

PROJECT NO: N/A

TAX | NON-TAX

Australia



Equipping Chaplains



Overview

Bible Society Australia (BSA) seeks to serve and equip groups who are ministering to Australians in all areas of life, by providing Scripture Grants which can be used to acquire Bibles and Scripture resources. This includes the Chaplaincy and Parachurch grant (C&P), through which BSA supplies Scriptures and gospel resources in English and also heart languages for people from other nations via chaplains and gospel workers.

The Need

The C&P grant allows chaplains and gospel workers to reach out to people in prisons, detention centres, hospitals, aged care homes, youth hubs, red-light districts and other situations of vulnerability.

The needs vary. Many of the patients in hospitals that these chaplains would minister to, for example, haven't been to church for years and have no regular Christian teaching input. Hospital admissions, serious illnesses or injuries are often catalysts for them to rethink about their relationship with God. The Bibles and Scripture resources provide for them a gentle reminder of God's goodness, love and mercy.

This grant also supports ministries running English as a second language (ESL) groups and classes. The grant helps fund Bibles and resources for all these groups.

↓ 8%

of people affiliated with Christianity in Australia (52% in 2016 to 44% in 2021. Source: ABS).

46%

of millennials in Australia have reported having no religion (the highest proportion of 'No religion' across other age groups in Australia (2021 ABS census)).

↑ 5%

Australian prisoners from June 2020 to June 2021.

11.8m

hospitalisations in Australia from 2020-2021.

Goals	Impact
<p>The goal this project is to Open The Bible to people in vulnerable situations. By resourcing front line workers with the Scriptures and gospel materials, they can engage people with God's word. This grant shares the transformative hope of the gospel, as they equip gospel workers with both God's word and the ability to encourage and disciple those they work with.</p> <p>One example of the work of C&P partners are gospel ministries who are reaching out to their culturally diverse neighbours with friendship, English lessons and the good news about Jesus.</p> <p>In 2023, this project is aiming to continue to serve existing partners, as well as find and support more ministries, giving them the resources they need to share the gospel and disciple people who have come to faith.</p>	<p>The impact of these grants has been seen in the changed lives of recipients, and the stories and testimonies from chaplains, outreach workers and the recipients of Bibles and Scripture resources.</p> <p>In the 2021-2022 financial year there were eight new hospitals and 21 returning hospitals with a total of 29 chaplaincy departments served. Scripture Grants also supplied material in seven new correctional facilities, 36 returning facilities, bringing the total correctional centre chaplaincies and ministries to 44. There were 41 new 'other' gospel ministries, with 36 returning ministries for a total of 77 other ministries supported last financial year.</p> <p>In total, 28,327 pieces of Scripture and Scripture resources were supplied in the 2021/2022 financial year to correctional, hospital and other chaplain and Bible engagement ministries.</p> <p>Special bookmarks were made and supplied to chaplains to give away with the Scriptures and other resources. 6,375 bookmarks were given away over the last financial year.</p>

Testimonies

"This African bloke, he'd really been through so much, fled to Kenya then Australia. Due to work commitments, he couldn't come to church, so we kept meeting with him, sharing God's word. When I gave him his own Bible to study with us, he said 'You have really loved me today.'" - Sue, evangelist in WA

"I knocked on the door of a boy 'Josh' who's in jail on very serious charges. Josh asked, 'Is this random...Last night God showed me the consequences of the road I'm on. I had a dream. I was in Hell...I've been reading the Bible for the last couple of months...So I knew by the end that God was saying to me this is where I'm heading... And then you turned up. So, I want to know is this random?!' I said: 'No, I don't think it is', telling Josh

that I was a Christian and that I believed that what he had seen was indeed a vision of his possible future. I also told him ... that I also believed that God had sent me to speak with him that morning to tell him some very good news..." - Mike, NSW prison chaplain

At the weekly ESL classes, Ying would read stories about Jesus' life in English. He says, "Week by week, I believed a little bit more of Jesus' story." Over his years at ESL classes, Ying says that "Jesus opened my eyes to understand that the Bible is true." Ying joined a church and got baptised in 2019. There are countless stories like this from ESL classes all around the country. At these classes, there are thousands of people learning English — and meeting Jesus.

Prayer Needs

- Pray for continued opportunities to Open the Bible with Australians, for workers to be raised up, and for open hearts to hear God's word, particularly those suffering great loss, seemingly insurmountable troubles and deep sorrow.
- Pray that many will turn to Christ and continue to grow as Christians with God's word as their light and guide.



Bible Society