

# Opinion

30 July 2026

## I'm already an AA Member — Why join ISCCSO Inc too?

**Perhaps it helps to understand a little more about the structure of AA.**

**AA is a world-wide network of individuals who freely choose to join together as an AA group and hold meetings.**

This is done with the minimum of formal rules and regulations, membership forms and fees and formal set roles. This is guided by the AA Traditions and Concepts of Service but that's about it. Easy As!

**Groups, in legal jargon, are called "UN-INCORPORATED community associations"**

This means if something goes wrong, under law, it's every person for themselves.

Fortunately, usually very little can go wrong if the group makes good decisions to ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing. Things like not having animals in meetings, unless they are companion animals and are properly controlled is one example. But accidents can happen, and the group is best to have insurance cover for that. But this difficult to arrange and even for a single event, can cost in the order of \$250 to \$400pa for a policy.

**That's why AA needs special legally recognised bodies to act with companies, government bodies etc. on behalf of groups**

Insurance is just one example of what the CSO and/or GSO do for members.. In the beginning, members needed the Big Book and other literature. distribution networks etc.

**Our CSO & some others as well as the General Service Office (GSO) are INCORPORATED NON-PROFITS under State, Territory or Commonwealth Law ,which requires they have Constitutions (*legal rules*) by which the association members must abide, annual reporting and other requirements. If registered as a Charity, there are policy and other conditions to be met.**

We have made the Membership Requirements of this Association as simple as possible, with no fees to join or remain a "CSO" member, but to ensure records are legal, members need to apply to join and reapply each year. Not much different to a Leagues, Golf or Workers club.

**JOIN OR RENEW YOUR GROUP REP. HERE**  
**[www.aawollongong.org.au/application-for-membership](http://www.aawollongong.org.au/application-for-membership)**

**What do I get if I make the effort to join?**

You get the opportunity to do service outside your group. Whilst important, service inside the group is more like just looking after your own home, but not being a good neighbour or community citizen. As a "CSO" member you are able to speak at the quarterly meetings, participate in sub-committees and stand for one of the 10 Committee positions — help AA to grow here on the coast!

**AA only survives because members do this outside service in lots of different ways. Everyone can do something to help.**

If you have any questions, please let us know  
*Ro G Public Officer*  
[aawollongong@gmail.com](mailto:aawollongong@gmail.com)

***"I am responsible when anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there and for that I am responsible"***