

Communication Strategies

- AA Groups –

Did you know that nearly 10% of our population experiences some degree of hearing loss? Out of that 10%, 9 out of 10 are hard of hearing.

The psychological and social impact of hearing loss can create barriers to recovery and many who are hard-of-hearing may have difficulty asking for their needs to be met.

While recovery teaches us how to ask for help we might all keep the slogan "sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly" in mind.

The following suggestions improve accessibility to members who are hard of hearing:

- Arrange the room so people can see speaker well
- If there is a Public Address system, use it!
- Invite people who wish to, to sit close to the speaker
- Create reserved seating close to and facing the speaker
- If group members speak, ask them to come to the microphone, or repeat their comment into the microphone
- Ask people to speak one at a time
- Reduce competing noise and distractions
- Make information in writing available for anyone who might want to read along – i.e. readings of the Steps, Traditions, How It Works, The Promises, etc.