SAFETY IN AA

1. For the Group Handbook

**What Can Groups and Members Do?**

Groups and members can discuss the topic of safety within meetings to raise awareness in the Fellowship and seek through sponsorship, workshops and meetings, to create as safe an environment as possible for the newcomers, other members, observers, visiting members or potential members.

This can be the subject of discussion within a Group Conscience and sharing among groups at the District or Area Assembly level where GSR’s can present their groups concerns.

Please refer to Guideline #-- in the The Australian AA Service Manual “The Guidelines” Section 14 for further suggestions

2. For the Guidelines

**Here are some helpful suggestions and reminders:**

* Talk about issues of safety before they arise, have a procedure in place that has been agreed upon at group conscience.
* Safety is something each member attending an A.A. meeting can be mindful of in regards to the common welfare and unity of AA
* Communicate clearly what A.A. is and what it is not.
* Sponsorship plays an important role and sponsors can be helpful in pointing out warning signs or unhealthy situations to sponsees and newcomers.
* A.A. members who are concerned about the words or actions of a sponsor or another member, may find it helpful to speak to someone they trust, or bring it up at Group Conscience within their A.A. Home group
* Include “Safety and the A.A. Meeting Environment” as topics for a group inventory, Area Workshop or Regional Forum
* Consider developing group guidelines and procedures on safety, and if needed add to meeting format and read out *when* it is felt it is needed.
* IF NEEDED, Recommend that no one walk to a car alone but be accompanied by a trusted group member or leave the venue in the company of other members.
* In all discussions about any member’s personal safety, keep the focus on our primary purpose, our common welfare, and *place principles before personalities*.
* IF the discussion gets heated, postpone until another date.