wānaka member attended and received support for starting up a new meeting. Ōamaru members connected with each other. Perhaps an Ōamaru meeting may be set up in the future?
- The October Serenity Weekend attracted 13 members with one braving the floods to come from Dunedin.
- Many opportunities were available to attend open meetings organised by our groups (Christmas meetings, a Professionals meeting, Valentine's Day, 70th Anniversary of Al-Anon). A new event started in February (following the disbandment of the yearly Book Study weekend at Edendale) called the "One Day at a Time Magical Mystery Tour". It was well supported by Invercargill and Gore members and looks to be repeated a number of times during the year.

### *Area concerns or issues*

- Positions still vacant: PO Coordinator, Alateen Coordinator, Area Archivist, and Alternate Delegate. The Alternate Delegate voted in at the August meeting resigned six months later.
- No progress made in AMIAS certification or starting an Alateen group.
- Representation of GRs attending Assemblies - only one out of the four Assemblies in the last year has had either a GR or Alt GR representing each meeting.
- Two groups are still without GRs.
- The newer groups have been hesitant in hosting Assemblies despite support. Hopefully this year?
- Our aging membership. Fewer members able to take on service roles beyond the group.

### *Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues*

The Area may choose to request a TEAM Event to help members better understand Al-Anon's Twelve Traditions, to practice Al-Anon's principles and to participate more fully in the 'service' part of Al-Anon's Three Legacies. Discussion has already started on this at the March Assembly, and I will be seeking more advice at Conference as requested by our Area.

### *AA Convention in my Area (yes, in 2026)*

In 2024 I joined the 62nd Annual Convention Committee in organising Al-Anon's participation at Waitangi in January 2025 and held the position of Literature and Display Officer. One of the reasons I did this was in order to build my own experience so that I could contribute more effectively to the 2026 Convention Committee. I found the experience of working with the Committee very valuable as was attending my first ever Convention.

Planning for the 2026 Convention is well underway and regular electronic meetings are scheduled. The 'Save the Date' flyers have been circulated widely to groups and at the recent Assembly. The majority of the Convention Committee attended the Area One Assembly at Ōamaru in March, so a hybrid meeting was scheduled on the same weekend which proved very beneficial. I hold the Convention Committee Hospitality role and intend to liaise closely with the group in Dunedin.

### *Matters arising from the previous Conference*

I was able to explain to our groups more fully about the donations and literature sales to New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO) following the Treasurer's report. Members now have a better understanding of how the finances operate and the importance of donations.

GR electronic meetings prior to Assemblies were started due to discussions with other Delegates.

### *Summary*

2024-2025 has been the year of settling into respective roles for the newer GRs, Area Committee and Delegate. Communication lines are clear and roles well defined. It is pleasing to note no positions have become vacant over the past year. Although one group closed in Dunedin, another group is in the process of starting up in Wānaka. GRs are open to asking for support when needed.

It has continued to be a huge learning curve for me with lots of "firsts" over the last year and I am very thankful for my Higher Power and the support from my sponsor, service sponsor and fellow Delegates.

### **Updates and Comments**

- One meeting has ceased (Dunedin) and a new Group started (Wānaka)
- A second meeting is being trialled in Dunedin
- Gore has a new GR
- Area One keen for a Board Road Trip

### **Answers to Questions**

- No, Alateen is not included as part of the AA Southern Assemblies

## **Area Two Delegate's Report**

**Lauren P**

### *Area geographical location/boundaries*

Timaru in South Canterbury, northward to Christchurch up to Kaikōura. Inland to the Lewis Pass, south to Glentanner, Lake Tekapo and back to Timaru.

6 Groups. 1 disbanded 2024. 1 electronic group (not registered with either WSO or NZAGSO).

|                         |   |                          |     |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----|
| No. of Groups           | 6 | No. of Meetings          | 6   |
| No. of Alateen meetings | 0 | No. of AMIAS             | 2   |
| No. of Alateen members  | 0 | Area Alateen Coordinator | Yes |

Any active Alateen meetings, any new? Any disbanded? None.

### *Public Outreach*

Workshop with Emerge Aotearoa Health Coaches and other health information people. A three hour information session with three Area Committee members and approximately 30+ Health Coaches and Health Improvement Practitioners. Great session for the facilitators, learned a lot about how this could be done better next time, including scenario/role play and feedback from participants. Was overwhelmingly positive. Intend to do another this year.

### *Area Assemblies*

Service through the Legacies: Step 1, Tradition 1 & Concept 1. 14 attended workshop, appreciated something different to a sharing meeting. Intend to do another workshop following next Assembly in April.

### *Area highlights and successes*

- Workshop with Emerge Aotearoa.
- Increase in newcomers in attendance – but not necessarily staying.
- Committee meeting with GR involvement.

### *Area concerns or issues*

- AMIAS applicant approval long and slow.
- Group disconnect and breakdown.

### *Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues*

- Encourage return to group structure, including regular group conscience meetings.
- Support from other groups to attend meetings.

### *AA Convention in my Area*

The AA Convention wasn't in Area Two. However, an AA Southern Area Assembly was held locally. A mix up in communication amongst the AA organising committee as to whether Al-Anon was to participate was resolved quickly. As for participation, Area Two attendance was low. The expectation that fellowship members are willing is null and void. Encouraging involvement this year by organising committees.

### *Matters arising from the previous Conference*

Explain the purpose of the question and answer process following the Area report and why this happens.

## Summary

The last year has been unpredictable for Area Two. Positions filled were unexpectedly vacated, committee members have stepped up and now share these roles. As a committee we are making decisions that best suit our Area needs. There is still much work to be done amongst the fellowship understanding participation for the greatest number depends on unity. One can only try.

### Updates and Comments

- All roles filled at present; Area Chair rotates off next year
- 5 of 6 groups have a GR. The GRs are involved in committee meetings
- Alateen – approached by NZAGSO about setting up an Alateen meeting; four AMIAS applicants
- Linwood Group is considering community advertisements
- Some confusion around the role of the Board by GRs and Committee members
- Area of concern – there is no GR or Alt GR for one Group because it is so small (2 regular members) and may have to close
- There may be an online group that is not registered to Area, unsure if it uses AFG name

### Answers to Questions

- Nil

## Area Three Delegate's Report

Renée S

### Area geographical location/boundaries

Area Three is Aotearoa New Zealand's Wellington region which includes the Wairarapa and Kāpiti Coast. Area Three has four Groups that have electronic components: two fully online Groups, one Group that meets twice a week (a fully online meeting and a fully in-person meeting), and one Group that is a hybrid meeting. New: newcomers meeting (Petone monthly in-person, hosted by Rocket Recovery AFG). Mahurutanga Serenity AFG (Featherston, fortnightly in-person). Disbanded: Path of Hope AFG (Wainuiomata in-person).

|                         |    |                          |    |
|-------------------------|----|--------------------------|----|
| No. of Groups           | 10 | No. of Meetings          | 12 |
| No. of Alateen meetings | 1  | No. of AMIAS             | 9  |
| No. of Alateen members  | 7  | Area Alateen Coordinator | No |

Alateen Petone continues to meet monthly (started April 2024) with regular attendees growing from one to seven. It meets at the same time and venue as the monthly newcomers meeting and an open AA meeting: this is proving helpful for parents/caregivers who have the option of attending their own meeting at the same time.

### Public Outreach

Since last Conference, the Area has:

- Coordinated an open public meeting. Though few members of the public attended, it was heartening to see that the free listing on an events website attracted 63 listing views and over 2,000 page views which, along with posters around town, raises awareness of the help and hope offered by Al-Anon Family Groups
- Met with a Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) Team Leader and Te Roopu Kaitiaki to provide CAL pamphlets and posters, including one publicising the monthly Alateen meeting
- Met with a Women's Refuge Lower Hutt social worker (instigated by the public meeting poster) which led to the social worker attending a Group meeting to learn more
- Regular communication with Area Three groups and members outside of Area Three via the chat group
- At Assemblies, we've been encouraged to anonymously share WSO or NZAGSO Al-Anon posts on social media, and been given packs of the new colour posters to put up around our various meeting locations
- Encouraged members to consider standing for the (still vacant) role of Cooperating with the Professional Community – reminding us that the NZAFG 2023 survey showed 40 percent of respondents heard about Al-Anon from a health professional
- Presented at the Wellington State Care Survivors info day

Planned:

- Presenting at the Wellington Mental Health, Addiction and Intellectual Disability Service (MHAIDS) clinicians training day – this opportunity came via the AA Public Information (PI) Coordinator

In discussion:

- Creating an online Professionals Outreach speaker meeting aimed at health workers

### *Area Assemblies*

Jul 2024 (interim): the assigned workshop topic “We will be transformed” was not run; format of workshop was smaller groups with scrabble style word creation. (No record of number in attendance.)

Nov 2024 (election): workshop topic: “We will be transformed” – smaller groups creating gifs, writing, drawing and putting examples of transformations on the wall. (No record of number in attendance.)

Mar 2025 (interim): workshop topic: Let it begin with me – smaller groups linking the Declaration with our Tradition Five. (20 attended.)

We’ve trialled creating a rollfold brochure (A4 rolled into three panels) rather than A4 poster invitations. Area Three Assemblies start with a shared lunch and close with a workshop. Business meetings are kept to either 2 or 2.5 hours which enables the Assembly to be completed within an afternoon.

### *Area highlights and successes*

Our Area PO stepping up to coordinate Al-Anon’s participation at an AA Assembly after neither the Area Chair nor Delegate were able to.

AA PI Coordinator suggesting Al-Anon to MHAIDS and then introducing the Area Three PO Coordinator to the service.

Assisting two members in the opening of a new in-person Group.

Assisting a member in closing a group that was no longer self-supporting. Help was offered by focusing on the Traditions & Concepts, especially Tradition Seven and Concepts Nine and Twelve (see below).

Regularly attracting excellent international & national speakers at one of the Area’s online meetings – often reaching the maximum participation of 100 attendees on the electronic platform used by the group.

An online Group choosing to support a monthly in-person Al-Anon newcomers meeting.

An online Group holding an electronic weekly book study, using the “Al-Anon Family Groups Classic Edition” (B-5) text for any interested members.

### *Area concerns or issues*

Our Conference Approved Literature (CAL) talks about “obedience to the unenforceable.” The Group hosting the July Assembly on the Area Committee’s behalf did not use the assigned workshop topic.

A member, doing their best to keep a Group open despite no other homegroup members, asked NZAGSO to note the meeting had “closed temporarily.” Our NZ Service Handbook states groups close; they do not “go into recess”. As NZAGSO did not inform the Delegate of the member’s request, the Delegate could not help the member “understand and apply Al-Anon’s Traditions which guide all our affairs” (*NZ Service Handbook 2022*, pages 38, 75 & 88).

Arriving five minutes before the start of a recent in-person meeting, there were no members present and no signage to show where the meeting was.

Still no Alt Delegate though I’ve highlighted how rewarding the Delegate role has been for me and how much I’ve enjoyed it.

### *Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues*

The Area Committee asked the November host group to use the workshop topic that had been assigned to July’s host group.

In my role as current Delegate, I asked the former Delegate to join me in attending the meeting where the member was struggling on their own. We were able to help the member see why it was appropriate to close the Group. I am now in the process of assisting them to divvy up the Group’s resources, including funds.

Sharing my recent experience in attending in-person meetings (one not ready to welcome visitors, three warm and ready to welcome) which highlights the importance of practising Tradition Five in our home groups and other meetings we regularly attend. We are **all** responsible for being welcoming and giving comfort.

In terms of ‘creating enthusiasm for service,’ our Area Assembly focused its workshop on how enthusiasm can be fostered: by the transformation that occurs through taking the 12 Steps which lead to a “spiritual awakening” and the desire to “carry this message”. We also applaud when returns to the room after being elected to a service position and, at the last two Assembly business meetings, our Chair played a snippet of appropriate, fun music.

### *AA Convention in my Area*

No

### *Matters arising from the previous Conference*

Members appreciated hearing the results of the 2023 NZAFG Aotearoa New Zealand membership survey, with two facts that particularly resonated: 40% heard about Al-Anon from a health professional and 99% reported an improvement in mental health since attending Al-Anon.

It was disappointing that I didn’t receive a printed copy of the 2024 Conference Summary until February 2025 which meant I was unable to show it at the November Assembly (page 98 of the NZ Service Handbook 2022 states “As soon as possible after the close of NZASC, the members of NZASC receive an extensive Summary of NZASC”).

Following feedback from my Service Sponsor to re-read my report to ensure it was “creating enthusiasm for service,” I tweaked my March Assembly report and received the following message from an Area Committee member when they saw my final draft: “your report is fulsome, interesting and nudging readers to consider service opportunities and actions. I enjoyed reading it.”

### *Summary*

Attendance numbers at Assemblies is disappointing based on proportion of members. However, it’s fabulous to see all Groups other than one with a GR, a couple with Alt GRs, and to have three members ask for support in opening a new Group as well as liaising with a local AA group to ensure their members were welcomed. The new Group opened with an interim GR and interim Secretary / Treasurer (as per “A small group needs...” page 33 in the Service Manual) and committed to opening for three months before they make a decision about whether the Group was self-supporting or not.

#### **Updates and Comments**

- Mahurutanga Serenity staying open after their trial.
- The Serenity Weekend was cancelled due to lack of participants.
- 15 professionals turned up to a workshop in Masterton.
- Alateens happy with the monthly Alateen meeting so the AMIAS are not increasing its frequency.

#### **Answers to Questions**

- Nil

## **Area Four Delegate’s Report**

**Di D**

### *Area geographical location/boundaries*

Area Four stretches from Gisborne to north of Woodville, which includes the main cities of Gisborne, Napier, and Hastings. There is one lone member in Gisborne, no electronic groups, and no new groups.

|                         |   |                          |    |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|----|
| No. of Groups           | 2 | No. of Meetings          | 2  |
| No. of Alateen meetings | 0 | No. of AMIAS             | 0  |
| No. of Alateen members  | 0 | Area Alateen Coordinator | No |

Any active Alateen meetings, any new? Any disbanded? None.



### *Public Outreach*

Area Four has a banner which has been displayed since October 2024 at the Taradale Library and currently at The Doctors Greenmeadows Medical Centre. Focus has been on gaining a local social media presence with PO officers anonymously posting Al-Anon images on community social media pages. Hastings AFG has provided pamphlets to the local Opioid Substitution Treatment Health New Zealand team and placed posters around the Fallen Soldiers Memorial Hospital in Hastings. The Area Four Public Outreach Officer has put up fliers at the Citizens Advice Bureau, Heretaunga Women's Centre, and various public notice boards around Napier / Hastings. A health professionals / counsellor meeting is currently being planned.

### *Area Assemblies*

The September 2024 Assembly theme was 'Being hopeful, open and willing'. Nine members enjoyed a workshop of this same title, a business meeting, and Area Delegate Conference report. The November 2024 Assembly theme was 'Celebrating 70 Years of Al-Anon Family Groups in NZ'. Nine people enjoyed a workshop / sharing meeting and a business meeting. The March 2025 Assembly theme was 'A little time for myself'. Thirteen people enjoyed a sharing session based on the theme and a business meeting.

### *Area highlights and successes*

Area Four has successfully filled all Committee roles other than Alateen Coordinator and Literature Officer. A new member recently took over answering the phone and following Conference last year, they record call details and are part of the Area Committee.

For the first time, in March 2025, the Area Four Assembly was not held during the AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation meaning Hawke's Bay had two Assembly events in one month. Participation was good for both events.

### *Area concerns or issues*

Area Committee is mindful of the challenges reaching local people attending electronic meetings, particularly those aligned with WSO, meaning they may not be aware of local Al-Anon events. Area Four Chairperson and Treasurer terms are both up in July 2025.

### *Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues*

Area Four have considered PO activities (counsellor meeting, pop-up meetings in towns without Al-Anon groups) and while not using the Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) framework, have gathered budgets for each option to make informed decision on which will be the priority for 2025 based on what the Area can afford.

There have been multiple queries via NZAGSO for Al-Anon in Gisborne; at this stage Area Four is unable to afford travel costs to host a pop-up meeting but this is on the Area PO agenda for consideration when finances allow.

### *AA Convention in my Area*

No

### *Matters arising from the previous Conference*

Since Conference 2024, a Delegate group visit template has been initiated and filed in Area Four's electronic folder, thus providing future resource for Delegates regarding Group activities. While the Conference report noted there were no Area Four members who responded to the Membership Survey, feedback at the September Assembly was that one member had completed it. Following Conference 2024, guidance on copyright is now clearly provided to Chairs regarding photocopying CAL.

### *Summary*

Area Four has enjoyed having a second group operating in the Area. We have an enthusiastic Area Committee and are enjoying learning more about the Al-Anon structure via closer understanding of the NZ Service Handbook. Both Groups are seeing frequent newcomers attending meetings.

### **Updates and Comments**

- A second pop-up meeting in Waipukurau has been held this year, with six in attendance, possibility of regular meetings in future.
- PO Coordinator is organising professional counsellor meetings at individual organisations.
- Committee Chair and Treasurer positions available after July Assembly.
- Interest in Alateen, but no AMIAS (member interested cannot yet apply due to their length of membership).
- Comment: new Groups get a new starter pack from NZAGSO when they register

### **Answers to Questions**

- Nil

## **Area Five Delegate's Report**

**Teena S**

### *Area geographical location/boundaries*

Area Five stretches from Levin and Woodville in the South and up to Mokau and Waiohuru in the North. At present there are four Al-Anon Family Group Meetings (two in New Plymouth, one in Whanganui and one in Palmerston North). The Palmerston North group offers a hybrid option. Two groups were disbanded. We have two lone members in the Area.

|                         |   |                          |    |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|----|
| No. of Groups           | 4 | No. of Meetings          | 4  |
| No. of Alateen meetings | 0 | No. of AMIAS             | 0  |
| No. of Alateen members  | 0 | Area Alateen Coordinator | No |

Any active Alateen meetings, any new? Any disbanded? None.

### *Public Outreach*

Public Outreach has been quiet over the past year in Area Five. Some groups have been active in placing online posters onto local online community groups as suggested by the Board. A few members from New Plymouth have visited and spoken to local health workers in their area.

### *Area Assemblies*

Our Area Assemblies have seen an increase in members attending, growing from approximately 8-10 to 15-20 regular attendees. Our Workshop Themes have included 'Getting to know the NZ Service Handbook', 'How to run Workshops', 'Using CAL and getting to know what is available'. Each Assembly has had a theme (dressing up optional) and raffles have been generously contributed to and fellowship enjoyed over the shared lunches.

### *Area highlights and successes*

There have been an increased number of members attending meetings, including newcomers, returning members and members who have moved into the Area. We held various Al-Anon 70th Birthday Celebrations at most groups as well as using that as our theme for the Combined AA Area Assembly with Al-Anon Participation in June. Our AA counterparts were very appreciative of our working together with them for this event and were looking forward to future gatherings. Both New Plymouth groups have been meeting together to share fellowship over pre-meeting dinners and lunches

### *Area concerns or issues*

We have had quite a few newcomers join for a few meetings and then not stay for the recommended six meetings. A number of experienced members have left or will be leaving the Area and their service roles have not been filled. We are without a number of group and committee role members and so future succession is an ongoing concern as is the lack of support for AMIAS and Alateen groups in the Area. Other concerns raised by members to the Committee have included members without Sponsors and introducing non-CAL material to meetings.

### *Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues*

First and foremost comes an acknowledgement that our Higher Power may have a reason for certain things to happen (or not happen) and praying for guidance. Directing members to our NZ Service Handbook and their sponsors would often come next followed by a reminder that anyone can request a group inventory as an equal member. These topics have also usually become the focus of a workshop as seen above.

### *AA Convention in my Area*

No

### *Matters arising from the previous Conference*

Following our Conference I visited each group to share information learnt and the Public Outreach images that had been voted on for members to share with others. We began creating group emails and chat groups so members were better informed and to improve communication and fellowship. I discussed and emailed/messed the AMIAS form to GRs hoping to start building the foundation for Alateens to be able to attend Alateen meetings. That is as far as that has gone although it is raised at each monthly GR meeting and at Area Assemblies. I enjoyed the way many of the workshops were presented at Conference and have copied the presentations when possible at group and Area level, particularly the pass-the-parcel format. I was chuffed to be invited to one of the meetings where this was used during a group meeting – how awesome!

### *Summary*

It was with sadness that we experienced the passing of a member late last year and we acknowledge and appreciate their participation and willingness to be of service to their home group and to our Area as an Area Delegate.

It has been a year full of learning – about the members in this Area, about how each group functions and I look forward to continuing my journey into my final year as Area Five Delegate.

#### **Updates and Comments**

- Involved in a Public Outreach event with the New Zealand Collective of Abused in State Care Charitable Trust (NZCAST) in May.
- Supported a pop-up meeting with Area 4 Delegate and members at Waipukurau in May.
- Communication via online chat groups and emailing re: events has been effective.
- Next event is a combined Area 5 AA Assembly with Al-Anon/Alateen participation.
- Area Chair rotates off July 2025 – no nominees indicated their willingness yet. Current Chair is willing to stay on in the role.
- Three of the four Area 5 Groups do not have a GR.

#### **Answers to Questions**

- Area Five Delegate asked what happens when Area Committee closes. Note: topic was to be covered at “unfinished business” to ensure time for all Delegates to report back. However, this subject was not included in the scribe notes.

## **Area Six Delegate's Report**

**Helen P**

### *Area geographical location/boundaries*

Area Six stretches from Whitianga to Whangamatā, Waihi, Tauranga, Rotorua, Whakatāne, Tokoroa and Hamilton.

### *Alateen*

We have no Alateen groups in Area Six but will hopefully have a group in the near future in Tauranga.

We are really pleased with the process in Tauranga in working towards starting an Alateen Group. We have two current AMIAS and one new Alateen sponsor asking for approval (delayed until the next Assembly in October 2025, as they were unable to attend the April Assembly). We are thrilled to be getting closer to starting a new Alateen group in Area Six. It has been a long time coming but will be truly worth it when the new Alateen group gets going.

## *2024-2025 Highlights*

### AA Convention

I was fortunate to attend the 62nd AA Convention in January 2025 in the wonderful Bay of Islands. What an unbelievable experience to be part of a wonderful fellowship and share the Al-Anon experience in such a special place. The Convention Committee worked really hard to bring the Convention together with great participation and commitment. I also encouraged Al-Anon members to come along to the next AA Convention in Dunedin.

### NAA Assembly in Paeroa in 2024 and Rotorua in March 2025

A highlight was being a part of the planning and attending the Northern Area Assembly, held at Paeroa College on 13 July 2024. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Area Six for their support, especially the Waihi AFG who helped tremendously. Your help was very much appreciated and helped the day to be a great success. There were great sharing meetings with the theme: "Thank God for Al-Anon" – we can all give credit for that in our recovery. Great topics in the sharing meetings, e.g. 'gratitude' and 'gifts of Al-Anon.' There was a good, combined meeting with AA and Al-Anon members sharing their experience, strength and hope.

AA made us feel welcomed and feel part of the day's activities. AA put on a wonderful dinner at the marae at a reasonable cost. The public meeting was well attended, and it was good hearing both AA experience, strength and hope and Al-Anon sharing their experience strength and hope. I was privileged to speak on behalf of Al-Anon at the public meeting and was touched by the feedback.

We were also invited to attend the NAA Assembly in Rotorua on 8 March 2025. The theme was service, and the topics were 'service through experience,' 'strength and hope' and 'building our confidence.' We also had an Alateen program running alongside the Al-Anon program and were privileged to have two Alateen members attend the meeting. We had an Al-Anon member from Rotorua at the public meeting and there was good feedback after the public meeting finished. It was amazing how many AA members got into Al-Anon on their journey of recovery.

### *Public Outreach*

Public outreach isn't always obvious, members can be doing public outreach without realising it, sharing their experience, strength and hope, and inviting someone along to a meeting. One group has made impressive flyers with tear off strips and have taken flyers to key locations. The WhatsApp groups is an invaluable form of outreach and is being utilised in our area. Thanks to our Public Outreach Coordinator and their initiative and enthusiasm in the role to inspire members and help make sure everyone knows about the resources available.

### *Area Assemblies*

It is with great pleasure to welcome our Northern Regional Board Member (NRBM). It is so good that they attended and were involved in our Assembly in October 2024. We were also grateful to the NRBM for coming down and being part of our more recent Assembly in Tokoroa and Waihi.

At the last Assembly in October 2024, we approved holding two Area Assemblies a year as well as a catch-up meeting midway through the year. Our first Area Assembly for 2025 will be held in Waihi on 5 April 2025. I am very pleased to report that our Assembly in Waihi turned out to be a rewarding day with great participation – a huge thank you to Waihi AFG for hosting, and the members for providing such fantastic food and fellowship. There was positive feedback on the chat group. It was great to see such a good turn out from the Area and a special thank you to the NRBM for sharing their wisdom and support – it was very much appreciated.

### *Positive Outcomes*

Communication on chat groups is a comfort to members and a good source of outreach. Members are willing to share the chairing of meetings to share the load. Individuals who have attended Al-Anon meetings are very grateful to be members of Al-Anon through the positive influence of the group. It is good to see members step up and take on service positions in their local groups as well as at the Area level. It is good to see that members are staying and reaping the rewards of the programme in their lives. Thanks to our Public Outreach Coordinator, Chair, Treasurer, new Secretary, Alternate Delegate and members for their commitment and dedication in their roles on the Area Committee. It is very much appreciated

### *Concerns*

One group in Area Six expressed their concerns with cash flow and recently had an occasion where they struggled to pay rent. This can be a real concern as all groups want to be self-supporting. There seem to be seasons when numbers are down, then others where there's a burst, and newcomers come and go. There was a situation in one Group where there was a health and safety issue so, after the meeting, we had a discussion as a Group, and immediately put changes in place to ensure it would not happen again.

### *Conclusion*

In Area Six, there has been an increase in the number of groups which is encouraging. We are working together as an Area and supporting each other. Getting the message out there is important, and we need to support each other in spreading the word.

#### **Updates and Comments**

- Area Six struggling with filling Area Committee roles.
- One Assembly held this year – well attended and service roles filled. Secretary role was trialled.
- Communication improved with online chat group.
- Area Public Outreach Coordinator sent posters with tear-off tabs to Groups.
- The Area now has an Alt Delegate.
- AMIAS to be ratified at October Assembly.
- Whakatane AFG has registered with NZAGSO

#### **Answers to Questions**

- Nil

## **Area Seven Delegate's Report**

**Christina V**

### *Area geographical location/boundaries*

Area Seven starts at the Balmoral edge of Dominion Rd and stretches across Auckland central, east and south. Our furthest group south is Papakura ODAT, but in the past we have reached as far as Pukekohe.

|                         |               |                          |    |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|----|
| No. of Groups           | 9 + 2 Alateen | No. of Meetings          | 11 |
| No. of Alateen meetings | 2             | No. of AMIAS             | 8  |
| No. of Alateen members  | 5-7           | Area Alateen Coordinator | No |

Two weekly Alateen meetings available in our Area; one meeting with regular attendees

### *Public Outreach*

- We have an active and enthusiastic Public Outreach Coordinator for our Area who has facilitated groups to approach counsellors and AOD (Alcohol and Other Drugs) support providers.
- We are actively encouraging members to attend AA meetings as a form of Public Outreach for our fellowship.
- We have members run an Al-Anon meeting at Higher Ground.
- New Alateen posters are being used and circulated

### *Area Assemblies*

Area Seven holds four assemblies a year. Assemblies are well attended by GRs, Committee members, host group helpers and other members who attend for the day. Workshops are also being held on a regular basis. Last November we held a Spiritual Principles Workshop, and this May we are holding a Sponsorship Workshop. Bringing a fellowship buddy or sponsee is being encouraged to increase the numbers attending workshops.

### *Area highlights and successes*

- We have an almost full and active Area Committee including an Alt Delegate.

- We don't have an Alateen Coordinator, but our new AMIAS Application Coordinator is doing amazing service keeping our AMIAS applications organised and processed on time.
- Workshops relating to issues our Area face are being held and well-attended.
- We have two Alateen groups in our Area with AMIAS numbers slowly growing.
- Our Area was very involved in AA Convention!
- At conference last year, we had four groups without GRs. Two of these groups now have GRs!
- Our Area has funds put aside for Alateens who wish to go to any of the AA Northern Area Assemblies.

#### *Area concerns or issues*

- Members are still reluctant to commit to service (at all levels – groups and Area)
- We still have two groups without a GR; most groups do not have Alt GRs

#### *Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues*

- We are running Area workshops that relate to problems being faced in our Area (e.g. the November Spiritual Principles Workshop defined our Area's key spiritual principles and how they can be harnessed to address our most pressing issues such as service hesitation/reluctance).
- We are starting to encourage members into service through shoulder tapping (as opposed to just announcing at meetings that service positions need filling – this doesn't seem to generate people stepping into service!). We are also now encouraging sponsors to help their sponsees into service. The Sponsorship workshop in May will have a focus on this too.
- We provide fun and fellowship to bring our Area together!

#### *AA Convention in my Area*

No. However, Area Seven members, as part of the Northern region, were very active in the organising of Convention.

#### *Matters arising from the previous Conference*

I presented a comprehensive summary to our Area about the 2024 Conference. GRs took ideas back to their groups re: service and participation. A workshop was held on Spiritual Principles, directly inspired by last year's conference

#### *Summary*

It has been a busy year for our Area – Assemblies, Workshops, the AA Convention!!! We are looking forward to the year ahead with a goal to increase members' willingness to serve!

#### **Updates and Comments**

- Sponsorship workshop in May was a success with a good turnout. Summary sent to all GRs to share with Groups.
- Members do public outreach with CADs, Altered High and Family Champions as well as Higher Ground.
- Agreed to publicise Alateen with card on table and mention in meetings.
- Intergroup numbers are declining – taking this information back to Groups for their feedback re: future of intergroup meeting. (It is a speaker style meeting with two Al-Anon speakers and an AA speaker sharing their ESH for 15 mins each.)

#### **Answers to Questions**

- Nil

## **Area Eight Delegate's Report**

**Anna M**

#### *Area geographical location/boundaries*

Area Eight covers Auckland west of Dominion Rd and the rest of the North Island from the Auckland Harbour Bridge to Cape Reinga. We have 11 groups: 7 in-person, 3 hybrids, and 1 electronic. One group has disbanded, and another has added monthly Friday and Saturday in-person meetings alongside their weekly gathering.

Our Intergroup speaker meeting takes place on the first Sunday of each month, alternating between electronic and in-person.

|                         |    |                          |     |
|-------------------------|----|--------------------------|-----|
| No. of Groups           | 11 | No. of Meetings          | 13  |
| No. of Alateen meetings | 0  | No. of AMIAS             | 4   |
| No. of Alateen members  | 0  | Area Alateen Coordinator | Yes |

Any active Alateen meetings, any new? Any disbanded? None. We now have four AMIAS available for service.

### *Public Outreach*

Our Public Outreach Coordinator organised a distribution of “Al-Anon Faces Alcoholism” booklets to local counsellors. A three-week poster campaign is also planned.

### *Area Assemblies*

We held four full-day Assemblies with themes such as ‘Putting Love into Action’ and “Creating Enthusiasm for Service.” One workshop was held on “Being.” It was interactive, where members shared how service has helped their recovery. Attendance averaged 25. In 2024, our Area Secretary stopped recording the Assembly roll call, making exact numbers harder to track.

### *Area highlights and successes*

One group celebrated Al-Anon's 70th anniversary by inviting the public, doctors, and counsellors to their meeting. The speakers’ inspirational shares were recorded and will be archived at NZAGSO.

The AA Northern Area Assembly (NAA) on 9th November 2024 in Area Eight was well attended, with 22 Al-Anon and four AA members participating.

### *Area concerns or issues*

Our Delegate stepped down in August, and I transitioned from Alt Delegate. Due to health and work commitments, I haven't yet visited any groups as Delegate. Luckily, we had a keen member who was voted into the Alt Delegate role in November, and we have planned out our visits for 2025.

One group remains disengaged from the Area, possibly due to geographical distance. No action has been taken yet.

### *Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues*

Ensure we are self-supporting in terms of AMIAS sponsors. We faced challenges at the November AA NAA and at Convention, as we had no AMIAS to sponsor an Alateen meeting. With help from the National Alateen Coordinator, nearby Area AMIAS were ratified to step in. Since then, we’ve gained four AMIAS, a new Area Alateen Coordinator, and are actively recruiting more AMIAS. My Delegate reports now include reminders about Al-Anon and Alateen participation at AA Assemblies and Conventions, referencing the NZ Service Handbook. Our priority is ensuring every group has AMIAS to support Alateen.

### *AA Convention in my Area*

Yes. I served on the Convention Committee, taking on roles as Convention Alateen Coordinator and Treasurer. The AA 62nd Annual Convention with Al-Anon participation was held in Waitangi, drawing 70 Al-Anon members. We hosted five Al-Anon meetings and two workshops, all well attended. We also hosted two Alateen meetings – the first Alateen meeting had two participants.

### *Matters arising from the previous Conference*

In 2024, we trialled alternating between in-person and electronic Intergroup meetings to accommodate members from up north. The trial was successful, increasing attendance, and the Area voted to continue this format.

### *Summary*

Our remaining groups are healthy, and we have enthusiastic members eager to serve. Challenges provide opportunities for growth, and I am optimistic about our Area’s future. I’m grateful to serve as the Area Delegate.



### **Updates and Comments**

- Serenity Weekend in Long Bay – 28 attendees, a huge success.
- Intergroup meetings – 2 held, 1 online. There is a new intergroup meeting coordinator.
- AMIAS – still looking for a new AMIAS, one idea is all Area Committee members become an AMIAS.
- Warkworth Group needs support.
- Area Assembly – held on 3 May Phone and Speaker coordinator roles need filling; attendee first names and numbers will be recorded from now on.
- A disengaged Group is registered on the Al-Anon website, Delegate plans to visit and observe the Group.

### **Answers to Questions**

- Nil

## **Area Nine Delegate's Report**

**Chris W**

### *Area geographical location/boundaries*

Area Nine stretches from Haast up to the west side of the southern Alps to Collingwood on the West Coast, across the top of the South Island through Murchison to north of Kaikōura, including Marlborough, Nelson, and Tasman zones.

Groups include: Hokitika, Greymouth, Nelson Monday Night, Richmond Wednesday, Nelson Friday Lunchtime and Blenheim.

Loners include one each in Golden Bay and Motueka.

### *Alateen Update*

AMIAS registrations have lapsed, with no new registration or Alateen groups on the horizon.

### *Area Highlights*

Our Assembly on 27- 28 July 2024 was held in Richmond, hosted by Friday Lunch AFG. After the shared Saturday night meal, fun was had by all with karaoke.

Southern Area AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation will be held in Hokitika on 20-22 June 2025 (Matariki weekend). Area Nine is supporting with supplying Friday night supper and Al-Anon sharing meetings.

### *Area Concerns*

Service is still a concern. Long timers say they've "done their turn" and service roles lie vacant at Group and Area levels.

We also have a situation involving a "recovered alcoholic" Al-Anon member (not active in AA) stepping into Area service which ended badly and worse still for that member's group. That Area role has been refilled and the Group affected is "coming out the other side".

### *Public Outreach*

The Area Nine PO Coordinator will be stepping down after our next Southern Area AA Assembly with Al- Anon participation.

### *Area Nine Assemblies*

Area Nine's three Assemblies per year are held in three geographic areas: one on the West Coast, one in Blenheim and one in the Nelson/Tasman area.

Since the last Conference, I have given my Conference report at the 27- 28 July 2024 Assembly based in Richmond, which was hosted by the Friday Lunch AFG. This was followed by our November Assembly in Blenheim, hosted by the local Blenheim AFG. Our most recent Assembly was hosted by Hokitika AFG – 29-30 March 2025.

We have a grocery raffle for general Area Nine funds and a "Bring 'N Buy" for serenity weekend funds.

Our Area has two vacant service positions:

- Alateen Coordinator
- Alt Delegate (prior Alt stepped down at the March Assembly)

The Area Secretary finished their term at our March Assembly and the position was not filled.

### *Summary*

Overall, Area Nine is functioning well and I am able to get to the Blenheim and Nelson/Tasman meetings regularly. I still have to make it to the two West Coast meetings, but I see a lot of those members at Assemblies.

#### **Updates and Comments**

- One Group does not have a GR.
- Area Secretary, Literature Coordinator and PO coordinator positions are soon to be vacant. (Suggestion from floor: hold Area Committee rotations at the same time so key roles can be staggered – i.e. hold an Election Assembly and Interim Assemblies as per the NZ Service Handbook.)
- New active Area Treasurer.
- Workshop on PO and Service at the Assembly.
- PO – discussed Al-Anon at a Nelson Rotary Club; Al-Anon display at a local library.
- Alateen: AMIAS no longer active, needs to be rebuilt. (Suggestion from floor: renew AMIAS annually at same time.)
- Potential new meeting in Marlborough.

#### **Answers to Questions**

- Six Groups in Area Nine plus two lone members, there is no Alt Delegate for Area Nine.
- No, the Delegate hasn't visited the Westport Group though attends Assemblies on the Coast.

# Board and Selected Committee Reports

---

## Board Chair Report

Tracy B

In this report, please note that the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB) is referred to as the Board.

For the last year, the Board has continued to meet in person at the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO) in Pitt Street, Auckland. We continue to have reduced numbers on the Board, and I wish to thank the dedication and work that all Board members have accomplished this year while covering the Alternate Chair, Literature Chair, Conference Chair, and two Regional Board Member (RBM) roles. The Board is extremely hard working and give a large amount of their time to our fellowship when faced with these continued challenges.

This year the Board has welcomed one new Board member to the table. The total of the NZAGSB is currently seven serving members.

The Board continue to use a different approach for recruitment: welcoming new Board members to the Board and, after a period, allocating them to service roles that will benefit the fellowship rather than each member applying for a certain role. This approach is also used by the World Service Office (WSO) in the recruitment of members to the Board and Selected Committees. It has been serving us well.

The role of Board Minute Secretary became available last year and was filled by a member who is new to national service. Having this role filled enables all Board members to be able to participate fully at our meetings and has proven invaluable. The Board wishes to express its gratitude and thanks to our Minute Secretary for all their hard work and dedication over the past year.

This year we have welcomed a new Board member in the role of General Secretary. This role has been vacant for a long period of time and over the past few years as Board Chair, I have been carrying out some of the tasks. Due to this, our General Secretary has been working tirelessly to work through projects that needed attention. As Board Chair, having this role filled – especially in the absence of an Alternative Chair – has made a very large difference to my workload and support before, during and after Board meetings.

In the absence of two RBMs this year, we have continued our approach from previous years and have one Board member who is assigned as the Delegate Liaison to the two regions without a RBM (Central & Southern) and reports back on Area activities and concerns at each Board meeting. This is working well for all Delegates and the Board. Thank you for your continued support and work to the National Alateen Chair who has taken on this additional role to ensure we are connected through our structure to those Delegates and ensure their voice is heard.

As with every year's Conference Goal, the 2025 aim of "Creating Enthusiasm for Service!" is brought to the forefront of all Board meetings. Each year, the Board works to have all actions and activities of the Board be transparent to the fellowship. We do this by using the Board Newsletter, which is published after each Board meeting. To create enthusiasm, the Newsletter has been revamped into a bright, visibly appealing and informative document. We hope that you are enjoying this new format. The Board Newsletter enables us to share news, changes, ask for help and invite participation in activities, and can be widely read by the whole fellowship. After each Board meeting, a newsletter is sent to RBMs and then forwarded to all Delegates to share with Group Representatives, who can then share to each Group and registered lone members. The Board Newsletter is also available on the website under the Members tab. We encourage you to share this information far and wide.

After the success of last year's Board Development session, the Board agreed to commit to this training annually at our December Board meeting. This year, we engaged the services of an outside entity to learn "Governance 101 in New Zealand" to better understand the legal requirements of the Board. Each Board member participated. We discussed and learned about the key functions of a board, such as strategic leadership, accountability, stewardship, external relations, our constitution (which is our NZ Service Handbook), maintenance of the Board itself and our shared vision and core values, such as transparency. It is important for us to always take the opportunity to learn and grow and move forward in our program of

recovery. This was a fantastic opportunity, and I wish to thank the General Secretary for their work in arranging this training session.

Post the global Covid-19 pandemic, the WSO realised there was a need for them to keep in touch with international structures to help with the ever-changing environment that structures around the world are facing, such as the introduction of online meetings and fewer people attending in person meetings. Therefore, an international team was formed. The Board has been invited to use this resource on a regular basis. Every few months, the Board (via the IAGSM Delegates) can touch base with the international team to find out what is happening around the world and at WSO, to inform the WSO how New Zealand is tracking and to ask questions which our structure requires to serve our fellowship efficiently and effectively. The Board have had one meeting with the international team this year. There will be another meeting scheduled later in the year.

From the IAGSM Conference in London in 2022, the IAGSM Delegates brought back a new initiative in the “Board Road Trip”. This day is an opportunity to get to meet the Board members, some of the Exec Committee and get an understanding of the roles on the Board, how NZAGSO operates and meet our Office Manager.

After the success of the first road trip and discussion at the 2024 Conference, it was decided by Conference that another one would be held in 2025 in Area Four. Work is currently underway to make this happen, and we are excited about our upcoming road trip to Area Four.

The NZAGSO acts as the clearing house New Zealand-wide for enquiries from those who need help or want information about Al-Anon Family Groups and Alateen. The NZAGSO meets the service responsibilities of Al-Anon Family Groups daily. The NZAGSO is answerable to the Board through the Executive Budget Chair who is the NZAGSO representative on the Board. The Board would like to show appreciation and give thanks to the Executive Budget Chair, the Office Manager, the Selected Committee members, and volunteers that have been able to keep the NZAGSO operating to serve the fellowship.

Our Conference Summaries are another valuable resource for members to be aware of what is happening within the New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups and are *free* on the website for members to view and download. These are not just for the Conference attendees. They have wonderful workshop and presentation ideas, news from other Areas and Board and Selected Committee reports. All this information is collated and put together by a dedicated Conference Committee so that these resources are available to the fellowship. I wish to thank the former Conference Taskforce and the Conference Summary Taskforce for their hard work over the last year in getting the 2024 Conference Summary completed and sent to the fellowship. We are especially relieved and grateful that a dedicated group of members has stepped up to plan our Conference for 2025 and beyond.

We have a few vacant roles at the national level (e.g. Literature Chair) that we’d very much like to fill in order to share the workload and get moving on pending projects. Please reach out to me or the General Secretary if you’d like to know more about how you can be of service to New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups.

The 62nd Annual Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous with Al-Anon/Alateen participation was held on the 17th-19th January 2025. The Convention was held at the Copthorne Hotel in Waitangi, Bay of Islands. The Al-Anon theme was “Awareness, Acceptance, Action”. This was a very successful event, and the Board wish to acknowledge the Al-Anon Convention Chair and the Convention Committee for planning within a much shorter time frame than usual. Thank you everyone for all your hard work and dedication.

Alateen activity is still occurring in Areas Three and Seven with AMIAS in many different Areas throughout New Zealand waiting for viable Alateen meetings. Alateen was made available at the AA Convention in January 2025, and we are grateful to the members who secured a space and participated in service to ensure that these meetings were available for the teens.

The financial situation of New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups continues to look good, with donations continually coming in from Areas as well as personal contributions. Our 2023-2024 annual audit has also been successfully completed. We are endeavouring to have the 2024-2025 Audit completed promptly. Our thanks go out to the Board Treasurer for their diligence and commitment to ensure careful wisdom is applied through the Traditions and Concepts on behalf of the fellowship.

National Public Outreach continues work on some new initiatives from previous Conferences. Public Outreach is essential for the growth of Al-Anon Family Groups. The Board is very grateful to have this role filled again this year and thanks the Public Outreach Chair for their hard work.

As Lois W commented at the 1984 IAGSM, “God has worked through Al-Anon, Alateen and AA. If we stay open to Him, we will continue to have reason to be optimistic.”

#### **Updates and Comments**

- Delegates described feeling excited about the future following robust discussions on succession planning

#### **Answers to Questions**

- Whether we should look at removing roles that the fellowship no longer requires as this would shorten the list of vacant roles. The vacant roles are shown for transparency. Removing roles that are no longer in use (e.g. Editorial Chair) will be taken up with the Board.
- Creating roles outside of the Board has been discussed and some have been created e.g. the Conference Chair sits off-Board. The Board has also used Taskforces to get specific projects done. The NZ Service Handbook contains guidelines on different options available e.g. paid workers.
- Are we allowed to know more details about the “exciting” succession planning session? The Board has struggled since 2020 to attract people to service. Succession planning has always included 3rd year Delegates coming down to Board service, but this hasn’t been successful due to service burnout. It’s one reason why members doing multiple roles is avoided. There are former Delegates potentially willing to serve.
- Has the Board considered shoulder tapping previous members who are no longer participating in service to take up temporary (not full term) roles? The Board has a Dropbox with information and spreadsheets of previous members and their terms. This resource is referred to during succession planning meetings, hence why we are seeing ex-Board members back on the Board. However, we also want new people with new ideas to propel the fellowship forward – this is why Select Committees are vital.

## **Treasurer**

**Tina M**

Also see “Presentation: Annual Accounts and Budget” on page 10.

### **Financial Performance to 31st March 2025 (FY25)**

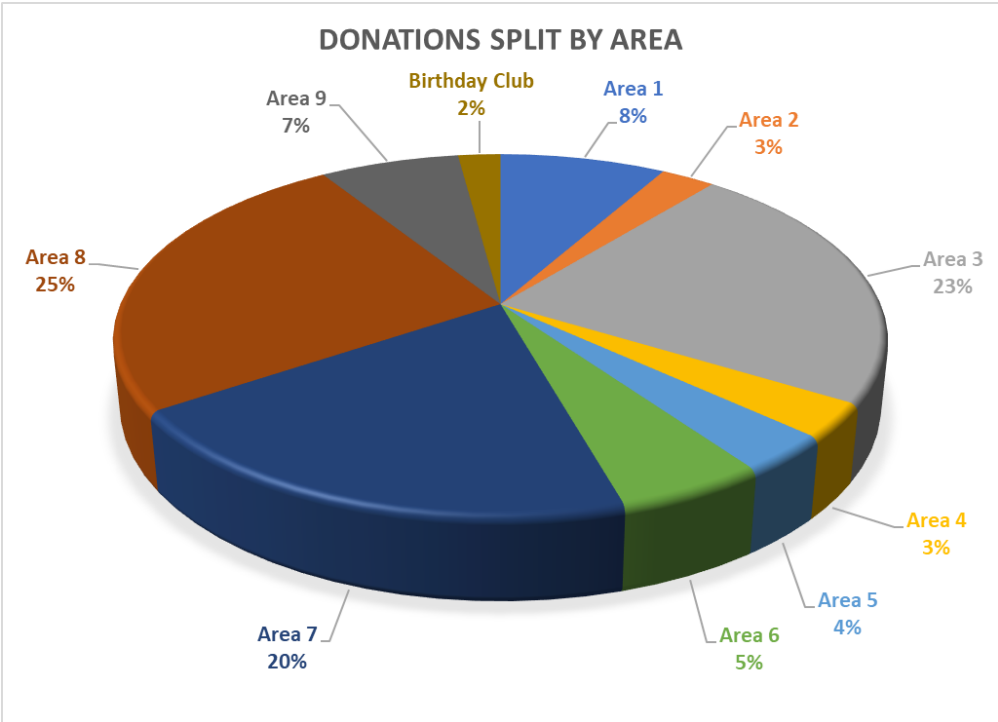
Amongst a tough economic climate, the Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO) has managed to remain relatively stable in its financial results for the year ending 31 March 2025. We have experienced an overall loss for this year mainly due to a much lower literature profit. On a more positive note, our donations met our budgeted total, and this year we have had the opportunity to invest in a Board development session, host a four day Conference, send two Delegates to IAGSM and purchase some much needed blinds for our office!

#### *Donations*

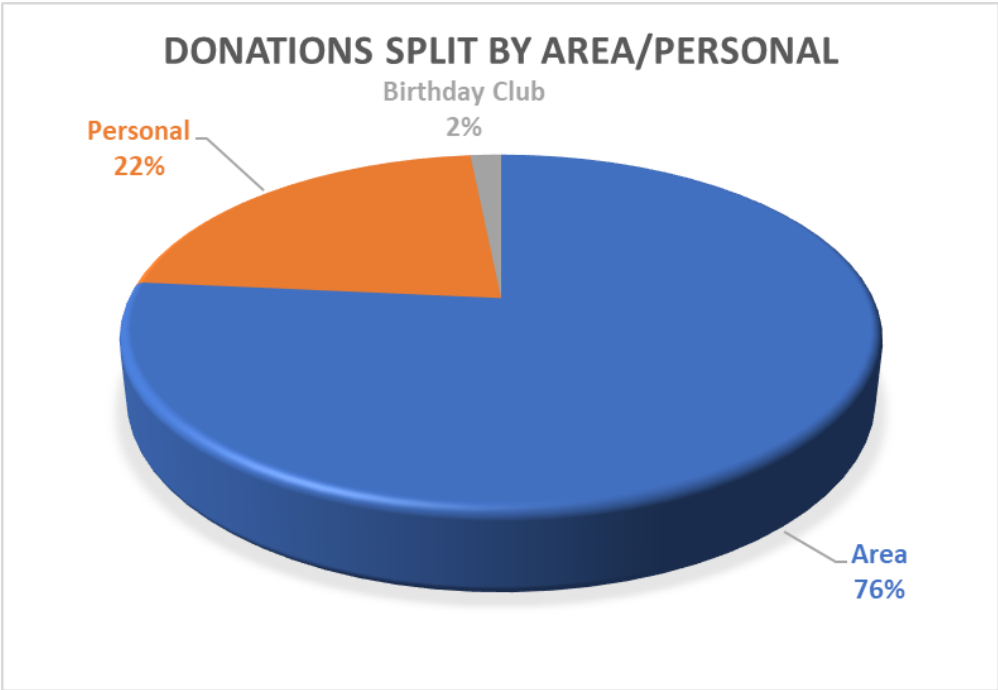
Al-Anon’s Tradition 7 states we are “fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions”. This makes us financially dependent on the contributions we receive from our members. Members donate through their groups, through their fundraising efforts, and through personal donations made directly to NZAGSO.

The Conference approved budget for group donations in the 2024/2025 financial year was \$46,992 and our final total received was \$56,371, which includes both group and personal donations. This is a \$2,000 increase from the last financial year which the Al-Anon New Zealand General Service Board (NZAGSB) remain extremely grateful for. With an ever-increasing cost of operating in NZ and with our membership still in decline, it is important for NZAGSO to continue to request financial donations to enable our fellowship to remain sustainable and withstand inevitable fluctuations in cashflow.

The split of donations by Area (excluding personal) are as follows:



The split between personal and group/area donations are as follows:



Each year, we review the distribution of the number of meetings (and distribution of members within these) based on the latest group registration results. For the 2024/2025 year we budgeted to receive \$1.70 per week, per member. This gives the following breakdown and compares with actuals (including personal donations):

| Area  | Number of Meetings | Approx Total Members | Budget 24/25 | Actual 24/25 |
|-------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| One   | 9                  | 57                   | \$5,039      | \$3,775      |
| Two   | 7                  | 50                   | \$4,420      | \$2,393      |
| Three | 11                 | 101                  | \$8,928      | \$12,173     |
| Four  | 1                  | 11                   | \$972        | \$1,887      |
| Five  | 5                  | 31                   | \$2,740      | \$4,644      |
| Six   | 7                  | 39                   | \$3,448      | \$2,965      |

| Area               | Number of Meetings | Approx Total Members | Budget 24/25    | Actual 24/25    |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Seven              | 11                 | 95.5                 | \$8,442         | \$11,827        |
| Eight              | 13                 | 101.5                | \$8,973         | \$11,586        |
| Nine               | 6                  | 36.5                 | \$3,227         | \$4,233         |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>70</b>          | <b>522</b>           | <b>\$46,189</b> | <b>\$55,485</b> |

### *Other Income*

We generate a portion of funds each year from interest on our ample reserve held in term deposits. Due to high interest rates in the first half of the year, we saw another increase in interest earned this year: a total of \$8,726. This increase dropped off this calendar year (2025), with both of our term deposits now earning under 5% interest. At the time of writing, we are still awaiting the donation from the 2025 AA Convention with Al-Anon participation and have not had this amount confirmed. Once received, this will flow through to the income for the 2025/26 financials.

### *Literature Sales*

We sell Conference Approved Literature (CAL) to provide a service to our fellowship and for Public Outreach: Our goal is not to produce income.

Any profit seen from literature sales is used to help offset the overhead costs incurred in fulfilling this service to the fellowship. Examples of expenses incurred:

- Rent paid for our NZAGSO
- Paying our Office Manager
- Travel costs reimbursed to volunteers

We buy CAL from the World Service office (WSO) in US dollars and pay freight in US dollars. The exchange rate between US and NZ dollars has been very unstable this financial year, but has been trending on the low side. In the 2024/2025 year the rate has varied from a high of \$0.62 to where it now sits – around \$0.57 in March 2025.

We did not re-price the literature during the last financial year due to the trend in the exchange rate, but we continue to monitor this monthly. We are currently working through a targeted re-price of some of our literature which will be rolled out prior to the June 2025 Conference. We hope it will make some items more affordable. Overall, the gross profit from literature sales was \$6,664, an almost 50% decrease from the prior financial year: this decrease is the result of both lower sales and an unfavourable exchange rate.

### *Expenses*

The total expenses for the 2024/2025 financial year have slightly increased from the previous year. We have still tracked below our budget – \$79,820 actual vs \$99,167 budgeted. The main reason for this differential is that the Public Outreach budget was not fully allocated during this financial year.

### Spend Highlights:

- Purchase of blinds for the Al-Anon General Service Office.
- Board Development Day held with external governance training.
- Board member expenses within budget this year.
- Additional donations provided to GSO in lieu of an IAGSM refund.
- Two Delegates sent to IAGSM.

### *Financial Position*

Our current assets are comprised of cash at bank and literature on hand. We continue to hold \$100,000 across two term deposits (\$50,000 each), rolling off at three-month intervals to avoid potential cashflow issues and reinvesting to maximise returns. Our only fixed asset is our office furniture, which we have made no additions to this financial year. We have no substantial liabilities outstanding at year end.

To sum up, NZAGSO's financial results for the 2024/2025 year are mixed, and reflect the tough economy that we currently find ourselves in. Without the support of donations from fellowship, we would not be able to do

all of the great work we do, ensuring that when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, the hand of Al-Anon can still be there.

### Balance Sheet

| NEW ZEALAND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS |                |            |            |                |            |            |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Balance Sheet</b>              |                |            |            |                |            |            |
| <b>Assets</b>                     | <b>FY 2025</b> |            |            | <b>FY 2024</b> |            |            |
| Cash at Bank                      |                |            |            |                |            |            |
| ANZ-00 Cheque Account             | \$ 6,118       |            |            | \$ 8,286       |            |            |
| ANZ Term Deposit                  | \$ 100,000     |            |            | \$ 100,000     |            |            |
| ANZ-02 IAGSM eSaver               | \$ 3,182       |            |            | \$ 1,743       |            |            |
| ANZ-01 Online On Call             | \$ 35,697      |            |            | \$ 41,338      |            |            |
| ANZ-Ample Reserve Account         | \$ 3,873       |            |            | \$ 1,543       |            |            |
| Total Cash at Bank                |                | \$ 148,870 |            |                | \$ 152,909 |            |
| Other Assets                      |                |            |            |                |            |            |
| Sundry Debtors                    | \$ 1,146       |            |            | -\$ 319        |            |            |
| Literature On hand                | \$ 5,819       |            |            | \$ 5,223       |            |            |
| Total Other Assets                |                | \$ 6,965   |            |                | \$ 4,904   |            |
| Total Current Assets              |                |            | \$ 155,835 |                |            | \$ 157,814 |
| Fixed Assets                      |                |            |            |                |            |            |
| Office Equipment over \$500       | \$ 1,447       |            |            | \$ 1,792       |            |            |
| Total Fixed Assets                |                | \$ 1,447   |            |                | \$ 1,792   |            |
| <b>Total Assets</b>               |                |            | \$ 157,282 |                |            | \$ 159,605 |
|                                   |                |            |            |                |            |            |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                |                |            |            |                |            |            |
| Sundry Creditors                  | \$ 104         |            |            | \$ -           |            |            |
| GST                               |                |            |            |                |            |            |
| GST on Purchases                  | -\$ 670        |            |            | \$ 23          |            |            |
| GST to/From IRD                   |                |            |            |                |            |            |
| Total GST                         |                | -\$ 670    |            |                | \$ 23      |            |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>          |                |            | -\$ 566    |                |            | \$ 23      |
|                                   |                |            |            |                |            |            |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                 |                |            | \$ 157,848 |                |            | \$ 159,582 |
|                                   |                |            |            |                |            |            |
| <b>Equity</b>                     |                |            | \$ 157,848 |                |            | \$ 159,582 |
|                                   |                |            |            |                |            |            |



## Statement of Assets

| <b>NZ AL-ANON GENERAL SERVICES</b>               |            |            |                             |                        |                        |            |            |                             |                        |   |   |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| <b>STATEMENT OF ASSETS AS AT 31 MARCH 2025</b>   |            |            |                             |                        |                        |            |            |                             |                        |   |   |
| <b>Funds at Bank</b>                             |            |            |                             |                        |                        |            |            |                             |                        |   |   |
|                                                  | 2025       | 2024       | 2023                        | 2022                   | 2021                   | 2020       | 2019       | 2018                        | 2017                   |   |   |
| ANZ-00 Cheque Account                            | \$6,118    | \$8,286    | \$6,707                     | \$3,879                | \$3,933                | \$7,032    | \$6,943    | \$3,603                     | \$2,781                |   |   |
| ANZ Term Deposit                                 | \$100,000  | \$100,000  | \$100,000                   | \$100,211              | \$50,000               | \$50,000   |            |                             |                        |   |   |
| ANZ -01 Online Call account                      | \$3,182    | \$1,743    | \$1,853                     | \$769                  | \$2,698                | \$11,986   | \$5,715    | \$1,341                     | \$3,391                |   |   |
| ANZ eSaver Ample Reserve Acc                     | \$35,697   | \$41,338   | \$36,089                    | \$45,439               | \$81,121               | \$44,882   | \$86,686   | \$81,881                    | \$83,678               |   |   |
| ANZ-02 IAGSM eSaver Account                      | \$3,873    | \$1,543    | \$2,336                     | \$6,773                | \$5,927                | \$4,156    | \$4,260    | \$7,210                     | \$1,019                |   |   |
| undeposited cheques/cash                         |            |            |                             |                        |                        |            |            |                             |                        |   |   |
|                                                  | \$148,870  | \$152,909  | \$146,985                   | \$157,071              | \$143,679              | \$118,056  | \$103,605  | \$94,035                    | \$70,869               |   |   |
| <b>Schedule of Fixed Assets and Depreciation</b> |            |            |                             |                        |                        |            |            |                             |                        |   |   |
| <b>For the Year Ended 31 March 2025</b>          |            |            |                             |                        |                        |            |            |                             |                        |   |   |
| ASSET                                            | Date       | Cost       | Accumulated Depreciation 20 | Book Value 31-Mar-2024 | Additions/ (Disposals) | Rate       |            | Accumulated Depreciation 20 | Book Value 31-Mar-2025 |   |   |
| <b>Office Equipment</b>                          |            |            |                             |                        |                        |            |            |                             |                        |   |   |
| Projector                                        | Apr-12     | 1,128      | -                           | -                      | -                      | 17.50% SL  |            | -                           | -                      | - | - |
| HP Laptop                                        | Dec-17     | 882        | -                           | -                      | -                      | 40.00% SL  |            | -                           | -                      | - | - |
| Brother Printer                                  | Jun-20     | 781        | 132                         | 0                      | 0                      | 30.00% SL  |            | -                           | 0                      | 0 | 0 |
| HP Desktop Office Computer                       | Dec-21     | 1,759      | 704                         | 155                    |                        | 40.00% SL  |            | 155                         | -                      | - | - |
|                                                  |            | 4,550      | 836                         | 156                    | 0                      |            |            | 155                         | 0                      |   |   |
| <b>Office Furniture</b>                          |            |            |                             |                        |                        |            |            |                             |                        |   |   |
| Furniture                                        | 1988       | 2,791      | -                           | -                      | -                      | 10.00% SL  |            | -                           | -                      | - | - |
| Shelving                                         | 1990       | 241        | -                           | -                      | -                      | 10.00% SL  |            | -                           | -                      | - | - |
| Furniture                                        | 1991       | 344        | -                           | -                      | -                      | 10.00% SL  |            | -                           | -                      | - | - |
| Moveable Shelving                                | 1996       | 872        | -                           | -                      | -                      | 12.50% SL  |            | -                           | -                      | - | - |
| Refrigerator                                     | 1996       | 199        | -                           | -                      | -                      | 15.50% SL  |            | -                           | -                      | - | - |
| Office Desk Agile Winder                         | Mar-22     | 729        | 73                          | 583                    |                        | 10.00% SL  |            | 73                          | 510                    |   |   |
| Office Chair Luna                                | Mar-22     | 565        | 57                          | 452                    |                        | 10.00% SL  |            | 57                          | 396                    |   |   |
| Credenza Cabinet                                 | Jun-22     | 710        | 53                          | 601                    |                        | 8.50% SL   |            | 60                          | 540                    |   |   |
|                                                  |            | 6,451      | 183                         | 1,636                  | 0                      |            |            | 190                         | 1,446                  |   |   |
| Total                                            |            |            | 1,018                       | 1,792                  |                        |            |            | 345                         | 1,447                  |   |   |
| <b>LITERATURE STOCK on Hand</b>                  |            |            |                             |                        |                        |            |            |                             |                        |   |   |
| at US dollars before freight                     | 31/03/2025 | 31/03/2024 | 31/03/2023                  | 31/03/2022             | 31/03/2021             | 31/03/2020 | 31/03/2019 | 31/03/2018                  | 31/03/2017             |   |   |
| Exchange rate at 31 March                        | 0.57       | 0.60       | 0.63                        | 0.70                   | 0.70                   | 0.60       | 0.68       | 0.72                        | 0.70                   |   |   |
| at NZ \$ Cost Price excluding GST                | 5,819.46   | 5,222.95   | 5,595.59                    | 5,335.13               | 4,249.89               | 5,279.10   | 3,469.44   | 4,640.62                    | 3,995.50               |   |   |

## Statement of Equity

|                           | 2025             | 2024             |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Opening retained earnings | \$159,582        | \$155,416        |
| Current year earnings     | -\$1,734         | \$4,166          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>\$157,848</b> | <b>\$159,582</b> |

# Financial Performance – FY25 & FY24 Actuals

| NEW ZEALAND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS       |                |           |                |           |           |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| AUDIT FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FY 2025     |                |           |                |           |           |
| Profit and Loss                         |                |           |                |           |           |
|                                         | FY2025 Actuals |           | FY2024 Actuals |           |           |
| Income                                  |                |           |                |           |           |
| Donations                               |                |           |                |           |           |
| Area/Personal Donations                 |                |           |                |           |           |
| Donations Area One                      | \$ 3,470       |           | \$ 6,423       |           |           |
| Donations Area One Personal             | \$ 305         |           | \$ 640         |           |           |
| Donations Area Two                      | \$ 1,137       |           | \$ 782         |           |           |
| Donations Area Two Personal             | \$ 1,257       |           | \$ 822         |           |           |
| Donations Area Three                    | \$ 9,622       |           | \$ 6,818       |           |           |
| Donations Area Three Personal           | \$ 2,552       |           | \$ 1,897       |           |           |
| Donations Area Four                     | \$ 1,308       |           | \$ 1,040       |           |           |
| Donations Area Four Personal            | \$ 580         |           | \$ 105         |           |           |
| Donations Area Five                     | \$ 3,210       |           | \$ 2,300       |           |           |
| Donations Area Five Personal            | \$ 1,434       |           | \$ 929         |           |           |
| Donations Area Six                      | \$ 2,275       |           | \$ 1,474       |           |           |
| Donations Area Six Personal             | \$ 690         |           | \$ 601         |           |           |
| Donations Area Seven                    | \$ 8,467       |           | \$ 9,992       |           |           |
| Donations Area Seven Personal           | \$ 3,361       |           | \$ 3,147       |           |           |
| Donations Area Eight                    | \$ 10,720      |           | \$ 11,208      |           |           |
| Donations Area Eight Personal           | \$ 866         |           | \$ 1,802       |           |           |
| Donations Area Nine                     | \$ 2,915       |           | \$ 3,020       |           |           |
| Donations Area Nine Personal            | \$ 1,318       |           | \$ 570         |           |           |
| Donations - Birthday Club (ex Personal) | \$ 886         |           | \$ 679         |           |           |
| Total Area/Personal Donations           |                | \$ 56,371 |                | \$ 54,248 |           |
| Other Donation Income                   |                |           |                |           |           |
| Equalised Conference Contribution       | \$ 6,331       |           | \$ 6,301       |           |           |
| Convention Donations                    |                |           | \$ 3,535       |           |           |
| Board Road Trip Donation                |                |           | \$ 147         |           |           |
| Messenger Donations                     |                |           |                |           |           |
| Total Other Donation Income             |                | \$ 6,331  |                | \$ 9,983  |           |
| Other Income                            |                |           |                |           |           |
| Other Income                            |                |           |                |           |           |
| Literature Profit                       | \$ 6,664       |           | \$ 11,755      |           |           |
| Interest/Dividend Received              |                |           | \$ 1,915       |           |           |
| Received Interest - Term Deposit        | \$ 8,726       |           | \$ 4,544       |           |           |
| Total Other Income                      |                | \$ 15,390 |                | \$ 18,213 |           |
| Total Income                            |                |           | \$ 78,091      |           | \$ 82,445 |
| Expenses                                |                |           |                |           |           |
| ACC Levy                                |                |           |                |           |           |
| Audit/Accounting Fees                   | \$ 1,750       |           | \$ 1,550       |           |           |
| Assets <\$500                           | \$ 973         |           | \$ 329         |           |           |
| Archives                                |                |           |                |           |           |
| Bank Charges                            | \$ 35          |           | \$ 55          |           |           |
| Board Member Expenses                   | \$ 5,417       |           | \$ 7,085       |           |           |
| NRBM Expenses                           | \$ 294         |           |                |           |           |
| CRBM Expenses                           |                |           |                |           |           |
| SRBM Expenses                           |                |           |                |           |           |
| Computer/Office Equipment               | \$ 2,084       |           | \$ 1,784       |           |           |
| Donation to WSO                         | \$ 2,027       |           | \$ 1,000       |           |           |
| Accum Depreciation                      | \$ 345         |           | \$ 1,018       |           |           |
| Conference Payments                     | \$ 10,053      |           | \$ 6,406       |           |           |
| Conference Travel Delegates             | \$ 2,188       |           | \$ 2,931       |           |           |
| Convention Expenses                     | \$ 468         |           | \$ -174        |           |           |
| IAGSM Paid Expenses                     | \$ 3,351       |           | \$ 4,717       |           |           |
| Postage (less recovered)                | \$ 2           |           | \$ 824         |           |           |
| Charities Commission Fee                | \$ 44          |           | \$ 44          |           |           |
| Printing & Stationery                   | \$ 1,898       |           | \$ 1,305       |           |           |
| Public Outreach Expenses                | \$ 1,096       |           | \$ 644         |           |           |
| Rent & Rates                            | \$ 13,450      |           | \$ 12,688      |           |           |
| Repairs & Maintenance                   | \$ 42          |           | \$ -           |           |           |
| Staff Amenities (ex Petty Cash)         | \$ 130         |           | \$ 98          |           |           |
| Telephone/Internet                      | \$ 1,203       |           | \$ 1,704       |           |           |
| Volunteer Travel Fund                   | \$ 953         |           | \$ 1,060       |           |           |
| Office Administration                   | \$ 31,945      |           | \$ 31,092      |           |           |
| Board Road Trip                         |                |           | \$ 1,450       |           |           |
| Stock Adjustment                        | \$ 73          |           | \$ 84          |           |           |
| Total Expenses                          |                | \$ 79,820 |                | \$ 77,696 |           |
| Net Profit/(Loss)                       |                |           | \$ -1,730      |           | \$ 4,749  |
| Literature Income Account               |                |           |                |           |           |
|                                         | FY 2025        |           | FY 2024        |           |           |
| Literature Sales                        | \$ 25,707      |           | \$ 30,604      |           |           |
| Opening Stock                           | \$ 5,223       |           | \$ 5,596       |           |           |
| Purchases                               | \$ 15,528      |           | \$ 15,260      |           |           |
| Freight                                 | \$ 4,111       | \$ 24,862 | \$ 3,812       | \$ 24,668 |           |
| Closing Stock                           | \$ 5,819       |           | \$ 5,223       |           |           |
| Cost of Sales                           |                | 19,043    |                | 19,445    |           |
| Profit on Sales                         |                |           | 6,664          |           | 11,159    |
|                                         |                |           | 25.9%          |           | 36.5%     |
| Diff between opening and closing stock  | -\$ 596        |           | \$ 373         |           |           |

## Proposed Budget 2025/2026 (FY26)

|                                | Budget<br>1/4/25-31/3/26 | Budget<br>1/4/24-31/3/25 | Actual<br>1/4/23-31/3/24 |                             | Budget<br>1/4/25-31/3/26 | Budget<br>1/4/24-31/3/25 | Actual<br>1/4/23-31/3/24 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                  |                          |                          |                          | <b>Expenses</b>             |                          |                          |                          |
| <b>Donations</b>               |                          |                          |                          | <b>ACC Levy</b>             |                          |                          |                          |
| Donations Area One             | \$ 4,332                 | \$ 5,039                 | \$ 6,423                 | Audit/Accounting Fees       | \$ 65                    | \$ 65                    |                          |
| Donations Personal Area One    |                          |                          | \$ 640                   | Archives                    | \$ 2,500                 | \$ 1,600                 | \$ 1,550                 |
| Donations Area Two             | \$ 3,934                 | \$ 4,420                 | \$ 782                   | Assets < \$1000             | \$ 1,000                 |                          |                          |
| Donations Personal Area Two    |                          |                          | \$ 822                   | Bank Charges                | \$ 900                   | \$ 400                   | \$ 329                   |
| Donations Area Three           | \$ 11,846                | \$ 9,547                 | \$ 6,818                 | Board Development           | \$ 50                    | \$ 50                    | \$ 55                    |
| Donations Personal Area Three  |                          |                          | \$ 1,897                 | Board Members Expenses      | \$ 4,000                 | \$ 2,000                 | \$ 815                   |
| Donation Area Four             | \$ 1,326                 | \$ 1,238                 | \$ 1,040                 | CRBM Regional Expenses      | \$ 4,500                 | \$ 5,500                 | \$ 6,269                 |
| Donation Personal Area Four    |                          |                          | \$ 105                   | NRBM Regional Expenses      | \$ 456                   | \$ 456                   |                          |
| Donations Area Five            | \$ 2,298                 | \$ 2,343                 | \$ 2,300                 | SRBM Regional Expenses      | \$ 560                   | \$ 560                   |                          |
| Donations Personal Area Five   |                          |                          | \$ 929                   | Computer/Office Equip       | \$ 1,430                 | \$ 1,430                 |                          |
| Donations Area Six             | \$ 3,801                 | \$ 3,006                 | \$ 1,474                 | Website                     | \$ 1,810                 | \$ 1,810                 | \$ 1,784                 |
| Donations Personal Area Six    |                          |                          | \$ 601                   | Donations WSO               | \$ 1,000                 | \$ 1,000                 |                          |
| Donations Area Seven           | \$ 8,619                 | \$ 8,354                 | \$ 9,992                 | Accum Depreciation          | \$ 1,786                 | \$ 1,750                 | \$ 1,000                 |
| Donations Personal Area Seven  |                          |                          | \$ 3,147                 | Conference Payments         | \$ 1,000                 | \$ 1,200                 | \$ 1,018                 |
| Donations Area Eight           | \$ 8,796                 | \$ 8,707                 | \$ 11,208                | Conference Travel Delegates | \$ 12,000                | \$ 8,500                 | \$ 6,406                 |
| Donations Personal Area Eight  |                          |                          | \$ 1,802                 | Convention Expenses         | \$ 1,780                 | \$ 1,480                 | \$ 2,931                 |
| Donations Area Nine            | \$ 3,624                 | \$ 3,403                 | \$ 3,020                 | Convention Expenses         |                          | \$ 1,330                 |                          |
| Donations Personal Area Nine   |                          |                          | \$ 570                   | IAGSM - Paid expenses       | \$ 3,000                 | \$ 4,000                 | \$ 4,717                 |
| Donations - Birthday Club      | \$ 800                   | \$ 800                   | \$ 679                   | Postage                     | \$ 2,000                 | \$ 3,000                 | \$ 3,154                 |
| <b>Total Donations</b>         | <b>\$ 49,376</b>         | <b>\$ 46,856</b>         | <b>\$ 54,248</b>         | Charities Commission Fee    | \$ 45                    | \$ 45                    | \$ 44                    |
| <b>Other Income</b>            |                          |                          |                          | Printing & Stationery       | \$ 2,000                 | \$ 1,000                 | \$ 1,305                 |
| Interest/Dividend Received     | \$ 5,300                 | \$ 2,658                 | \$ 6,458                 | Public Outreach exp         | \$ 12,000                | \$ 12,000                | \$ 644                   |
| Equalised Conference Contribut | \$ 6,750                 | \$ 5,850                 | \$ 6,301                 | Rent & Rates                | \$ 13,800                | \$ 16,489                | \$ 12,688                |
| Convention Donation            | \$ 1,000                 | \$ 1,000                 | \$ 3,535                 | Repairs & Maintenance       | \$ 500                   | \$ 500                   |                          |
| Board Road Trip Donation       |                          |                          | \$ 147                   | Board Road Trip expenses    | \$ 3,000                 | \$ 1,500                 | \$ 1,450                 |
| Messenger Donations            |                          |                          |                          | Staff Amenities             | \$ 150                   | \$ 100                   | \$ 98                    |
| <b>Total Other Income</b>      | <b>\$ 13,050</b>         | <b>\$ 9,508</b>          | <b>\$ 16,442</b>         | Telephone/Internet          | \$ 1,620                 | \$ 1,620                 | \$ 1,704                 |
| <b>Literature Sales</b>        |                          |                          |                          | Volunteer Travel Fund       | \$ 1,080                 | \$ 1,080                 | \$ 1,060                 |
| Literature Sales               | \$ 26,403                | \$ 23,267                | \$ 30,417                | Office Administration       | \$ 31,876                | \$ 31,876                | \$ 31,092                |
| Postage & Handling Collected   | \$ 1,980                 | \$ 1,745                 | \$ 2,330                 | <b>Total Expenses</b>       | <b>\$ 105,908</b>        | <b>\$ 102,341</b>        | <b>\$ 80,116</b>         |
| <b>Total Income</b>            | <b>\$ 90,809</b>         | <b>\$ 81,377</b>         | <b>\$ 103,437</b>        | <b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>    | <b>-\$ 38,370</b>        | <b>-\$ 40,810</b>        | <b>\$ 4,166</b>          |
| <b>Cost Of Sales</b>           |                          |                          |                          |                             |                          |                          |                          |
| Literature purchases           | \$ 17,747                | \$ 15,112                | \$ 15,260                |                             |                          |                          |                          |
| Freight Inwards (Overseas)     | \$ 5,324                 | \$ 4,534                 | \$ 3,812                 |                             |                          |                          |                          |
| Stock Adjustments              | \$ 200                   | \$ 200                   | \$ 84                    |                             |                          |                          |                          |
| <b>Total Cost Of Sales</b>     | <b>\$ 23,271</b>         | <b>\$ 19,845</b>         | <b>\$ 19,155</b>         |                             |                          |                          |                          |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>            | <b>\$ 67,538</b>         | <b>\$ 61,532</b>         | <b>\$ 84,282</b>         |                             |                          |                          |                          |

### Financial Year & Audit Dates

Our financial year runs from 1st April to the following 31st March. As this report needs to be completed in time for inclusion in the Conference Brochure, it means the accounts have not yet been finalised at the time of writing as they await the yearly external audit. The FY25 audit is scheduled to be completed by 31 August 2025. It is assumed that there will be no material difference to the results currently provided.

#### Updates and Comments

- AA Convention donations are the net amount the Convention Treasurer transfers, with any surplus from the AA committee and literature sales. The summarised total includes the AFG portion of the surplus and fundraising to NZAGSO, which is split off from literature sales.

#### Answers to Questions

- There's not a profit per se from literature. However, the margin on our literature covers the office shipping and office costs, ordering, system, overheads. Absorbed into the expenses; we can't rely solely on donations.
- Budget of \$1.70 donation per week per member was set a long time ago so perhaps we could look at it. Tracing Personal and Area numbers, actuals track closely to \$1.70 per person per meeting. However, that may be a self-fulfilling prophecy!
- The office upgrade is generally within the assets section of the balance sheet. Recent purchase of the projector has been expensed. Furniture will be an asset in the Balance Sheet going forward. Depends if spend is under or over \$1000 due to tax law.

### **Answers to Questions continued**

- The Equalised Conference Contribution by Area was last calculated by a conference committee in 2021 (the amount is recommended by the Conference Committee to the Board). Areas don't cover the full cost of Conference as Board pays for their share from the General Funds. It's more expensive each year to hold Conference.
- The blank line "Messenger Donations" refers to a no longer active "Editorial Committee" as the Editorial Chair is not currently filled. The Messenger wasn't self-supporting last time it was up and running but this might change so we could look to put a donations budget figure in there.
- The recent rates hike doesn't directly impact us as we don't pay rates directly to the Council. Instead we pay a set rate for rent via our lease which is set for the year previously, so the budget will match the actuals.
- Suggestion: perhaps the National Treasurer could advise Areas how they're tracking against budget (though this is easily calculable in the News from NZAGSO).
- Suggestion: for future Treasurer reports to Conference, add a Birthday Club line into Donations, include subtotal of group donations then personal donations for clarity.
- Clarification was sought around the \$1.70 that we don't recommend as dues – please explain where that came from? The \$1.70 is for the budget to cover our expenses for the year. It is not a suggestion about the amount to donate. People donate what they can – it is just a suggested donation, and we remind people we are fully self-supporting.
- Following 2025/26 annual budget motion: note that there's no separate budget line for Archive as, although the \$1000 is not on the spreadsheet, it sits in the net profit.

## **General Secretary**

**Sally-ann M**

**Introduction:** The role of General Secretary has been unfilled in New Zealand for several years, and I have approached it with a clear focus on the job description. With thanks to the previous two Gen Secs for sharing their support, experience strength and hope. By staying true to the role's responsibilities, remaining grounded in the job's purpose, and ensuring I stay "in my lane," I have endeavoured to keep the progress of New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups (NZAFG) aligned with our shared spiritual principles and objectives. This role spans both the governance side of NZAFG as well as the operational side of NZAFG. The most significant achievement for NZAFG since Conference 2024 from my perspective has been the progress made with the payment gateway, an initiative allowing online contributions and literature payments that marks an important step in both our operational growth and long-term sustainability.

As ex-officio on all Selected Committees, I've been invited to participate and have participated on the following Selected Committees in active service:

- Conference Taskforce 2024
- Conference Summary Taskforce 2024
- Executive Budget Committee
- Convention Committee 2025
- Conference Committee 2025
- Convention Committee 2026

I've not yet been invited to participate on:

- Public Outreach Committee
- Alateen Committee

**Key Achievements since Conference 2024:** One of the core responsibilities of this role has been supporting effective functioning of our New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO). I was delegated the tasks of completing a few key outstanding objectives, e.g. website clean-up resulting in repairing the Google Maps issue, updating our privacy policy and progressing our payment gateway. The policy work ensures that our organisation remains compliant with statutory obligations while upholding our commitment to the privacy and safety of all members through application of our spiritual principles and alignment with NZ law.

**Strengthened Relations with International Structures:** My work in deepening relationships and collaborations with General Secretaries in other Structures has been invaluable. This exchange of ideas and

practices has been a key growth point for me and has inspired me to refine my approach to serving New Zealand as a whole. In particular, engaging with the **International Team at WSO** has been a significant part of my role. During our March 2025 meeting, we asked questions related to IAGSM accountability and explored critical discussions at the World Service Conference (WSC).

**New Initiatives:** Two new initiatives stand out since Conference 2024:

- The visual **Board Newsletter**: A bright and engaging magazine-style publication that has received positive and supportive feedback both nationally and internationally. This initiative has proven to be an effective way to connect with members while providing relevant updates on our key priorities and objectives.
- **Progress on Delegates as observers at Board Meetings**: A major goal we have worked toward this year as a Board —welcoming Delegates as observers to Board meetings electronically—is beginning to come to fruition. The initiative was suggested by Delegates in 2024, and we are aiming to start a trial in September. It's inspiring to see this growth, as it aligns with our strategic objectives and ensures that our activities remain centred on our purpose and priorities, listening to our Delegates and bring transparency to our activities.

**Challenges Faced:** The most significant challenge I've encountered this year has been recognising that our spiritual principles need to be demonstrated, not just spoken about.

When I observe that our spiritual foundation is not reflected in behaviour, it reminds me of the importance of fully committing to study of our three Legacies for myself. It's essential that 'recovery through the steps' is represented not just in words but through actions at every level of our service structure as outlined in Concept Nine. Demonstrating compassion, tolerance, and love can be difficult, especially when the application of these principles is lacking. I have plenty of room to grow in this area.

**Working Through Resistance to the NZ Service Handbook:** One of the most interesting challenges I've experienced is the resistance to the use of our NZ Service Handbook which is essentially our constitution. I've experienced members struggling with embracing its experience, strength, and hope. I'm concerned that when I raise the NZ Service Handbook, it's seen as controversial or unwelcome. However, as a guarantor of the traditions, I hold myself accountable to upholding these spiritual principles. It can be challenging to balance personal principles with group dynamics. However, recognising that 12-step recovery is founded on application—not information—helps me let go and trust that our collective journey will evolve as it needs to.

**Feedback and Impact:** Feedback: Received from chairs of Selected Committees, where I serve as ex-officio, has been both positive and negative. Overall, I'm proud of how I show up in service. I've received positive feedback from those I serve alongside, which affirms that my focus on our work together is fostering a positive and mutually supportive environment and attracting others to further service roles in the NZ structure. Impact: My commitment as a Conference Member to uphold our Conference Goal of '*Creating Enthusiasm For Service*' has been demonstrated in the following ways: Our vibrantly visual Board newsletter is gaining attention; attracting new & renewed members to Selected Committees, being authentic and sharing vulnerably of myself in service roles, bringing my God-centred presence, joy, fun & laughter to service. Seeing others committing to and personally growing their recovery, unity and service is the affirmation of the impact of those efforts.

**Looking Forward to 2026:** As we look ahead, we will continue to prioritise the nurturing & growth of active recovered members in service and the ongoing development of our policies and practices to ensure we remain true to our values and mission to protect the interests of NZAFG. There will be a continued focus on collaboration, both within New Zealand and internationally, as well as on strengthening our governance and operational sustainability.

### **Updates and Comments**

- The SOS that went out to the groups was not mentioned in the report – this was an oversight.
- Since the above report, the General Secretary attended and participated in service at the Australian AA Convention, leading a session there. They also attended a global meeting on literature discussion.
- Comments and observations from one Delegate about the response to the Newsletter was that groups cheerfully share it. It lives and breathes our service goal as it makes service look attractive. Many thanks to the General Secretary for their willingness to share their experience and having the ability to own mistakes.
- Another Delegate commented that although the Board is at the bottom of the triangle, it is even keeled, that there is no longer a sense of having to ‘serve’ the Board chair. It would be good to visually show in the Newsletter – to remove the ‘us and them’, with clear job descriptions of positions so that one “stays in their lane”.
- A question about what the learnings in the role have been: feeling burnt out the first 10 months before realising they were not staying “in their lane” and was picking up other jobs. Things went a lot better when they asked for help, regularly talked to Sponsor, admitted mistakes, and learnt to say no.

### **Answers to Questions**

- How do you envisage the significant challenge re: demonstrating the spiritual principles at group level? My view is both what is happening presently and what is the future. I have to behave better than I feel, to meditate, stay humble and active in my steps and tell the truth. I must live the spiritual principles. One project was to take our vision and mission at Board level and make sure we stay on track – by having a laminated vision and mission that we see on the wall, and reference, at each Board meeting. One goal was to work towards an online payment gateway – which involved having a legal team making changes to the Terms and Conditions and changes to the website.

## **IAGSM**

## **Liz A (Year 2)/Tracy B (Year 1)/Rana S (Alt)**

Also see “Presentation: IAGSM Report” on page 12.

“The purpose of the [International Al-Anon General Services Meeting] IAGSM is to share the experience of Al-Anon national services around the world through their delegates. It will attempt to encourage the growth of a sound service structure while maintaining worldwide unity through the application of Al-Anon Traditions. It can also represent an expression of a worldwide group conscience. Ultimately, this leads to the primary purpose of Al-Anon as a whole, to seek the best way to carry the Al-Anon message of recovery to families and friends of alcoholics amidst cultural and language differences.” (*NZ Service Handbook 2022*, PN-27, page 109).

IAGSM 2024 was held in Virginia Beach Hyatt from 25 September to 29 September 2024. The following is an update from that meeting, attended by the IAGSM Year 2 Delegate and IAGSM Alt Delegate. Travelling to Norfolk, Virginia, USA and home is quite a long journey. We left two days before the meeting which was recommended to us by previous Delegates, and I highly recommend that amount of time at least. Travelling home was that little bit harder and one of our Delegates really needed extra time to recover from the jet lag.

Twelve countries (Mexico, Iceland, Australia, USA/Canada, France, Denmark, Poland, Finland, NZ, Slovenia, India & UK/Eire) physically attended the IAGSM with five members of the International Coordination Committee (ICC) also in attendance – the Executive Director, Programs Manager, International Services Manager, ICC Member and ICC Chair.

A further nine countries attended the Saturday hybrid/electronic session, bringing it to 21 structures represented out of the 39 eligible.



On the initial day, there was a visit to the World Service Office (WSO). On arrival we were greeted by a very special line-up of staff and volunteers and were very warmly welcomed “home”. We had introductions, we read the Legacies, and our keynote speaker was the International Services Manager. It was wonderful to put a face to so many of the names we have communicated with over the years and have a tour of the premises.



There is a significant amount of procedural set up for IAGSM, right down to agreeing to the voting processes and procedures. A major question was raised for any motion, was it “one vote per delegate” or “one vote per structure?”. Initially there was some research done that showed it had historically been one vote per delegate. There was significant feeling in the room that this created inequality, and a motion was raised (by the French Delegate) to change it to one vote per structure. After significant discussion, several issues were raised (including the need to determine the number of votes the ICC gets before IAGSM could resolve this issue, so the motion was tabled because of time pressure and the need for further study.

We were later provided with more information by the Executive Director of WSO who read from the General Service Meeting historic log, that in 1980 when IAGSM was set up, the vote was for one vote per structure (even if two delegates attending), the Board of Trustees recommended one vote per Delegate and that was adopted and has not changed since.

ICC provided an unformatted hardcopy version of the IAGSM 2022 summary - they apologised for its lateness and by form of amends, explained they have put resourcing in place to ensure the same will not happen to the 2024 IAGSM Summary.

The IAGSM was made up of workshops and general sessions, and there was ample time allowed for unanswered questions. At the end of each night there was time, and a space provided for a sharing meeting. There was so much fellowship during breaks and mealtimes, these were invaluable moments to connect with other members and share ideas and ask for help.

### *General Session 1 - Envisioning the Future of Al-Anon*

This workshop was run by the Finish Delegate on “Envisioning the Future of Al-Anon” – which fits well with our spiritual principle of abundance and breaking new ground while our fellowships are struggling.

We learned about the history of Al-Anon in Finland and saw some interesting statistics on when their fellowship started in 1953 and peaked in the 1990s and had been declining since. We were encouraged to envision the future using a reflection of how we felt in our own early days of Al-Anon.

### *General Session 2 - WSO Update*

#### **International Team Updates**

There continues to be numerous staffing changes occurring in WSO – this should not affect most services. WSO has employed two new members of the International Team.

WSO has been arranging and attending Regular Structure Meeting (RSM) – these are held with each structure twice a year. While these are a good opportunity to ask WSO questions it also helps WSO have a better feel for how the fellowship is within each country. We will be able to meet the new international staff members in our next RSM.

Global gatherings continue and the question about the timing of these has been raised, again. Several solutions were offered by New Zealand and Australia. WSO is currently looking for suggestions on topics for the global gatherings.

### *WSO Strategic Plan Updates*

WSO has a Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) which consists of three Directors, two Associate Directors and a Manager. Its primary purpose is to deliver the strategic priorities of the organisation as defined by the goal statements and strategic objectives established by the Board of Trustees. Several of the 2024 strategies relate directly to conversations previously started with international structures.

WSO is in the process of a core systems overhaul, which will include their online bookstore, their database and accounting systems. The process is expected to take at least two years.

WSO is currently doing trial to expand the sales of literature across the world, making literature sales easier for structures to buy from other structures rather than only from WSO. More to come on this once the two trials they are running are completed. With a legal agreement in place, this may open a possibility for us to combine resources with Australia.

WSO has suspended the release of new CAL into eBook format, because of the issues raised by international structures at the London IAGSM 2022. They are now seriously evaluating a profit-sharing model for eBook sales outside of USA & Canada after exploring an e-literature platform which regrettably would require more resources than WSO can handle.

### *Literature*

- WSO released *Healing within Our Alcoholic Relationships* (P-95) in September 2024.
- The World Service Conference (WSC) has approved in concept new CAL on Finances in Recovery.
- WSO is seeking member sharings on Sponsorship & Service Sponsorship (see their guideline). This will be open for 18-24 months.
- A new piece of CAL takes about 5 years to develop.
- There will be a new Service Manual – the most significant change is that WSO will not be registering any new groups which identify a special community (e.g. LGBTQ+, Parents, Men's etc) and in 2025 will look at the groups already registered.

### *Alateen Electronic Validation & implementing Planning*

There have been several terms used to describe the proposed conceptual Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioural Requirements to date, but moving forward they will be called Global Electronic Alateen Safety Minimums (Global EASM) and the WSC Electronic Alateen Safety & Behavioural Requirements (WSC EASBR).

International Task Force will be set up to review the language in the Global EASM to ensure it is “internationally friendly”.

English speaking Alateens can now attend meetings on the AI-Anon app! The WSC structure owns the app, and they take the legal risk. The times that the meetings are held means they're possibly unattainable in New Zealand, but the option is available from now.

### *Public Outreach*

WSO will be publishing a new Alateen PO image as well as more new PO images, all of which will be licensed for global use. WSO will soon be releasing a pack on reaching out to professionals.

### *WSO 2024 Membership Survey*

Analysis of the results is underway.



## *AI & Information Security*

WSO recognises that it is powerless over AI, but has established boundaries for staff and volunteers. They are limiting the use of AI tools and avoid using web conference transcription services – as it turns out you do not own the transcription, and this could mean your content is shared online.

Also, WSO is highlighting the importance of cyber security, especially protecting members anonymity / fulfilling our fiduciary duties to the organisation / securing AI-Anon's intellectual property. WSO established that Google Docs is not secure, and Google's AI has access to it! Structures need to consider if they are reprinting CAL if the printer they are using is also using secure services to protect the AI-Anon copyright.

## *WSC 2024 Updates*

A taskforce has been established to look at "What is missing from the agenda that Delegates want to see" [at WSC].

A six year trial has been started to host WSC in New York every three years to enable visits to Stepping Stones.

We can join the WSC in 2025 with voice and no vote.

## *The Big Question*

The Big Question posed by WSO/ICC was: Does your GSO consider the IAGSM purpose still relevant to AI-Anon as a whole?

During the IAGSM there were a total of six sessions dedicated to this, which included three hybrid/electronic sessions. There was a great deal of discussion and work to focus on the most important aspects identified by IAGSM 2024. Many of the Delegates came armed with all the reasons why we did not want the IAGSM to be shut down. Many structures were unhappy about the little time we had to prepare for the Big Question meaning we had little time to consult widely. We heard from structures who were unable to attend for various reasons and the attendees and electronic attendees all had a voice. The intention of the discussion was to create the following:

In summary it was agreed that there were three priorities to focus on:

- 1) Exploring different funding options
- 2) Reimagining IAGSM's purpose, to be a decision making/recommendation body around international structures [for IAGSM]
- 3) Delegate ownership/participation in the IAGSM meeting and agenda

Motions Passed related to the IAGSM Big Question:

- To approve the Hybrid Business Agenda as amended in the working proposal.
- Admit Russia to IAGSM.
- Admit Austria to IAGSM (this year New Zealand Delegates were part of the Nominating Committee).
- Develop a thought force including some ICC members & GSO representatives to investigate alternative funding options for the future of IAGSM.
- That interim meetings of IAGSM Members be held electronically before IAGSM 2026 to discuss the Big Question matters raised at the 2024 IAGSM.
- To allow interim electronic meetings between 2024 and 2026 IAGSMs to select the host country for the 2026 IAGSM.

Outcome: More work is needed in the IAGSM space to revitalise the event, plan for the next one (which was never included in the original IAGSM 2024 agenda) and to look at future funding options. The motions passed effectively enable that work to get underway (electronically). Unlike some of the Delegates thought, we were not there to decide the fate of IAGSM in these sessions, however, to make recommendations on how we are to move forward with this process. Phew!

### *General Session 3 Electronic Groups - Poland*

- The Polish IAGSM delegate ran a session on electronic meetings. It was very clear that most structures are now registering their own electronic groups, some with their own areas and some within the existing areas.
- After discussion, at the Annual Polish Conference, a region was created for Electronic Polish Speaking groups (EPSR).
- It consists of 11 groups, a chat for hearing impaired, teleconference and other various electronic platforms. These are only registered in the Polish Speaking Electronic Region.
- This has created new opportunities for Polish speaking members to connect, to serve online, to have courage to change and do things differently, and apply trialling new ideas.
- The challenges have been the start-up rules, filling service roles, experience, not having bank accounts and contributions to their GSO, questions about who covers travel costs.
- A decision on the outcome of the trial will be made in 2025.

### *General Session 4 – Conflict Resolution Panel - New Zealand, Denmark, Iceland*

Each of NZ, Iceland and Denmark made short presentation on how each structure handles Conflict Resolution. We presented on the large number of tools that NZ already has in place to support successful conflict resolution. Amusingly the one tool that everyone (including WSO) seemed interested in was the “Getting Off Track” Paddles. Apparently WSO (which is where our structure got them from) were not aware of their existence, and made notes about re-instating them and using the updated words of “Are We Off Track?” and “Helpful Solution” on the other side.

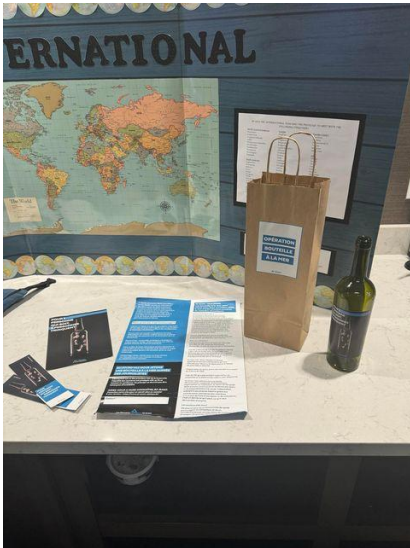
It was a good session, and it was great to be a part of a team that helped to make IAGSM 2024 successful.



### *General Session 5 – Engaging the Professional Community - Australia*

- Australia Delegates have a very comprehensive PO materials.
- They are relying heavily on LinkedIn.
- They like WSO, have a “Professionals” page on their website. <https://al-anon.org.au/professional/>
- When approaching professionals, they are using data from their membership survey, and this is also up on their website (the relevant data).
- There was a question about anonymity on LinkedIn. The Australian General Secretary said their position was a paid position and there was no anonymity. They practice not to be a member but to represent the organisation. There is a “Three Bears” skit that helps demonstrate the difference between talking to professionals about the organisation, not being a member sharing about their personal experience.

## General Session 6 - Working with Boards within Their Structure Panel – France and Mexico



- The French delegate presented how the French Board functioned and the constraints and requirements. They hold their AGM and Conference online.
- Interestingly the French Board provides insurance for all the meetings spaces rented out by groups!
- They are experiencing a lack of funds and service volunteers
- A Public outreach campaign with a gift of an **empty** wine bottle in a bag with PO materials was personally delivered to journalists and the response rate was 50% with professionals. Because it was a “bottle of wine” it had a very good uptake.

The Mexican delegates also presented; they have a very large structure with over 3350 groups with eight employees! They have a sustaining member who attends Areas when other trustees cannot, this could be a concept to use in many service areas in NZ.

## General Session 7– Seventh Tradition – Slovenia

The Slovenian Delegates presented on the Seventh Tradition in Slovenia. Because of the community focus of wellbeing, in Al-Anon the Slovenia structure is entitled to free rent for their GSO. (See *Discounts of Goods and Services -2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual pg. 106 for Policy*).

Additionally in meetings, there is an undercurrent on “solidarity” which supports Tradition Seven.

Quote: “From grain to grain we get bread and from stone to stone we get a palace”

## Zonal Meetings

There are three very active zonal meetings – where international structures get together much like IAGSM. NZ is in the Oceania Zone (along with Australia, India, South Africa, Korea and Japan) – however this zone is not active. WSO has advised they will research how a zone is to be started and hopefully “we will be allowed” to have input into building an active zone and reduce our isolation further.

## N Over 3

WSO were attempting to bring the number of ideas to work on at once to a manageable level, they introduced the meeting to the “N Over 3 Methodology”, the principle is that if you have many ideas and too many to work on, you use this method to allocate a number of votes to each Delegate (the number of votes is the number of ideas divided by 3) – so each Delegate only gets so many votes – everyone votes on the ideas pool, and only those ideas that get votes move to the next round. You may have to repeat this process a few times to get a manageable list of ideas.

The NZ Al-Anon General Service Board could potentially use this methodology to additional ideas to be progressed on the strategy plan or for managing things like the number of ideas that we get for Convention Theme, Conference Theme and Conference Goal.

## Personal Reflection IAGSM 2 Delegate

As this was my second IAGSM, I was able to arrive feeling somewhat prepared, excited and ready to listen. I was not so nervous as I practice Step Three! My previous IAGSM learning was around realising we are all members first and we all have a voice in Al-Anon. This had helped me to trust my voice in the outside world and make some life-changing choices. I had perhaps (!!) over-thought the Big Question and how that might play out. You see I was armed with a whole lot of New Zealand’s experience as we were



tasked, but I also took my opinion that the WSO wanted to shut down the IAGSM because it was too costly or put it online or, or, or... and that they had acted out of haste, and it seemed like we were being rushed or deceived... and some other Delegates helped fill in the missing evidence! I felt prepared to represent the views of the members who came before me, I had learned a lot and could articulate it, if and when it was needed.

And what I learned was the facilitators were simply facilitating the discussion.

Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern, and they use the Legacies in all their planning and decision making. Chosen leaders can demonstrate these Legacies and incorporate them in their communications easily, because they live them too. They trust God is in the room. What I came to realise is a good leader facilitates the discussion, not the outcome. They will keep the group focused, and to time frames, and will not attempt to control the outcome. They will gently remind us of what is needed to be achieved in the session.

Armed with those old thoughts and negative ideas I had packed, I was ready to defend! With the leadership modelled, I remembered God was in the room, and that we all have a voice. I managed to let all that go and was able to be present, listen, and keep an open mind - to realise his will for me and have the power to carry that out. As in every other part of my life, to be happy, joyous and free I do not need to control the outcome.

### *Personal Reflection IAGSM Alternate Delegate*



Overall the experience of IAGSM 2024 was very positive. There was an opportunity to re-strengthen relationships with other structures and with WSO. While forging some new ones too!

It was reassuring to see that IAGSM was seen as important by everyone present in the room and those who attended the hybrid session. It was not clear (to me) that WSO quite gets the importance of the IAGSM voice, but the repeated work that has been going on over more than a decade is resulting in constructive conversations between the international fellowship and WSO/ICC.

Personally, I was concerned that as a delegate I was not able to bring as much back to the NZ fellowship, and this was largely as a result of the inward-looking nature of the meeting. No matter what, NZ's continued attendance is vital.

I did pick up one very useful tool for newcomers "Go to meetings, work The Steps, do service. I am not sure which works so you need to do all of them".

---

Since writing this report we have had two interim electronic IAGSM meetings. The first was held early Feb 2025. Discussion was held about how we, as Delegates, could input into setting the IAGSM 2026 agenda. Many ideas were discussed with the opportunity to include all structures. To begin that work, we needed to vote to allow further discussion to happen between IAGSM meetings. We carried the motion "A thought-force, including equal representation of IAGSM Delegates and ICC Members be created to develop a process for gaining input into setting the Agenda for the IAGSM."

The second meeting, attended by IAGSM 2, was held mid-February 2025 to discuss the bidding process for the upcoming IAGSM in 2026. Discussions and feedback were given by structures who had hosted the IAGSM previously – what went well, what needed improvement and helpful suggestions. A timeline has been given to all the IAGSM Delegates of the bidding process. Delegates are to vote on where the 2026 IAGSM will be held in August 2025. Results of the vote will be advised in September 2025.

### **Updates and Comments**

- IAGSM has agreed to hold an interim meeting about what the meeting will cover. IAGSM Delegates voted on important issues and agreed to meet in-between times.
- IAGSM meets biennially. More work is required to plan where the next IAGSM will be. Consequently, we need to host a few more meetings to discuss this topic. The first of these has been held with no outcome on location yet.
- IAGSM 2 attended the first meeting about discussions on where the next meeting will be held and the bidding process. IAGSM occurs every two years – once in the USA and then, in two years' time, it is global. There is a timeline in considering all the bids. An announcement will be made in September 2025 as to who was successful and where the next IAGSM will be held. Australia and NZ will not likely be considered because of our geographical location. It is likely to be somewhere central, possibly Europe.

### **Answers to Questions**

- Yes, we can encourage attendance by New Zealand based teens at Alateen meetings via the Al-Anon app as they are not subject to NZ law.
- Special interest groups: WSO have stopped registering certain name choices for now, but this decision has been reversed since WSC 2025.
- Translating CAL into te reo Māori in agreement with WSO is possible, though it would be a complicated process.
- IAGSM locations – where they may be? It's becoming hard to travel to USA (might become unsafe). It was noted that attendances dropped considerably when the location is the USA. Partly due to costs and to political issues (e.g. the Delegates from Russia could not attend this IAGSM as it was held in the USA). Each alternate meeting is held outside the USA.
- One of the comments on talks about the use of methodology that “there is nothing to replace face to face meetings”, but you can have face-to-face meetings electronically as well as physically. When we talk about electronic meetings – can we update the commentary to reflect that?
- Were there any tips on hybrid meetings (from the IAGSM Big Question session)? Tips – there was a sole team in charge of the camera and two TVs, and it was held at a professional conference centre that had the technology tools – there's no equivalent for that for a group.

## **Alateen Coordinator**

**Paula B**

Since the NZ Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) 2024, the National Alateen Coordinator has been utilising the strategy that was set in 2023 of:

Encourage Areas to have an Alateen Coordinator in each Area to support their Area Committee and to help grow Alateen.

Helping Areas in New Zealand to enthuse its members and groups to firstly have a healthy pool of AMIAS (Al-Anon members involved in Alateen Service) in their Areas.

Created a user-friendly AMIAS profile form and guidelines for the NZAFG website with assistance from the Budget Exec Chair and Office Manager.

The World Service Office (WSO) via the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) has decided that Alateen online meetings are now open to teens in New Zealand aged 13 to 18 via the Al-Anon Family Groups app (developed by Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters Inc).

### *Alateen in the Areas*

Currently Area Three holds a meeting in Wellington on the first Tuesday of each month, which coincides with an AA meeting and an Al-Anon newcomers meeting.

There are currently two meetings in Auckland, one in the CBD and one in East Auckland.

Area Seven has adopted a yearly July ratification process, similar to the one used at the WSO, to remind all AMIAS to ratify annually. This helps ensure safety standards remain a priority.



Area Alateen Coordinators have a key role in the Area's coordination and in helping the Area understand the safety standards.

Area Eight has appointed a new coordinator. Area Seven currently has an interim Alateen Administrator, who preferably should be an AMIAS with knowledge of Alateen.

Support is provided for coordinators and administrators in the Delegates area.

The NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO) has directed Alateen opportunities to the relevant Areas for further action.

### *AA Assemblies and Conventions with Al-Anon and Alateen participation*

Areas Three, Six, Seven, and Eight have reported that teens and pre-teens attended Alateen meetings held at AA Assemblies. This helps raise awareness of Alateen meetings within Alcoholics Anonymous.

Area Seven has an Alateen budget to assist families with costs to register at AA Assemblies, providing support for pre-teens and teens attending meetings.

In 2023, members across New Zealand donated money for teens to attend the 2024 AA Convention in Hawke's Bay. One teen attended, and the remaining funds are being used for future Conventions. This year, \$324 was used to pay for a room at the 62nd AA Convention, as the committee lacked funds. Two Alateens attended and their registration (\$180) was covered by these donations.

### *Valuable information available*

Through the monthly news from WSO, titled "In The Loop," I had access to the Alateen kit providing public outreach to professionals. I was able to share this resource with Delegates, Alateen Coordinators, and Alateen administrators.

Free Alateen literature is downloadable from the WSO website.

- Why I Serve Alateen
- Alateen Safety Guidelines
- Is Alateen Sponsorship for You?
- How to start an Alateen meeting

#### **Updates and Comments**

- A meeting had been set up and one child arrived (there were no children for 9 – 10 months). It costs \$18 per week to run it
- The Alateen Committee will send out profiles to Areas 2 and 8 Alateen coordinators. It is envisaged that the General Secretary will then be invited to participate

#### **Answers to Questions**

- Nil

## **Conference**

**Arnold H/Rose S**

"Since NZASC is the most effective means of communication between the Service Arms and the groups in NZ, the Conference Committee has the responsibility of preparing a programme that will be as informative as possible. This gives the groups through their Area Delegates the opportunity to present the needs of the groups to NZASC and gives NZAGSB a chance to share the extent and breadth of the work of its Service Arms to the groups through their Area Delegates." (NZ Service Handbook 2022, page 98)

As a result of the SOS sent out to the fellowship at the end of 2024, plus some shoulder tapping, a number of us came together and formed the Conference Committee. We immediately set about catching up on the work needed to bring our fellowship this year's Conference. Luckily, we have members who have assisted in previous years preparations and after our first few meetings it seems we are on track to deliver.

Our Committee decided after reading the 2024 Conference feedback and personal experience, that we would attempt to deliver a more relaxed timetable allowing Conference attendees to do the work that is necessary but be able to spend time socialising together, gentle and kind were words used.

We acknowledge the Friary staff for their support and hospitality. We acknowledge the many who have and will make this event possible. Together with you we will **be hopeful, open and willing**.

|                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Updates and Comments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul> <b>Answers to Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Convention

Robyn D

*Al-Anon and Alateen Theme: AWARENESS, ACCEPTANCE, ACTION*

*Overall Convention Report*

Alcoholics Anonymous 62nd Annual Convention with Al-Anon and Alateen participation was held at the Copthorne Hotel, Waitangi and at the Bay of Islands Yacht Club from Friday 17th – Sunday 19th January 2025. As I was voted into the Northern Regional Board Member role at the NZ Al-Anon Conference in 2024, I therefore stepped into the role as the Al-Anon Convention Chair, participating in the AA Convention Host Planning Committee (HPC) for the 62nd AA Convention with Al-Anon and Alateen participation. With the help of an Al-Anon member who walked alongside me, sharing their experience, strength, and hope with me, I began to bring a committee together. Many thanks to the regional members stepping up to participate in service. A big thank you to Area Seven members who came on board to assist, as it was challenging not to be able to engage with Area Six and Eight in the beginning. It was very exciting when the Area Eight Delegate joined us after only very recently stepping into the role. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to put together a wonderful event for Al-Anon and Alateen. The final Convention numbers were 369 total attendees, which included 82 Al-Anon members (two of these members were Alateens).

The initial connection with the AA committee was difficult. I attended my first meeting with the AA Committee in July 2024 and then not until September 2024 was I able to fully participate in the Host Planning Committee meetings. Once attending the full meeting, with access to the minutes, a connection was established, and I was able to be fully informed.

*Overall Conventions Reflections*

- Taking guidance from the NZ Service Handbook Convention guidelines is required. It is worth considering going through the guidelines for each role with the committee when beginning this journey. It is also necessary to read previous Convention reports available on the Al-Anon website in the Conference Summary reports.
- It has been suggested by several of the Convention Committee members that there was not enough clarity for guidance in their service roles. Suggesting there is a need to collect and work on improving and maintaining ongoing records of members' service work, that has gone before us, to assist members with general guidance of how each service officer moves forward in their role, when preparing and organising to set up, rosters, etc. There is limited or no mention in previous Conference Summary reports on Hospitality and Secretarial recommendations. (This information is available in the 2025 Convention Dropbox.)
- There has been much confusion over the new addition to the funds available for the Convention and this will be discussed at an upcoming NZ Al-Anon General Service Board meeting.
- Having both the Chair and an experienced Board member attend the AA HPC Committee meetings was helpful as support for the Convention Chair.
- It was suggested by a number of the Committee members, it would have been good to have a Board support person at the beginning of their role rather than towards the end.
- It really would be beneficial if a local group is involved in doing service at the Convention that at least one member of the local group be on the Convention Committee. We would have really benefited from somebody on the ground being on the Committee.

- Negotiating with AA HPC that the Al-Anon rooms are sufficient in size is necessary as this year our numbers have increased. Our initial room allocation was for 60 Al-Anon members; however, our final room allocation was 80 people.

### Convention Treasurer Officer Report – final

|                                       | Notes       | \$         | \$                |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                         |             |            |                   |
| NZAGSO float                          |             | \$200.00   |                   |
| Fundraising                           |             | \$1041.00  |                   |
| Literature                            | (1)         | \$1280.00  |                   |
| AA% of Surplus                        |             | \$1592.58  |                   |
| Tradition Seven (financial donations) |             | \$304.70   |                   |
| <b>Total Income</b>                   |             |            | <b>\$4,418.28</b> |
| <i>Less Expenses</i>                  |             |            |                   |
| NZAGSO Float Reimbursed               |             | \$200.00   |                   |
| Freight – Fundraising                 |             | \$139.57   |                   |
| Printing & Stationery                 |             | \$144.48   |                   |
| Fundraising Expenses                  |             | \$297.00   |                   |
| EFTPOS Hire – Literature              |             | \$152.23   |                   |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                 |             |            | <b>\$933.28</b>   |
| <b>Total Nett funds</b>               |             |            | <b>\$3,485.00</b> |
| Notes                                 |             |            |                   |
| (1) Literature Sales                  |             |            |                   |
| Convention Literature Revenue         |             | \$1,280.00 |                   |
| <i>Less Literature Expenses</i>       |             |            |                   |
| Literature Supplied (invoice 9106)    | -\$6,123.20 |            |                   |
| Literature Returned (invoice 9242)    | \$4,843.20  |            |                   |
| Literature Purchased                  | -\$1,280.00 |            |                   |

### Treasurer Reflections

- We hired an EFTPOS machine for the literature table at a total cost of \$152.23. This year, there was no lost literature sales due to members failing to pay for purchases online.
- Payments were received via both cash and online transactions for Tradition Seven and fundraising.
- An Al-Anon member used their personal bank account to receive funds.
- As suggested last year, NZAGSB should consider setting up a dedicated Convention bank account. The Office Manager could then share transaction details with the Treasurer for easier reporting.
- The Treasurer has reimbursed all member-incurred expenses.
- There were no unclaimed expenses to be recorded as Tradition Seven contributions.
- Many committee expenses (\$599.05) were covered by members before the Convention.
- Due to the last-minute change in Treasurer, we did not use the \$500 reserve set up by NZAGSO.

### Suggested recommended guidance following the Convention:

- Follow the suggested guidance for this role as outlined in the NZ Service Handbook as early as practicable to ensure the smooth availability of funds (covering expenses and float) to the Committee<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> Please note that since the 2022 printing of the NZ Service Handbook, the amount given to the Committee is now \$500 as voted on and passed at the 2024 Service Conference.



- Treasurer to request the monies from NZAGSO as soon as possible to utilise them for the needs of your committee. This way any convention expenses can be covered up front.
- Receipts for convention funds spent by the Committee are sent to the Convention Treasurer to be reimbursed.
- After Convention the funds will be transferred back to NZAGSO.
- The monies from NZAGSO are not for the use of purchasing fundraising items, it is for the purpose of covering a float for both Literature and a float for Fundraising, and for Committee expenses for items required for Convention.
- Freight costs of \$139.57 covered shipping surplus fundraising items to Area One for the 2026 Convention.

### Convention Literature and Display Officer Report

- Literature sales totalled: \$1,281.
- The EFTPOS machine was a new addition this year, as per the recommendation of the 2024 Convention Committee.
- Of the 39 purchases over the weekend 67% were paid for on EFTPOS and 33% cash. Online payments were not offered as an option.
- Many used the credit card option but there was no 3% surcharge added as per the information supplied from the EFTPOS company.
- It did not print a copy for customers so those that wanted a copy were invited to take a photo of the receipt.
- The EFTPOS reconciliation at the end of each day was very helpful in balancing sales.
- The EFTPOS machine hire was \$120 for three days.
- The literature table was open Friday afternoon from 3.00- 4.30pm, Saturday and Sunday, before, between and after each meeting until dinnertime when it was closed for the night.
- Information was sourced from the 2024 Literature Officer, communication with NZAGSO regarding the list of already recommended books along with discussions with the Convention Committee, with consideration to any books the Convention Committee might be using. "*How Al-Anon Works*" book was included for the countdown at the end.
- Members often volunteered for more than one service opportunity at the Convention, so the Literature Officer liaised with the Registration and Fundraising Officers to ensure we did not double book volunteers who were happy to provide service at all three locations.
- We shared our room with the AA Literature table and this worked well.
- We were situated in a room next to the Al-Anon and AA meeting rooms.
- Some signage was provided by the AA Committee, however the opening times for the Al-Anon and Alateen literature were placed on the door.
- We needed two big tables to hold the stock.
- On Sunday when the Al-Anon meetings shifted to the Yacht Club very few Al-Anon members visited the literature room, partially due to the change in venue and the rain.

### Literature and Display Reflections

- The EFTPOS machine made sales so easy for the customer and the volunteers.
- Sales were down substantially this year compared with last year (\$2,331.15).
- The literature table was not as visual as it could be. If it was in the reception area, it would capture people walking past.
- We could have sold more "*From Survival to Recovery*" and small copies of the "*Blueprint for Progress*".
- Very little Alateen literature was sold.

- Having Beginners Packs at the literature table as they were asked for on several occasions by AA.
- The new publication was a good seller - we sold 20 out of the 40 copies ("*Healing Within our Alcoholic Relationships*").
- It may be timely to discuss the purpose of the literature table and are we over ordering – more than two thirds of the stock was sent back.

### Convention Fundraising Officer Report

- Compiled a roster for the weekend – Friend-raising for Fundraising to ensure the Fundraising table was staffed to enable members to purchase items. Friend-raising for Fundraising went well and most members were happy to give an hour of their time over the weekend.
- Established a stocktake list of leftover items from Convention 2024.
- I reached out to several members who had skills and expertise, arranging for printing of bookmarks and postcards, purchased gratitude journals, candles and spray containers and a hula hoop, arranged for Al-Anon members to print stickers for items. Most were very happy to be of help, but none wanted to share the role with me, or come onto the Committee.
- Purchased display items, streamers and table cloths and arranged for an Al-Anon member to do signage for pricing, bank transfers, print stickers and bookmarks.
- The fundraising table was open from late Friday afternoon, all of Saturday and including the last afternoon session before the public meeting. We were open half an hour before the meeting or workshop and half an hour afterwards. No fundraising was available on Sunday due to a change of venue to the Yacht Club.
- I took on board the recommendations of the previous committee about having new items and actioned this (gratitude journals, candles and 'spray & pray' were new this year).
- Emailed members who were doing the workshops and pointed out to them fundraising merchandise that linked to their workshop (e.g. hula hoop bookmarks).
- The revenue we raised was \$726.
- We had large signs showing clear pricing and bank deposit details with fundraising as the reference – most people seemed to be able to easily follow this, although a couple of members forgot to put a reference.

### Fundraising Reflections

- The money put aside for Convention was not obtained and I had to purchase items at my own cost, and I have only just been reimbursed. This is not in line with the Al-Anon principle to be self-supporting and can put members off doing service.
- Committee electronic meetings need to be shorter in duration.
- For me it was good to stay on site (when I had to dismantle the fundraising on Saturday evening, I put the goods in my car and the cash box safely in my room).
- Suggest that this role is a shared role with another committee member.

### Convention Alateen Coordinator Report

- AMIAS from other Areas submitted their AMIAS profile form to the Area Eight Committee to undergo a local approval process at Area level.
- Funds were sourced via National Alateen Coordinator and National Treasurer.
- Two Alateen meetings were organised for the Convention, 90 minutes and 60 minutes respectively.
- Two Alateens from Area Seven attended the first meeting, which was for 90 minutes.
- The Board of NZAFG voted to pay for the Alateen room at the 2025 Convention.

### Alateen Reflections

- Consider having the Alateen meetings for one hour only.

- The Alateen meetings program needs to be included in the Al-Anon meetings flyer at the Convention.
- There is no guideline in the NZ Service Handbook for an Alateen Officer role for the AA Convention.
- Alateen registration was not an option on the AA website, only Al-Anon.

### Convention Publicity Officer Reflections

- In the absence of a Publicity officer on the Committee, the NZAFG General Secretary sent the Save-The-Date flyer to the following General Service Offices asking for it to be included in their calendar of international events:
  - Al-Anon Family Groups (AFG) World Services International for AFG WSO
  - AFG UK & Eire
  - AFG Australia
  - AFG South Africa
- Nationally, I ensured that the Convention was featured enthusiastically and highlighted with eye-catching and attractive imagery in the Board Newsletter which goes out to all New Zealand Delegates to share with Group Representatives (GRs).
- Also reaching out as a member to international information chat groups to carry the message of this New Zealand event, highlighting the event to our worldwide fellowship.
- As I was unable to recruit a publicity officer onto the Committee, the Area Eight Public Outreach Coordinator stepped up and worked with the National Public Outreach Coordinator to organise Al-Anon and Alateen Public Outreach, informing the local region of the planned AA public meeting held at the Convention in Waitangi on Saturday night.
- There was a quarter page ad in the Northern Advocate on the Saturday night prior to the event.
- A quarter page in the Northern Age on Tuesday and Wednesday.
  - A full half page on write up in the Northern Age on Thursday, prior to the event.
    - The Al-Anon/Alateen advertisement was also shared on social media community groups (specifically, Neighbourly and Facebook)
- Public outreach costs for advertising: \$803.00 excluding GST.
- From the 2024 Convention, the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB) has now allocated \$500.00 for public outreach at Conventions.
- This will include any CAL given away to newcomers at meetings or at the literature table.
- The funds are also for advertising the Convention event in the local area.

### Hospitality Officer Convention Report

- Compiled two rosters: one for the registration desk, one for welcomer/wanderers.
- Formed a small sub-committee to help with room decorations.
- Organised decorations for the meeting room plus a gratitude board.
- Write checklists to help those on the registration desk and the welcomers/wanderers know what their duties are entailed. Communicated clearly with those on my rosters and kept them aware of any changes to the rosters.
- Prepared small program inserts for lanyards plus some A3 copies for outside the meeting room.
- Organised electronic meetings with the Kerikeri AFG group and liaised with them closely about hospitality needs.
- Attended AA Convention Committee meetings when necessary.
- Arrived at Convention by midday Friday to prepare the room and get the first people rostered on sorted with their service. Helped with set-down of our meeting room.
- Was on-call throughout the Convention to assist with Hospitality-type queries/issues.

## Hospitality Reflections

- Overall, there was a lack of clear instruction about what my role as Hospitality Officer entailed. The NZ Service Handbook only gave very brief instructions and previous Convention reports didn't give me the detailed info I needed.
- For the Hospitality Officer to be involved in some of the earlier AA Committee planning meetings as there is heaps of task overlap between the two fellowships: e.g. AAs and Al-Anons are on the same registration desk and the AA and Al-Anon welcomers/wanderers are meant to work with one another.

## *In Conclusion*

We had a wonderful team of members working on the Convention Committee who put in many hours of hard work to bring the Convention to the fellowship. Great input from the Area Seven members and much appreciated later input from the Area Eight team. In the future it would be wonderful to see Area Six members step up into this exciting service opportunity. Many members participated in service at the Convention. It felt like this was a national event with many Area Delegates from across New Zealand participating in some part of the Convention. Thank you to all those who participated and I look forward to seeing you at next year's Convention.

### **Updates and Comments**

- Payment from AA did not come through until after the full financial year. Payments have been reconciled to \$3485.00 nett (i.e. after expenses).
- Comments were made about the NZ Service Handbook, possibly having it updated to include roles of the Committee in organising the Convention as they are autonomous roles. There is no Alateen officer role in the NZ Service Handbook for example.

### **Answers to Questions**

- Total nett funds raised at the 2025 Convention was \$3485 of which literature sales, fundraising and donations were \$1892.42, the AA contribution of surplus was \$1592.58.
- There is confusion around the role of the Treasurer on the Convention. Answer is in the NZ Service Handbook - Treasurer runs the treasury for the Convention. Anything done in fundraising cannot come from NZAGSO. Final funds get sent through to NZAGSO.
- The report noted that it is necessary to read previous reports – did the committee have access to the Dropbox as the Conference Summary is not as thorough as the full reports from each role? The Dropbox has had problems over the last few years. Haven't had Regional Board members to chair the Convention in their region. There is not a lot of information in the Dropbox – going forward, there will be more information.
- Conference 2024 increased funding for the Convention to \$500 to avoid committee members using their own funds. Do we have a handle on this to get the Convention underway? Possibly. The Conference asked for this. Noted that the NZ Service Handbook states \$200 which needs to be updated to \$500.
- The instructions are clear from the NZ Service Handbook – the Treasurer for the Convention is the Treasurer for Convention (not the National Treasurer).

## **Public Outreach**

**Rana S**

Since the NZ Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) 2024 National Public Outreach (PO) has been utilising the strategy that was set in 2023 of:

1. A short focus on publicity for the annual AA National Convention with Al-Anon/Alateen participation.
2. Then a focus on existing social media channels, encouraging Areas and groups to use these channels to post any of the Conference Approved PO images available on the website.
3. Encouraging Areas to work on a campaign of contacting local counsellors, just like many areas have focused on doctors.
4. Establish more where possible links to the NZAFG website from other websites where NZ Al-Anon Family Groups could potentially be listed as a resource.

### *PO at the Area Level*

Currently there are PO Coordinators in Area Two, Area Three, Area Four, Area Six, Area Seven, Area Eight, and Area Nine (7 out of 9). As the year progressed there has been an emphasis on engaging with Area PO Coordinators and encouraging them to focus on getting every group to have a PO Coordinator. My contact with Area PO Coordinators suggests that there has been sporadic PO activity by Areas, sometimes aligned with the national strategy - Areas are autonomous.

NZ Al-Anon General Service Office have been approached regarding PO opportunities in different areas, each has been forwarded to the appropriate Area to progress if they can.

There has been some conversation raised that National PO can provide budget to Area PO activities. In one case there has been an instance of a person fundraising to fund PO activities within their Area. This was a very clever approach but is fraught with difficulty as fundraising can only be within the fellowship. The National PO Budget is dedicated to national activities (e.g. a countrywide ad campaign or something related to the AA National Convention with Al-Anon participation 2025), not for an Area PO Project. This leaves two challenges for every area:

- Does your Area have a PO Coordinator?
- Does your Area have a PO Budget?

### *PO for AA National Convention with Al-Anon participation 2025*

As a part of the PO for the AA National Convention with Al-Anon participation 2025, NZAFG funded:

- Advertisements for the Public Meeting in the Northland Age and Northern Advocate on Saturday (11/1/2025) and Thursday (16/1/2025).
- Some committee members of the AA National Convention with Al-Anon/Alateen participation also posted PO images into local social media community pages

### *Other National PO Activities*

In July 2024 the PO images that the NZ Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) 2024 approved were released to all the Area PO Coordinators and made available on the NZAFG website. These have now been in circulation for a while and have been used by Areas and members alike.

During the year, the National PO chat group was reviewed to check on the current members of the group, confirming they wish to stay in the group, 14 members were removed. At the time of writing the chat group has 26 members (which includes all the current Area PO Coordinators). There has not been a great deal of activity in the group, however it has been a very useful group for new people to ask questions and learn where resources are, what is possible and how to do PO (i.e. demystifying PO).

In August 2024 NZAGSO was contacted by an intern working with Alcohol Healthwatch, looking to add a new section to their website entitled “Lived Experience”. They wanted 7-10 members anonymous stories (250-500 words). Eight members responded and provided their stories, after a “process” the stories were (and still are) available at <https://www.ahw.org.nz/Issues-Resources/Lived-Experience>. Each of these stories mentions AFG.

This exercise was very educational, the National PO Coordinator learned:

- 1) Set timeframes more tightly (this is a perennial problem)
- 2) Set a guideline including
  - a. Ensure that everyone knows to refer to AFG as Al-Anon Family Groups or even better refer to AFG as Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups
  - b. Minimise the use of the words “disease” to minimise potential controversy
  - c. Set a tone for the story.

Hopefully, there will be a future opportunity to repeat this with another organisation in the future.

A small amount of time has been dedicated to trying to reach out to national agencies / non-profits (e.g. NZ National Association of Counsellors and Te Rau Ora) that have been very unsuccessful with no response at all.

WSO has indicated there will be some new images available soon, the intention will be to potentially adapt them for NZAFG in the coming year.

### *National PO Toll Free Number*

The National Toll-Free number (0508 425 266) falls under the National Public Outreach umbrella. The following gives some basic statistics that show the number of calls being received.

| Month         | Inbound Calls | Month          | Inbound Calls |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| February 2024 | 75            | August 2024    | 45            |
| March 2024    | 46            | September 2024 | 37            |
| April 2024    | 27            | October 2024   | 25            |
| May 2024      | 34            | November 2024  | 36            |
| June 2024     | 53            | December 2024  | 33            |
| July 2024     | 43            | January 2025   | 37            |

A personal thank you to all those members who devote their time to answering these calls, this is essential service, you are valued.

### *PO in Social Media*

The February 2025 Board meeting gave approval for a social media project for NZAFG.

#### **Updates and Comments**

- It has been found that “word of mouth” is the most effective Public Outreach tool.
- The 2023 Service Conference Delegates requested social media. This required some careful thinking. We have taken this to the Board and recommend establishing a paid social media campaign (via Facebook) – for advertising. This is going to be much more of a push.
- In April 2025 NZAFG started the Facebook page “New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups” with three paid social media marketing campaigns on Facebook:
  - General PO – using our general images.
  - Counsellors PO – a slightly different campaign, directing counsellors and therapists to our website
  - Alateen PO – using Alateen images and messages.
- A budget of \$12,000 is allocated for PO. We do not intend to spend all the funds for this period, but will utilise this budget extensively.
- Statistics showed we have reached 50,000 accounts for each of the General PO and Alateen Campaigns, with a further 1000 for the Counsellors campaign on Facebook. “Reach” is the number of people who have seen the advertisements, however it does not include numerous repeat visits to it, so it is an accurate number. We will continue with the three campaigns on Facebook but will also be looking at extending this to other social media platforms e.g., Instagram.

#### **Answers to Questions**

- At Conference 2024, it was discussed how members could post images on social media. How have our members picked up the responsibility of using social media? We have seen the new, approved images posted on Facebook; however, they are posted sporadically. Members have not engaged with this much. No one is doing a good job of engaging in PO. Last two years have been setting the framework and providing tools.
- Yes, the focus on counsellors will continue this year.
- Area PO Coordinators tend not to make a lot of contact, so the National PO Coordinator will try and make contact calls more of a focus going forward. Now that there is a marketing campaign at a national level, PO it needs to be picked up with the Area/Groups. We need to do approach it from both directions.
- We did work with Alcohol Healthwatch – are there other groups getting in contact re: doing this again? A community newspaper has contacted us, but no other health based one organisation.

### **Answers to Questions continued**

- Can members who aren't Delegates get involved in the PO select committees? Yes, fill in a profile form (available in the members section of our website) and get it to the National PO Coordinator.
- The report refers to an online chat group. How is it going? Any new members joining? Who is eligible to join it? It is the "National PO" chat group isn't super active. It does have all the existing Area PO coordinators there. It is open to anyone, and is updated once in a while with inactive members leaving it. New members are generally recently appointed Area PO Coordinators.
- A suggestion for the toll free number to see how many numbers redirected to the Area match up with our phone coordinator? No, that is time consuming to do as the standard reporting doesn't provide it (though will check that this is still the case).
- Clarity around the NZAFG Facebook page and its advertising: you can 'like it' and follow it. From there, there is a paid advertising campaign. Regardless of whether you like or follow the page, when you scroll on Facebook, the paid advertising may appear.
- Action (National PO): will change the Facebook icon link on the NZAFG page so it goes to NZ rather than to WSO.

## **NZ Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO)**

**Sally-ann M/Liz A**

### *General Service Office 2024/25 Annual Report*

As we reflect on the year that was, it's a privilege to share the stories of progress, resilience, and community within the New Zealand Al-Anon Family Groups (NZAGSO). While we have encountered challenges, we have also experienced growth, positive changes, and renewed commitment from our staff & volunteers. As we move forward, the continued support of our fellowship remains the heart of our mission.

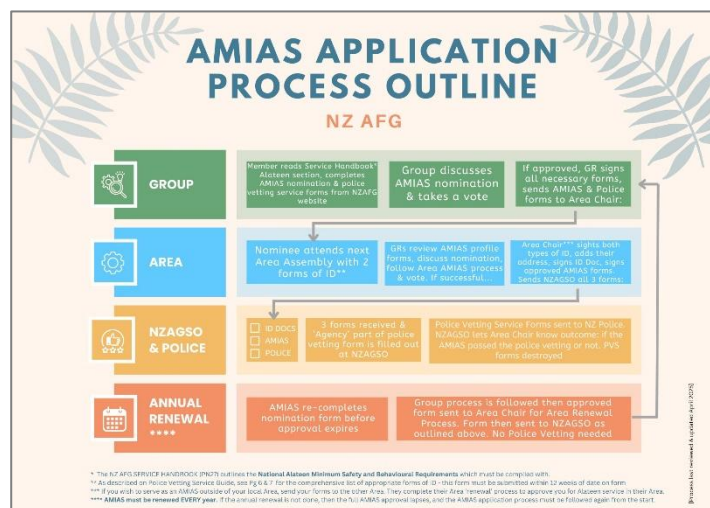
#### 1. Volunteer Involvement

Volunteers are the backbone of our office. Their regular tasks, including picking, packing, and shipping literature orders, continue to ensure that the essential resources our fellowship relies on are delivered with care and consistency. Overall, our number of volunteers is stable, with one member stepping back and two new members joining, but volunteer tasks are changing. Volunteers now assisting with MYOB order entry, stock checks and website have been vital in maintaining the smooth operation of the office. A roster of volunteers also allows for flexibility with other personal commitments. Looking ahead, we're focusing on remote volunteer involvement through initiatives like the Hidden Talents form and a new drive for volunteers across the country. We've also made a concerted effort to ensure volunteers feel appreciated, including acknowledgment in the NZ Al-Anon News.

Recognising the dedication of our volunteers is a priority. This year, the volunteer lunch in December was a way to show our gratitude. We continue to ensure that all volunteers, both in-person and remote feel part of a welcoming, supportive environment with consideration, mutual respect and loving kindness available to all who contribute their time to the successful operations of NZAGSO.

## 2. Office Management

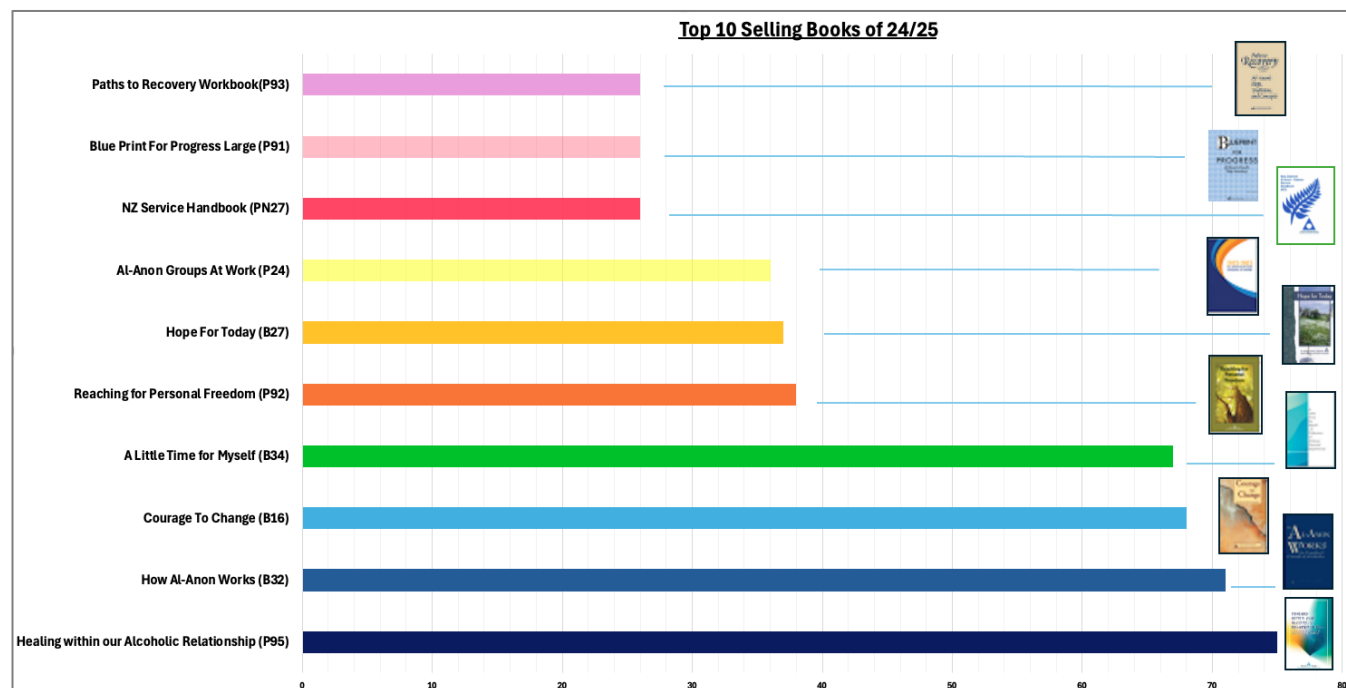
Our Office Manager (OM) remains a central figure in maintaining day-to-day operations. With the General Secretary (GS) role now filled after a considerable break, the OM's role has become more focused on operational tasks, giving them the opportunity to address long-term improvements. The transition is ongoing, but with the GS's support, we anticipate even greater operational efficiency moving forward. A review of the Police Vetting Services (PVS) led to improvements in communication regarding confidential information handling. We faced challenges around the internal communications of the AMIAS process, we've created an infographic (right) to clarify the process which we will trial.



<https://al-anon.org.nz/members/Al-Anon-members-involved-in-alateen-service-amias/>

## 3. Literature and Supply Chain

The supply of literature from NZAGSO has been steady, despite challenges such as the poor exchange rate, which has slightly inflated the costs. New literature was introduced this year, including *P-95*, and we continue to receive feedback from the fellowship. Many have asked for a review of some commonly used pamphlet prices, which is currently being considered. Sales have fluctuated over the past year, with an uptick in December and January due to special offers. We've also set up an account with our importing company to prevent customs delays, which has been a welcome improvement. Overall, the stock situation remains stable, with minimal shortages.



## 4. Group Numbers and Statistics

We continue to maintain 66 registered groups across New Zealand, with 5 groups now meeting exclusively on an electronic platform. The number of Alateen groups has increased, and while some Al-Anon groups have disbanded or shifted formats, the overall network remains strong. Our ongoing efforts to maintain accurate records and keep group information updated on the website have been well supported with assistance from the fellowship.



| New Groups                                | Disbanded Groups                      |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Alateen Petone                            | Whanganui Steps & Slogans AFG         |
| Al-Anon Family Groups – Newcomers Meeting | Christchurch (Friday Night Steps) AFG |
| Mahurutanga Serenity AFG                  | Dunedin Friday Lunchtime AFG          |
| Taradale Trust the Process AFG            | Western Freedom AFG                   |
| Whakatāne AFG                             | Wainuiomata Path of Hope AFG          |
| Wānaka AFG                                |                                       |

| Overview of Groups in New Zealand | Mar 2025 | May 2022 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| <b>Total number of groups</b>     | 69       | 69       |
| Al-Anon Groups                    | 66       | 67       |
| Groups focus on Adult Children    | 1        | 1        |
| Alateen Groups                    | 3        | 2        |
| Loners                            | 11       | 18       |
| Electronic Meeting Location only  | 5        |          |
| AIS (Al-Anon Information Service) | 0        | 0        |
| Institutions                      | 0        | 0        |

### 5. Birthday Club

This year, the Birthday Club membership decreased to 11 members. While efforts to revitalise the club were limited, we hope that continued awareness through the NZ Al-Anon News and the dedication of our volunteers will encourage renewed interest.

### 6. Mailouts

The mailout process has evolved, with a notable shift to more digital communications and a decrease in the number of postal copies sent. The introduction of targeted flyers and the use of images in newsletters have allowed us to better engage with our fellowship, while maintaining the crucial task of ensuring members are informed of key events and updates.

### 7. Office and Equipment Updates

In the past year, the office has undergone small but meaningful improvements. New blinds were installed, and new shelving is on order. Our website continues to serve as a vital tool for communication, with updates to the online bookstore and shipping notifications enhancing our customer experience. Additionally, regular stocktakes with volunteer oversight have ensured our inventory remains in check.

### 8. Executive Budget Committee

The Executive Budget Committee (EBC) has met regularly, focusing on a number of strategic priorities, including the implementation of an online payment gateway opening up the opportunity for online member contributions and the recruitment of new volunteers. While challenges around participation and attendance persisted, the committee made great strides, particularly in updating procedures and strengthening the team's focus on key initiatives. The leadership provided by the EBC Chair has been instrumental in pushing forward the committee's objectives.

### 9. Financial Overview

Financially, NZAGSO remains in a stable position. Literature sales have shown some decline, and the cost of the 2024 Service Conference was higher than anticipated. However, we continue to focus on maintaining a balanced budget and have seen positive outcomes from recent financial management strategies.

### 10. Looking Ahead: Goals for 2026

For the year ahead, we are setting ambitious goals to improve our operational efficiency and recruit and support our volunteers. Key strategies include launching a targeted volunteer recruitment drive, implementing an effective induction process for new committee members, and updating our health and safety plan. We will also work on updating policies and ensuring our processes align with statutory requirements. Additionally, we hope to explore new ways to engage our members and enthuse them in service, particularly through the Hidden Talents form.

## 11. Community Feedback and Impact

The impact of our work at NZAGSO is perhaps best reflected in the heartfelt feedback from our fellowship. One member shared their experience of receiving guidance from a fellow Al-Anon member while travelling: *“It could have been a very different holiday if I hadn’t had my program and the amazing support of this program at the other side of the world...”*

Such feedback reminds us of the profound and far-reaching influence of Al-Anon, and the vital role the General Service Office plays in supporting our community.

### *In Conclusion*

We are incredibly proud of the dedication, hard work, and passion that our volunteers, staff, and fellowship continue to demonstrate. It is through your collective efforts that Al-Anon Family Groups here in Aotearoa New Zealand can support individuals and families affected by alcoholism. Looking forward, we remain committed to improving our services, strengthening our volunteer base, and ensuring that Al-Anon remains a beacon of support for all who seek it.

#### **Updates and Comments**

- Having a paid staff member in our office has been great.
- We have not met our statutory obligations around policies at this stage.
- Work has been done on putting in place privacy policies and terms & conditions for the online payment in the website’s online store and including the ‘contribution’ option. We have a new member on the Budget Committee who has experience with policy and procedures.
- The report was via a questionnaire so it is not one voice. The General Secretary is a volunteer ex-officio on the committee and meets with them regularly to work on the yearly plan. The Chair assists the Office Manager with time management.

#### **Answers to Questions**

- Also regarding the encouragement for inclusivity from WSO that one group listed is for adult children – is that welcoming?
- Clarity was sought around the use of wording “groups” and “meeting” as some Groups hold multiple meetings. We can look to make the wording clearer. Initially post-2020 electronic meetings were not allowed to be “Groups”, adding to the confusion.

## Northern Regional Board Member (RBM)

**Robyn D**

### *Area Six*

I attended my first Area Six Assembly in Tokoroa on Saturday 16th October 2024. The Area Assembly began with a relaxed flavour and, with encouragement from current and previous Board members to follow the guidelines from the NZ Service Handbook, support was provided and voting began. To Area Six’s amazement, an almost full Area Committee was voted in; they were requiring only an Area Alateen Coordinator. I understand that the Area Secretary has since stepped down. Area Six will continue to work on growing their AMIAS numbers. Encouragement was given to follow the guidelines from both the NZ Service Handbook and the Service Manual, and to connect with the National Alateen Coordinator. They now have an Area Chair, Alt Delegate, the current Delegate is staying on to finish their term, and a Public Outreach Coordinator. A member stepped into the Highlights Editor role, with a longer term plan, as the Area became more self-supporting, possibly linking in with the Area Seven and Eight highlights. The Area Six Committee decided to have two Assemblies going into this next year, with the next one to be held in Waihi on Saturday 5th April 2025 and a subsequent Assembly in October 2025. I understand they also plan to have a meet and greet in July, for GRs and committee members to catch up. Committee members and Group Representatives now have a chat group to communicate, and I have been invited to join that. It is great to see the groups working on their public outreach.

The AA Northern Area Assembly (NAA) with Al-Anon and Alateen participation was held on 8th March 2025 in Rotorua at Lynmore Primary School, Rotorua. NZAGSO did not receive the invitation until early February 2025. It was wonderful to see a letter of thanks come through from the Northern Area Host Planning Committee

thanking Al-Anon members for their attendance and their willingness to serve, getting things up and running so quickly.

Two Al-Anon meetings and two Alateen meetings were held. The Al-Anon meetings had about 17- 20 members present, the first Alateen meeting was attended by two new Alateen members. The Delegate asked me to participate with AMIAS cover, which I did, however I was required to cover two Alateen meetings. I encourage the Delegate to communicate with Delegates across the region to allow for enough AMIAS attendances for each member to have to cover only one Alateen meeting when there is not enough AMIAS from within the Area.

The Area Six Delegate and Alt Delegate were unable to attend any of the Convention planning meetings to provide support for the region; this was disappointing and placed extra load onto the Area Seven and Area Eight teams.

### *Area Seven*

In my first year as Northern Regional Board Member I attended Area Seven Assemblies on 16th November 2024 and 15th February 2025. At the November Assembly, the Area members were very keen to hear the outcomes of the Area Seven Spiritual Development Day which was held on 13th October 2024. This was held in a beautiful old house on the hill in Glendowie overlooking the Auckland Harbour, a spiritual scene was set. The aim of the day was to set spiritual goals for Area Seven over the next 12 months, creating abundance for our fellowship (our Area, our groups, and us as individuals). The Delegate came up with two intentions: Sponsorship and Carrying the Message, encouraging the Area Seven members to talk about sponsorship, by having sponsorship as meeting topics. In "Carrying the Message," cooperation with AA is vital, encouraging members to attend AA meetings and by attending the AA Assemblies with Al-Anon and Alateen participation and the annual AA Convention with Al-Anon and Alateen participation. The sponsorship workshop is planned for May 2025.

The Area Seven Assembly numbers on Saturday 15th February 2025 were down, however, it was a lovely Assembly with a number of new Group Representatives present. There was much discussion when a group spoke about how they had encouraged a member to step into the Alt GR role. There was also a lot of discussion generated from the Public Outreach. Suggestions and opportunities for groups and members to assist them with PO endeavours: Literature and posters were made available for GRs and members to take to use for PO – carrying the message via counsellors, carrying the message via AA, encouraging members to attend AA meetings in pairs, talking about Al-Anon and family recovery after the meeting, encouraging groups to invite speakers to their meeting, maybe inviting a member from a local AA meeting to come and speak at their Al-Anon meeting, Talking to the Area about facts from the NZ survey 2023 and encouraging opening up intergroup to newcomers and professionals as well as a venue to expose AA members to Al-Anon by inviting them to attend.

The AMIAS Application Coordinator continues to ask for more members to step up into AMIAS roles, with one new member going through their AMIAS ratification at the Area Assembly. In July this year Area Seven are planning their first annual renewal of all AMIAS renewal.

Area Seven members played a huge part in the 2025 AA Convention with Al-Anon and Alateen participation. They were right there at the commencement of the Convention Committee. It was challenging with only the Area Seven Delegate available to participate in service on the Convention Committee in the beginning.

### *Area Eight*

Area Eight had a new Delegate step up for service in August 2024. It was wonderful to see an Area member stepping into the Alt Delegate role in support. They both had stepped up in a very busy time for Area Eight, going straight into the Northern Area Assembly with Al-Anon and Alateen participation in November 2024. It was wonderful to see them pull together and work on getting the Alateen meetings up and running again. It is great to see the Area work on encouraging members to step into AMIAS services roles and now they have an Alateen Coordinator who will work alongside our National Alateen Coordinator. I have heard they have reached out to other Areas in New Zealand, after meeting members at the Convention.

I have now attended Area Eight Assemblies on Saturday 2nd November 2024 in Red Beach and on Saturday 8th February 2025 at the Salvation Army Church in Red Beach. While member numbers were low, there were eight GRs present. Everyone appeared in great spirits, enjoying the fabulous venue, with a wonderful lunch prepared for all. They had also put together an amazing trading table, with silent auctions raising funds for the

Area. I did hear there was a bit of background going on, with the mix up of the venue, however it all seemed to work out just as it was meant to.

A great Knowledge-Based Decision-Making (KBDM) paper was put together for all members to read prior to the Assembly regarding the Area Eight Intergroup and whether it will stay alternating in-person and electronic. The decision was made to continue with the same for another year and, through the process of reasoning things out, an Intergroup Coordinator came forward, due to their enthusiasm for Intergroup.

Area Eight continued their busy quarter with the AA 62nd Annual Convention, with Al-Anon and Alateen participation, held in Waitangi, January 2025. The new Delegate who had only just stepped into the role, participated in the Convention Committee along with the new Alt Delegate. They initially pick up chairing a workshop together. The Delegate took on the role of Alateen Coordinator as they had a trial run with the Northern Area Assembly. The Delegate also picked up the role of Treasurer at the last minute. Doing three roles was not ideal. However, I would very much like to thank them and the Area Eight Alt Delegate for their willingness to work together and assist the region in achieving a wonderful Convention for all members who attended.

### *Conclusion*

I see the Areas benefit greatly from the wisdom and experience shared by Board Members and long-time members at Area Assemblies, providing essential support and encouragement to those rotating through the service structure. Additionally, stepping into service roles, seeking guidance from experienced members, and actively participating in Northern Area Assemblies not only strengthens the fellowship but also fosters personal growth within Al-Anon Family Groups and its members. Encouraging participation in service roles, such as Alternate Group Representatives and Alternate Area Delegates, is crucial for ensuring ongoing connection within our service structure. I would like to highlight and congratulate Areas Six, Seven and Eight as all three Areas now have an Alternate Delegate. This is a significant step towards succession planning within the Areas and a significant pathway forward for the fellowship in New Zealand.

#### **Updates and Comments**

- Northern Area Assemblies have been fabulous to attend. Area Six got a special thank you mention from AA for their participation. Have also received an email from AA regarding the November Area Assembly which has been forwarded to Area Seven Delegate. No word on upcoming July 2025 Assembly.
- NRBM will be taking each May “off” so will not be attending Assemblies during this period.

#### **Answers to Questions**

- Love the idea of taking time off – did you discuss the date with the Area Delegates before deciding on it? No, I did not have that discussion – thanks for raising it. Had discussed it with my service sponsor and chose then to avoid busy times for Al-Anon events.

## **Delegates’ Liaison Support**

**Paula B**

Throughout the year, I have served as the liaison for Areas One, Two, Three, Four, Five, and Nine due to the unfilled positions of Central and Southern Regional Board Member (RBM) roles. These crucial roles remaining vacant have weakened our organisational structure.

Delegates often serve two terms due to a lack of Alternates or specific Area needs, which affects the rotation of service roles. It is important to communicate the significance of rotation in maintaining healthy Al-Anon groups in New Zealand through Conference discussions.

At the 2024 Conference, I joined the chat group with Delegates. This has been valuable for understanding their knowledge. I can offer my experience and provide assistance as needed. Some Delegates may feel isolated without the support of an RBM or an Alternate Delegate.

The members are unaware of a Regional Board Member being part of their structure as it’s been a few years since there has been a Central or Southern RBM.

At the 2024 Conference, a member was nominated at the Area level, the nomination was brought to the Conference, where they were elected as the Northern RBM. They are also part of the chat group and share their ESH, particularly with Areas Six, Seven, and Eight.

### **Updates and Comments**

- Had a good discussion with Area Five Delegate – they had a pop up meeting in a van. Excited about that.
- Don't always contact Central and Southern Area Delegates, however I do see the online chats.
- When RBM rolls off – will become “rudderless” even though not responsible for an Area as such.
- Took some time off for family.
- Reminder to the six relevant Area Delegates, I am here if needed.

### **Answers to Questions**

- None

## **Outgoing Shares**

### **Outgoing Share, Area Six**

**Helen P**

My journey as Delegate started at the 50th celebrations 2004 in Dunedin. I was given one piece of paper with information of Conference from the current Area Six Delegate who stood down at short notice. I had no idea what was involved but at the time, saw a free trip to Dunedin to attend the 50th Year Celebrations, and what an exciting experience it was. It was very overwhelming as there was a lot to take in at my first service Conference, as you can imagine. This was the start of my journal as Area Six Delegate.

It has been a journey with mixed emotions, but it has been a privilege to represent Area Six. It has certainly broadened my understanding how Al-Anon works, and that it doesn't just stay at Group level and that there is much more to learn and achieve, while in service.

It was an extra bonus to be voted in as Area Delegate for the last three years. This role has stretched me, and at times has put me in situations which has helped me to do things I wouldn't usually do and be involved with. Standing in front of people is not always my strength, but being a Delegate as taken me out of my comfort zone, and with the encouragement of other Delegates and my Area, I have continued my role as Delegate to the best of my ability.

As I mentioned on Friday, it has not always been easy in our Area, but with the support of the Area Committee and Area members, and with my trusted higher power, and with the support of our newly elected Regional Board Member, there has been a remarkable turnaround in Area Six. Having a chat group has increased the communication and connection within the Area. The encouraging words from the Groups in Area Six during this Conference has touch me deep within my heart and was very comforting to hear, knowing that the Area was behind me.

In some ways it is difficult to step down as we are on a new journey in Area Six, which I still want to be part of in some way.

Now, 21 years down the track, I'm stepping down again from this role as Delegate. What a journey I've had, who would have imagined that I would be in this position of making a farewell speech.

I know that all the experiences in my role as Delegate which I have been involved with have been very rewarding. It has been an honour to serve as Delegate for Area Six, and being able to attend Conference on behalf of my Area. Thank you Al-Anon for giving me this opportunity and being part of my journey.

I appreciate you all and look forward to whatever happens next in my journey in Al-Anon.

### **Outgoing Share, Area Three**

**Renée S**

Kia ora koutou! As I complete my three year term as Area Three Delegate and rotate off at the end of the year, I wanted to share some reflections on my first two and a half years in the role. It's been quite the journey! I was lucky to receive a great handover from the Delegate before me, which I know isn't always the case, sometimes due to very sad circumstances. I reckon today's Delegates are much luckier than they were pre-2020 thanks to electronic platforms that allow face-to-face meetings and chat groups, allowing us to kōrero and message each other throughout the year.

When the Delegate before me described this as the "best role I've ever done," I admit I was sceptical, thinking it was an exaggeration. Like when I heard early on in the rooms about doing service gives me more than I give out. However, standing at the Assembly in March, I found myself saying the same thing – even though, unlike the previous Delegate, no one has yet stepped into the role of Alternate Area Delegate. When a GR asked "Why?" at the Assembly, my answer was simple: it's because this role means I get way more human interactions. This feels like a gift from God, helping me find my "gold," which I believe might be the God within all of us.

While it might be easy to stay on because I love the role, I truly believe it is a spiritual principle to rotate off and it's a privilege to serve. I need to step out of the way so someone else can step in; people only realise there's a need when there's a gap.

One of the biggest lessons has been navigating the differences between the corporate world I come from and how a Twelve Step fellowship operates. It's been challenging. When I was Group Representative (GR), I treated the Delegate like my boss, forgetting that the power belongs to the group members, not to the Delegate. And those old mindsets sure do stick around. Recently I got the unwelcome opportunity to phone the Conference Chair to apologise for treating them as my boss. We had a beautiful kōrero, which may not have happened if I wasn't Delegate and got to witness GRs treating me the same way I tried to treat the Delegate back when I was GR.

I've learned that the Chair is not the most important role in the room; it's just a specific role like all the others. I think about my first ever role as the Group's first hospitality officer – so supplying the tea bags, cups and bringing fresh milk. While the role didn't seem "important" in a corporate sense, you really notice when the hospitality person isn't there, unlike when the Secretary or Chair is missing and someone else can fill in. This role has shown me the value of all service positions. As a Delegate, I sometimes get Groups treating me like their boss, and I've had to gently remind them that **they** are the boss.

Getting a Service Sponsor early on was crucial. Mine advised me against rushing to put my hand up for a Board role, instead encouraging me to immerse myself in my home group and be of service there first; perhaps starting my service beyond the Group level as a GR. I literally thank God they did. Through this Delegate's role, as with all others, I've felt myself getting closer and closer to God.

I have learned humility in this role. I've been on my knees – in surrender and prayer – before picking up the phone to call a GR. I was vulnerable enough to share at Area Assembly how petrified I occasionally was, stemming from a distorted fear of being rejected or "chucked out" of the fellowship, for shining the spotlight on reality. This started after my first Conference two years ago and has happened on several occasions since.

A significant challenge arose with my then home group, which didn't have a GR, only an Alt GR. Others here at Conference were quite rightly surprised by this. I felt embarrassed and thought I had to fix it myself, trying to force a solution. Instead of coming up with my own words, I used the NZ Service Handbook. I showed the "Alt GR" that the NZ Service Handbook clearly states an Alt GR supports a GR; you can't be an Alt if there's nothing to be alternate to! (It's like having an alternate route but no main route!)

The timing of me finally getting on my knees and having the courage to ring that GR about the situation was spectacular. About a month later, another GR moved out of the Area. The Alt GR indicated they intended to remain as Alt, even without a GR. Had I not been courageous in addressing the issue – that there cannot be an Alt GR without a GR – this "snowball" of Groups operating outside the unenforceable Traditions and Concepts would have gained momentum. You can't have reality and fake at the same time.

Looking back, I can say I love having come here to Conference, and I've also loathed it at times. It's been exhausting. Yet, I would absolutely do it again, and I'm happy. Thank you all for making it fun.

# Feedback questions asked of Conference members

---

The purpose of having an evaluation form is to gather feedback from Conference Members to continuously improve the experience of all Conference members and to ensure the NZ Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) aligns with its spiritual aims. The feedback is used by subsequent Conference Committees to improve the annual NZASC.

1. In what ways did you feel the 2025 NZ Al-Anon Service Conference achieved or fell short of its overall spiritual aims, considering Spiritual Goals 1, 2, and 3?
2. Regarding Spiritual Goal 1, "That the spiritual tone of the Conference will prevail through mutual respect and acceptable conduct of its members," how well was this goal met throughout the Conference, and where could improvements be made to foster a stronger spiritual tone?
3. Were there specific instances during the Conference where you felt mutual respect and acceptance were particularly evident or particularly lacking among participants? Please provide examples if you feel comfortable doing so.
4. Considering Spiritual Goal 2, "Conference members will understand the purpose of Conference, the relationships within Conference and be able to articulate Conference decisions," to what extent do you feel you achieved this understanding by the end of the Conference, particularly regarding the key decisions made and how they were reached?
5. How confident do you feel in your ability to explain the purpose, key outcomes, and decisions of this Conference to other members, specifically within your service role? What additional information or support would be helpful for future attendees to enhance this confidence?
6. Reflecting on Spiritual Goal 3, "Knowing that our Higher Power is present in the expression of our group conscience, and we will presume goodwill," how did you experience the presence of a spiritual tone and the application of presumed goodwill during discussions and decision-making processes?
7. Did you feel that Conference decisions were made through a collective expression of the group conscience, consistent with our Traditions and Concepts? Please explain your perspective.
8. What specific aspects, sessions, or interactions during the Conference best supported your personal spiritual growth or deepened your understanding of Al-Anon principles and service? Please list one or two examples.
9. Were there any moments, sessions, or procedural aspects during the Conference that you felt distracted from or conflicted with the stated Spiritual Goals or the overall spiritual tone? If so, please specify.
10. Beyond the specific spiritual goals, what aspects of the Conference experience (e.g., workshops, presentations, schedule, facilities) worked particularly well for you, and what specific suggestions do you have for improvement for future Conference Committees?
11. Were the pre-Conference materials (such as the electronic or optional hard copy Brochure) and communication sufficient and timely to support your understanding and preparation for your role and expectations at the Conference?
12. What additional information or support would be helpful for future attendees, especially those attending for the first time?

## Close of Conference 2025

---

The Conference Chair encouraged all Conference members to ensure they're heard by filling in the questionnaire – either online or paper. A deadline for feedback was given.

They also thanked the Board from the full Conference Committee for the Board's support throughout the process of putting together the 2025 Service Conference. Thanks were echoed around the room to the Conference Committee for a wonderful conference (and excellent time keeping by the Conference Chair).

Conference closed with the Serenity Prayer and Al-Anon Declaration.

# Conference Members 2025

| Service Role – Board                                                     | Name        | Term                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Board Chair<br>IAGSM Delegate 1                                          | Tracy B     | 3rd year / 1st term<br>2nd year / 1st term |
| Board Treasurer                                                          | Tina M      | 2nd year / 1st term                        |
| General Secretary                                                        | Sally-ann M | 1st year / 1st term                        |
| Executive Budget Chair<br>IAGSM Delegate 2                               | Liz A       | 2nd year / 1st term<br>4th year / 1st term |
| Public Outreach Chair<br>IAGSM Delegate Alternate                        | Rana S      | 2nd year / 1st term<br>2nd year / 1st term |
| Alateen Coordinator<br>Delegates' Liaison (Central and Southern Regions) | Paula B     | 2nd year / 2nd term<br>2nd year / 1st term |
| Northern RBM<br>Convention Chair 2025                                    | Robyn D     | 1st year / 1st term                        |
| Conference Chair<br>(non-Board)                                          | Arnold H    | 1st year / 1st term                        |
| Conference Alt Chair<br>(non-Board)                                      | Rose S      | 1st year / 1st term                        |

| Service Role – Delegates | Name                                   | Term                |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Area One                 | Diane W                                | 2nd year / 1st term |
| Area Two                 | Louren P                               | 2nd year / 1st term |
| Area Three               | Renée S                                | 3rd year / 1st term |
| Area Four                | Di D                                   | 1st year / 2nd term |
| Area Five                | Teena S                                | 2nd year / 1st term |
| Area Six                 | Helen P                                | 3rd year / 2nd term |
| Area Seven               | Christina V ( <i>fulfilling term</i> ) | 3rd year / 1st term |
| Area Eight               | Anna M ( <i>fulfilling term</i> )      | 3rd year / 1st term |
| Area Nine                | Chris W                                | 2nd year / 1st term |

| Service Role – Support          | Name    | Term     |
|---------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Conference Host                 | Jax C   | 2nd year |
| Technical Assistant and Co-Host | Clark T | 3rd year |



# *Let It Begin With Me*

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there, and –

*Let It Begin With Me.*

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS  
for families & friends of alcoholics

