

# Towards a more efficient and effective SLAA Australian Intergroup Structure

This paper is merely some ideas put together by some SLAA members. It will be up to the Group Conscience of the Fellowship to decide if, when and how a SLAA Australian Intergroup is formed

## Proposal

Merger of Sydney and Victorian Intergroups into what may become a national Intergroup, inviting other groups, across Australia to discuss becoming part of an Australian Intergroup.

## Who is not connected to an intergroup in the current intergroup structure:?

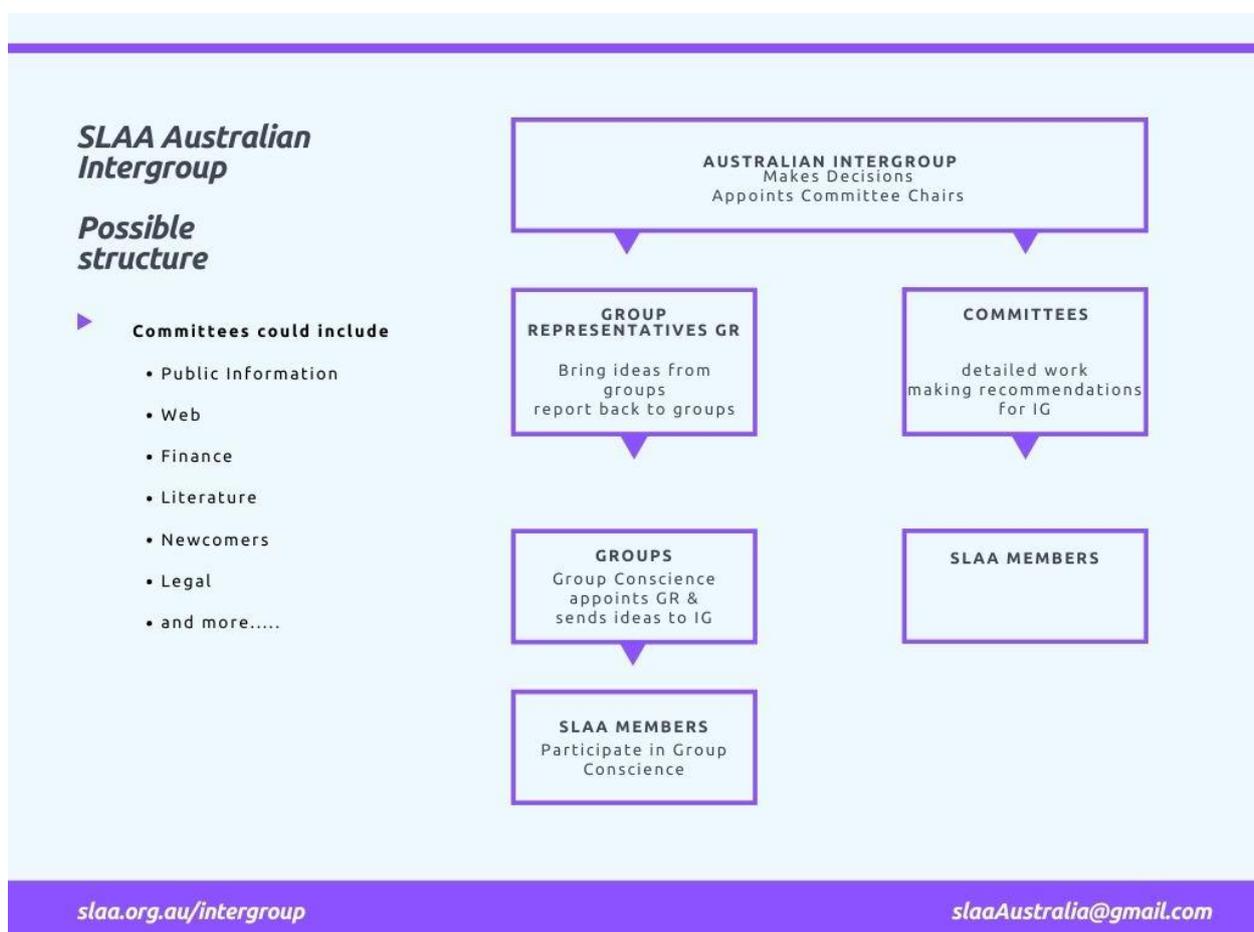
- the growing number of new ZOOM, Skype and phone meetings with membership across the country
- groups in regional areas
- Groups in locations with no SLAA Intergroup
- Lone members who have no local group

## The alternative of creating or continuing with smaller intergroups is problematic

- puts more burden on the few members already filling service positions
- Intergroups would then need to be networked nationally creating another layer of service.
- Current intergroups already have problems filling service roles.
- Intergroups have opened and closed in multiple states since 2000
- Small intergroups can only achieve so much

## Advantages of a larger Intergroup

- All groups and members in Australia would have the connection with the national fellowship
- The energy and talent is harnessed from smaller, more isolated groups and lone members
- Newly forming groups would have a stronger body from which to draw resources and experience



**Sydney Intergroup has borne the weight of national service for many years.**

Perhaps it is now time for the whole Australian SLAA fellowship to step up and share that responsibility. [The Sydney Intergroup already has a constitution and a large range of service roles.](#) This could be easily adapted that to be multi-state or national. Local events or Special Interests could still be served by committees of groups/members. ZOOM has connected SLAA members across Australia more than ever and shown what can be achieved virtually.

### **Logistics**

- Committees would do most of the detailed groundwork on issues, preparing recommendations for Intergroup
- Committee membership could be sought from across the national fellowship, and not be limited to Intergroup members. This would harness the specialised skills and interests of members, including lone members, who don't necessarily want to be part of Intergroup
- Intergroup reps could represent a single meeting or collection of meetings, depending on how the groups wish to structure this
- Local committees could be created by nearby groups for running local events and services. These committees could focus on serving the needs of a local fellowship rather than having the burden of operating a full intergroup. This is already happening in some areas.

### **Long term Australian members' comments:**

*"The Los Angeles SLAA Intergroup has 70-100 at their meetings all really keen to do service. A well organised Intergroup inspires members to want to do Service which supports stronger Meetings and more Recovery in our area."*

*"When I lived in the US I attended a large intergroup of another fellowship and could feel the extra energy. There was a larger range of services and functions than smaller intergroups have. They were achieving much more"*