

ATTACHMENT FOR TOPIC FOR CONFERENCE RE THE RAMIFICATIONS REGARDING LITERATURE DISCOUNT

At the 2017 Conference, the following Topic for Conference became an Advisory Action.

“Advisory Action #017/2017.

That: “Discount on literature to Areas and Districts only be available for PI&CPC initiatives by Areas and Districts. When there is a local CSO, groups should purchase their literature from that office.”

Groups and Districts wanting to qualify for the literature discount have been told to simply call themselves a Central Service Office. However - to set up a CSO as an Incorporated Society, the following needs to be put in place.

- Registration with ASIC. (Subject to all the legal requirements therein.)
- A Constitution. – This would mean legal fees - (without gratis fees, as per the fiasco GSO has just suffered recently?)
- An ABN.
- Registration with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission, to qualify for Australian Charities tax concession.

The following are required to be part of that:

- A Steering Committee.
- CSO Representatives to Area with a two year term and Rotation.
- An AGM
- Audited accounts. (Same lien as for a lawyer. No freebies?)
- Public Liability Insurance.
- Insurance of the assets, and equipment. (Not covered by GSO)
- Public Liability Insurance (GSO does not cover this)
- GST
- Stamp Duty
- The QLD Association Incorporations Act 1981 requires the following:

Manager (Probably a paid position); Chairperson; Secretary; Treasurer.

A CSO also needs:

People to oversee the various parts of the portfolio, on a rotating basis, such as:

- The afterhours help line.
- 7th Tradition - manages fundraising, donations, and large Public Information initiatives.
- Communications/Webmaster.
- Speaking in Schools.
- Public Information
- Co-Operation with the Professional Communities.
- Treatment Facilities Liaison
- Hospital Liaison.
- Monthly magazine or newsletter*
- Area Liaison*
- Lots of Volunteer assistants.

There may be more positions in other CSOs, but this was information obtained from a CSO in a large metropolitan area, where there is a large population base. In addition of 108 possible contributing groups, only 26 contributed in the month of May, 2018.

In a small regional or rural area, there are a limited number of people who for whatever reason, are available to do service. We have seen District after District pack up their tents and go into recess, which in itself is tragic. To simply say to people in less populated, and often large geographical areas, "just set up a CSO", seems both irresponsible and ignorant, given the service personnel which would be required to take on the work, not to mention the excessive cost to these small Districts. This all seems excessively arduous and expensive in exchange for the Literature Discount for some of the literature needed by Groups to fulfil our single primary purpose.

Given that CSOs are not part of the Service Structure of A.A. Australia, and do not have voting rights in the matter of electing Delegates to Conference, or attending Conference, setting up CSOs willy nilly, in favour of District Committees, would effectively remove a wedge of members from the service structure, thereby weakening it.

In establishing a CSO there are the ongoing costs as mentioned, plus other costs not identified at this point, meaning less money for our Primary Purpose.

A District with an Office, deals with some of the aforementioned functions. However, a District with or without an office, is part of the Conference Structure, and is, in effect managed by the District Committee, and not as an outside entity. The District is part of the voting structure of the Conference of Australia, and needs to be strengthened, not weakened.