



September 2018

Alcoholics Anonymous Australia Newsletter for Professionals

AA brochures get a much needed revamp

Each year AA Australia prints and distributes tens of thousands of pamphlets to our Groups, Central Service Offices, and Districts. Many of these items end up in Doctor's Surgeries, Police Stations, Community Centres, Courts, Rehabs, Detoxes and any other place that an alcoholic in need of help might be. It is sometimes easy to forget that we compete with other brochures for attention and, with this in mind and our tradition of "attraction rather than promotion" AA Australia has adopted new covers for many of our brochures. These will be rolled out on reprint over the next few years. We hope you like our "Before and After" shots!

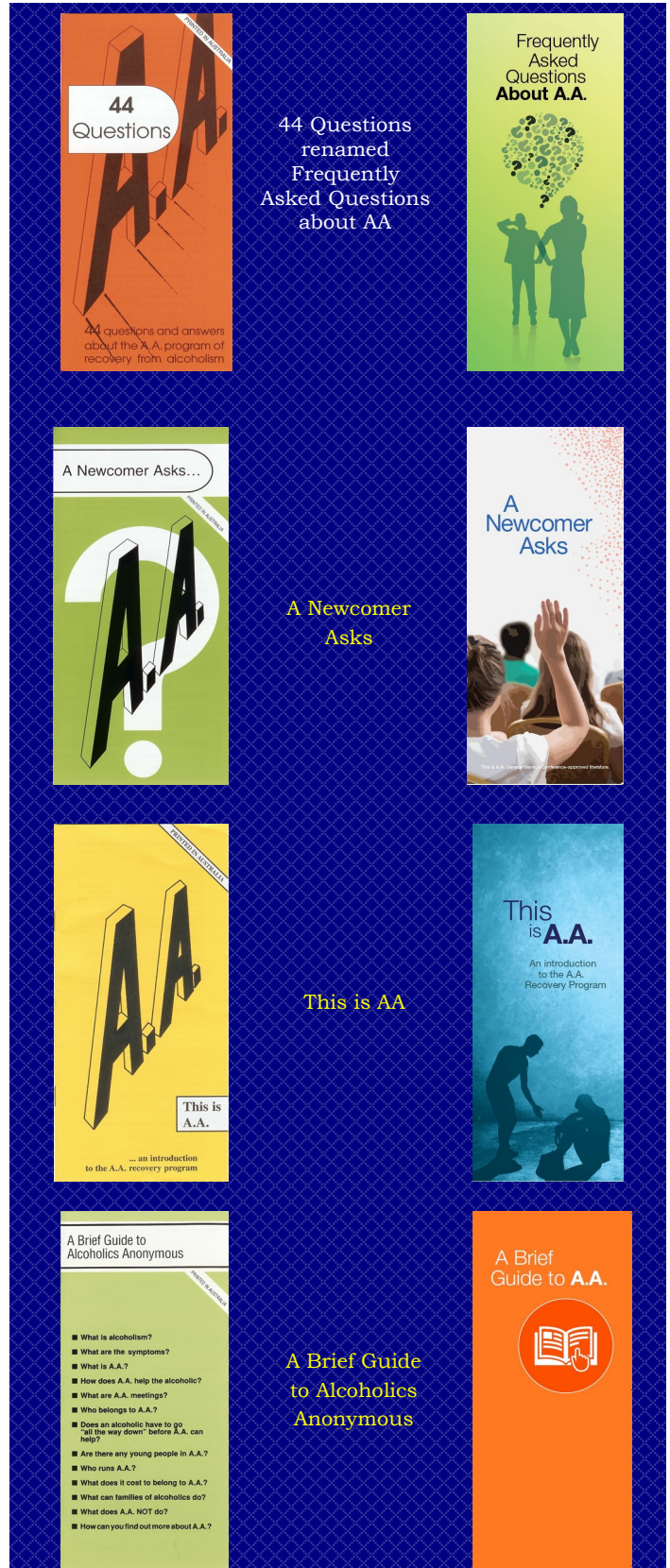
First cab off the rank will be our most popular item



"Is AA for You?"

Young People and AA

AA For the Woman, renamed Women in AA



44 Questions renamed Frequently Asked Questions about AA

A Newcomer Asks

This is AA

A Brief Guide to Alcoholics Anonymous

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Meet the Board: Class A Trustee Tom Faunce

Professor in both the ANU Medical School and the Law School, Tom Faunce chairs the professionalism and leadership theme in the ANU Medical school. 10 years ago he got in touch with some AA members in the Canberra Region and invited them to come to speak with the medical students about not only their personal experiences but also general understandings of the interactions of people with alcohol problems and their doctor. It went very well so he organised a session with AA members speaking to the Medical students every year since then.

The thing that struck Tom first up about AA members was their integrity and their honesty. Tom teaches a virtue-based course, which means he doesn't just teach the ethical principles that doctors are required to learn but also teaches the importance of consistently applying those principles in the face of obstacles, in order to develop virtue and character traits. So for him, people who are able to overcome addiction, like alcohol, are very good role models for all the other problems that people have in society. They are people who have made a decision through their own willpower and faith to change themselves.

The students have always found the sessions very revealing and insightful. Tom believes people find it difficult to overcome addictions to alcohol by themselves. He sees the methods AA use such as friendship, belief in a higher consciousness beyond yourself and thinks these are all important lessons for people throughout society. He says the fact that AA is non-religious and doesn't get involved in political disputes is valuable and thinks AA has a good track record for success.

The sessions he runs for the Students also dispel misunderstandings about AA. Various students have thought that AA provides information about the physiological effects of alcohol, that AA will seek after people, and that you can refer people to AA like you would a Counsellor. Some have the idea that AA is government funded or accepts large donations from corporations or individuals when in

fact all AA funds come solely from AA members. Tom himself had the perception that AA was some sort of Secret Society, he'd heard about AA but it was never really clear what AA did. Out of respect to the AA members he'd met and the organisation itself,



Tom was very pleased to take up the offer to join the General Service Board of Alcoholics Australia as a Class A (non-alcoholic) Trustee, and like the other trustees, he is interested in the long-term development of AA.

From a medical perspective, Tom sees AA as a great benefit. "The most serious cases get admitted to Hospital and you get a clinical detox under medical supervision, but it tends to last short term. You come in for the admission, you get your immediate health problems sorted out, then you're released back into society. AA is out there in society, with the people who are struggling, with them every day, at every hour of the day if they need it."

How Can A.A. Help You?

Would you be interested in having an A.A. presentation at one of your professional gatherings? Or would you like information about recovery from alcoholism in A.A.? If so, please contact

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