



Al-Anon Family Groups (Australia) Pty Ltd

A.B.N. 20 005 700 112

A.C.N. 005 700 112

Australian General Service Office

AL-ANON AND ALATEEN

for families and friends of alcoholics

Date: 28 March 2020

To all our much valued Australian Al-Anon and Alateen members

The General Service Board and staff of the Australian General Service Office are constantly reviewing our fellowship's situation in relation to the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) across our country and are mindful of the regular official advice issued by Government and Health Services.

We endeavour to maintain our services to you as much as possible, whilst at the same time being responsible for the health and well-being of our staff and volunteers at the Australian General Service Office. Most services to members, groups and Areas will continue to operate although our office is closed for the time being, effective from 18th March 2020. Staff members are working from home to maintain services, except for Literature distribution, which is suspended for now. Areas may still place orders, can pay by EFT, and we will dispatch when possible. Mail will be collected less frequently but all email and phone communication will continue as normal.

It is vital that during this time when face-to-face meetings have been suspended that members remember that the finances of both the Australian General Service Office and the local Area Offices around Australia need ongoing financial support to keep serving the fellowship. Groups and Districts are encouraged to review their finances, ensuring that sufficient is kept to cover expected costs, and then send the surplus to support your Area Office and AGSO. Individual members can also help us by donating to your Area and AGSO directly. Details are provided on the special [Coronavirus page](#) of our website of ways that members can donate funds to our service offices while groups cannot meet due to new laws restricting gatherings of people outside their homes. Members of the new electronic meetings will no doubt be interested in using these suggestions to maintain financial support for the fellowship in these exceptional circumstances.

Many major Al-Anon events have been cancelled or postponed including the most important Al-Anon service event of the year, the Australian Service Conference, scheduled in May each year in Melbourne. The General Service Board's COVID Response Committee has cancelled the 2020 Australian Service Conference as a face-to-face event in Melbourne with the option of holding a scaled-down version in electronic format.

Some Areas have cancelled or postponed Area Committee meetings as well as Area Assemblies scheduled for June as venues become closed and travel and health restrictions make going ahead with these events unwise and impracticable.

We hope you all remain safe and healthy during this difficult time and remember to apply our very useful spiritual principles to maintain our serenity and quiet acceptance of things we cannot change. We will endeavour to keep you updated of any change of circumstances in a timely manner through the [Coronavirus page](#) (<https://www.al-anon.org.au/coronavirus>).

Yours in loving Al-Anon service,

Lois Adaway

General Secretary/CEO