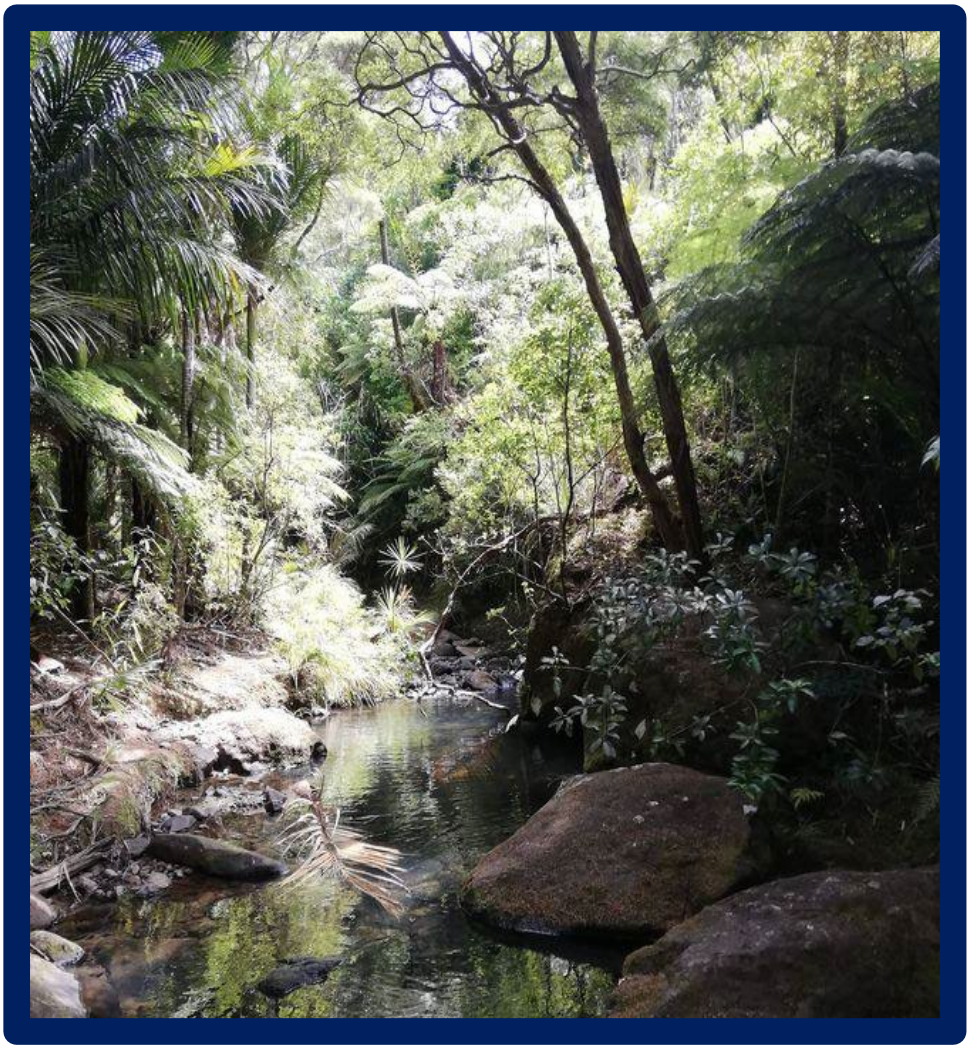
NZ Al-Anon Service Conference
11-14th June 2026

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Our Path to Grace, Unity and Understanding



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Al-Anon Family Groups

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

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THURSDAY

Board meeting & Conference orientation

Liz A, Noela F & Rose S

The NZ Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB or 'Board') met from 11am-4pm with six Area Delegates observing; this is noted as substantial participation. Area Delegates were invited to attend the Board meeting with the opportunity to fly up the night before if out of town.

The 2026 NZ Al-Anon Service Conference (NZASC) began at 5pm. Everyone joined in the Serenity Prayer, the Conference theme was read: "Our Path to Grace, Unity and Understanding" and then the preamble to the Twelve Steps.

There was a warm welcome from the Conference Chair, opening the 57th NZASC. Gratuities were expressed to all Area Committees for paying the 2026 Conference contribution in good time, to all for Conference preparation and the Conference Committee for their participation and commitment. Tracy B and Teena H who were unable to attend were acknowledged.

The Conference Chair, Conference Host and Conference Tech Host shared news, notices, and housekeeping.

Conference members are seated next to their Buddies (Buddies support each other and newer Conference members are paired with more experienced during the Conference). An icebreaker where Buddies asked each other three questions took place.

There was a workshop on the Spiritual Goals of the Conference (see below) and we were reminded that all participants would be invited to 'agree to use' the Goals tomorrow morning.

Members enjoyed a shared dinner together. This was followed by orientation with the Conference Chair and Conference Host, who spoke about venue related issues, attendance expectations, supporting new Conference members, connecting with Buddies, a 75th Anniversary Literature quiz and that all sessions will be recorded as well as transcribed to create the Conference Summary.

WORKSHOP 1: Spiritual Goals

Di D & Renée S

This workshop was the first of the Conference 2026. Below is a handout that all Conference members filled out and shared with their buddies.



My Spiritual Goals

YOUR JOURNEY OF SERVICE: A PATH FOR REFLECTION

To deepen your experience of this Conference, we invite you to:
Choose: Select one of the spiritual goals below as your personal focus for this Conference, and select a spiritual goal to take back to your Area.
Connect: Share your chosen goals with your buddy for their feedback.
Plan: List the steps you will take (a) to practice your chosen goal throughout Conference, and (b) to support your chosen goal back in your Area.
Reflect: Chat with your buddy during Conference & reflect on your progress.

Spiritual goals of our NZ Service Conference
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."

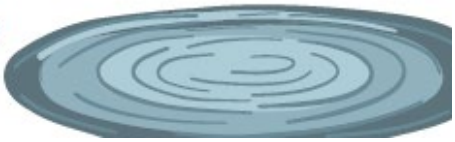
At this Conference, the spiritual goal I will practise is:

How I will demonstrate or practise this goal is...

The spiritual goal I am taking back to my Area is:

The steps I will take to support this goal in my Area are...

Reflecting on our purpose, acting in goodwill



RBM Discussion

Sally-ann M & Liz A

As there were no Regional Board Member (RBM) nominations, the Board Chairperson, Alternate Board Chairperson and General Secretary used the opportunity to discuss with the Conference members the disadvantages of not having RBM and the barriers to filling the roles. These issues were discussed later in the Conference during the "Summary of Delegates' Meeting".

Disadvantages discussed: Delegates lacking support, affects flow of information, legal requirements of governance affected, event support is limited e.g. AA Convention, Board Road Trip, as the role is empty the process of how to fill it becomes unclear, is the deadline to notify a barrier?

Possible Barriers included: Education in our structure, service burnout, aging members.

FRIDAY

Welcome from the Board Chair

Liz A

Kia ora e te whānau,

On behalf of the New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board it is my honour to welcome you all to the 57th New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Conference. My name is Liz and I am a grateful member of the worldwide fellowship of Al-Anon Family Groups. My homegroup is Principles Above Personalities, Thursday morning in Wellington, and I am the NZAGS Board Chairperson.

Regardless of whether it is your first time or your last time at Conference, let Tradition two *"For our group purpose there is but one authority – a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants – they do not govern"* guide our thoughts and actions. We are here at Conference as our New Zealand Al-Anon – Alateen Service Handbook 2022 (p. 117) says "to make the group conscience available and effective for all Al-Anon. It is the practical means by which the group conscience can speak; it is the voice of Al-Anon and the guarantee that our services shall continue to carry on under all conditions….it makes for unity and enables our fellowship to act as a whole upon important matters."

Reflecting on this year's Conference theme - Our Path to Grace, Unity, and Understanding - I've been thinking about my time on the Board and as an IAGSM Delegate, and what a privilege it is to serve our fellowship. A powerful lesson I observed from a difficult session recently was despite our different service position descriptions and job pressures, **we are all members first**. During a moment of conflict, a member with a "big" title reached into their bag and pulled out a well-loved, coffee-stained copy of *Courage to Change*—just like mine. They shared, "In times like this in my home group I have found this reading to be helpful." Their humility and preparedness to show their vulnerability in that moment, showed such grace and good personal leadership. That simple act brought unity back to the room, reminding us that regardless of our roles, we are all equal members trudging this path together.

Over the last year, the Board has focused heavily on governance. As we have expanded and contracted, we've remained committed to our Vision and Mission for Al-Anon and Alateen New Zealand. However, we found ourselves getting "caught in the weeds" trying to fix problems and patch holes in our service structure. Service challenges are being felt at every level with a lack of volunteers from Group level down to National Service Level. However, despite these challenges, we have successfully participated in the 63rd Annual Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous and held our second Board Road Trip, we took our inventory and discovered we needed a hard reset in some areas. We continue to meet regularly in person for now and are mindful of further changes coming.

I encourage you to use your voice, listen to your Higher Power and practice new behaviour over this Conference; you are a trusted servant and your service is greatly valued here. With love and tolerance, please keep our Spiritual Principles in your hearts and minds. I now officially open the New Zealand Al-Anon Conference 2026!

Liz A
Board Chair



Spiritual Goals for Conference

On Friday, ***all*** Conference members committed to the following spiritual goals

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 will be mutually agreed upon by all in attendance, confirming to uphold them throughout Conference.

Why have goals for the Conference?

Having simple and clear goals that are mutually agreed upon creates a commitment from the participants that creates focus, commonality, and accountability. Our Board acts as custodian of the Twelve Traditions and our Conference is the principal guarantor of Al-Anon's and Alateen's harmony and survival.

We are guided by the Traditions and Concepts of Service in our service work. The idea is that the goals would support and reinforce these foundations and the purpose of the Conference. They would be reminders of the spiritual nature of our organisation.

These particular goals

Focus on the spiritual aspect of our Conference encourages us to take responsibility for the partnering relationship of the members of the Conference and our personal conduct. This aspiration supports practising the aspects of Knowledge-Based Decision-Making, open communication between leadership and membership, dialogue before deliberation, with all decision-makers having common access to full information and existing in a culture of trust along with our practice of presuming goodwill. [1]

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 2026 Conference, the voting Board members were Liz A, Helen J, Rose and Renée S.
- 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.

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.

[1] 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).

Conference Motions and Trials

NZASC 2026 Motions

Motions carried

Motion 1
That the NZASC approve all scribes, tech and host members to be present in their service roles throughout the Conference. **Carried**

Motion 2
That the NZAGSO 2025/2026 annual financial accounts be accepted as presented. **Carried**

Motion 3
The Board Chair seeks approval to have a single vote by written ballot to approve all Board nominees. **Carried**

Motion 4
That the NZASC give traditional approval of the Board Member nominations presented for the NZ Al-Anon General Service Board. **Carried**

Motion 5
That the NZAGSO 2026/2027 annual budget be accepted. **Carried**

Motion 6
That the date for the RBM nominations deadline to GSO be changed to TWO WEEKS before Conference. **Carried**

Motion 7
That the one-year stand-down period for former delegates moving into RBM roles be a suggestion rather than a requirement. **Failed**

Motion 8
That the NZASC trial for a 3 year period a 1 year stand-down period for former Delegates moving into RBM roles be a suggestion rather than a requirement. **Failed**

Motion 9
That the one year stand down period for former Area Delegates moving into RBM roles be considered a suggestion rather than a requirement, and that this be trialled for 3 years. **Carried**

Trials

Conference 2026- Conference 2029
That the one year stand down period for former Area Delegates moving into RBM roles be considered a suggestion rather than a requirement.

Al-Anon Selected Committees

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

Selected Committees

"A committee to unify a particular service within NZ

- Alateen Committee – arranges national Alateen initiatives.
- Conference Committee – organises NZASC.
- Convention Committee – arranges NZAFG and Alateen participation in the annual NZ AA Convention.
- Executive Budget Committee – ensures that NZAFG remains solvent and administers NZAGSO.
- Literature Committee – revises [the] *New Zealand Al-Anon/Alateen Service Handbook (PN-27)* and adapts WSO Guidelines and pamphlets to suit the NZAFG structure.
- Public Outreach Committee – provides knowledge and generates public goodwill." *(New Zealand Al-Anon/Alateen Service Handbook 2022 (PN-27), p. 9)*

Please note:

- "The term for a Selected Committee member begins at the conclusion of the September NZAGSB meeting and continues until August 31 the following year." *(New Zealand Al-Anon/Alateen Service Handbook 2022 (PN-27), p. 96)*
- Each Delegate is requested to be a member of **ONE** Selected Committee.

WORKSHOP 2: Our path to Grace, Unity & Understanding

Renée S & Anna M

This workshop explored the theme of the Conference: *Our Path to Grace, Unity and Understanding*.
Readings:

- Pre-reading for this workshop was discussed briefly: 2024 World Service Conference Summary, page 5 (from the WSO website).
- Snippets of the report from Burt P, Global Electronic Area were also read out (from the 2024 World Service Conference Summary, pages 24-25 (from the WSO website).

Definitions were then given of 'grace' and 'unity' and 'understanding'.

GRACE:

- **Noun**: a pleasing or charming quality; goodwill or favour; a sense of propriety and consideration for others; mercy / clemency; Christianity, an unmerited gift, favour, etc, granted by God
- **Verb**: to add elegance and beauty to; to honour or favour
- **An Al-Anon take**: *Grace is kindness, compassion, and acceptance freely given*

UNITY:

- **Noun:** the state or quality of being one / oneness; the act, state, or quality of forming a whole from separate parts; something whole or complete that is composed of separate parts; mutual agreement; harmony or concord; uniformity or constancy
- An Al-Anon take: *Unity is people working together with mutual respect and a shared purpose. Unity grows when we focus on our similarities rather than our differences*

UNDERSTANDING:

- **Noun:** the ability to learn, judge, make decisions, etc / intelligence or sense; personal opinion or interpretation of a subject; a mutual agreement or compact
- An Al-Anon take: *Understanding is both comprehension and compassionate awareness. We are on the path of understanding when we listen openly, respect others, and seek to learn rather than judge.*

GROUPWORK:

These three components – grace, unity and understanding – were then the subject of groupwork. Three groups were formed, each taking one of the components and answering the questions given to them by the workshop facilitators. 'Paw' note pads were given for groups to capture their ideas.







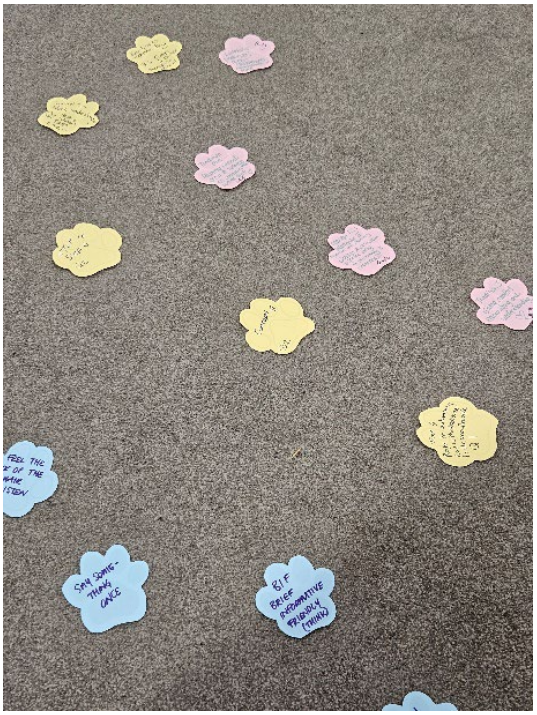
Here is a summary of what each group came up with and some images of the 'floor' presentation of ideas:



Our path to grace, understanding & unity

	SUMMARY OF SOLUTIONS
Grace	• Principles above personalities • Listen without judgement, say things once (WAIT: why am I talking) • What's important is seldom urgent, what's urgent is seldom impt • Service in AFG was their first time feeling grace • Love = connecting with others with our hearts (we, no longer us and them)
Unity	• The "three obstacles to success" reading (P-24/27) • Concept 4: need to show up and Warranty 3 discuss in discussion (support decision even if I didn't get the vote I wanted) • Concept 5: listen and encourage minority opinion • Tradition 2: the ultimate authority is God, not humans • Tradition 1: recovery cannot occur in isolation • Giving comfort (Tradition 5)
Understanding	• Understanding alcoholism is a disease – detaching with love • Tradition 4: helps me listen with an open mind • Concept 4: keeping involved – participating • Fear blocks understanding so Concept 5 assists me • Open-minded listening; THINK • Tradition 12: Reasoning together; same purpose, same goal • Step 4: creating moral inventory





Area Delegates' Reports

Area One — Diane W

Area	One

Area geographical location/boundaries

Area One covers the lower South Island from Oamaru on the East Coast directly across to the West Coast. There are no new or disbanded meetings.

No. of Groups	10	No. of Meetings	10
No. of Alateen meetings	0	No. of AMIAS	0
No. of Alateen members	0	Area Alateen Coordinator	No

There are 6 Al-Anon meetings in Southland and 4 in Otago. The newest meeting (Wanaka) now sends representatives to Area Assemblies. We have 2 new Lone Members who participate in Assemblies and both attended the 2026 AA Convention.

Public Outreach

Groups pay for advertising in local papers, distribute flyers to support agencies, attend and participate in AA open meetings and one group presented at a local Mental Health meeting.

Area Assemblies

- Group Reps are being encouraged to bring a carload when attending Assemblies. Travel times can be up to 3.5hrs so fellowship/meetings in the car are an added bonus.
- Workshop themes have included "Staying in my own Hula Hoop", Public Outreach, and Self Development.
- Numbers range from 10-18 at Assemblies. Generally, the number is higher at the March meeting when we combine with the AA Assembly. This year AA held their meetings on-line which halved our March Assembly numbers.

Area highlights and successes

- We have a new Area One Secretary who stepped up into the position and is navigating IT challenges with growing confidence.
- Robust discussions were held while working through a Committee Inventory in 2025, which included feedback from the groups. The Committee now meets a month prior to Business Meetings and two weeks after the meeting.
- Successes include a better understanding of roles, effective communication and consistency of meeting procedures. The Treasurer reports with clarity on the finances and worked tirelessly to update the bank authorisations.
- GR/ Delegate meetings at the start of the Assembly have proved useful and can be further developed to assist GRs in their role.

Area concerns or issues

- Alateen and AMIAS information was discussed at Area level and taken back to groups but there appears to be no uptake at this stage in AMIAS training or setting up Alateen groups in Area One.
- The PO and Alateen Co-ordinator positions continue to be vacant.

Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues
We continue to shoulder tap to encourage attendees to consider positions beyond the group. We share our growth and the power of spiritual governance.

AA Convention in my Area	Yes

The Dunedin 2026 Convention.
The Convention Chair and I were the Area One members on the Convention Committee. I held the Hospitality role and found the experience very positive and learnt a lot. 34% of the total number of Al-Anon participants were from Area One.

Matters arising from the previous Conference
None

Summary
I continue to be very thankful to my Higher Power, the support from my sponsor, service sponsor and fellow Delegates. It has been a year of growth within the Area and for me personally. As I finish my term as Area Delegate later this year, I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve Al-Anon.

Additions:

- There is currently no Area PO Coordinator but there is still good PO being done throughout Area One.

Area Two — Louren P

Area	Two

Area geographical location/boundaries
Area Two stretches from Timaru to Kaikoura and across to the main divide. There are 6 Groups within this Area & Two electronic meetings located in Christchurch registered to WSO. No new groups and thankfully none disbanded.

No. of Groups	6	No. of Meetings	6
No. of Alateen meetings	0	No. of AMIAS	7
No. of Alateen members	0	Area Alateen Coordinator	Yes

No Alateen meetings are currently being held in Area Two. We have 7 AMIAS approved. The Area is in the process of finding a suitable place to hold Alateen meetings. A location was suggested where a meeting could be held at the same time as an AA Meeting. We are awaiting the outcome from the AA Group's Business Meeting.

Public Outreach
- Our PO Committee member is very active in our Area, posting on our local FB page 3-4 times per week. From the page analytics there is regular engagement. She approached GoMedia about advertising on the back of the city buses and was informed we could have free radio advertising on MoreFM and the Breeze. She is currently drafting something to send them.
- Members from 2 Groups attend the Bridge Programme on a monthly roster.

- Individuals drop leaflets at the library and public areas.

Area Assemblies

- We have a new format for our assemblies: Business Meeting followed by a Workshop has proved popular with our Fellowship members.
- Meetings are held 4 times a year at a nominated Group location and are well attended by members. It is noted that not all GRs attend the Assembly, which can prove difficult when it is time to vote on matters.
- Workshops are always well received. Themes have included: 'Using the Traditions in our Lives'. 'Stepping into Service Roles'. Most recently: 'What is Alcoholism?' There was heated discussion surrounding this topic. Numbers attending workshops range from 9 to 15.
- Area Two has decided to take the next Assembly (6th June 2026) online. Members are invited to attend via a link. The meeting starts at 9.30am and will automatically cease at 10.30am. The purpose behind opening it up is to include the Timaru group in the Assembly.

Area highlights and successes

- All but one Committee role is filled, being the Treasurer.
- 7 AMIAS approved, ready for the next step.
- Advertising with GoMedia via radio.
- Introduction of the online Assembly.

Area concerns or issues

Group members still not willing to commit to service roles within their own Groups, let alone at Area level.

Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues

Lead by example in service roles. Explain to the wider groups the benefits of service and how it will improve one's recovery

AA Convention in my Area	No

N/A

Matters arising from the previous Conference

Nil

Summary

Area two continues to encourage Group members to participate at all levels; within their own groups and at Area level. We have been able to fill all the Committee roles – except the Treasurer position, which is vacant (we are awaiting for the next member to join). As I type, the Area Two Committee has decided to hold an Al-Anon Open Day in August, before the SAA of AA in October. Format to be discussed, but we hope to have each Group take a lead eg. Running a mini workshop/sharing a strength, discussing Alateen, and opening it up to AA members - this is in early stages.

Additions:

- While the Area does not have a new treasurer stepping into the role, the former treasurer is filling in until someone steps up.
- WSO registered online groups do not participate at the Area Three Assemblies.
- It was asked whether the diligent and productive social media poster/administrator in Area Two would be keen to have a chat about the possibility of being on the PO Selected Committee, given their experience of social media marketing? The Delegate agreed to pass on this invite.
- Delegate to find out more:
    - How did GRs and Area Committee find the one-hour only online June assembly?
    - National Interim PO Coordinator was keen to know more about the advertising done on Radio. Could the content be shared with the National PO Committee as it would be nice to pass on to other areas. As this is still in the planning stages, the delegate has no info yet to pass on.

Area Three — Esther-Maria B

Area	Three

Area geographical location/boundaries

Area Three is Aotearoa New Zealand's Wellington region which includes the Wairarapa and Kāpiti Coast. Area Three has two fully electronic Groups, plus one Group that holds a fully electronic meeting and a fully in-person meeting, plus one Group that meets as a hybrid meeting.

– New: none.
– Disbanded: Mahurutanga Serenity AFG (last meeting Oct 2025). Newcomers meeting (last meeting Nov 2025).
– Alateen Petone meeting (last meeting Dec 2025).

No. of Groups	9	No. of Meetings	10
No. of Alateen meetings	0	No. of AMIAS	9
No. of Alateen members	0	Area Alateen Coordinator	No

No active Alateen meetings since Alateen Petone disbanded after its December 2025 monthly meeting.

Public Outreach

Public Outreach since Conference 2025:

– Health Professionals Outreach to AOD (Alcohol and Other Drugs) Collaborative (Tue 29 Jul)
– Area Three's first **fully online** Public Speaker Meeting (Sun 28th Sep)
– Professional outreach at the Mental Health, Addiction and Intellectual Disability Service's (MHAIDS) clinicians training day (Wed 12 Nov)

Area Assemblies

– Jul 2025: approx. 22 attendees, workshop theme: "Service, Growing One Day At a Time," the three Area roles rotating off pitched why their role was best "Dragon's Den" style

- Nov 2025 (election): 19 attendees, workshop theme: “Step 10 When We Were Wrong Promptly Admitted It”, three questions asked and answered with three different members.
- Mar 2026: 18 attendees, workshop theme: “Our Lives Had Become Unmanageable”. Break out groups exploring how we had acted under unmanageability before and then after coming to Al-Anon

The trial of different invitation styles did not create a greater proportion of members in attendance. Having each Group host Assembly increases the participation of the members of that Group, though many don’t tend to come to the following Assembly.

Area highlights and successes

- Voting in an Area CPC Coordinator following feedback from the outgoing PO Coordinator that the professional community had been regularly reaching out to Al-Anon in the Area.
- A Group that meets online has only 3-4 home group members yet attracts excellent international and Aotearoa speakers with up to 100 participants most weeks.
- AFG New Zealand supported Al-Anon outreach in the Cook Islands after NZAGSO received a request from a Rarotonga Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) group which is linked to the NZ service structure. The local group had facilitated an AA annual outreach event in 2024 and wanted AFG participation in their second outreach event in October 2025. Area Three’s Rocket Recovery AFG and the Area Committee responded by coordinating logistics, creating promotional flyers, and donating literature, which was combined with further literature donations from the Australian General Service Office. During the event, Al-Anon members from both New Zealand and Australia travelled to Rarotonga to share the message of family recovery, held a hybrid meeting (in-person and online), and gifted the collected literature to the local community and institutions.

Area concerns or issues

- No member showed willingness to be the Alternate Area Delegate for the whole 2022-2025 term. The eight roles that received zero nominations at the election Assembly were: Area Delegate, Secretary, Public Outreach Coordinator, Alateen Coordinator, Archivist, Institutions Coordinator, Area Tech Coordinator, and Central Regional Board Member (RBM).
- It is a significant concern that we almost did not have an Area Delegate to attend Conference and a stop-gap measure of sending an Area Committee member was considered.
- Continued lack of an RBM is unsettling, especially given its pivotal role as Chair of the Convention Committee which will be in Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington in January 2027. Its absence impacts the flow of communication, coordination of national events, and the representation of regional perspectives down at the Board level.
- Two groups do not have an acting GR, although they do have group contacts, one of whom has been attending Area Assemblies.

Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues

- Allowing space for the role vacancies to reveal the consequences to members rather than forcing a solution or requesting those already in roles to do more.
- With regard to the vacant role of Area Secretary, a member from the committee offered to be interim secretary for March, and a GR from the group offered to be interim secretary for July – a possible pathway to standing for the role in November.
- With regard to the vacant role of Area Delegate, the Area Phone Co-ordinator contacted the Chair to discuss becoming the Area Interim Delegate. The Chair invited them to seek an Interim Phone Co-

ordinator to back fill their primary role. An Interim Phone Co-ordinator has now been found (a GR). This report has been compiled by the previous Area Delegate from the period June to December 2025, the Interim Delegate from March 2026

AA Convention in my Area	No

Not in Central Region. However, two Area Three members were on the selected committee to assist the Southern Region.

Matters arising from the previous Conference

Nil

Summary

As noted in *Lois Remembers*, "the survival of [AA, Al-Anon and Alateen] depends on growth – growth in spirit more than in numbers." Given six Area Committee roles remain empty in March 2026, and two Al-Anon Groups have disbanded, the decline in both numbers **and** spirit are concerning. Qualified Area Three members continue to be unwilling to be nominated as RBM (Central has been without an RBM since 2019).

Additions:

- The Alateen group closed due to numbers dropping. At one point, there were 6 AMIAS and between 5-7 Alateens, though.
- The public online meeting had good attendance, with one newcomer attending who is now a regular member. The platform used was Zoom. There were over 20 people in attendance (which is more than what is normally seen in an in-person meeting). Mostly attendees were from Aotearoa/NZ.
- Dragon's Den style was explained: based on the TV show; a novel approach to dealing with people not stepping up to service. Al-Anon members had to pitch why each role was good to stand for, whilst also sharing some of the vulnerabilities and challenges of service.
- The Area still has a range of positions unfilled, including some of the smaller roles that are specific to Area Three, however the Area is committed to getting service positions filled and has also brought on people to take on roles as interim-fillers to bridge the gaps in the meantime. Overall the upcoming assembly is looking more comfortable re: service roles being filled.

Area Four — Di D

Area	Four

Area geographical location/boundaries

Area Four stretches from Gisborne to north of Woodville, which includes the main cities of Gisborne, Napier, and Hastings.

No. of Groups	Two	No. of Meetings	Two

No. of Alateen meetings	Zero	No. of AMIAS	Zero
No. of Alateen members	Zero	Area Alateen Coordinator	No

There are no Alateen meetings in Area Four.

Public Outreach

- Public Outreach organised by the Area Committee has focused on connecting with counsellors across Hastings and Napier; two sessions were held at their workplaces.
- The Al-Anon Area Four banner continues to be displayed throughout Napier (Health New Zealand Addiction Services) and Hastings (Public libraries).

Area Assemblies

- Sunday 2 August 2025: Held in Napier 2 – 5 pm. Theme: *Growth begins at the Group Level*. Nine members attended the business meeting and a workshop.
- Sunday 9 November 2025: Held in Hastings 1 – 4 pm. Theme: *Growth begins at the Group Level*. Area Delegate presented the Conference report and a workshop on personal service planning. The Area PO coordinator demonstrated how to do an anonymous Facebook post. Thirteen attended the workshop and ten remained for the business meeting.
- Sunday 8 March 2026: Held in Napier 1.30 – 4.30 pm. Theme: *Growing our Groups using the Twelve Traditions*. Eight members participated in a workshop based on the Assembly theme and seven remained for the business meeting.

Area highlights and successes

- Area Four was honoured to host the Board Road Trip in November 2025. The membership found the day inspirational and Board members engaging, warm, and down-to-earth, with some members now thinking about a future Board role as part of the long-term service planning.
- Other highlights include our successful Assemblies, continuation of the two Al-Anon Family Groups, and promotion of Al-Anon to local Counsellors.

Area concerns or issues

- Both Groups have small numbers and continue to attract newcomers. Area Four has not managed to have any further pop-up meetings in Waipukurau nor group meetings outside of Napier / Hastings.
- Currently there are several Area Committee positions vacant including Chair, Literature Officer, and AMIAS coordinator. Current positions filled include Delegate, Alternative Delegate, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Outreach and Phone Coordinator. Currently the Alternative Delegate is acting as Chairperson.

Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues

- Spiritual solutions regarding the vacant Area Committee positions include succession planning, shoulder-tapping, and focusing on making service attractive. GRs are members of Area Four committee and Area Committee meetings are open to all members so that Area work is demystified.
- Two AMIAS nominations were submitted to Assembly in March, however there is no AMIAS coordinator and no agreed Area Four AMIAS process. Following attraction rather than promotion, it has been agreed that these two nominations will not be submitted to GSO until the July assembly, with the potential for four more AMIAS nominations (to achieve our minimum of six AMIAS) and an AMIAS Coordinator being appointed.
- One area for development with the Area Four committee is to understand what issues need to be raised and voted on at an Area Assembly and what decisions can be made within Area Four committee meetings. Use of the NZ Service Handbook, wisdom of service sponsors and knowledge-based decision-making process will be utilised for spiritual solutions to resolve this.

AA Convention in my Area	No

Matters arising from the previous Conference

Area Four has a new Treasurer who has collaborated with the National Treasurer to develop an Area budget which will be reported on at each committee meeting and Assembly business meeting.

Summary

2025-2026 has seen Area Four continue to have two AFGs that remain self-supporting, attracting newcomers, and focused on Al-Anon principles. The Area committee positions have changed with a new Treasurer and Secretary appointed; some vacancies remaining. Public Outreach has focused on supporting the national PO priorities.

Additions:

- The Area Four Secretary has resigned.
- Area Four has had to change a number of their signatories, to ensure that there are always enough people to authorise Area 4 financial transactions. This came about as a way to mitigate the risk of having people with signatory status leave the fellowship.
- At this year's July assembly Area Four committee will be asking assembly to approve a budget for 1st April 2026 to 31 March 2027. This is the first area budget! Thank you to National Treasurer for helping the Area Four Treasurer to work through that.
- Area Four Committee will now be asking the Area for the Conference contribution to be paid automatically instead of having to wait until November Area Assembly for approval. This is in-line with what is stated in the NZ Al-Anon Alateen Service Handbook.
- Area Four have been invited to participate in the AA Area Assembly in October.
- There is potential for a pop up AFG in Gisborne. There was demand for an Alateen meeting to be formed in the first instance but an established Al-Anon meeting in Gisborne is needed first (in order for AMIAS to be sourced). The AA delegate in the region is working with Area Four with regards to this.

Area Five — Teena H

Area	Five

Area geographical location/boundaries

Area Five stretches from Levin and Woodville in the South and up to Mokau and Waiouru in the North. At present there are five Al-Anon Family Group Meetings (one in New Plymouth, Whanganui, Marton, Feilding and Palmerston North). The Palmerston North group offers a hybrid option. One group was disbanded.

No. of Groups	5	No. of Meetings	5
No. of Alateen meetings	0	No. of AMIAS	0
No. of Alateen members	0	Area Alateen Coordinator	0

Unfortunately, we do not have any active Alateen groups or current AMIAS within our area at this time

Public Outreach

Whanganui group was approached by the local Citizen's Advice Board (CAB) to have a few members come and share their stories and leave details and information about Al-Anon for those that are coming in for support. We have had two newcomers attend because of this initiative. Other groups have approached their CABs with varying responses.

Area Assemblies

We decided to add in an extra Area Assembly in our annual planner and so have five 3-monthly gatherings held in Whanganui, at the Springvale Sport Complex. Our Business and Sharing meetings have been well attended with as many as 25 members attending.

Area highlights and successes

- Pop-up meetings for those who are not able to meet regularly or are travelling from one part of the area to another.
- Feilding meeting started in August as a monthly meeting - will be moving to a fortnightly meeting in the new year.
- Marton meeting began in December and is a weekly meeting
- Effective use of Area Five, GRs and Committee Chat groups to keep in touch in-between assemblies and meetings.

Area concerns or issues

- Closing of Saturday Steps meeting and Thursday NP Hope meeting
- Possible closing, amalgamation or restructure of Area Committee - KBDM in process. Decision to be made at November assembly so that the Board/Conference Committee can be given notice in December.
- Discussion about what cross-talk is and lack of chairperson preparation of meetings.
- Lack of participation/service roles being filled at Group and Committee levels.

Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues

We are where we are supposed to be, it is what it is, sponsorship is growing, understanding what sponsorship is, having a KBDM paper/task force to look into options for the future of our Area, communication through chat groups, offering pop-up meetings, a retreat to bring members together for fellowship and finally the reading and working through CAL as guidance.

AA Convention in my Area	No

Not applicable for this year. Next year it will be.

Matters arising from the previous Conference

I did raise the issue of closing our Area committee and asked how this would look and what suggestions to take back to the Area. Suggested to look at literature and discuss/KBDM for the Area.

Summary

Overall members are willing to attend and be a part of the various pop-up meetings, fellowship opportunities and Assemblies if these are initiated by motivated individuals. However, in spite of opening channels of communication including chat groups and phone lists/contact people within groups, there is still a lack of willingness to commit to service and so our groups and Committee especially have struggled to continue. Hence, we have created a taskforce working together to write a KBDM, which at present has

members filling out a questionnaire requesting answers and opinions about the future of our Area Committee and Area. The findings and paper will be presented at the August Assembly and discussed/voted on at our November Assembly so that it can be submitted to the Board in December.

Additions:

- No additions

Area Six — Victoria E

Area	Six

Area geographical location/boundaries

Area 6 extends from Whitianga, in the northern Waikato to Tokoroa in the South Waikato and Whakatane in the Eastern Bay of Plenty. With Rotorua, Tauranga and Tamahere in between.

No. of Groups	7	No. of Meetings	7
No. of Alateen meetings	0	No. of AMIAS	2
No. of Alateen members	0	Area Alateen Coordinator	No

We currently have no Alateen groups / meetings in Area 6 however are hopeful to have a group commencing in the future, based in Tauranga.

Public Outreach

- Area Six appointed a Public Outreach Coordinator in 2023, who has demonstrated enthusiasm and creativity through the design and distribution of tear-off flyers. Groups responded positively by assisting with distribution in their local areas.
- At the most recent Assembly, members discussed and brainstormed additional ways to carry the Al-Anon message to the wider community. Suggestions included approaching local libraries to display digital posters where possible and sharing anonymous posts on Facebook using Al-Anon approved images.
- Members also recognised that ongoing attendance at meetings and the sharing of experience, strength, and hope remains a meaningful and effective form of public outreach.

Area Assemblies

- Area Six has approved holding two Assemblies each year, along with an informal mid-year catch-up to help maintain connection between groups and members.
- Our most recent Assembly was held in October 2025, kindly hosted by the Tauranga group. It was a wonderful day of connection and meaningful discussion. We were also grateful to have the NRBM in attendance, whose knowledge and input were greatly appreciated. Sincere thanks to the Tauranga group for their hospitality and for hosting the Assembly on behalf of the Area.
- In 2026, Assemblies are scheduled to be hosted by Tamahere in March and by one of our newer groups, Huntly, in October.

Area highlights and successes

- Area Six has made significant progress in maintaining connection through the use of chat apps and by offering support to new groups.
- The establishment of a new group within the Area has been a wonderful highlight. Members have generously supported this new group by sharing resources and literature, and it was encouraging to see this willingness to extend a helping hand.
- One group also shared how they allocate service positions within their meeting, providing helpful

insights that could be shared more widely across the Area.

Area concerns or issues

One group shared concerns that attendance at their weekly meetings has at times been too low for the meeting to proceed. This was understandably disheartening for those involved. The matter was discussed, and support and encouragement were offered.

Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues

Members were encouraged to uphold the group in prayer, strengthen fellowship, and make personal contact to support attendance and connection. Suggestions included: offering online or hybrid meetings, introducing small service roles at each meeting, making temporary sponsors available, holding occasional pop-up meetings as a way to foster new groups, encouraging monthly intergroup gatherings, and exploring opportunities for public outreach.

AA Convention in my Area	No

Matters arising from the previous Conference

N/A

Summary

Over the past year, Area Six has strengthened connection, support, and Public Outreach across its groups. Encouraging collaboration, sharing of resources, and thoughtful discussion at Assemblies have helped foster unity and growth, including the welcome establishment of a new group. Through prayer, fellowship, service, and creative outreach efforts, members have continued to carry the Al-Anon message while supporting one another with care and commitment.

Additions:

- Area Six held an Assembly in March at Tamahere. It was encouraging to see new faces and members stepping into service roles. The Area Six PO coordinator recently stepped down from the role so is currently vacant. PO has continued, though, throughout the area. Expanding outreach to counsellors and social workers is in place.
- Area Six now has a Highlights newsletter which helps the Area stay connected and informed.
- One group is trialling a hybrid meeting through WhatsApp which is going well.
- The timing of reporting back to assembly about Conference was discussed. The delegate explained this would be done asap.
- Delegate to find out more:
    - The use of images in digital banners (positioned in libraries)

Area Seven — Christina V

Area	Seven

Area geographical location/boundaries

Central (Balmoral) to East and South Auckland; one electronic meeting in our Area; no new groups; no groups disbanded since last report

No. of Groups	9	No. of Meetings	11
No. of Alateen meetings	2	No. of AMIAS	6
No. of Alateen members	From 2-4	Area Alateen Coordinator	No

2 active Alateen meetings

Public Outreach

- Public outreach to **professionals** (namely counselling and advocacy services); **treatment centres** – (eg. Higher Ground); outreach at a play on Alcoholism (literature displayed outside the theatre in collaboration with the theatre group); **small group-based** activities eg. poster drops.
- We have a PO workshop for Area Seven planned for April.
- Meadowbank Courage to Change (which sponsors the Thursday Alateen meeting) is carrying out fresh Public Outreach in the Area (schools particularly).

Area Assemblies

- We run 4 Area Assemblies a year – with November being our Election Assembly.
- Outside of the Assemblies, workshops are run ad hoc throughout the year. Last year we ran a Succession Planning workshop in November. This was attended by 8 people.
- This year we had a PO workshop planned for April. Another workshop will be planned for later in the year (inspired by the 2026 Conference!).

Area highlights and successes

- Succession Planning workshop (October);
- a well-attended Recovery Who Am I weekend (March);
- a member stepping up to fill our Area Chair position (our previous Chair has completed their three years of service) in November;
- an Alt Delegate nomination (May);
- a well-attended AA NAA (with Al-Anon and Alateen participation) in November;
- an initiative has been started whereby groups/members can now donate to the two Alateen meetings to support costs like rent.

Area concerns or issues

- Our Area was experiencing issues around the health of our Assemblies.
- Service at Area level was becoming less attractive to members. As a result, at our Area Election Assembly in November, we only filled two of our vacant positions (Chair and Delegate) and the Delegate was only willing to serve for one year without an Alt Delegate stepping up to support.

Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues

In October, our Area Committee ran a comprehensive committee inventory; from this, the committee made a plan for bringing Assemblies more in line with the handbook – specifically, prioritizing GR voice and vote, running Assemblies to time, and bringing fun into Assemblies. We have had two really productive Assemblies since. We are hoping that this will, in time, make service look more attractive to members.

AA Convention in my Area	No

N/A

Matters arising from the previous Conference

I presented a comprehensive summary to our Area about the 2025 Conference. GRs took ideas back to their groups and we ran an Area workshop on Succession Planning – inspired by one of the Conference 2025 presentations!

Summary

A busy year for our Area with a number of highlights as well as some really big challenges. Using the tools of the programme and the wisdom and guidance of the Handbook has helped us navigate these challenges and bring the focus back to Al-Anon's legacies.

Additions:

- The Area Seven Delegate spoke about the outstanding Area Eight recovery day and Northern Area Assembly hosted in Area Eight.
- Next Northern Area Assembly is in Pukekohe. The Area has an Alt Delegate which is great, so they are now both working with the AA Hosting Committee.
- There are some service gaps in Area Seven groups and at committee level. The committee are a very happy group though.
- An issue is arising in some groups about how best to set up new bank accounts (especially if you're with a bank that requires a lot of paperwork, especially when you change signatory etc). The Delegate asked if there is anything in the GSO structure that could allow a subsidiary bank account to be created for a group. The National Treasurer explained that GSO cannot set up subsidiary bank accounts for groups. Groups are self-governed.
- The Area Seven PO workshop was attended by 8 people. This was an amazing workshop co-ordinated by the Area PO Coordinator. The workshop focussed on what, as Al-Anons, we can do when we go into AA environments, or what can we say if we talk to a GP about Al-Anon or a counsellor (roleplays for these scenarios were part of the workshop). This workshop was run again at the recent Assembly but unfortunately this had very low turnout.
- Area Seven has been experiencing safety issues in Assemblies, largely around dominance. Someone said they didn't feel safe stepping into service because of dominance from the floor at assemblies. When speaking with GR's, the Delegate got the sense that others felt the same way. A committee inventory was carried out in October 2025. A return to the Handbook, the Trads and Concepts has been the spiritual solution to this problem; Assemblies are now running very differently – with the emphasis being on the GR's (but the whole fellowship being welcomed to attend).
- Delegate to find out more:
    - What literature was displayed and sold in the Theatre PO exercise.

Area Eight — Anna M

Area	Eight

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 12 groups: 8 face-to-face, 3 hybrids, and 1 online-only. One new group. One group is supporting a new monthly Alateen meeting. One group has added an

additional weekly Monday Meeting, which is being trialled for a year. Our Intergroup speaker meeting takes place on the first Sunday of each month, alternating between online and in-person.

No. of Groups	12	No. of Meetings	16
No. of Alateen meetings	1	No. of AMIAS	5
No. of Alateen members	0	Area Alateen Coordinator	Yes – Until May

One Alateen meeting (once a month) – 1 new, no disbanded. No Alateens have attended, yet.

Public Outreach

- Our PO Co-ordinator provided posters to the Area, most groups participated in distributing them. They visited many groups to help with PO.
- Area Eight attended the 2026 Big Gay Out on 15 February. It was a positive event. We had a colourful and inviting marquee set up next to the AA stand.

Area Assemblies

- We held four full-day Assemblies with themes such as 'Being – Hopeful (May), Open (Aug), and Willing (Nov)", and "Grace (Feb)".
- Two Workshops were held "Being Hopeful" and "Grace". Both workshops had member discussions on Hope and Grace in small break out groups. Attendance averaged 25.
- We now have a written Assembly roll call.
- The Feb Assembly was well attended, positive and with awesome fundraising.

Area highlights and successes

- As Delegate, I have visited most groups and plan to visit the Whangārei and Kerikeri groups soon. Limited annual leave following surgery made it difficult to visit some daytime or more distant meetings in 2025.
- We hope to hold a Recovery Day in June/July (details to be confirmed).
- AA Northern Area Assemblies with Al-Anon participation:
    - Whangārei – 12 July 2025, 15 Al-Anon members attended. A highlight was re-connecting with the local Al-Anon group, who helped at the Assembly and are now included in the Area Eight GR/Alt GR chat group. Also, great support from the Kerikeri Groups.
    - Rosedale, Albany – 14 March 2026, 16 Al-Anon members attended, the theme and vibe of the assembly was unity.

Area concerns or issues

- Area Eight continues to face challenges in being fully self-supporting in terms of having enough AMIAS members to support Alateen.
- The upcoming departure of our current Alateen Coordinator will also leave a gap in service.
- Dominance has also been an issue during the past year, both within some long-standing groups and at the Area Eight Committee level.
- Some groups experienced difficulties following the departure of long-time members who had held key service roles.

Spiritual solutions to Area concerns or issues

- Area Eight is raising awareness of the importance of AMIAS service and encouraging members to step forward to support Alateen, with the priority of ensuring each group has AMIAS sponsors. Several Area Committee members are becoming AMIAS, and GRs are encouraged to do the same to inspire others.

– To address issues of dominance, these groups have focused on open communication, group conscience and group inventory.
– At the Area Eight Committee level, we are focusing on the spiritual goal of unity by beginning meetings with a couple Committee Inventory questions from the Service Manual/Handbook.
– We also plan to explore this topic further at the GR meeting held before the May Area Assembly to strengthen understanding and help prevent dominance in our groups.

AA Convention in my Area	No

A couple of members participated, one chaired a meeting, and another was a speaker at the public meeting.

Matters arising from the previous Conference

The resignation of the NRBM has been a real loss to the Area. Their support was appreciated and is missed.

Summary

Our groups are doing well. Members have focused on unity and open communication, drawing on the wisdom and guidance found in our Service Manual, CAL and each other.

Additions:

- Area Eight recovery day was held 30 May at Kaipatiki Project, Ecohub. Charming venue, beautiful surrounding. 20 members attended. The theme was "Tools of Recovery" and the day included sharing meetings, workshops on sponsorship, flower arranging and great food. The event was a success.
- May Assembly: new roles were filled including PO coordinator and an Alateen administration coordinator. It is hoped they will be voted in as Alateen Coordinator at the August assembly once their AMIAS status is approved.
- Member safety was discussed. An alleged crime occurred outside of an AFG involving two Al-Anon members. This has been discussed with the General Secretary who provided valuable resources including the CAL titled 'Let's talk about safety in Al-Anon meetings'.
- The Alateen meeting has closed due to not having enough AMIAS.
- Not having an RBM has taken its toll: in particular, not have a direct link or extra support when AA Northern Area Assemblies are coming up.
- Delegate to find out more:
    - Which posters were used at the Big Gay Out
    - What is the reason behind the KeriKeri group having four meetings; do all same members attend each meeting?

Area Nine — Chris W

Area	Nine

Area geographical location/boundaries

Area Nine stretches from Haast up 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 Kaikoura - including Marlborough, Nelson, and Tasman zones.

No. of Groups	6	No. of Meetings	6
No. of Alateen meetings	0	No. of AMIAS	0
No. of Alateen members	0	Area Alateen Coordinator	No

Public Outreach

Area Assemblies

- Our March Assembly hosted by our Blenheim group saw our Treasurer resign after a year for personal reasons. But this was followed by an exciting and mild emotional unique spiritual meeting.
- "Aley's Meeting in a Box" was chaired by our creative Alt Delegate.
- We have 3 roles vacant at this time.

Area highlights and successes

- "Aley's Meeting in a box"

Area concerns or issues

- Service roles – need a new Treasurer, PO Coordinator
- One of our meetings is struggling for numbers and Area representation.

AA Convention in my Area	No

Summary

Overall, Area Nine is functioning well and I get to Blenheim and Nelson/Tasman meets regularly. I still have to make it to the Hokitika meetings but have got to the Greymouth meeting a couple of times and really enjoyed their legacies and slogans of the week to take home. I regularly get invited to Blenheim's pre meeting dinner at a member's home and love the fellowship dinner on the last Wednesday of the month after Wednesday AFG's conscience meeting.

Additions:

- There is now a new meeting officially linked to Area Nine. This was a WSO online group but has now joined to NZ's GSO. Therefore, Area Nine now has 7 meetings in total. In order to include this new group in Area Nine Assemblies, a GR is being appointed.
- Some exciting ideas for PO are coming out of Area 9, including the idea of making Al-Anon Jibbitz for Crocs.
- Correction: there is no third position that is vacant.

WORKSHOP 3: Public Outreach

Renée S & Sally-ann M

This workshop was facilitated by the current interim Public Outreach (PO) Chair and a former PO Chair (of many moons ago). The workshop looked at how PO has been done in New Zealand in the past, how it is being done presently and some ideas for how PO could look like moving forward. After the PowerPoint presentation, a rich discussion took place where lots of questions were asked (see below for questions *and answers!)*

What PO was like? (ie: way back in days of the wild west)

The workshop opened with a skit of a cowboy incoherently mumbling acronyms and shortened versions of our name and babbling about how maybe we can help, kind of perhaps, if you can find us.

- Name recognition: Little consistency of our fellowship's name, with little use of our full name Al-Anon Family Groups (AFG) in public outreach. This means that very little public awareness of what AFG is and what makes it different from Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Signage consistency: Across the motu (country) there was no consistency in way-finder signage for meetings or local events. For example, some meetings and assemblies had no signs, or the triangle circle sign, or handwritten signs or a random something else. It was almost like we were a grass roots, secret society as opposed to an entity that exists worldwide and has been in NZ for 70+ years.
- Visual changes to our PO: from no consistent national image to the WSO supplied and approved squiggly road sign, then to the South African concept they shared permission to use (the bottle image), photographed in NZ using paid models. This was approved for use by WSO and our Conference and available to all members to download from our website.
- Outreach System upgrades: the NZ Al-Anon website was updated (Aug 2019); the menu-routing 0508 line was launched (2019), ensuring calls were handled by local members rather than a central point
- Co-operation with professionals: Locals attended New Zealand's biggest professional mental health and addictions conference – Cutting Edge (Sep 2017 Wellington; Sep 2018 Rotorua; 2019 Auckland). Al-Anon hasn't attended since the pandemic (missed 2023 & 2025).
- Demystifying service: Delegates used Conference to share ideas to make Twelfth Step work *approachable & fun* for members (e.g. "Pee-Oh the Puppet" used in Area One; the "Outreach Olympics" used in Area Two and a trophy was given for the most successful PO activity by a Group in another Area).
- While in the past the Board member chairing the PO Selected Committee has been referred to as the PO *Coordinator,* this is not in alignment with our service handbook/manual. The PO selected Committee has a Chair (who sits on the Board). The role of Chair is not to coordinate PO activities but instead to chair the Committee, whose role is outlined on p. 104-105 of the 2022 New Zealand Al-Anon Alateen Service Handbook
- Improved relations with WSO ensure we now have access to their PO images for AFG and Alateen which we then adapt for NZ use.

How Has PO Changed? The Social Media Trial (2025–2026)

- Scale: from celebrating one off newspaper articles or prominently placed billboards to 120,000 social media ad views in Jan 2026
- Operational continuity: quality documentation from the previous PO Chair was passed down to the next people looking after PO for the Board. This was invaluable for procedural processes to be retained due to the member stepping down prior to end of term.

- Social media campaign ($500 per month) was paused Feb 2026 (a prudent financial decision based on NZ's 12% drop in donations and a 20% drop in literature sales)
- Anonymity shift: moved from being wary of social media (2019) to empowering members to post approved images on local, non-Al-Anon community pages (2024). Just because I like or share a guide dog post, doesn't make me someone who is of low vision or someone who wants a seeing eye dog!

Suggested Approach Options for 2026–2027



Extra Questions

1. Last year a delegate put their name down for the PO selected committee. Was the name captured and passed on?

   A: Yes, they were and recorded in the Conference Summary. However, there was no direct action as a result. No committee was formed.

2. Any other juicy details or facts in the membership survey that we can use for PO either locally and nationally?

   A: Yes, the Interim PO Chair has looked through the whole membership survey and is drafting a proposal to the Board about how best to communicate with professionals in the mental health space as well as members to assist them in their own public outreach. There are two infographics proposed, one for communicating with professionals and one for members, which may be better than just trying to communicate to two different audiences with one item.

3. And is it effective to do local PO based on survey results from here and overseas?

   A: Yes!

4. And are the results seen immediately or years later?

   A: The results can take time. People need to hear things 6 times on average before acting. PO messaging is about ensuring consistency in messaging.

5. Was there any uptake in membership from our previous efforts at Cutting Edge conferences?

A: We were present at the 2017, 2018 and 2019 Cutting Edge conferences. However, we haven't checked membership numbers each year so cannot confirm if they played a role in new members coming and staying in Al-Anon.

6. Did you have costing to attend Cutting Edge?

   A: No, don't have costing for it. A quick check online shows exhibitor stall estimate cost $800 - $1200 depending on what sized booths and additional registration is set at $400. In the first year we attended, as a Not-For-Profit we were offered a discounted stall the same as AA and NA who are both there every year.

WORKSHOP 4: Interesting & fun facts from the WSC

Liz A & Chris W

The World Service Conference (WSC) is the heartbeat of Al-Anon's world services. It's where decisions are made, concerns are heard, and the fellowship's direction is shaped. This workshop highlighted the most interesting, surprising, and fun moments from the 2025 World Service Conference Summary *and* a sneak preview of the 2026 World Service Conference Summary. Go to the following link for access to all WSC summaries: https://al-anon.org/for-members/world-service-conference-wsc/world-service-conference-summary/



Fun & Interesting Facts from the 2025 World Service Conference Summary

The theme of the 2025 WSC was *"Investing in Each Other to Preserve Our Legacy"*: with a focus on unity, stewardship, connection and shared responsibility

Fun Facts:

- The theme was printed in different languages: English, Spanish, and French, which reflected the WSC's focus on inclusivity.
- There was a Painted Rock Icebreaker: Delegates matched painted rocks with slogans which were then used to pair up people for making introductions. This was one of the most talked-about moments — a simple but powerful way to build connection.
- Financial health of the WS0 remains strong thanks to member generosity and literature sales. The reserve fund was used to purchase a new WSO van, and automated letter opener and boardroom furniture.
- There were a range of workshops, including the following topics:
  - Online/Hybrid Vs Face to face meetings
  - Growing future leaders
  - Archives revitalization

- Electronic Alateen validation

Fun & Interesting Facts from the 2026 World Service Conference Summary

Fun Facts:

- Electronic Alateen meetings and their overall feasibility and safety requirements were discussed. The outcome: From Sept 1, Areas (USA) may opt in and start registering electronic Alateen meetings & train AMIAS-E (AMIAS who serve at online Alateen meetings). Teens can participate in e-meetings registered in ESC Structure (even if their Area is not registered). If an Area opts in, they must follow Alateen Safety and Behavior Requirements and the new Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavior Requirements.
- 2025: A surplus was achieved thanks to literature sales and contributions. NB: WSC financial summaries do not capture donations by members.
- A motion was passed to direct the Staff of the World Service Office to adhere to the following guidelines for implementing the "Choosing a Group's Name" Policy:
    - Allow community identifiers such as men, women, parents, adult children, young adults, other gender identification/sexual orientation, etc. in group names.
    - Consistently tell Area when groups register an identifier in their meeting name so conversation can be had with group members to welcome all, not just the people who identify with the group name.

SATURDAY

Saturday began 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 final full day of Conference, members completing their Conference service were invited to give an outgoing share and were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation. Transcripts of these shares are included towards the end of this Summary.

Annual Accounts and Budget

Tina M

While financial reports are full of numbers, our decisions and service are guided by the spiritual principles of the Al-Anon program.

- Grace: Freedom from judgement of how we have financially performed this year and why. Keeping an open mind to the possibilities of the future while still honouring the responsibility of our roles.
- Unity: Being open for collaboration and participation of the Conference for our future financial decisions and commitments. Participation is the key to harmony.
- Understanding: Listening to the voice of the Conference to formulate a path forward based on mutual respect of decisions made.

Financial Performance

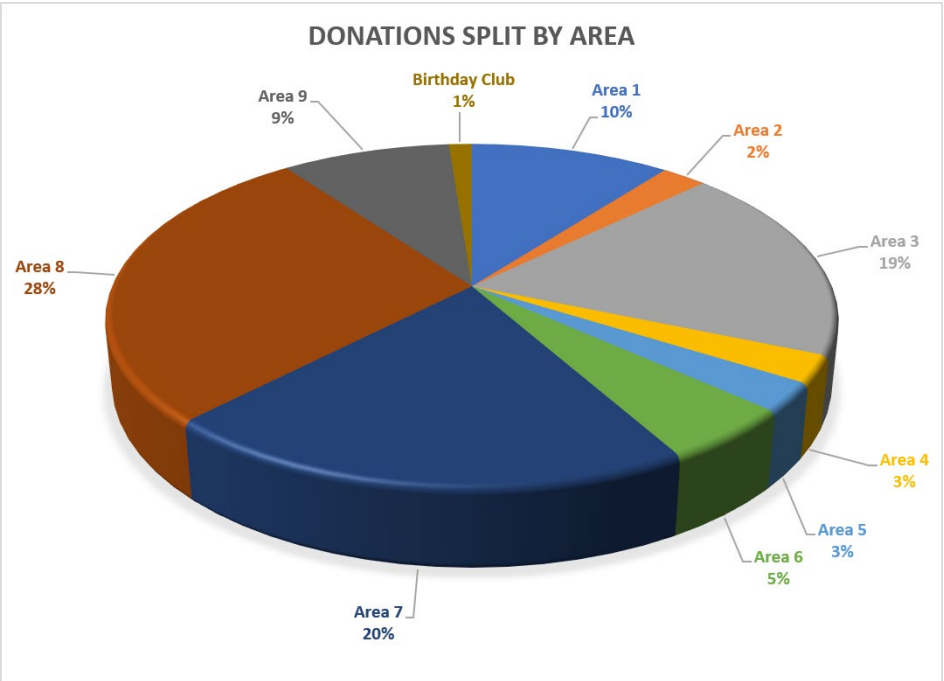
The Al-Anon General Service Office (NZAGSO) have achieved a great deal in the 2026 financial year. We have invested funds into new initiatives to help both sustain our current fellowship and to try and encourage its future growth, ensuring that Al-Anon will continue to be there for friends and family in need. Unfortunately, we are continuing to operate in a tough economic climate with ever rising costs, which in turn with our spending on new initiatives, has greatly affected our yearly results. We have again experienced an overall loss for the financial year. This year it is $31,494.

Donations

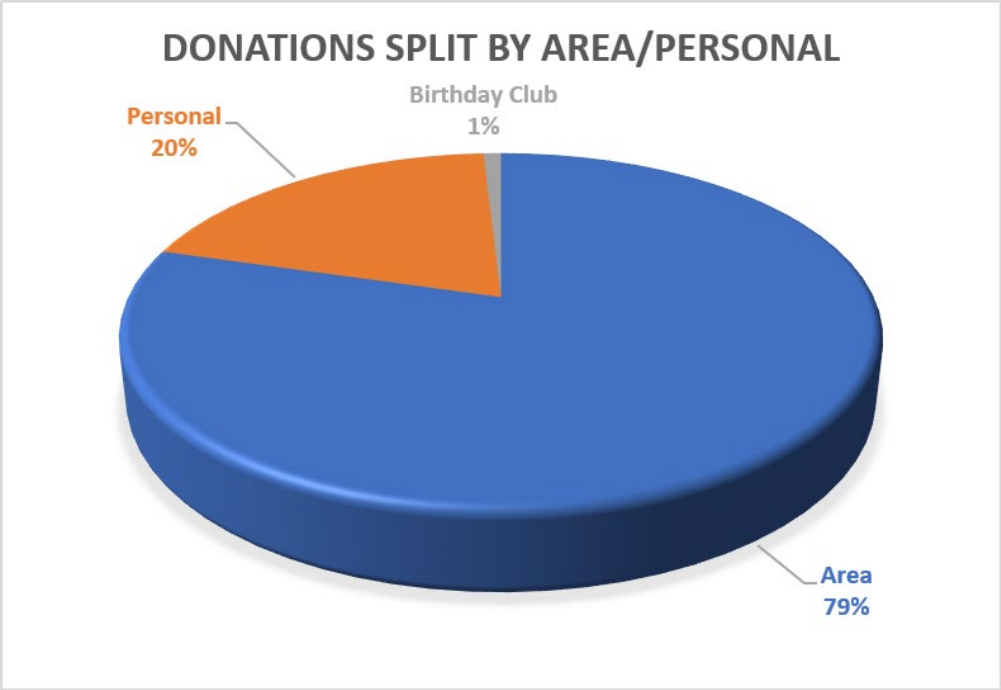
Al-Anon's Tradition 7 states we are "fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions". This makes us financially dependent on the contributions we receive from our members. Members donate through their groups, through their fund-raising efforts, and through personal donations made directly to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

The Conference approved budget for group donations in the 2025/2026 financial year was $48,576 and our final total received was $45,891. This is a combined total of both group and personal donations. This total is 6% below our budget and over $10,000 less than last year's donations received. I believe this is reflective on the increased cost of living as we have not recorded a decline in membership in our last group records update. NZAGSO will continue to request financial donations and run our bi-annual appeals to enable us to work towards sustainability as a fellowship and protect ourselves from the inevitable economic fluctuations.

The split of donations by area (excluding personal), is as follows:



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



Each year, we review the distribution of the number of meetings (and the distribution of members within these) based on the latest group registration results. For the 2025/2026 year we budgeted to receive $1.70 per week, per member. This gives the following breakdown and compares with actuals (including personal donations):

Other Income

We receive a portion of our revenue each year from earning interest on our ample reserve held in term deposits. We have seen a drop in this stream of income this year, with almost half as much interest earned when compared with last year. This aligns with the NZ Official Cash Rate sitting at around half the level as it was for the 2024/2025 financial year.
We have also reported both the 2025 and 2026 AA Convention with Al-Anon participation donations as we did not receive the 2025 donation before the end of FY 2025. The 2025 donation was $2,696 and the 2026 donation was $665.

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 in our financial statements from literature sales is to help offset any overhead costs incurred in fulfilling this service to the fellowship. Examples of expenses incurred:

- Rent paid for our NZAGSO
- Paying our Office Manager
- Travel 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 more stable this financial year but has stayed quite low, representing a weaker NZ dollar. In the 2025/2026 year the rate has varied from a high of $0.60 to a average rate of $0.59 in March 2026.

In June 2025 we completed a re-price on our books in order to standardize some of the pricing and reflect the bulk buying discounts we can receive from WSO This re-price was a direct response from feedback reported to NZAGSO about the affordability of our books. We will continue to monitor the pricing changes to make sure that we are still able to cover our costs of providing the literature to the fellowship. Overall, the gross profit from literature sales was $4,081, a decrease on last year, this is due to the reprice and also an increase on the freighting costs.

Expenses

The total expenses for the 2025/2026 financial year have greatly increased on last year. We have still tracked below our budget - $100,276 actual vs $107,053 budgeted.
There have been several areas where we have spent more than in the previous financial year. Some cost increases have been associated with targeted board spending initiatives and others have been caused by general rises in the costs of goods and services.

Areas of increase to note:

- Low Value Assets. This year we purchased a projector, new voice recorder, a new phone and answering machine and fans for the office.
- Board Member Expenses. There is a big increase on last year as we had a large amount of expenses come in late from the 2024/2025 year. There has also been an increase on flight costs, and we now have a board that is comprised of members throughout New Zealand, so the cost to bring us all together for our board meetings has increased.
- We have spent funds on website development this year to bring the fellowship both the online literature sales and contribution button functions.
- Our postage costs have increased this year. We completed a bulk order for pre-paid tickets before our office manager went on extended leave in March.
- Public Outreach. This year we have invested in Meta advertising to try and outreach to a greater number of people.
- Board Road Trip. We held a board road trip in Hastings which was a great way for Area Four to meet the Board!

Financial Position

Our current assets are comprised of cash at bank and literature on hand. We continue to hold $100,000 in two term deposits of $50,000 each, rolling off at inter-changing six-month intervals to avoid potential cash flow issues. Our fixed assets on the balance sheet include our office furniture, which we have added to this year in the form of new shelving for our office. We have one substantial liability owing at financial year end, which is the IAGSM first payment, usually paid in March. This was settled in April and accrued on the balance sheet.

In conclusion, NZAGSO's financial results for the 2025/2026 year show a large loss due to both lower donations and literature profit and a large increase to expenses. We continue to hold funds in term deposits, but we may soon have to use these to continue our operations if we don't see an increase to

our inflows. The NZAGSO has achieved a lot in this financial year, and we hope to see some returns from our investments of both time and funds in future financial years.

Area	Number of Meetings	Median Total Members	Budget 25/26	Actual 25/26
1	8	49	$ 4,332	$ 3,951
2	6	44.5	$ 3,934	$ 1,546
3	13	134	$ 11,846	$ 7,510
4	2	15	$ 1,326	$ 1,215
5	4	26	$ 2,298	$ 4,315
6	8	43	$ 3,801	$ 2,304
7	11	97.5	$ 8,619	$ 9,735
8	13	99.5	$ 8,796	$ 10,752
9	5	41	$ 3,624	$ 4,150
Birthday Club	-	-	-	$ 413
Grand Total	**70**	**549.5**	**$ 48,576**	**$ 45,478**

NEW ZEALAND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

Balance Sheet

Assets	**FY 2026**			**FY 2025**		
Cash at Bank						
ANZ-00 Cheque Account	$ 2,893			$ 6,118		
ANZ Term Deposit	$ 100,000			$ 100,000		
ANZ-02 IAGSM eSaver	$ 817			$ 3,182		
ANZ-01 Online On Call	$ 5,006			$ 35,697		
ANZ-Ample Reserve Account	$ 5,121			$ 3,873		
Total Cash at Bank		$ 113,837			$ 148,870	
Other Assets						
Undeposited Cash	$ 136			$ -		
Sundry Debtors	$ 321			$ 1,796		
Literature On hand	$ 8,210			$ 5,801		
Total Other Assets		$ 8,667			$ 7,597	
Total Current Assets			$ 122,504			$ 156,467
Fixed Assets						
Office Equipment over $500	$ 3,691			$ 1,447		
Total Fixed Assets		$ 3,691			$ 1,447	
Total Assets			$ 126,195			$ 157,914
Liabilities						
Wages Payable	$ 813			$ 609		
PAYE Payable	$ 599			$ 548		
Accrued Annual Leave	$ 2,742			$ 4,773		
Sundry Creditors	$ 3,375			$ 104		
GST						
GST on Sales	$ 815			$ -		
GST on Purchases	-$ 2,531			-$ 670		
Total GST		-$ 1,716			-$ 670	
Total Liabilities			$ 5,813			$ 5,365
Net Assets			$ 120,381			$ 152,549
Equity			$ 120,381			$ 151,879

Statement of Equity

	2026	2025
Opening retained earnings	$ 151,879	$ 159,582
Current year earnings	-$ 31,498	-$ 4,149
Prior Year Adjustment		-$ 3,554
Total	**$ 120,381**	**$ 151,879**

NEW ZEALAND AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

AUDIT FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FY 2026

Profit and Loss

	FY2026 Actuals			FY2025 Actuals		
Income						
Donations						
Area/Personal Donations						
Donations Area One	$ 3,596			$ 3,470		
Donations Area One Personal	$ 355			$ 305		
Donations Area Two	$ 815			$ 1,137		
Donations Area Two Personal	$ 731			$ 1,257		
Donations Area Three	$ 6,393			$ 9,622		
Donations Area Three Personal	$ 1,118			$ 2,552		
Donations Area Four	$ 883			$ 1,308		
Donations Area Four Personal	$ 332			$ 580		
Donations Area Five	$ 3,382			$ 3,210		
Donations Area Five Personal	$ 933			$ 1,434		
Donations Area Six	$ 1,780			$ 2,275		
Donations Area Six Personal	$ 524			$ 690		
Donations Area Seven	$ 7,077			$ 8,467		
Donations Area Seven Personal	$ 2,658			$ 3,361		
Donations Area Eight	$ 9,529			$ 10,720		
Donations Area Eight Personal	$ 1,223			$ 866		
Donations Area Nine	$ 3,040			$ 2,915		
Donations Area Nine Personal	$ 1,110			$ 1,318		
Donations - Birthday Club (ex Personal)	$ 413			$ 886		
Total Area/Personal Donations		$ 45,891			$ 56,371	
Other Donation Income						
Equalised Conference Contribution	$ 8,833			$ 6,330		
Convention Donations	$ 3,361					
Board Road Trip Donation	$ 107					
Messenger Donations						
Total Other Donation Income		$ 12,301			$ 6,330	
Other Income						
Other Income						
Literature Surplus	$ 4,081			$ 6,621		
Received Interest - Term Deposit	$ 4,673			$ 8,726		
Total Other Income		$ 8,754			$ 15,347	
Total Income			$ 66,946			$ 78,047
Expenses						
ACC Levy	$ 272			$ -		
Audit/Accounting Fees	$ 2,000			$ 1,750		
Assets<$500	$ 2,340			$ 973		
Archives	$ -			$ -		
Bank Charges	$ 233			$ 35		
Board Member Expenses	$ 11,088			$ 5,417		
NRBM Expenses	$ 401			$ 294		
CRBM Expenses	$ -			$ -		
SRBM Expenses	$ -			$ -		
Computer/Office Equipment	$ 2,901			$ 2,084		
Website	$ 1,115			$ -		
Donation to WSO	$ 1,786			$ 2,027		
Accum Depreciation	$ 416			$ 345		
Conference Payments	$ 9,759			$ 10,053		
Conference Travel Delegates	$ 2,233			$ 2,188		
Convention Expenses	$ 164			$ 468		
IAGSM Paid Expenses	$ 3,000			$ 3,351		
Postage (less recovered)	$ 1,040			$ 2		
Charities Commission Fee	$ 44			$ 44		
Printing & Stationery	$ 3,183			$ 1,898		
Public Outreach Expenses	$ 3,649			$ 1,096		
Rent & Rates	$ 13,704			$ 13,450		
Repairs & Maintenance	$ -			$ 42		
Staff Amenities (ex Petty Cash)	$ 186			$ 130		
Telephone/Internet	$ 1,271			$ 1,203		
Volunteer Travel Fund	$ 1,500			$ 953		
Office Administration	$ 32,722			$ 34,321		
Board Road Trip	$ 3,418			$ -		
Stock Adjustment	$ 16			$ 73		
Total Expenses		$ 98,440			$ 82,196	
Net Profit/(Loss)			**-$ 31,494**			**-$ 4,149**

NZ AL-ANON GENERAL SERVICES									
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AS AT 31 MARCH 2026									
Funds at Bank	**2026**	**2025**	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**
ANZ-00 Cheque Account	$2,893	$6,118	$8,286	$6,707	$3,879	$3,933	$7,032	$6,943	$3,603
ANZ Term Depost	$100,000	$100,000	$100,000	$100,000	$100,211	$50,000	$50,000		
ANZ -01 Online Call account	$817	$3,182	$1,743	$1,853	$769	$2,698	$11,986	$5,715	$1,341
ANZ eSaver Ample Reserve Acc	$5,006	$35,697	$41,338	$36,089	$45,439	$81,121	$44,882	$86,686	$81,881
ANZ-02 IAGSM eSaver Account	$5,121	$3,873	$1,543	$2,336	$6,773	$5,927	$4,156	$4,260	$7,210
undeposited cheques/cash									
	$113,837	$148,870	$152,909	$146,985	$157,071	$143,679	$118,056	$103,605	$94,035

Schedule of Fixed Assets and Depreciation									
For the Year Ended 31 March 2026									
ASSET	**Date**	**Cost**	**Accumulated Depreciation 2025**	**Book Value 31-Mar-2025**	**Additions/ (Disposals)**	**Rate**		**Accumulated Depreciation 2026**	**Book Value 31-Mar-2026**
Office Equipment									
Projector	Apr-12	1,128	-	-		17.50%	SL	-	-
HP Laptop	Dec-17	882	-	-		40.00%	SL	-	-
Brother Printer	Jun-20	781	-	0		30.00%	SL	-	0
HP Desktop Office Computer	Dec-21	1,759	155	-		40.00%	SL	-	-
		4,550	155	0	0			0	0
Office Furniture									
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	510		10.00%	SL	73	437
Office Chair Luna	Mar-22	565	57	396		10.00%	SL	57	339
Credenza Cabinet	Jun-22	710	60	540		8.50%	SL	60	480
Lundia Shelving	Jan-26	2,660	-	1,446		8.50%	SL	226	2,434
		9,111	190	1,446	0			416	3,690
Total			345	1,447				416	3,691

LITERATURE STOCK on Hand	**31/03/2026**	**31/03/2025**	**31/03/2024**	**31/03/2023**	**31/03/2022**	**31/03/2021**	**31/03/2020**	**31/03/2019**	**31/03/2018**
at US dollars before freight	4,844.06	3,317.09	3,133.77	3,511.23	3,721.25	2,966.85	3,144.23	2,360.61	3,358.42
Exchange rate at 31 March	0.59	0.57	0.60	0.63	0.70	0.70	0.60	0.68	0.72
at NZ $ Cost Price excluding GST	8,210.27	5,819.46	5,222.95	5,595.59	5,335.13	4,249.89	5,279.10	3,469.44	4,640.62

Proposed Budget 2026/2027

A note about the budget: The proposed budget was discussed at length, which ended in a slightly revised proposed budget (from that presented in the Conference Brochure) for voting. See page 83 "UNFINISHED BUSINESS" > "FY27 Budget Approval".

The Treasurer introduced the 2026/2027 budget by inviting Conference members to collaborate on setting the expense budget, reflecting the Conference theme of Unity and encouraging participation in financial decision-making.

Budget income

- Kept $1.70 donation per member per meeting again this year.
- Interest received decreased due to low interest rates.
- Our literature sales budget has decreased for this year.

Budget expenses

- Expenses have increased due to continued high inflation.
- Public Outreach budget reduced where possible, some expenses such as Office Administration and Rent are fixed and can't be changed. Reduced expenses included; Board Expenses, WSO Donation, Public Outreach, Board Road Trip.

Financial Year & Audit

Our financial year runs from April 1st to the following March 31st. 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 time of writing as they await the yearly external audit. The audit is scheduled to be completed by the 31 August 2026. It is assumed that there will be no material difference to the results currently provided.

Summary of Board Treasurer's presentation

- Donations were lower than last year. Mid-year donations were stronger, while the summer months were quieter. The donation budget only includes group donations, not personal donations, and even after including personal donations the overall budget target was not achieved.
- Overall income reduced due to lower interest income and lower literature sales.
- Expenses increased, resulting in an overall deficit of approximately $31,000.
- Although reserves reduced during the year, they remain stable.
- Members were thanked for their generous support, particularly through the bi-annual appeals.
- Literature sales were below budget, likely due to no new literature releases and the recent book re-pricing.
- Higher expenses included increased Board travel as Board members are now spread across the country, website enhancements, replacement of ageing office assets, Public Outreach initiatives, and bulk purchasing before the Office Manager's leave.

What Areas need to know

- NZAGSO is currently facing financial pressure, and the year-end results reflect this.
- Both donations and literature sales have decreased.
- Members are encouraged to continue supporting NZAGSO through donations, fundraising activities, purchasing Conference Approved Literature (CAL), and using the online payment gateway and member contribution button on the website.
- The delegates actively participated in developing and deciding the 2026/2027 expense budget.

Audit

The audit is still underway, so the financial results are not yet final. However, the Treasurer advised that no material changes to the reported results are expected. For 2026, $2,500 has been budgeted for the Audit. This is a reasonable fee for the review done, and we are required to file our report by the end of September with the Charities Services | Ngā Rātonga Kaupapa Atawhai.

Additional notes and answers to questions

- The online contribution button was introduced during the financial year. Donations made through the website are processed via Stripe and recorded against the member's nominated Area. Analysis of contribution button donations has not yet been completed.
- Meeting numbers have increased following the Group Registration Renewal completed in March. Each registered meeting is counted separately, although it is difficult to determine how many members attend multiple meetings.
- NZAGSO recorded a significant deficit for the year. One term deposit may need to be broken if required to support operations.
- The 2026/2027 budget was developed with greater collaboration, inviting Conference members to help determine expense priorities and identify areas where costs could be reduced while maintaining essential services.
- Group donation budgets are calculated using meeting information supplied by NZAGSO and are based on the long-standing budget assumption of $1.70 per member, per meeting.
- The literature budget is based on the previous year's sales with an allowance for growth. As literature is purchased from the USA, costs are affected by exchange rate movements. While literature sales are not intended to generate a profit, they help cover operating costs such as rent, wages and administration.

- The National Treasurer advised that donations received through the online contribution button are processed through Stripe and recorded against the member's nominated Area. Analysis of payment gateway costs and contribution income is still being completed.
- Meeting numbers have increased following the Group Registration Renewal process, and meeting numbers do not necessarily reflect individual membership as members may attend multiple meetings.
- In response to questions about the current deficit, it was explained that NZAGSO has experienced financial challenges in the past and, if necessary, may need to access one of its term deposits to support operations.
- During discussion of the 2026/2027 budget, members discussed possible ways to reduce future expenses reviewing the annual donation to WSO, online Board meetings to reduce travel costs, Conference duration, reducing Public Outreach expenditure, and noting that the planned Board Road Trip has already been removed from the budget. Fixed costs such as rent and volunteer reimbursements will remain.

See page 83 “UNFINISHED BUSINESS” > “FY27 Budget Approval” for more information on the approval of the Budget for 2027.

Summary from delegates meeting

Christina V & Louren P

“Sharing enriches my life. Even when I serve the group as an officer, or do small chores at meeting, it is wholesome therapy.”
One Day at a Time in Al-Anon pg 348

This workshop followed on from the issues raised during the Area Delegates Meeting on Friday. The discussion focused on improving communication across the fellowship and addressing the ongoing shortage of Regional Board Members (RBMs) and other trusted service positions. Throughout the session, members were encouraged to remain solutions-focused and to place principles above personalities.

Key Discussion Topics

- Shortage of Regional Board Members (RBMs) and succession planning.
- Communication between the Board, Delegates, Areas, GRs and Groups.
- Vacant Board positions and encouraging members into service.
- Updating the Service Handbook.
- Improving communication and support for Delegates.

Main Findings

- Many past Delegates felt unable to move into RBM roles due to burnout, family, health, work or travel commitments.
- Some members also identified Board culture and the timing of vacancies as barriers to service.
- Ongoing Board vacancies are impacting communication across the fellowship.
- Delegates remain the key communication link between NZAGSO and Groups, but information is not always reaching members.

- The vacant Literature Chair position has delayed updates to the Service Handbook, reducing its effectiveness as a communication tool.

Suggested Solutions

- Strengthen succession planning for service roles.
- Improve communication pathways, including a clear communication flowchart.
- Develop a Delegate Checklist.
- Hold Hidden Talents workshops to encourage future trusted servants.
- Encourage all Delegates to have a Service Sponsor.
- Use the Service Handbook consistently.
- Help members understand how Board vacancies affect the fellowship and its ability to provide service.

Answers to Questions

- Members supported including succession planning in the proposed Delegate Checklist to help identify, prepare and encourage future trusted servants before vacancies arise.
- Several ideas were discussed to improve communication, including creating a regional Delegate WhatsApp group and exploring whether members could receive more direct communication from NZAGSO, similar to the WSO "Loop" model. It was also confirmed that all NZAGSO newsletters are available on the NZAGSO website.
- The historical purpose of the RBM stand-down period was explained as providing separation between Area and Board service. Members discussed whether this should become a recommendation rather than a requirement, whether the timeframe should be reviewed, and whether nomination deadlines could be adjusted to better support prospective applicants.

WORKSHOP 5: Open Session

Diane W & Tina M

It was confirmed that the Board's vision, mission and goals are published in the previous year's Conference Summary as part of the governance documentation. Members suggested that the proposed Delegate Checklist could be stored on the refreshed website for authorised users and shared through Delegate communication channels. In the meantime, it is recommended to save important documents in WhatsApp groups. A communication gap was identified in the process for updating the 0508 phone number, meeting information service. The suggested solution was for Groups to notify both their Area and NZAGSO of meeting changes, with NZAGSO then advising the Public Outreach Committee, who would update the Area Phone Coordinators.

Board and Selected Committee Reports

Board Chair — Liz A

The New Zealand Al-Anon General Service Board (NZAGSB) has had both an eventful and constructive year. Our regular Board meetings are held four times a year and we meet in person. We have online meetings between these times when necessary.

In our Board meeting in September, we updated our Vision and Mission statements, identifying our goals and priorities to enable us to set our course for the upcoming year. Having this strategy has helped us stay focussed on the work the fellowship has asked of us. We keep our Conference goal – *Growth begins at the group level* – in front of mind. We held an in-depth conversation as a result of our Board Inventory, which we take annually.

We accepted three resignations and also accepted three new Board members in a very short space of time. We introduced an online interview process, and it has allowed us to gain momentum between Board meetings. I am extremely grateful for the time and energy our Board members have given to serve our fellowship. We welcomed an Alternate Chairperson, and Conference Chairperson and have yet to assign a role to our newest member. We are continuing to encourage the use of remote volunteers to our General Service Office and will begin the long-needed job of digitising our Archives remotely.

Introducing Board Development days has been something I'd brought back as an IAGSM Delegate. We started small in-house and have accessed training from within our fellowship here and overseas and from a professional entity. This is proving to be beneficial, and we are gaining a deeper understanding of the difference between Operations and Governance. This understanding is moving through to our Selected Committees - who are also greatly valued for the mahi they continue to achieve. In December's development session we explored our responsibilities as a Board, moving forward with unity as a group and evaluated our accountability to the Board and to ourselves.

With a smaller Board we can easily get distracted in the "weeds" of doing the task ourselves as opposed to delegating the work to our service arms and other trusted servants. In failing to delegate we miss the opportunity to attract and grow new members into service. As the Board Chair, I am committed to ensuring the fellowship is kept vital and forward-reaching, with a focus on attracting the best possible people to serve our fellowship and defining our processes to allow us to look ahead and keep building on the progress we have been making. With these ideas in mind, I feel hopeful we can continue to set up members for success in their service journeys and sustainably fill Board roles.

Communications through the Service Structure are currently hindered by the lack of Regional Board Members. Because Areas are responsible for nominating these candidates for Conference approval, the Board urges Areas to support filling these vital roles. Furthermore, to maintain proper Governance boundaries, the Board has discontinued the use of a Delegate Liaison. The continued absence of Regional Board Members makes fulfilling commitments like the AA Convention and requested Road Trips increasingly difficult. Without successful nominations from the Areas, these essential outreach activities may become unattainable.

I remain deeply grateful for the General Secretary's extensive support of the General Service Office, Selected committees, and communications with the World Service Office. Out of need we experimented with minute-taking technology at the last Board meeting, and this meant we could promptly and transparently share our activities, news, and challenges through the Board Newsletter. This is distributed through your Delegates, our GSO and to Lone Members and you can find the latest and past editions on our website.

The Board continues to communicate with the World Service Office via our Regular Structure Meeting, our next is scheduled at our upcoming Board Meeting. We continue to ask for more inclusion and have shown an interest in setting up a Zonal meeting, via our General Secretary.

In November, the Board hosted a successful Road Trip to Area Four, drawing enthusiastic participation from members in Areas Three, Four and Five. Small-group discussions provided a transparent look at

Board operations, beginning meaningful connections and honest conversation. Despite the heat, the day was filled with laughter and fellowship.

Another successful (63rd) AA Convention was held in Ōtepoti Dunedin in January. Al-Anon participated with a full program including workshops and Alateen meetings available. The venue was beautiful, and the program was considerately presented in keeping with the theme - *Our Primary Purpose*. The Board thanks the Convention Chairperson and Committee for the extensive mahi they have achieved and further progress made in cooperating with AA. This progress has ensured a good working relationship going forward. I have been included in the AA Host Planning Committee's communications and invited to a walk-through of venues. AA has been welcoming and inclusive of Al-Anon Family Groups needs, including Alateen.

A much-needed part of our future vision includes upgrading our website, work on this has been Board approved and has begun. This process will take time to complete, and a more relevant platform will allow us to make better use of our best Public Outreach tool! Our General Secretary has led a task force to complete our contribution button on the members page, have you seen it yet? Or even used it yet?!

From my conversations with members across our motu and the world, attracting fellows into service remains a challenge, with reasons aplenty. I know I am preaching to the choir here of the benefits to your personal recovery while participating in service. We currently have vacant positions on the Board, and I encourage you to reach out if you feel like rocketing your growth or you have that feeling that maybe you have something to contribute.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Board Chair,
Ngā mihi nui, Liz A
NZAGSB Chairperson

Additional notes and answers to questions

- Since writing the report, the Board has been spending considerable time on succession planning and has further initiatives underway in this area.
- The Board has also felt the impact of operating with one less Board member, particularly someone who contributed significantly in several areas. This reduced capacity has meant some planned work has progressed more slowly than intended since the report was written.
- Further information was given about the Regular Structure Meeting, which was introduced following the 2022 International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM). After the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Service Office (WSO) recognised it had become too internally focused and committed to strengthening communication with international service structures.
- To support this, the WSO appointed a dedicated international staff member and established Regular Structure Meetings to maintain ongoing communication with General Service Offices worldwide.
- The WSO invites each General Service Office to arrange a meeting during an allocated week, with both parties working together to find a suitable time. Initially, scheduling required considerable coordination. More recently, the New Zealand General Secretary invited the WSO to join an existing NZAGSB Board meeting via Zoom, which proved to be a simple and effective approach.
- Before each meeting, the New Zealand Board sends questions to the WSO in advance, allowing time to prepare informed responses. The meetings are then used to discuss these topics and clarify any questions.
- Although there is no confirmed set number of Regular Structure Meetings each year, it is understood that they are intended to provide ongoing communication and strengthen the

relationship between the World Service Office and international service structures, rather than only meeting when issues arise.

General Secretary — Sally-ann M

Introduction

Since Conference 2025, I have continued to grow into the role of General Secretary with a clearer understanding of both its governance and operational responsibilities. Guided by the principles of the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts of Service, I have aimed to remain grounded in humility, service, and accountability.

With the support of my service sponsor and those who support my growth and development in this role, I have focused on aligning my actions with our spiritual principles, particularly Tradition Two, recognising that our leaders are but trusted servants, and Concept Nine, which calls us to demonstrate leadership grounded in compassion, foresight, and responsibility.

What this looks like day to day

I support the General Service Office as a remote volunteer. This includes clearing emails, liaising with WSO, other international structures, local AA, and members across Aotearoa New Zealand seeking support with structure or 12 Step queries.

I work alongside the Board Chair and Executive Budget Chair to ensure agendas are prepared and meetings honour our Traditions. I serve as ex officio on all Select Committees to support Chairs and encourage harmony. I also prepare and distribute the Board Newsletter and assist with general administration as a servant of the fellowship as a whole.

Key Outcomes and Impact

Over the past year, I have observed increased direct engagement from members across New Zealand, with more phone calls, emails, and requests for support. This reflects a strengthening of connection between the General Service Office and the fellowship, and aligns with Tradition Five, our primary purpose to carry the message.
At a structural level, we continue to face challenges in the membership filling Regional Board Member roles. This highlights an ongoing opportunity to better live Tradition One, placing our common welfare first through unity, and to strengthen communication so members are fully informed, included, and encouraged to serve.

Operational Progress: Payment Gateway and Digital Accessibility

The implementation of the payment gateway has been a significant step forward and is now functioning well. This reflects Concept Eleven, ensuring that our administrative and operational systems support the effective delivery of our services.

As a direct result, and after testing, the contribution button went live on the members section of our website on 5 January 2026. This aligns NZAFG with other international structures and improves accessibility for members wishing to contribute, supporting Tradition Seven, self-support through our own contributions.

Governance and Transparency

Progress has been made in increasing transparency at Board level through the trial of Delegates attending Board meetings as observers. This reflects Concept Four, the right of participation, and Concept Five, the right of appeal and to be heard.

Delegates as observers have now attended two Board meetings, with one member subsequently stepping into a Board role. This supports stronger connection and understanding between the Board and the fellowship.

Alongside this, there has been a continued focus on strengthening governance discipline through clearer task visibility, defined accountability, and ongoing succession planning discussions. For example, the identification of outdated policies and the need to ensure our practices align with our statutory obligations. This aligns with Concept Ten and Concept Twelve, supporting clarity, responsibility, and sound legal oversight.

Committees and Service Participation

Through participation in Select Committees as ex officio, I have observed encouraging growth in service participation and improved functioning within committees. Some members are currently serving on multiple committees. While this reflects willingness to serve, we continue to raise awareness of the importance of balance to avoid burnout. This reflects Concept One, where ultimate responsibility rests with the groups, and Concept Seven, which encourages trust in our trusted servants. It is encouraging to see members stepping forward in service, strengthening unity and shared responsibility.

Communication: Board Newsletter

The Board Newsletter continues to be published quarterly following each Board meeting and distributed to Delegates and Area Chairs where required. Ideally, this would flow through Regional Board Members to their regions. In their absence, we are distributing more directly to maintain communication flow. This initiative supports Concept Eight, ensuring transparency in our work.

International Relationships

Relationships with other General Service Offices have strengthened, including early collaboration towards an Oceania zonal connection alongside the Australian General Service Office. This work reflects Tradition Nine, creating service structures that support our groups, and Concept Twelve, reminding us to act with foresight, responsibility, and humility.

Areas of Growth

A continuing area of growth for NZAFG is the consistent application of our spiritual principles in service. Encouragingly, there has been improvement in the use of the Service Handbook and in aligning decision making with our Traditions and Concepts. Initiatives such as the Board Road trip in Area Four and the RBM online roadshow have supported unity, connection, and shared understanding. These efforts reflect Tradition One and Tradition Twelve, placing principles above personalities and strengthening unity across the fellowship.

Service Handbook

The Service Handbook remains central to our spiritual governance framework. Its increasing use reflects a growing willingness to align with our shared guidance. There is a clear need for a full review and update. This will require a dedicated Select Committee, capable leadership, and fellowship wide participation. This work aligns with Concept Ten and Concept Twelve. We are hopeful of attracting willing members to lead and support this important project.

Operational Capacity and Continuity

This year has highlighted the importance of maintaining capacity within our service structure. With vacancies in Regional Board Member roles and periods where key roles have been unavailable, volunteers have stepped up to maintain continuity. This reflects commitment and resilience within the fellowship, while also reinforcing the need for sustainable service structures, succession planning, and shared responsibility.

Personal Reflection

Over the past year, my understanding of the role has deepened through experience. I continue to learn the importance of letting go of outcomes, trusting in group conscience, and allowing others the dignity to learn through their own experience. I strive to practise honesty, compassion, and tolerance in my service. I am learning that leadership in Al-Anon is not about control, but about service, rigour, and consistency, guided by Concept Nine and Tradition Twelve.

Strategic Priorities for 2026 to 2027

1. Encouraging Areas and Regions to fill Regional Board Member roles
   Supporting unity and shared responsibility in line with Tradition One and Concept One.
2. Improving communication and engagement
   Strengthening connection across the fellowship and supporting informed group conscience, in line with Concept Four and Concept Five.
3. Strengthening governance and sustainability
   Continuing to develop systems and structures that reflect our principles and support long term stability, in line with Concept Eleven and Concept Twelve

Closing

It is a privilege to serve as General Secretary. I remain committed to carrying out this volunteer support role in a way that reflects our shared spiritual principles, honours our Traditions, and supports our primary purpose, to carry the message to those who still suffer.

Nāku noa, nā
In service and gratitude,

Sally-ann M
General Secretary

Additional notes and answers to questions

- Since writing the report, communication with the World Service Office (WSO) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) has increased, with the General Secretary acting as a key point of contact and sharing relevant information with the fellowship.
- There has also been an increase in members contacting the General Secretary directly for guidance on spiritual principles, the Traditions, Concepts, service sponsorship, and the Al-Anon service structure. This reflects a growing awareness that the General Secretary is available to support service-related enquiries, while the General Service Office continues to focus on administrative and operational matters.
- Further clarification was provided about the role of the General Secretary. Supporting the NZAGSO as a remote volunteer is a normal part of the role. Following a restructure due to financial constraints, the General Secretary and Office Manager positions became separate. The Office Manager oversees the day-to-day operation of the office, while the General Secretary provides governance, service leadership, and support to the fellowship.

- The General Secretary's responsibilities include supporting the Board and Office Manager, liaising with the World Service Office, Alcoholics Anonymous and other organisations, preparing the Board Newsletter, supporting committees, responding to service and structure enquiries, and helping ensure Al-Anon principles guide communications and decision-making.
- The increase in direct calls and emails from members was attributed largely to the ongoing vacancies in Regional Board Member (RBM) roles. With these positions unfilled, Delegates are naturally contacting the General Secretary directly, and this is considered appropriate under the current circumstances. The General Secretary also draws on international contacts and experience to seek guidance and provide informed responses when needed.
- It was confirmed that Delegate contact details are maintained through the General Service Office and Area Secretaries. As long as this information is kept up to date, the General Secretary can remain connected with Delegates across the Areas.
- The reference to outdated policies in the written report was also explained. Many policies had not been reviewed since around 2017 and no longer met current governance and legal requirements. The need to introduce website Terms and Conditions and a Privacy Policy for the online payment gateway highlighted this gap. As a result, the Board has introduced a formal policy review process, with clear responsibility assigned and regular reviews built into the annual governance calendar.
- Finally, it was clarified that the updated General Secretary position description referred to during the presentation has been approved by the Board but has not yet been incorporated into the Service Handbook.

International Al-Anon General Services Meeting Delegate — Tracy B

IAGSM Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting 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.

The 23rd International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM)

Exciting news! The venue and dates for the 23rd International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) have been announced. The meeting will take place from 23–26 September 2026 at:

Hotel Park, by Sava
Cesta svobode 15
4260 Bled
Slovenia

The World Service Office is committed to establishing the most economical Equalized Expense required for Delegates to attend the IAGSM. Following further negotiations with the hotel, the final Equalized Expense has been set at $1,714.14 USD per Delegate, which is lower than originally determined.

This amount covers travel to a nearby airport or train station, accommodation, meals, meeting materials, meeting space, and AV rentals. In keeping with the Delegates' expressed desire for the meeting to be fully self-supporting, each GSO is requested to pay the full Equalized Expense for its Delegate(s).

Delegates have been advised that registration and travel arrangements are currently being finalised, with further details to follow in due course. The theme for the 2026 IAGSM will be determined through a survey of Delegates.

I look forward to attending the IAGSM next year on behalf of the New Zealand fellowship and experiencing what promises to be a beautiful part of Slovenia.

Yours in service

Tracy B
IAGSM Delegate







Additional notes and answers to questions

- Further clarification was provided about the **Equalized Expense** for the International Al-Anon General Services Meeting (IAGSM) and the expectation that each General Service Office (GSO) funds its own delegates.
- IAGSM has been working towards becoming fully self-supporting since the early 1980s, with financial subsidies gradually reducing over time. For the 2024 IAGSM, delays in communication from the World Service Office (WSO) meant the final Equalized Expense was announced much later than expected and at a significantly higher cost. This left many service structures without enough time to gain approval or budget for the additional expense, resulting in lower attendance than anticipated.
- The New Zealand General Service Board was less affected, as it had already committed to sending two delegates and had budgeted for this. However, many other service structures were not in the same position.
- Delegates raised these concerns with the IAGSM Committee, noting that service structures could not be expected to be fully self-supporting without adequate notice of the costs. In response, the Equalized Expense was reduced to an amount closer to previous years. However, for some structures the revised cost came too late for them to change their plans.
- As a result, much of the 2024 IAGSM was spent discussing these procedural issues rather than other agenda items. The matter is still being worked through, with further discussions expected via a task force. As of June 2026, no final outcome had been reached.

New Zealand Al-Anon Service Conference — 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 groups to NZASC and gives NZGSB a chance to share the extent and breadth of the work of its Service Arms to the groups through their Area Delegates. (see *NZ Al-Anon – Alateen Service Handbook 2022*, p. 98)

Our Committee has had some personnel changes, shedding and gaining members including three Area Delegates. The Board Chairperson and the General Secretary are ex officio members. So, we have another outstanding team this Conference season, with good resources to draw on to maintain understanding of the processes and timing of this and that to bring the annual Service Conference to fruition. We work towards improving at all times and we have a strong commitment to unity.

After reading the 2025 Conference feedback, our Committee decided that we would continue to deliver a more relaxed agenda allowing Conference attendees to do the work that is necessary and care for themselves. We plan to host two mini meet ups on a video platform ahead of Conference to foster understanding, we've dropped session times to 50 minutes and included two free-time sessions; the library is booked for the entire Conference to assist with having another space to work in, creating movement through the days, and we've an Open Session for Area Delegates to bring items to the floor.

At the beginning of Conference 2025, the Committee sought approval to use AI at the Conference which was declined. We re-approached this subject and held a Knowledge Based Decision Making pre-Conference discussion with Conference attendees on a video platform to discuss the use of AI post-Conference in preparing the 2026 Conference Summary.

We acknowledge The Friary staff for their ongoing support and hospitality. We acknowledge the many who have and will make this event possible. Together with you we will walk the *Path to Grace, Unity and Understanding.*

Rose S
Conference Chair

Additional notes and answers to questions

- Two mini meet-ups were held to help Delegates prepare for Conference and encourage discussion. Attendance was:
  - 26 April: 12 attendees (7 Delegates, 4 Board members and 1 Conference Host)
  - End of May: 7 attendees (3 Delegates and 4 Board members)
- A Knowledge-Based Decision Making (KBDM) discussion on the use of AI was also held in March, with eight attendees (4 Delegates, 2 Board members, 1 Conference Host and 1 Conference Tech).
- Following this discussion, the Conference Committee agreed that AI would only be used to transcribe audio recordings into text when preparing the Conference Summary. It was clarified that this involves transcription software only, not generative AI, and that preparing the Conference Summary is within the Committee's responsibilities.
- An update was provided on the 2027 Conference contribution. While the amount has not yet been finalised, it is expected to be confirmed soon in line with the Conference Committee Guidelines.
- The Committee also thanked the Areas for their outstanding support in paying Conference contributions by the end of the year.
- It was explained that the Conference contribution is calculated using the actual costs of the current Conference, with an allowance for inflation. The proposed amount is then submitted to the Treasurer, who may consider additional factors before confirming the final contribution. This process is outlined in the Equalisation Procedure in the Conference Committee Guidelines (Service Handbook, page 99).

Convention — Tracy B

The 63rd Annual Alcoholics Anonymous Convention, with Al-Anon and Alateen participation, was held at Otago Boys' High School in Dunedin from Friday, 16 January to Sunday, 18 January 2026.

At the time the formal invitation to attend the Convention was received, the Southern Regional Board Member position was vacant. As Board Chair, I therefore stepped into the role of Al-Anon Convention Chair and participated in the AA Host Planning Committee (HPC) for the 63rd AA Convention with Al-Anon and Alateen participation.

I am deeply grateful to the members who stepped up to serve on the Convention Committee and throughout the event, travelling from all around the motu. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to create a wonderful convention for Al-Anon and Alateen. The final convention attendance was 338 in total, including 47 Al-Anon members- eight being "Saturday Only". Sadly, there were no Alateens present this year. A total of 16 people registered from Area One (34%).

Working alongside the AA Host Planning Committee was a truly positive experience for both me and the wider committee. The AA Committee was welcoming and inclusive of Al-Anon Family Groups in every respect. We were included in all decision-making processes, which was greatly appreciated.

Al-Anon Family Groups were also included in the mihi whakatau, where we performed a waiata. This was a magical and humbling experience. Our fellowship was further invited onto the stage for the handover to the 2027 AA Host Planning Committee, demonstrating the unity and strength shared between our two fellowships.

<u>Overall Convention Chairs Reflections</u>

- Taking guidance from the NZ Al-Anon Alateen Service Handbook 2022 Convention Guidelines is strongly recommended. As a committee, we read one or two bullet points outlining our respective roles at each meeting to ensure all members were fully aware of one another's responsibilities.
- As a selected committee, we were fortunate to have the General Secretary attend all meetings in an ex officio capacity. Drawing on the General Secretary's experience and knowledge was extremely helpful in keeping us on track and encouraging us to think outside the square. They also provided valuable support to the Convention Chair in their role.
- In total, there were seven members on the Convention Committee, including the General Secretary, as suggested by the handbook. This proved to be a very effective number. Most Chairs formed subcommittees to assist either in the lead-up to or during the event, depending on their roles.
- We were grateful for the support of members from Dunedin and Invercargill who attended and helped at the event. Thank you.
- Al-Anon Family Groups ideally requires a room that can seat at least 100 people. As this was not possible due to the size of the rooms at the venue, we requested three rooms instead. This allowed us to run consecutive meetings, workshops, and Alateen meetings, helping to accommodate both our members and AA participants.
- Having a representative from Al-Anon Family Groups attend each AA Host Planning Meeting is important in fostering cooperation between the two fellowships and ensuring inclusivity throughout the event. If the Convention Chair is unable to attend, the General Secretary can attend on behalf of Al-Anon Family Groups.

Convention Secretary/Treasurer's Officer Report

I joined the Committee in August 2025, a few months after planning had begun. Stepping into the combined role of Secretary/Treasurer was initially outside my comfort zone — particularly the Treasurer component — yet the experience proved far more manageable and rewarding than I anticipated.

With strong committee support, thorough handover reports from previous trusted servants, and the clear guidance provided in the Al-Anon Family Groups Service Manual, the responsibilities were well defined and achievable.

Key Learnings & Takeaways

- Combined Secretary/Treasurer Role.
- Combining the roles works well.
- Secretary duties are the primary focus pre-Convention.
- Treasurer duties increase during and after the Convention.
- The workload was not overly time-consuming.
- Keeping an open mind allowed growth beyond perceived limitations.

Secretary Role – Systems That Worked

- Online meetings every 3–4 weeks via a group chat app worked efficiently.
- Using a structured minutes template (including an action agenda) ensured clarity and continuity.
- Recording meetings via an AI recording app provided:
    - Immediate post-meeting summaries.
    - Increased accuracy of minutes.
    - Additional support for transparency and accountability.
- Uploading documents to shared Dropbox folders kept communication clear and accessible.
- Recommendation: Continue using structured minutes and a recording/summary app to complement written records.

Treasurer Role – Practical Insights

- A separate "Convention 2026" bank account was added to my personal account.
- While functional, this practice should be reviewed.
- A dedicated GSO Convention account, accessible to the nominated Treasurer, would be more appropriate.
- Publishing personal bank details felt unusual, even though it worked smoothly.
- Pre-Convention Tasks Included:
    - Requesting the $500 starter float from GSO (efficient process).
    - Organising floats for literature and merchandise tables.
    - Hiring an EFTPOS machine. A last-minute change in EFTPOS providers (to a Dunedin company) resulted in an additional $95 cost but was easily managed.
- On-Site Responsibilities:
- Clearing Tradition Seven kete after meetings.
- Supporting literature and merchandise tables with change as needed.
- Post-Convention Learning:
    - Tradition Seven funds should remain in the Convention account until final reconciliation.

- Although I deposited funds directly into the GSO account (a procedural faux pas), the situation was handled with grace — a reminder of the spirit of both Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon Family Groups

Participation & Fellowship

- Serving on the Committee did not prevent full participation in meetings and social activities.
- Volunteer support was abundant and generous.
- Volunteering at registration created meaningful connections with members from across the motu.
- From a participant's perspective, the AA organisation on the ground was exceptional:
- Warm and thoughtful welcome at accommodation.
- Smooth shuttle coordination.
- Excellent catering and hospitality.
- Well-run Saturday evening entertainment and shared spaces.

Overall Reflection

- Service builds confidence and capability.
- Clear guidelines and good communication make roles manageable.
- Practical systems (templates, apps, shared folders) greatly improve efficiency.
- Volunteers working together create professional, uplifting events.
- Growth happens when we say "yes" despite hesitation.
- Once again, together we made it happen. It is humbling and inspiring to be part of an event run entirely by volunteers committed to their 12-Step recovery.

Convention Treasurer Report

Discrepancy of -$77.09 between bank statement and this final report

	Notes	$	$
Income			
NZAGSO Float		$500.00	
Fundraising		$916.90	
Literature	(1)	$878.44	
AA% of Surplus (TBC)		$1,155.77	
Tradition Seven (Financial donations in kind)		$175.15	
Total Income			**$3,626.26**

Less Expenses			
NZAGSO Float Reimbursed		$500.00	
Freight – Literature return		$189.60	
Printing & Stationery		$80.91	
Fundraising Expenses inc freight		$591.45	
Eftpos Hire - Literature		$224.25	
Total Expenses			**$1,586.21**
Total Nett funds			**$2,040.05**

Notes			
(1) Literature Sales			
Convention Literature Revenue		$878.44	
Less Literature Expenses			
Literature Supplied (Invoice?)	-$		
Literature Returned (Invoice?)	+$		
Literature Purchased	$0.00		

NB: Cash Tradition Seven paid direct into GSO account: $332.30

Convention Literature Officer Report

Planning and Preparation

- Focused on core literature: books, daily readers, workbooks, and selected pamphlets/bookmarks.
- Reviewed 2025 literature order and consulted with AA Convention 2024 & 2025 Literature Co-ordinators.
- Reduced the 2025 order by almost half based on previous sales, popular items, and alignment with 2026 meetings/workshops.
- Promoted the new Al-Anon online shop (al-anon.org.nz/shop) using a QR code displayed at the literature table and wall.

Sales Setup and Operations

- Payment options provided:
    - Cash
    - EFTPOS
    - Bank transfer/direct purchase via website
- Literature table located in OBHS gym beside the AA literature table.
- Two tables arranged in an 'L' shape for improved display in a limited space.
- Tables opened 30–45 minutes before meetings/workshops and during breaks.

Engagement and Displays

- Historical display provided by fellow committee member highlighting early AA, Al-Anon, and Alateen members in NZ.
- Interactive "Share Your Favourite Al-Anon Literature" NZ map encouraged members to add quotes/readings; participation was limited but well received.
- QR code display enabled easy access to online literature purchases if items sold out.

Volunteers and Support

- Volunteer roster was challenging to organise in advance; direct requests to known attendees proved more effective.
- AA volunteers assisted with heavy lifting and setup.
- EFTPOS system (managed by Treasurer) was simple and reliable; volunteers were easily trained.
- Shared recording system allowed fundraising purchases to be processed via the literature EFTPOS.

Stock and Administration

- Literature packed down Sunday at 12:30pm with volunteer support.
- All transactions reconciled; cash handed to Treasurer.
- Remaining stock checked on return home; literature returned to Auckland.

Sales Summary

- Total sales: $878.44
- EFTPOS: $666.44
- Cash: $192.00
- Bank transfer: $20.00

Top Sellers

- Service Manuals – 50% sold
- Daily Readers – 50% sold
- Lois Remembers – 100% sold
- Workbooks – 28% sold

Reflections

- Early arrival was key for setup and organisation.
- Table placement beside AA literature allowed easy browsing for members.
    - Bringing additional supplies was valuable, including:
- Lockable cash box
- Transaction templates and stationery
- Table coverings
- Approved CAL display materials
- Printed QR codes and purchasing information

Recommendations for 2027

- Request a Public Outreach budget for literature giveaways (e.g., Parent Packs).
- Provide tablecloths to cover literature between sessions.
- Include a volunteer opt-in option during online registration.
- Display a large banner/flag to clearly identify the Al-Anon literature table.
- Create a QR code for direct shop access just before the Convention (free versions expire after 7 days).
- Take photos for records and future promotion.

Overall

- A successful and rewarding weekend with strong support from both fellowships.
- Grateful to the Committee and volunteers for their assistance and service.

Convention Fundraising Officer report

Planning and Preparation

- Used the detailed 2025 fundraising report to guide planning.
- Consulted previous members; received donated handmade rugs for raffles.

- Agreed on “Historic Places/Fashion Week” merchandise:
    - Tea towels (new and original slogan designs; 10 of each printed)
    - T-shirts and caps (order forms only; no physical stock due to cost)
- Caps were unavailable on-site due to supplier delivery issues.
- Created a dedicated Gmail account for fundraising orders and records.
- Publicity team provided posters and templates, creating a consistent theme.

Fundraising Activities
- Combined roster for hospitality, literature, and fundraising; volunteers supported during breaks.
- Table located outside meeting rooms, lower visibility than main hall.
- Open during breaks and before/after daily sessions.

Raffles
- Items: Two handmade crocheted knee rugs
- Tickets: $3 each or 4 for $10
- Drawn Sunday after second meeting.

Merchandise Sales
- Post-convention orders: 5 T-shirts, 2 caps ($49 each incl. postage).

Garage Sale
- Sold leftover stock from previous conventions (teddies, keep cups, candles, pens, tea towels, etc.).
- Most items cleared; koha option used for remaining stock.

Income Summary
- Total raised: $916.90
    - Cash: $382.90
    - EFTPOS: $160.00
    - Bank transfer: $374.00
- All sales reconciled with deposits (shared EFTPOS/cash system with literature table required manual reconciliation).

Expenses
- Pre-convention stock (T-shirts and tea towels): $327.13
- Post-convention T-shirt/cap orders: $175.89 (balance to GSO after postage).

Net Funds Raised
- Total income: $982.42
- Total expenses: $327.13
- Net raised for Al-Anon Family Groups: $479.40

Remaining Stock
- Small quantity of items carried forward.

ITEM	No. REMAINING
Al-Anon Teddies	1
Keep Cups	14
Rocks	Not determined
Spray Bottles	5
Candles	4
Pens	22
Keep it Simple Coasters	3
Slogan Tea Towels	5
Historic Place/Fashion Week Tea Towels	1

Operations

- Vistaprint used for all merchandise; designs saved for future use.
- No dedicated EFTPOS: payments processed via literature table when needed.
- $100 cash float used; transactions recorded manually.

Challenges and Learnings
- Limited volunteers at times; clearer rostering and brief training would help.
- Distance from EFTPOS and shared payment system complicated reconciliation.
- Table location reduced visibility and sales opportunities.
- Travel distance for organiser required strong committee support.
- Potential to promote pre-orders and online sales in future.

What Worked Well
- Strong, cooperative committee aligned with Traditions and Concepts.
- Garage sale cleared significant old stock.
- New historic-themed merchandise was well received.

Recommendations
- Establish a dedicated Convention/fundraising bank account.
- Link to Stripe for mobile EFTPOS and clearer tracking.
- Consider an online store for pre-orders to reduce stock handling.

Alateen Convention Officer Report

- AMIAS from other areas submitted their AMIAS profile form to the Area One Committee to undergo a local approval process at Area level. There was a total of 5 profile forms.
- 2 AMIAS were rostered on for each meeting. 1 AMIAS as back-up
- Two Alateen meetings were organised for the Convention on Saturday and Sunday, both for 75 mins.

- No Alateens attended either meeting.
- Alateen registration was included on the AA Convention website by the AA Host Planning Committee.

Reflections

- Obtain funds via National Alateen Coordinator and National Treasurer for registration costs of teens.
- Highlight and publicize that **donations cover registration costs** for a set number of teens to encourage attendance.

Publicity & Signage Officer Report

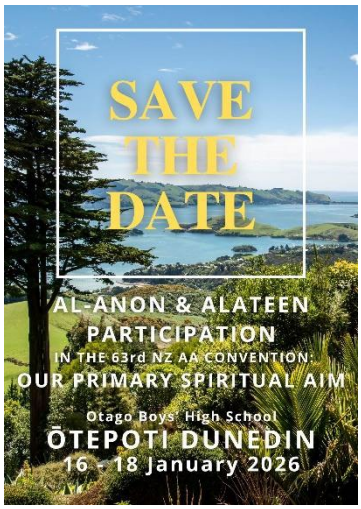
Activities

- National Promotion: Notified NZ groups via NZAGSO News, the national website, and 'save the date' flyers.
- International Outreach: Advised WSO, UK & Eire, and Australian fellowships; featured in *Austra-Link*.
- Programs: Printed A3 and A6 schedules for all Al-Anon and Alateen sessions.
- Wayfinding (Signage): Door posters displayed room timetables and historical context for the Lois W, Heather Mac, and Bob S rooms.

Recommendations

- Alateen: Highlight that donations cover registration costs for a set number of teens to encourage attendance.
- Logistics: Courier printed materials to the venue one week early to avoid delivery stress.
- Follow-up: Schedule a diary check in October or November to confirm international publicity.

Images & PDFs saved in the Convention 2026 publicity folder – examples shown below.







AFG TIMETABLE AT AA CONVENTION 2026

Otepoti Dunedin, 16th - 18th January 2026

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS (AFG) PROGRAMME - MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS OPEN TO ALL
ONLY ALATEEN MEETINGS ARE CLOSED. FOR PRE-TEENS & TEENS ONLY

TIMES	FRIDAY 16TH	LOCATION
12pm	AA & AFG Registrations Open	Red (Gymnasium)
3pm	Mihi Whakatau – official welcome	Blue (Auditorium)
3:20pm	Afternoon tea with AA	Whare Kai (Canteen)
5:30-7pm	Dinner (pre-booked meal)	OBHS Hostel
7:30-7:45pm	Join with AA: Welcome & Opening of Convention	Blue (Auditorium)
7:45-9pm	AFG mtg: Our Primary Spiritual Aim – The Heart of Al-Anon	Beige (MacLachlan)

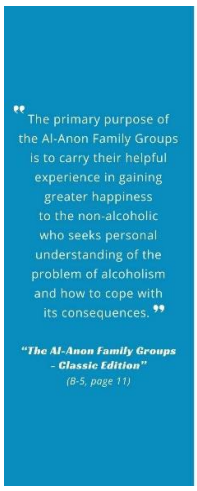
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS (AFG) PROGRAMME - MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS OPEN TO ALL
ONLY ALATEEN MEETINGS ARE CLOSED. FOR PRE-TEENS & TEENS ONLY

TIMES	SATURDAY 17TH	LOCATION
6:30am	Breakfast (pre-booked with accommodation)	OBHS Hostel
7:30am	AA & AFG Registration re-opens	Red (Gymnasium)
7:45-8:15am	AA meditation meeting	Gold (Library)
8:30-10am	AFG mtg: Integrity and Spiritual Living in Everyday Life	Beige (MacLachlan)
10-10:30am	Morning tea with AA	Whare Kai (Canteen)
10:30-11:45am	AFG mtg: Meditation and Conscious Contact with Higher Power	Beige (MacLachlan)
10:30-11:45am	AFG WORKSHOP 1 – First Things First - Guided Meditation using Step 11	Beige (MacLachlan)
10:30-11:45am	ALATEEN 1 – Alateen meetings are closed meetings (pre-teens & teens only)	Beige (MacLachlan)
11:45-1:15pm	Pre-paid Lunch	Whare Kai (Canteen)
1:15-2:30pm	AFG mtg: Anonymity and Humility in Recovery	Beige (MacLachlan)
1:15-2:30pm	AFG WORKSHOP 2 – Cooperation versus Affiliation	Beige (MacLachlan)
2:30-3pm	Afternoon tea with AA	Whare Kai (Canteen)
3-4pm	AFG mtg: Working the 12 Steps	Beige (MacLachlan)
4-4:15pm	Serenity Countdown	Beige (MacLachlan)
4:15-5:30pm	Free time	
5:30-7pm	Dinner (pre-booked meal)	OBHS Hostel
7:30-9pm	Public meeting (AA & AFG): A Vision For You	Blue (Auditorium)
9pm	Supper and social activities with AA	

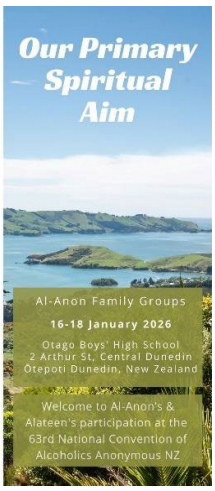
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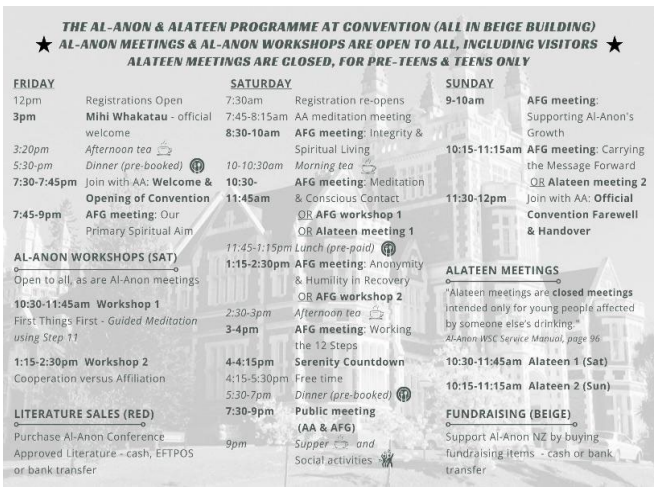
TIMES	SUNDAY 18TH	LOCATION
6:30am	Breakfast (pre-booked with accommodation)	OBHS Hostel
9-10am	AFG mtg: Supporting Al-Anon's Growth (Panel Meeting)	Beige (MacLachlan)
10:15-11:15am	AFG mtg: Carrying the Message Forward – Commitment to Spiritual Aim in Local Fellowship & Beyond	Beige (MacLachlan)
10:15-11:15am	ALATEEN 2 – Alateen meetings are closed meetings (pre-teens & teens only)	Beige (MacLachlan)
11:30-12pm	Join with AA: Official Convention Farewell & Handover	Blue (Auditorium)

LITERATURE SALES (Red / Gymnasium) AL-ANON FUNDRAISING (Beige / MacLachlan)

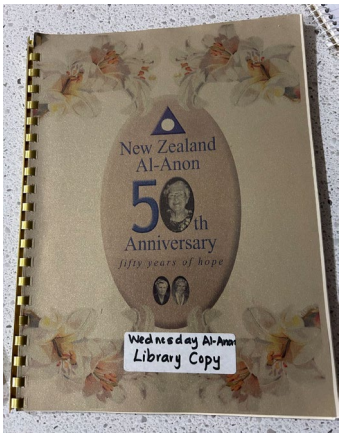












Hospitality Officer Convention Report

Registration

- AA set up the Al-Anon registration desk and provided pre-paid registration info, extra lanyards, phone, and keyboard.
- Humanitix platform used successfully; registration desk integrated with fundraising and literature rosters.
- Trialled asking attendees at registration to volunteer on rosters; effectiveness limited as many needed to check the program first.
- Registration hours: Friday 12:00–7:00 pm; Saturday 7:30 am–12:00 pm. AA took over desk at 9:00 am Saturday as registrations were nearly complete.
- Helper badges provided by Publicity Officer.
- Registration process ran smoothly; one key volunteer filled gaps in the roster.

Hospitality

- Venue visit in Sept 2025 allowed Al-Anon rooms to be grouped together; video shared with committee.

- Al-Anon history showcased: rooms named after pioneers Lois, Heather Mac, and Bob; historical info displayed outside rooms; photos displayed at mihi whakatau and meetings.
- 50th anniversary quilt and resource box supplied by GSO, including tablecloths, speaker cards, and materials for room setup.
- Additional historical materials sourced from previous Board Chair; photo of Heather Mac framed.

Room Setup

- Friday 10:00 am setup: 3 classrooms and foyer (main room: Lois' Room; workshops: Heather Mac's Room; Alateen: Bob's Room).
- Decorations: balloons, bunting, flowers, patchwork quilts. Classroom walls photographed for restoration.
- Each room equipped with:
    - Clipboard with Health & Safety info, preamble/closing, Steps/Traditions/Concepts
    - Yellow/red speaker timing cards (main room)
    - Water, cups, tissues, lollies
    - Banners (main room included Serenity Prayer in Māori)

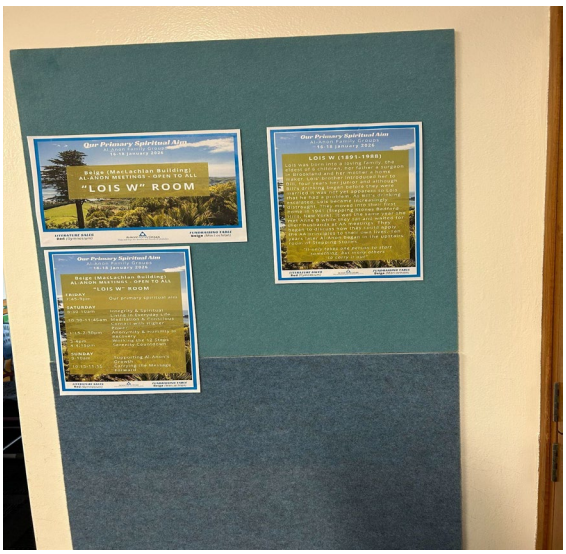
- Workshop equipment sourced; flowers provided by Dunedin members.
- Al-Anon banner ("Trapped by the Bottle") and blue balloons marked the Al-Anon area.

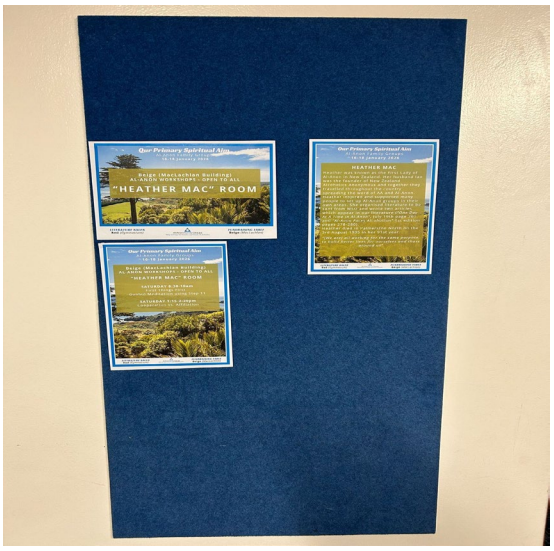
Reflection

- Serving on this committee was a privilege; teamwork was effective, and valuable experience and learning gained.
- Photos of rooms, displays, and events to follow.









In conclusion, we were fortunate to have an active, dedicated, and hardworking convention committee who worked tirelessly throughout the year and during the event to ensure a successful convention for the Al-Anon fellowship. Many members contributed to every form of service, helping to make this truly a national gathering. Our collaboration with AA was a wonderful experience and added to the memorable nature of the event for all who attended. We look forward to seeing you at the 2027 Convention in Wellington.

Yours in fellowship and service,
The 2026 Al-Anon AA Convention Committee

Additional notes and answers to questions

- There were no additional comments or questions
- There is no AA Convention in 2027

Public Outreach — Renée S

Since the June 2025 Conference, national Public Outreach has focused on two key channels:

- **Social Media Campaign:** A paid Meta (Facebook and Instagram) campaign launched in April 2025, targeting the general public, Alateen, and health professionals. In January 2026, ads reached over 120,000 unique viewers. Spend to date is approx $4,500 from the $12,000 annual Public Outreach budget.
- **Toll-Free Number (0508 425 266 / 0508 4 AL-ANON):** Alongside the website, this remains a vital first point of contact, routing callers to local members across nine Areas. Call volumes are steady at around 30–40 calls per month.

As noted in the Feb/Mar 2026 Board Newsletter, Al-Anon NZ is facing financial constraints. The Board has therefore paused the paid social media campaign while we assess return on investment—specifically

whether online engagement is translating into calls, website visits, and ultimately newcomers attending meetings.

We acknowledge the service of the outgoing national Public Outreach Chairperson and the interim volunteer, whose use of thorough documentation ensured continuity of service.

The interim coordinator seeks Conference guidance on the 2026–2027 focus, proposing:

1. Website refresh: Prioritising our website as a cost-effective outreach tool, recognising that people commonly search online for answers.
2. Survey insights: Collating and sharing findings from the 2023 NZ membership survey as an accessible "fact sheet", providing members with clear talking points and a practical outreach tool.
3. Local empowerment: Encouraging Areas and Groups to use free Conference Approved Public Outreach resources and to engage with WSO social media content. Any member can help increase awareness by sharing and liking WSO posts.
4. Data evaluation: Closer monitoring of call and website metrics to inform future decisions. While we measure results carefully, visibility remains essential – people need to know Al-Anon is there when they're ready.

We aim to establish a national Public Outreach Committee to support the incoming Chairperson and invite the fellowship to help shift from high-cost promotion back to attraction through consistent presence and strong digital resources.

Growth begins at the Group level.

Renée S
National Public Outreach Officer

Additional notes and answers to questions

- An update was provided on the Public Outreach programme and the financial challenges currently facing NZAGSO. The Committee noted that the fellowship is facing pressures in being both financially and physically self-supporting through service. Conference was therefore asked to consider whether to continue investing in paid social media advertising or shift the focus towards member-led local outreach and community engagement.
- Further information was provided about the recent social media trial, which ran for approximately nine months on Facebook and Instagram.
- While data such as advertisement impressions is available, there is currently limited information on the campaign's overall effectiveness. It is not yet possible to determine how many people visited the website, contacted Al-Anon, or attended meetings as a direct result of the campaign. Membership figures also remain difficult to measure accurately, as many members attend multiple meetings and may be counted more than once.
- If Conference decides not to continue the national social media campaign, the Committee will encourage Areas with an existing social media presence to share and promote World Service Office (WSO) content. Members can also support Public Outreach by sharing and engaging with WSO social media posts.
- In response to a question about reducing the Public Outreach budget, it was explained that the Committee would first need to decide whether to continue paid social media advertising. The remaining budget could then be allocated to priorities such as website development and other

outreach initiatives. It was also noted that new ideas can still be recommended to the Board during the year, rather than waiting until the next Conference.
- Delegates were advised that they would have an opportunity during Conference to discuss the budget options before a final decision was made.

Board Road Trip — Helen A

Road Trip Committee Report 2025

The 2nd NZAGSB Road Trip was held in Area Four in Hastings on Saturday 29th November 2025.
A committee of five members from three Areas organised the event in about 13 weeks with tenacity and hard work. It was a warm, inclusive and educational event that, for some, was life changing. There were 21 attendees from across the motu including six board members.

Committee chair reflections

The Committee met fortnightly online. Detailed notes and minutes from Road Trip 2024's Committee were invaluable for guidance as we planned a lot of details, from the venue and catering through to the run sheet and flyers. Subsequent meetings involved action step reviews, setting new action steps and, where relevant, brainstorming challenges. All of the minutes and agendas have been recorded and stored for future reference.

The Committee was engaged and efficient. Ideally, we would have had another two members to share the work – there was a lot to do in a short time frame. For example, a position to solely take the meeting notes and prepare the agenda would make things run more smoothly. Suggested Road Trip Committee structure for future events is six committee members (plus sub committees / helpers as shown below) plus one ex officio board member if possible:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Venue (facilitator, MC, decorations) with 3+ helpers
- Hospitality (catering, transport) with 3/4+ helpers
- Reception (flyer, marketing, bookings, ice breaker games, feedback) with 3+ helpers

Feedback from attendees was generally very positive – members enjoyed the event's content, the structure, engaging with board members ('de-mystifying the board') and the fellowship.

In our review meeting post event, the 2025 Committee felt that if a 2026 event is to go ahead in Area One, planning should start as early in 2026 as possible to establish the Committee, date and venue.

Treasurer

- Committee members sent receipts to the Road Trip's treasurer who liaised with the national Treasurer.
- One exception was for the lunch order for which the catering team lead liaised directly with the national Treasurer, keeping the Road Trip's Treasurer informed.

Venue (facilitator, MC, decorations) with 3+ helpers.

- The venue was spacious, clean and welcoming with excellent facilities (parking, bathrooms, kitchen).
- Despite great preparation the internet connection failed on the day, and the beautiful weather meant the venue got very warm!
- Planning ahead for decorations as well as a set up and pack down team is essential.

Hospitality (catering, transport) with 3/4+ helpers

Catering

- Two members worked together and met beforehand to discuss.
- A small shop from the supermarket was made the day before.
- Ordering and prepaying for Subway was made the week before and collected on the morning of the event. The eatery caters well for vegetarians and gluten free.
- We had great local and visiting help in the kitchen.
- Costs were quickly reimbursed.
- A visit to the venue beforehand was very useful to see what was required.

Transport

- A great idea to build fellowship and decrease costs was to collect board members from the airport, take them to their accommodation, to the venue on the day, and then on to the airport for their return flights.
- To maintain good enough communication a group chat is recommended as well as making sure the transport team has all relevant people's phone numbers.
- Flight delays, phone numbers, and where people are waiting could all be communicated in that chat.

Reception (marketing, bookings, ice breaker games, feedback) with 3+ helpers

- This is a multi-faceted role – there is plenty to consider and pre-plan.
- Excellent flyers in short and long form were created – the long form included the agenda. These were shared through the communication structure. It would have been good to get these circulating 3 months or more ahead of the event.
- A registration form was set up (link included on flyers) to gather people's information including whether they would be willing to do service on the day.
- Name badges and a goodie bag (made up of items left over from previous Al-Anon fundraising activities) were provided at reception on the day, along with ice breaker games which created connection and were really good fun.
- Feedback forms were handed out and accessible online through a QR code. This information was collated after the event and provided valuable information.

This event was a positive experience for committee and attendees alike, providing an opportunity for fellowship and fun as well as learning and spiritual growth.

Yours in Service, Committee Chair on behalf of the Road Trip 2025 Committee

Additional notes and answers to questions

- There were no further comments or questions

General Service Office 2025/26 Annual Report

This reporting period has been one of steady continuity, with a strong reliance on volunteer support and a focus on maintaining core services while progressing key improvements.

Volunteer Involvement

Volunteers continue to sustain essential office functions, including literature order fulfilment, stock management, and administrative support. During this period, the Office has been largely operationally supported by volunteers, particularly while the Office Manager is on extended leave. We are grateful for this commitment, while also recognising the need to strengthen and broaden our volunteer base to mitigate risk.

The 2025 Volunteer Lunch provided an opportunity to acknowledge service; however, it is noted that remote volunteers were not included, and Board and EBC members were not notified until the night before. This was disappointing and has highlighted the need for more inclusive and coordinated recognition practices moving forward.

We warmly encourage members across the fellowship to consider supporting the GSO either remotely or in person, as we continue to expand flexible service opportunities.

Office Management

With the Office Manager currently on leave, day-to-day operations have been maintained through dedicated volunteer support. This has ensured continuity of service, though it reinforces the importance of sustainable resourcing.

Collaboration with the General Secretary and other remote volunteers continues where required, with a focus on maintaining essential functions and progressing priority tasks.

Literature and Supply

Literature supply and distribution have remained stable. Improvements to import processes continue to minimise delays, though exchange rate pressures persist. Stock levels are being actively monitored, with volunteer support enabling regular stocktakes.

Groups and Fellowship

Group numbers remain relatively stable, with a continued mix of in-person and online meetings supporting accessibility. Ongoing updates to group information remain a priority.

- 66 x Al-Anon groups (this includes five groups registered as an ‘Al-Anon Groups with an Electronic Meeting Location’)
- Four x Alateen groups
- Also, five of the Al-Anon groups hold one or two additional meetings (but have only one GR). This means there are a total of 71 Al-Anon meetings (including Electronic) around NZ, plus the four Alateen.

Communications and Systems

There has been a continued shift toward digital communication, reducing reliance on printed mailouts.

The website is currently being refreshed and updated, with improvements (eg: online contribution button) aimed at enhancing usability, access to information, and overall member experience.

Financial Overview

The organisation remains in a stable financial position, with careful management of costs and continued monitoring of income from literature sales and contributions.

Looking Ahead

Key priorities for the coming period include:

- Strengthening *volunteer recruitment and support*, both remotely and in-office
- Improving *communication, accountability and inclusion* across all service roles
- Progressing *website updates and digital tools*
- Ensuring continuity of operations during staff leave

Conclusion

This period has demonstrated the resilience and adaptability of NZAGSO, particularly through the generosity and commitment of our volunteers. To sustain and grow this work, *we need more members to step into service*. Whether remotely or in person, every contribution helps ensure that Al-Anon remains accessible to those who need it.

Thank you for your continued support and service.

Sally-ann M
General Secretary

Additional notes and answers to questions

- There were no additional comments or questions

WORKSHOP 6: Spiritual Governance

Sally-ann M & Helen J

The presenters explained that the main resource for this workshop was the **Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual**, particularly **Concept 12** and the **General Warranties.** They intentionally chose not to use PowerPoint slides so the session could be discussion-based. They also emphasised that Concept 12 is not a set of rules, but a series of spiritual safeguards that help protect Al-Anon.

To start, it was emphasised that this was not a workshop about control, hierarchy, or corporate power; instead, it was about **spiritual governance.**

- spiritual leadership
- trusted service
- humility in action
- healthy process
- unity without control

- and how we protect Al-Anon from ego, fear, and authority misuse.

What is governance?

Governance in Al-Anon is about stewardship, not power. Authority is always delegated, spiritual and accountable.

The analogy of the Lemon Tree was given (see below)

The Lemon·Tree

When we first join Al-Anon Family Groups, we thirst for support and understanding. We're welcomed with a refreshing glass of lemonade, symbolizing the help we receive in 12 step recovery. This lemonade is free, delicious and plentiful. Over time, we notice a nearby lemon tree, planted and nurtured by those before us. They ensured its continued health and growth with care and effort. Those in service beyond the Group temporarily care for the tree, ensuring its ongoing vitality. With the understanding that the lemons aren't theirs and the tree isn't theirs; they simply nurture the lemon tree to ensure the continued survival of the tree.



If you're a steward, you:

- Keep the soil healthy
- Trim diseased, damaged or dead branches
- Protect it from pests
- Nourish it with manure
- Don't neglect it
- Don't cut it down for convenience

Stewardship is vital for the health of the lemon tree, which symbolizes our spiritual principles: unity, recovery, service, safety, trust, mutual respect, and spiritual growth. Those in service must actively maintain the tree, pruning, watering, and feeding it, rather than being passive placeholders. This responsibility of care ensures AFG's longevity and strength, preserving its primary spiritual aim into the future.

-Sally-ann M

Warranty ONE: "that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle"

- fear-based scarcity harms service
- reckless spending harms service
- reserves protect continuity
- money is a spiritual responsibility

Warranty TWO: "that no Conference member shall be placed in unqualified authority over other members"

No one person:

- owns Al-Anon
- speaks with absolute authority
- outranks spiritual principles or process

We:

- have a personal responsibility to participate in our own recovery
- have access to the facts and guidelines in our CAL (not in the loudest voice or the strongest opinions)
- can use our critical thinking and discernment (and our service sponsor)

Healthy governance allows:

- disagreement
- discussion
- listening
- changed minds

Healthy governance does not allow:

- manipulation
- rushing
- dominance
- emotional pressure

Warrant THREE: "that all decisions be reached by discussion, vote and whenever possible by unanimity"

Here, the workshop became interactive with a fun role play about what fruit to choose when you are in a group of three and everyone has different likes and dislikes!

Warranty FOUR: "that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy"

- gossip
- emotional manipulation
- attempted bias activation
- personal grievance disguised as governance concern

Key takeaway: At the core of spiritual governance is a refusal to *weaponise* people's private information.

Warranty FIVE: "that though the Conference serves Al-Anon it shall never perform any act of government…"

Prestige isn't helpful. It is crucial to remember we are trusted servants in a fellowship of equals. Personal responsibility removes any need for 'rule enforcers'.

Many members mistakenly believe:

- the Board is "head office"
- trusted servants are "the bosses"

- governance means authority over groups

But Al-Anon is not governed in that way.

Key takeaway: The Board serves the fellowship. The fellowship does not serve the Board.

As a closing reflection, Conference members were asked the following questions:

- Where do I confuse service with control?
- Where do I resist accountability?
- Where do I need greater trust in process?
- What does spiritual leadership look like for me now?

DISCUSSION

To clarify the difference between Governance and Management, an analogy of a ship was used:

  - Governance sets the direction, protects the future, and keeps the organisation on course.
  - Management looks after the day-to-day operation.

Discussion highlighted that an ample reserve is not simply money set aside, but a resource to be used wisely when needed to support Al-Anon's purpose. Members also reflected on how fear around money can influence spiritual decision-making, and the importance of balancing financial prudence with faith.

The discussion reinforced that trusted servants should be respected, while recognising that no one person has absolute authority. No one owns Al-Anon, and everyone shares responsibility for their own recovery and service.

Discussion also focused on avoiding gossip and handling private information with care. Spiritual governance encourages honesty, respectful communication, and following appropriate processes rather than personal criticism.

RBM Nomination

Rose S

There were no RBM nominations for this year. So, instead, during this section in the Conference agenda, Conference members completed a fun *RBM research and questions* activity.

Regional Board Member - RBM research and questions

In 1966 at the World Service Conference (WSC), the Board chair announced they were to have two out of town trustees, i.e. Trustees from outside NYC. In 1967, the WSC discussed having regional representation on the Board elected by the Delegates at Conference. 1968 WSC begins a three year trial of a cascading Regional Trustee (RT) selection process allowing time to expand geographical scope and financial assessment. 1969 WSC has the first RT and Alt RT nominees. 1973 WSC revises and votes to continue the RT Experimental Plan for another three years.
Many Voices, One Journey Al-Anon Family Groups 2011 Pgs 130, 139, 142, 149, 174

1. When did Aotearoa New Zealand first have RBM? 1980

What year was this structure adopted? 1982

See page 128 *NZ Al-Anon Alateen Service Handbook*

2. How long after finishing as an Area Delegate can that fellow move towards the RBM role?
See page 106
After one year - this is being trialled as a suggestion not a requirement (trial end 2029)

3. Where is the RBM profile form stored to download and fill in?
AFG website→Members→Board profile forms

4. After filling in the profile form what is the process?
1. Be nominated by the groups in the Area

2. Provide a completed profile form to the Area for distribution and receive two-thirds majority vote of Group Representatives at Area Assembly

3. Area Delegate send nominee form to General Secretary 2 weeks before Conference

4. RBM Nominating Committee at Conference votes

See page 106-7

5. Do RBM contenders have to have been Area Delegate? If not, what does the member require?
See page 106
No, do not have to have been Area Delegate.
At least 5 years continuous members of AFG, reside within the Region, have special skills and experience e.g. management, finance, business, AFG service.

6. Does the RBM represent a region or do they bring an overall viewpoint from the membership within the Region, concerned with the fellowship as a whole?
See page 105
They bring an overall viewpoint from the membership within the Region and are concerned with the fellowship as a whole.

7. RBM service to its region is to do what?
Page 105-106
Aid in communication and understanding of service related matters.

8. Must an RBM attend Area Assemblies?
This is not specified.

9. If the RBM attends an Assembly, what is their role there? See page 84
Invited to speak to any matter of national significance not covered by the Area Delegate's report or to offer suggestions and encouragement to the Area.

10. What national roles can the RBM carry out? See page 20, 21, 100, 113
Receives invitations from AA via our GSO to participate in AA Assemblies.
Is appointed as the Convention Committee Chairperson.

11. If you were RBM, how would you make it fun, how would you make it your own?

NZASC 2026-7 Board roles and Vacancies

Liz A

Discussion points:

- An overview of the current Board appointments and vacancies was presented.
- Several key Board and service positions remain vacant, including Regional Board Members, Committee Chairs and other service roles. The Board is currently only at 42% capacity. The Board encouraged members to consider serving where they are able and highlighted the importance of continuing to build a sustainable pool of trusted servants.
- An update was provided on planning for the 2028 AA Convention, noting that there is currently no Convention Chairperson or Select Committee. Rather than asking existing Board members to take on additional responsibilities and risk burnout, the Board has decided to leave vacant positions unfilled until suitable members are available.
- The Board is also considering introducing minimum eligibility requirements for some roles, such as previous experience as a Regional Board Member or Area Chairperson, while encouraging local members to serve on committees.
- It was confirmed that the Board is not accepting additional invitations or commitments while these key vacancies remain.
- In response to a question about whether non-Board members can take on service positions, it was confirmed that they can. This is one of the approaches being considered to help fill vacant roles, and potential members may be personally invited ("shoulder tapped") to consider serving.
- Members were also encouraged to familiarise themselves with the relevant information in the Service Handbook before the following day's discussions.
- Please see page 82 for the list of Board Nominees (nominated for the next 12 months).

Outgoing Sharing

Diane W Area One Delegate

Thank you for the opportunity to share my recovery journey during my time as the Area One Delegate.

I would describe my journey up until the time of taking on the Delegate role as being a “Fringe Dweller”. My service consisted of serving within the group, as Alternate GR for a period of time and Area Chair for 6 months. I had spent more than half my life in Al-Anon and was always “too busy” to do service work beyond my group. This translates into being afraid I wouldn’t do a good job, or a great job or even a perfect job. Service did not seem “cool” to me and frankly I had more exciting things to do in my weekend. I always had a sponsor, but we worked on what was happening week by week. I was treading water, sometimes going under, bobbing back up, but not really going anywhere. No one ever asked me to be their sponsor and I wondered why.

Then God had his way of bringing me to my knees. My husband had a serious head operation, and I had a crash at work. At this time, I knew I needed to take a close look at where I was going and what I wanted

to do with my life. The Area Delegate role became vacant, I changed my sponsor, started some real Steps work and the Area voted me in. Funnily enough I became a sponsor to two sponsees who are both now involved in service work beyond their group.

How have I found the Delegate role? Uncomfortable. Highly inconvenient. I discovered I had a real problem asking for help. I should know what to do. I felt stupid and ashamed because I couldn't do it on my own. Working with the Board and other Delegates challenged me to think about the way I had always done things. My control, impatience, ego, judgement of others all came to the fore.

However, the gifts I received revealed I don't know as much anymore. God's gifts were staring at me in the face. I got a service sponsor as well as a personal sponsor. I worked with amazing people who showed me different ways of working together, resolving issues in a democratic and thoughtful way and staying united.

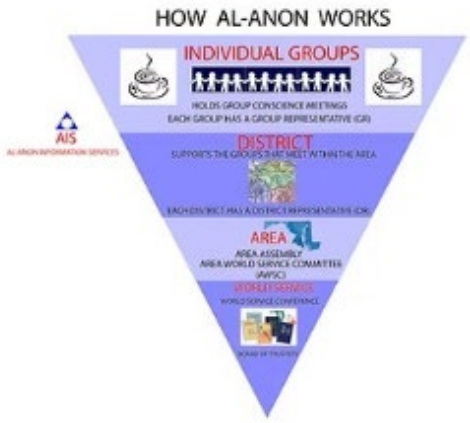
For me serving beyond the group is like going through a fire door. I can never go back. The door is shut. I want my recovery, so I need to serve. The next stage of my journey will be working at Area level in some role, if I am voted in.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your patience, support and the pearls of wisdom you have all bestowed on me. Special thanks to Tracey who was my service sponsor for two years.

Chris W Area Nine Delegate

As I come to the end of my three-year term as the Area Nine Delegate and my 9th Conference attended, I've been reflecting on what this journey has meant to me. Serving as Delegate has been one of the greatest privileges of my recovery — carrying the voice and conscience of my Area to the New Zealand General Service Conference has been both humbling and inspiring.
I want to thank the groups, the GRs, and every member who trusted me with this responsibility. I arrived with willingness; I leave with gratitude, humility, and a deeper understanding of what service truly looks like. I've learned more than I ever expected — about unity, about patience, and yes, about the importance of reading the Conference Brochure *before,* the night before Conference.
I also want to acknowledge my six years as a volunteer Conference host. Those years taught me the beauty of quiet, behind-the-scenes service — the kind that happens one welcome, one conversation, one carafe of water at a time. Hosting gave me a front-row seat to the courage and connection in our fellowship. It also gave me more than a few moments of "Is the data recorder on?" and "You want what solved and when?" But every scramble, every laugh, every shared moment reminded me why I love this Service.
To my fellow trusted servants: thank you for your guidance, your patience, your humour, your "Experience, Strength and Hope", or simply tolerating me during this journey. You helped me find my voice, and you reminded me again and again that none of us does this alone, even when life throws an emotional curve ball just before Conference.
Thank you again you've shaped me in ways I'll carry forward long after this role is over.
Although my term is ending, my commitment to service is not (and I could be back for a second term, you have been warned). I'm excited for what comes next, and I'll continue walking this path with open hands, an open heart, and deep appreciation for the journey we've shared.
Thank you for allowing me to serve. I'm grateful for every moment of this journey.
Just a last note of an early service lesson.

My first lesson of this amazing service structure of NZ Al-Anon General Service Conference was my first Conference as Conference host with under a year in Al-Anon.
Welcoming the then acting board chair and carrying his bag upstairs (before the lift installation at the friary) and commenting of the awe of meeting him. He simply explained that he was lower in the "food chain" as Board Chair. The upside-down triangle in action "Taa Daa".



Tina M Board Treasurer

Thank you to the Conference for offering the time to let me give an outgoing share. I'm Tina and I'm a 95% of the time grateful member of Al-Anon Family Groups. The other 5% of the time I'm going to blame on character defects. Half of me feels like I've been on the board for too long and the other half feels like it hasn't been long enough! Maybe it's been the perfect amount of time.

Being the treasurer honestly hasn't been much of a step outside of my comfort zone in terms of tasks to complete, but being on the board has been a big learning curve for me in both my recovery and my professional development.

I came into Al-Anon around 10 years ago as a very sad case and very special victim. I came to the meeting tell my story and share my secrets that had been so diligently hidden behind a façade of 'normal'. I was expecting shock and horror from the other people at the meeting and then after that, they, as professionals, would tell me what I needed to do with my life and how I was going to get the addict to listen to me and live how I wanted them to live.
Not long after starting meetings, my life changed greatly as the relationship with my initial qualifier ended and I moved back to Auckland. This could have been the end of my Al-Anon journey. But no, my higher power had a plan for me!

I tried out some meetings in Auckland and then decided that I didn't need to go to meetings anymore because the addict was gone – so that means all my problems went away too right?
I will be forever grateful that I got at least a little bit of Al-Anon wisdom in me before my life went through a big dramatic change like it did as I shudder to think how unbearable I would be for both myself and others if this had not occurred! So back I went to try another meeting and this time I found one that felt right for me and this has been my home group ever since!

My journey to service was like I'm sure many people can relate, was one of being 'voluntold'. The only role I felt comfortable agreeing to was of course group treasurer! As many others in service have shared before me, service kept me coming to the meeting regularly as I took my role pretty seriously as of course I should, but was never curious to find out the greater structure of Al-Anon and what happened at all the levels below the group! We sent some of our funds to Area and GSO but I had no curiosity as to what those were or why they needed money… how times have changed!

What piqued my curiosity in to how Al-Anon operates in NZ was having the GSO office manager at the time as a member of my home group and also having the ESH of long time members sharing knowledge in meetings. I started asking questions about where our money went and this started my journey in to learning more about our service structure in NZ.

I was able to deepen my knowledge by eventually reluctantly becoming the Group Representative and discovering the joys of belonging and reporting to an Area! I met many new Al-Anon friends got introduced to 'real life big-wig' board members who would attend assemblies as members. I felt intimidated by their service experience and assumed they were all judging our assemblies and reporting back how useless our groups were! I think at this point I still had no idea about the upside-down triangle and never considered that my input as a newbie to service could be just as important as those who had served for a long time.

My journey to board service started at an Area recovery weekend. One of the attendees who was a selected committee chair, asked me if I wanted to join this thing called an executive budget committee. My knowledge of the structure and the handbook at this stage was non-existent. However, I was intrigued by the word 'budget' so decided to give it a try, certain that I would be kicked out for my lack of knowledge! Obviously, I was not or I wouldn't be here today! It was another huge learning curve for me to join a selected committee and then eventually the board as the treasurer, but it's been a journey I have been blessed to be on.

I have learnt so many things and changed so much as person from my time on the board. I started off thinking of the role as very 'task based' and again, did not feel I had anything to offer at the board table when we gathered there each quarter. Slowly I put my program in to practice as was encouraged by other board members to speak up and that my voice mattered. Through seeing service in action and working with many amazing people, I have grown in both confidence and knowledge of Al-Anon family groups in New Zealand and the world and am keen to share this knowledge through further service. I need service to keep me in Al-Anon as my default settings tell me I'm fine without it and slowly the dis-ease creeps back in!

The people I have served alongside are what makes doing service so special for me. Each one has taught me so much about using the program in every area of my life and even those personalities I originally found difficult or didn't gel with have modelled great ideas and principles to me once I let down my barriers and pre-conceptions. Only in a fellowship such as this that could happen for me. Gifts of service: I have learned how to be wrong, I have learned that not getting my way is OK. I have learned to shut my mouth and listen.

So, I hope to keep seeing all these amazing people at meetings and Al-Anon gatherings and I hope to keep meeting more. I also hope that I may have attracted some people to service and that somewhere we have a budding board treasurer in the works that wants to buddy up with me.

Liz A Board Chair

Kia Ora, I'm Liz and I am a very grateful member of Al-Anon Family groups. I am the outgoing Board Chairperson. My Home group is Principles about personalities, Thursday 7am in Wellington city. As my term on the Board closes, I feel hopeful for Al-Anon Family Groups in New Zealand. It's been a journey for sure! Through step work and a lot of service I have found a level of confidence I hadn't seen since I was a small child. I've found my voice and have also learned when not to use it. Though that is still a work in progress...

At my first Area Assembly I watched as this woman chaired the meeting. She had confidence and such mana, and I was captivated by her calmness. She led the assembly discussion through a conflict that made my heart flutter, with such grace, and I recall telling myself, "Oh that was horrific and you could never do that." I could barely share in my home group at that stage, but I was intrigued by this curious feeling inside me (I now know as God nudging me) and I wanted what she had. I didn't want to do what she did yet, though. But I slowly started to listen to that exciting and scary nudge as it came up, usually from others who saw something in me that I had not seen yet.

And that is how my service journey has always been – someone else saying "hey, you can do this", or "this is what your role leads to next". It's never been me thinking I could do that no sweat! In fact, my outside-the-rooms job is about 50% financial and I actively avoided doing any treasurer roles for the first 19 years in Al-Anon, then you lot asked me to be the National Treasurer. So, I have learned to be "comfortable being uncomfortable" in Service and that has proven to be possibly the most valuable lesson I have taken to date.

I was lucky to be initiated into service by my first sponsor who said at Step Twelve, "let's talk about what service you are going to do." It wasn't optional. And I think I have held a role at Group, Area, or National levels ever since. If I thought steps 4 and 9 were challenging back then, I had no idea what was in store for me next.
I found myself in time being on the Area committee, and then was volun-told to stand for Area Chair. I talked to my sponsor who reminded me to read the job description and keep it simple. Simple! OMG no way... but I prayed, turned up and did my best, voice shaking and all the voices in my head talking at once, and boy did I grow in that role. I recalled at the end of that role just casually thinking - "oh hey, you did what that person you admired did." So, when I was asked to stand as the Delegate, I had begun to trust that God and I could do what the job description asked.
I loved my first Conference, highlights of seeing the Service Structure in action, meeting the other Delegates, sharing tips and challenges, and then there was the Board members. I could never do what they did...

While being Delegate, I had learned the value of asking for a service Sponsor. They weren't very common back then. I had been on the Literature Selected committee while being Delegate and it was my favourite job so far! I had to know my handbook inside and out when I was Area Chair, and when my Service Sponsor said - "there's a role on the Board, Literature Committee Chairperson," I thought I could never... but I just said yes. I had never done Service alone, I had sponsors, past chairs, members and mates, but also God.

3 weeks before I attended my first Board meeting, my adult daughter lost her baby at 38 weeks and I was utterly broken. Because I had a commitment to attend, I needed to suit up and show up. I learned I can do something for 12 hours that would appall me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

I was Literature Chair for a while and then asked by the Board to be the Treasurer. They saw in me some skills I hadn't realised I had, even though I had been running my business for decades. I was really upset about that. I was comfortable being in Literature, I liked it and I was beginning to know what I was doing! LOLS. I said yes again, starting to believe that if these other Board Members thought I could do it, then maybe I could. The yes was conditional at that stage too; my service was still all about me and what I thought I could do, and what I wanted to serve as. And boy did I grow!

I was also asked to stand as IAGSM 1 about then, and because I had seen someone I loved doing that role, and their challenges and joy and encouragement in doing it, I thought perhaps I could say yes to that too. And it was about then that I began to hear the messages God had been telling me all along. You can actually do it. Just say yes and ask for help, pray, meditate, reason it out, keep an open mind, you're learning, you're growing, it's OK to make mistakes. And my Service began to be about me serving the fellowship, not serving Liz's ego, and boy did I grow! (I know I am starting to sound like a kids' storybook).

I had a couple profound learnings from my time as an IAGSM Delegate. My first helped to remove my defect of my "Us and Them mentality", seeing all these people who I had thought were terribly important people come together and do the business of Al-Anon. They were just volunteers like you and me, with their own shaky voices and defects, and I saw that they were just humans too. That realisation instantly removed a portion of my own self-importance on the spot, which allowed me to be present in the moment.

At the second IAGSM meeting 2 years later, I experienced some amazing meeting chairing. No surprises, in my step work I had been working on my communication. They spoke slowly and clearly, and they were simply facilitating the conversation. They encouraged the group to discuss the topic and didn't lead it; they had no opinion, they didn't sway it, they just held the group to time and reminded us of the question we were trying to answer. It was another instant realisation for me that in my experience up until that moment in my chairing, my ego was present. I did want an outcome, I do have an opinion and here it is...

Those experiences have changed my life inside and outside of the rooms profoundly. Suddenly the world was not all about me! And the pressure to be good enough came off. I had been handing my will to God every day, except the part where I think he is not quite powerful enough to manage removing my ego. I encourage you all to do that kind of service and I'd love to hear all about your own experiences.

The changes happen in me, and they become part of me and visible from the outside. At the 2nd IAGSM, 4 of my fellow delegates came to me at separate times to ask me what had changed, and to tell me that I looked and sounded completely different from the last meeting. It took God sending that message to me 4 times for me to hear it and accept it!!

Being your Board Chair has been incredibly humbling this past year. I have been able to use my new skills and chair differently, so thank you for trusting me. I look forward to what is next for me in service, but for now it is time to take a break. Though I have reminded my fellows and my sponsees, I am not going anywhere. I owe the life I have today to the lessons, both beautiful and hard, that I have learned in these rooms, and I am deeply grateful.

Louren P Area Two Delegate

Good luck and farewell…

I'd like to take a moment's silence to think of those who are absent from our Conference, our Al-Anon Family group members and those who may still suffer from the effects of alcoholism in their lives.

My Al-Anon Family Group members, this will be the last time I speak to you here at Conference 2026 as the Area Two Delegate. Do I have a replacement, not at this point, but I am always hopeful my HP and along with my future replacement's HP will give them a nudge and come forward. My HP nudged me on the shoulder and said quietly in my ear…'raise your hand' when the Area Two Chair asked if there were any Delegate nominations. To be honest, my initial thoughts were 'how hard can this Delegate role be?'

With that mindset, after I was welcomed into the role, I set about getting stuck in. I had no direction at that stage. I didn't even have the Handbook. I had no service sponsor: whoever/whatever that was/is! I had a sponsor at least, and I like to plan. Armed with a little bit of know how - not Al-Anon know how, & organisational skill, I rubbed my hands together thinking the Fellowship members of Area Two would flock to me and 'together we can do what we cannot do alone'!

The reality of the 'job' while having my own personal skills and showing enthusiasm for my Area; members did not readily appear to help. The 'together' had been fragmented, in many ways diluted and lost. What I mean, understanding what the purpose of Al-Anon is and what the structure of NZAFG looks like.

It is here at Conference I have learned about the legacy of our fellowship and the importance of understanding the structure of NZAFG. What our guiding documents are, The Handbook and WSO Manual and how useful they are to all members. Listening alongside my fellow Delegates, General Service Board members, hosts and scribes. Participating in AA Assemblies with Al-Anon participation, AA Conventions. Gaining knowledge about my role so I can better support my Area in our endeavours. And to participate fully as their representative at this Conference. My mind has been opened to the complex nature of our organisation and to the frailties and humanness of our fellowship members.

Through service my recovery has grown…and I am still growing every day. I wish to acknowledge my Area Committee for their support and willingness to join me in a combined journey to unify our Area in the NZAFG service. With the help and support of my Area committee, we have focused on educating and empowering our Groups members in their recovery and service journey.

Thank you to previous Area 1 Delegate Lucy for imparting her Experience Strength and Hope (ESH) during my very first AA Assembly with Al-Anon participation. She was an important contact for me and kept me on track. Thank you to my Fellow Delegates, our conversations over the last 3 years have helped deepen my understanding of my role and there is so much more learning to come. Let's keep in touch regularly.

To the NZAGSB members: Thank you for sharing your ESH, years of knowledge and approach to our spiritual program. Although I have not tapped into you regularly or connected into your knowledge base enough, I hope to do so in the coming days, weeks and years.

Arohanui

LIS Louren P

SUNDAY

As with other days, an optional meditation and sharing meeting took place.

The morning was spent completing domestic duties and carrying out final voting for voting Conference attendees (all Area Delegates plus the four Board members chosen by ballot, Liz A, Helen J, Rose S and Renée) about the Conference Goal and the theme for Conference 2027.

Themes, Goals and Selected Committees

NZASC Theme 2027 - *Investing in Each Other to Preserve our Legacy*

NZASC Service Goal for July 2026-2027

NZASC Goal 2026/2027 - *Love, Laugh and Grow Together*

This is the Goal that Delegates and Board Members will take from the 2026 General Service Conference as a guide for service until the next Conference.

Al-Anon Selected Committees

Selected committees take care of various elements of our program. The term for a committee member begins 1st September and continues until 31st August the following year. As noted earlier, each Delegate is **requested** to be a member of a Selected Committee (choose one from the list below):

- Alateen Committee
- Conference Committee
- Convention Committee
- Executive Budget Committee
- Literature Committee
- Public Outreach Committee

All Area Delegates chose a first and second choice membership on Selected Committees. The term begins 1 September running though until 31st August of the following year.

2026 Conference Area Delegate Selected Committee selections (bracketed number indicates first and second preferences)

<u>Alateen</u>
Di D (1)
Louren (1)

<u>Public Outreach</u>
Diane W (1)
Victoria (1)
Louren (2)

<u>Conference</u>
Esther-Maria (1)

Diane W (2)

Christina (2)

Convention 2028
Christina (1)
Anna (1)
Di D (2)

Literature
Chris W (1 + 2)
Esther-Maria (2)

Executive Budget
Victoria (2)
Anna (2)

Traditional approval of Board Members

Liz A, Tina M & Rose S

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 the 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	Helen J
Alt Board Chair	Renée S
General Secretary	Sally-ann M
Treasurer	VACANT (Tina M, non board)
Executive Budget Chair	VACANT
Northern Regional Board Member	VACANT
Central Regional Board Member	VACANT
Southern Regional Board Member	VACANT
AA Convention Chair	VACANT
Alateen Chair	VACANT
Archivist	VACANT
Conference Chair	Rose S
Literature Chair	VACANT
Public Outreach Chair	Renée S
IAGSM Delegate Yr 1	Helen J

IASGSM Delegate Yr 2	Sally-ann M
Website Coordinator	VACANT
WSC Representative	Sally-ann M

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

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 participants to make general comments. Then the following motion took place, agreed upon by written ballot and with scrutineers counting the votes.

Motion 3: *The Board Chair seeks approval to have a single vote by written ballot to approve all Board nominees.* CARRIED

Motion 4: *That the NZASC give traditional approval of the Board Member nominations presented for the NZ Al-Anon General Service Board.* CARRIED

Group photo

Attendees slipped outside to have a group photograph taken then had a cuppa and snack. People had begun organising transport to the airport.

Unfinished Business

Rose S

FY27 Budget approval

The National Treasurer collated all suggestions from Saturday's discussion and reasoned it out regarding what could practically be implemented vis-à-vis the suggestions:

1. Board member expenses reduced by holding one online Board meeting a year
2. No WSO donation
3. Public Outreach spend preference chosen by voting Conference attendees is $2000
4. No Board Road trip

DISCUSSION

Q. We expect personal donations over the next year. Do we expect more that could lower the loss?

A. No they are not budgeted and personal donations make up to 20% of our actuals, but last year we didn't make the Budget even with personal donations.

Q. What's the deficit?

A. $31,225

Q. Is it possible that the Conference Committee decides to run a three-day Conference rather than a four day Conference even if the four-day Conference has been voted on already? i.e. are we bound by that decision?

A. In terms of the 2027 Conference, the next Budget will include the 2027 Conference. The Treasurer hopes it would take into account the current financial situation PLUS we always pay the invoice after the Conference so a three-day Conference could be decided on.

Motion 5 *That the NZAGSO 2026/2027 annual budget be accepted.* CARRIED

Changes to RBM nomination process:

In order to make RBM nominations process easier and more inclusive, the following motions were carried. Motions and a three year trial to adjust the Regional Board Member guidelines were brought from the floor to the Conference. Motion 7 and 8 were worked through cooperatively by the Conference attendees to create clarity; Motion 9 being the tidy expression of sentiment and purpose. Grace, unity and understanding were expressed in an active way by all participants.

Motion 6
That the date for the RBM nominations deadline to GSO be changed to TWO WEEKS before Conference. CARRIED

Motion 7
That the one year stand-down period for former delegates moving into RBM roles be a suggestion rather than a requirement. FAILED

Motion 8
That the NZASC trial for a 3 year period a 1 year stand-down period for former Delegates moving into RBM roles be a suggestion rather than a requirement. FAILED

Motion 9
That the one year stand down period for former Area Delegates moving into RBM roles be considered a suggestion rather than a requirement, and that this be trialled for 3 years. CARRIED

Trial
Conference 2026- Conference 2029: That the one year stand down period for former Area Delegates moving into RBM roles be considered a suggestion rather than a requirement.

Board Road Trip update

The Board is planning to review the *Service Handbook's* description of TEAM events to see what is relevant and related to Board Road Trips.

Ensuring all Conference Members' voices are heard

The Conference Chairperson invited the attendees to ask any unanswered questions, share any takeaways or spiritual reflections.

Q. How do we make the Conference accessible to the representation of online groups?

Our Conference is open to specific attendees (Area Delegates, Board members and Conference Host and Tech Host) and is in person at this time.

The World Service Conference has an Electronic Area who have a Delegate that represents them at the annual World Service Conference. The UK Service structure has a Virtual Area and has trialled having representation on the Board. Therefore, it is possible in the future we may also have an Electronic Area representing Electronic meetings that has an Area Delegate representing them at our annual Conference.

An attendee shared their experience of attending a three-day online NZASC. It was a different experience, the spiritual feeling in the room is not present. Others shared how they function better attending events in person and find online events distracting.

A first-time attendee has really appreciated seeing how Spiritual Governance works and the warmth and welcome felt. Another first-time attendee shared about being excited about getting back to their Area.

A third time attendee expressed gratitude for finding the Conference a good place to be through a difficult personal time. Another third time attendee shared about how their understanding has improved, how being on a Selected Committee has helped and they feel confident to reframe what the needs of our service structure are.

Reflection on spiritual goals

Renée S & Di D

Closing the loop of Thursday's session, the chairpersons invited us to share what our Spiritual Goal was for Conference, how we were going to demonstrate that goal during and Conference and a reflection of how that went for us, and finally, which Spiritual Goal we'll take back to our Area and how we'll support this goal.

We were encouraged to incorporate the Spiritual Goals into our Area processes as some Areas already have done so.

Before departure

We were encouraged to fill in the feedback form with a date of final submission. It was emphasised how useful the feedback is for preparing the following Conference.

The Conference was closed with the Al-Anon Declaration and farewell.

All attendees were asked to help with tidy up.

The Board held its Annual General Meeting.

Some members stayed for lunch.

Conference Members 2026

Service Role – Board	Name & contact details	Term
Board Chair	Liz A / 021 717 393 boardchair@al-anon.org.nz	1st year / 1st term
Alt Board Chair	Helen J / 021 344 777 altboardchair@al-anon.org.nz	1st year / 1st term
Board Treasurer	Tina M / 021 184 8468 tmccallum@windowslive.com	3rd year / 1st term
General Secretary	Sally-ann M / 021 123 7596 generalsecretary@al-anon.org.nz	2nd year / 1st term
Executive Budget Chair IAGSMD Was not able to attend the Conference	Tracy B/ 027 280 5673 ebc@al-anon.org.nz	1st year / 1st term 3rd year / 1st term
Conference Committee Chair	Rose S / 021 025 97000 serversalad@gmail.com	1st year / 1st term
Public Outreach Committee Chair (interim)	Renée S / 027 688 9087 nzkiwirenee@gmail.com	1st year / 1st term

Service Role – Delegate	Name & contact details	Term
Area One	Diane W / 027 536 1028 walkerdiane60@gmail.com	3rd year / 1st term
Area Two	Louren P / 027 232 5591 nzdelegatearea2@gmail.com	3rd year / 1st term
Area Three	Esther-Maria B / 021 0290 7824 esther.bukholt@gmail.com	1st year / 1st term
Area Four	Di D / 021 965 439 alanonarea4@gmail.com	2nd year / 2nd term
Area Five Was not able to attend the Conference	Teena H / 021 0259 6412 nzarea5delegate@gmail.com	3rd year / 1st term
Area Six	Victoria E / 022 698 0112 Scriba.v.a@gmail.com	1st year / 1st term
Area Seven	Christina V / 021 416 206 christina.vogels@gmail.com	1st year / 1st term
Area Eight	Anna M / 021 745 918 area8delegate@gmail.com	1st year / 1st term
Area Nine	Chris W / 021 165 8332 spider.webba@gmail.com	3rd year / 1st term

Service Role – Support	Name & contact details	Term
Conference Host	Noela F / 022 676 0011 noela@fidow.co.nz	1st year
Technical Host	Clark T / 021 246 6034 cthombor@pm.me	4th 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

Al-Anon Family Groups

