



THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AUSTRALIA

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Easing of Restrictions Around Coronavirus

Last week, a National three step plan to relax coronavirus restrictions was announced by the Australian Government, with States and Territories to decide when each step will be implemented.

Physical distancing measures are still in place across Australia. However, some States and Territories have revised their restrictions on public gatherings. Before reopening meetings, members should check their [State and Territory websites](#) for the rules for where your meeting is located.

The situation will continue to change and vary between States and Territories and so the General Service Board cannot be prescriptive on when and how to reopen meetings.

However, the Board offers the following information and suggestions that your Group Conscience may wish to discuss and consider.

Advice quoted from the Australian Government Website

We should;

- stay 1.5 metres away from other people whenever and wherever we can
- maintain good hand washing and cough/sneeze hygiene
- stay home when we're unwell, and get tested if we have respiratory symptoms or a fever
- download the COVIDSafe app so we can find the virus quickly, and
- Develop COVID safe plans for workplaces.

Meeting venues

All groups will need to adhere to any requirements that the venue may have regarding cleaning and social distancing in addition to what is required by the Authorities.

Continuing to meet online

Each group should decide their own course of action via an informed group conscience, with the spirit of all of our Traditions in mind and if it is felt that they cannot meet the Government requirements, then they should continue to meet online.

Vulnerable members

Groups may want to consider having a combined physical and zoom meeting to enable those still vulnerable to attend their regular meetings.

Penalties

Group office holders should be particularly careful that restrictions are followed rigidly as there are severe penalties in place for non-compliance.

Consider Tradition Four

While our Fourth Tradition states that each group is autonomous, it is qualified with, “except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole”.

If we do not follow the requirements of each State and Territory when reopening, this could affect AA as a whole, and possibly draw AA into public controversy as stated in Tradition Ten.

Suggested reading

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

Tradition One, p129

Tradition Four, p146

Tradition Ten, p176

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous Australia