

Illawarra-South Coast Public Information and Professional (PI-PA) Awareness Activity Report

Prepared for August 2026 AGM

1. Overview

The Illawarra-South Coast PI-PA Sub-Committee has been established since March 2026.

Current members include Anna (Shellharbour Flinders); Danielle (Warilla Saturday Womens); Rhia (Wednesday Central); and Zara (Wollongong Friday: House Party).

As a newly established Sub-Committee, members have been focussed on developing the group structure, setting up governance systems, researching and selecting suitable AA resources for distribution, designing new posters, and developing lists of local services.

2. Activities

Sub-Committee governance

The meeting cadence has been established for the Sub-Committee to meet on the last Sunday of each month at the Wollongong CSO office as a hybrid meeting. After trialling a number of Zoom meetings, members found it beneficial to meet in-person to easily access and share documents while the Sub-Committee is in start-up mode.

A WhatsApp group has been established for members to communicate between meetings and Google Drive has been set up for document sharing and governance.

The Sub-committee has experienced movement of several members recently and the Secretary role is currently vacant. As a result, members are currently sharing responsibilities across roles. Current roles include Chairperson (Danielle and rotating), Secretary (Vacant), Treasurer (Anna).

A more informal approach to developing meeting agendas and minute taking has been developed to minimise governance workload for members. This includes a running meeting agenda with minutes and action items embedded and updated during each meeting.

 6-Running Agenda and Minutes Public Information and Professional Awareness Com...

Current activities

Members have been educating and familiarising themselves with the Traditions, Guidelines, relevant literature and resources, and connecting with national PI-PA channels such as the National PI-PA WhatsApp group.

Members have discussed the scope of PI-PA activities and agreed on reaching out to the hospitals and institutions within the region, but not Corrections. Members are looking to connect with other fellowship members already involved in hospitals and institutions in the local area.

Professional and service provider enquiries sent to the Wollongong CSO will be followed up by the Sub-Committee and a comms folder system has been set up in the CSO drive to manage these enquiries.

Finances

Wollongong CSO has approved an initial budget spend of \$3,000 to fund the first round of PI PA activities in the region.

At the last quarterly Wollongong CSO meeting (8 August 2026), CSO members moved a motion for the Sub-Committee to order and print AA pamphlets and posters as outlined below.

Lists of local services

Members have researched and developed lists of GPs, Health Centres and libraries to distribute pamphlets and posters in the region.

 General Practice - Health Centres - Illawarra .xlsx

 Optional Committee PI Activity_AA Literature for Libraries_Illawarra & Southcoast

Catalogue of AA resources

Members have developed a catalogue of AA resources available from multiple websites to review and prepare an order list of pamphlets and posters for motion by Wollongong CSO and distribution.

Researching and developing this catalogue has enabled members to familiarise themselves with the AA literature available and identify opportunities for new resources that can be developed.

 AA Catalogue.xlsx

Posters

Using Canva, members have finalised the below poster design to be printed, laminated and delivered to local services.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER
YOU ARE NOT ALONE



1300 22 22 22
AA.ORG.AU



Through the national PI-PA WhatsApp group, members accessed the below non-conference approved flyer developed by the NER Area C PI-PA Sub-Committee. NER Area C PI-PA Sub-Committee has developed and shared this flyer with QLD Health as a referral tool for clinicians who may want to refer patients to AA.

Members agreed this is a great one-pager AA resource to print and deliver to local services.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)

Peer support for people seeking recovery from alcohol problems

AA is a fellowship of people with lived experience of recovery who come together to support each other. It is not treatment or therapy, but a valuable peer support option that can **complement professional care and treatment**.

KEY INFORMATION FOR CLINICIANS

- Peer support**
People share their experience, strength and hope to support each other.
- Free and voluntary**
No fees. No referral required. Membership is open to anyone with a desire to stop drinking.
- Confidential and anonymous**
Privacy is respected. Members share only what they choose.
- Australia-wide**
Thousands of in-person and online meetings across Australia every week.
- Complements professional care**
AA supports recovery alongside treatment and other health services.

THREE SIMPLE WAYS TO CONNECT

- CHAT NOW**
Connect online with an AA member for a confidential chat.
aa.org.au
Chat available daily 10am to 10pm (AEST/AEDT)
- FIND A MEETING**
Find local or online AA meetings anywhere in Australia.
meetings.aa.org.au
- CALL — 1300 22 22 22**
Call AA anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

WHEN TO CONSIDER AA FOR A CLIENT

- When they're seeking help or treatment
- When they want ongoing peer support
- When they need relapse prevention support
- When they need anonymous, non-clinical support
- When they want help now, without a referral process

Safe, Supportive, Non-judgmental.
AA has no affiliation with any race, denomination, politics or institution.

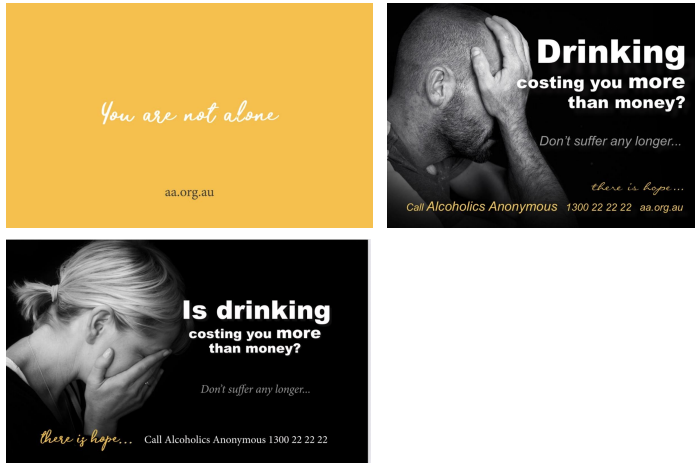
Learn more
aa.org.au

PEER SUPPORT. REAL CONNECTION. RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE.

Order and delivery of AA resources

The Sub-Committee has ordered a range of pamphlets and posters and in the process of printing and laminating the above non-conference approved posters.

Members also plan to print the below existing business card templates originally developed by South Sydney Area D PI-PA members. In addition, the Sub-Committee will design and print a version that includes local contact numbers.



National resources

At the last quarterly Wollongong CSO meeting (8 August 2026), CSO members moved a motion to fund three Sub-Committee members to attend the AA National Combined Services Forum 2026 to learn and access more PI-PA resources that are being developed nationally.

This event is being held in Canberra on 2-4 October 2026 and has dedicated PI-PA workshops and streams.

The event is designed to bring together Area, Region and National coordinators from across Australia for a weekend of shared learning, connection and growth in service.

This Forum will unite coordinators for Public Information Professional Awareness (PIPA), Correctional Facilities, Treatment & Accessibility, Young People in AA, Remote Communities, national helpline service, web chat support, and the AA Aus Virtual Area.

Link to the event is below:

<https://aancsf2026.org.au/>

Future activities

Members have brainstormed ideas for future public information and professional awareness activities in the region and are excited by the possibilities.

Once resources have been delivered to local GPs, Health Centres and libraries, members will commence planning activities for the next 6-12 months.

Ideas for future activities include:

- Information presentations e.g Wollongong University, service expos, schools, religious groups
- Posters/banners at local train stations, sports grounds
- Service workshops
- Professional luncheon

3. Proposed next steps

- Print and deliver pamphlets, posters and business cards to identified GPs and Health Centres
- Attend National Combined Service Forum 2-4 October in Canberra
- Contribute to the 2027 Rally agenda
- Reach out to libraries and distribute copies of AA literature
- Create expenditure/finance ledger
- Develop a 6-12 month project plan to guide PI-PA Sub-Committee activities
- Continue to inform the fellowship and generate interest about PI-PA by making announcements at meetings - encourage members to participate by joining a roster for deliveries
- Vote the role of Secretary
- Continue the recruitment of members (e.g. inviting local home groups to nominate a PI-PA representative)