

Australia



Distributing God's Word

Project: N/A
Tax & Non Tax Deductible



54%

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people identify as Christian

21.4%

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people live in remote or very remote areas

43.8%

live in regional areas

Overview

Each year, Bible Society Australia (BSA) distributes Indigenous Bibles and Scripture Resources to organisations and churches who minister to Indigenous communities around Australia, where access to Scripture resources is limited. Through this Scripture Grants program, BSA ensures these communities can engage with the Scriptures and experience transformation.

The Need

There are many challenges and difficulties in ensuring the distribution of Scriptures to Indigenous communities around the country, and a need to address vital spiritual and cultural needs. With 54% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people identifying as Christian, access to Scripture in their languages is crucial. However, limited resources hinder engagement, especially since 45-65% of these adults are functionally non-literate in English. Additionally, 21.4% live in remote areas, complicating distribution efforts further.

There is also a need for audio Bible versions for non-literate individuals and providing culturally relevant study materials. This comprehensive approach to Bible distribution allows Indigenous Australians to connect with Scripture in ways that resonate with their cultural heritage.

The need is pressing, as many translations are concentrated in remote communities across Australia, including the Top End of the Northern Territory and the central desert areas. Without effective distribution, years of translation efforts risk going unrecognised. A reliable method of distribution is needed, so that communities can receive and celebrate the availability of God's word in their heart languages.

When the good news about the kingdom has been preached all over the world and told to all nations, the end will come. – Matthew 24:14 CEV

Goals

BSA aims to establish and sustain effective distribution channels that provide remote and Indigenous communities with access to translated Scriptures and Bible engagement resources. This includes initiatives like the Indigenous Scripture Grants Program, partnerships with ministries and churches, and utilising Koorong stores and digital technology.

In 2025, BSA will focus on overcoming remoteness challenges, particularly in regions such as the Top End of the Northern Territory, central desert communities, and remote areas in Kimberley and Far North Queensland. Key goals include maintaining connections with local church leaders and ensuring community-level engagement through chaplains. BSA will collaborate with mission partners like AuSIL and YWAM to create a reliable distribution network. The goal is to implement sustainable efforts that foster local impact by working alongside churches and organisations. Additionally, BSA will integrate Bible distribution with support services such as pastoral care and community building, while offering the Scripture Grant Program to provide free Bibles and resources, enhance outreach, discipleship, and children's ministry efforts within these communities.

Impact

Ministries, churches and communities are impacted by receiving access to Scripture in their languages, empowering thousands to face life's challenges with Scripture.

In 2024, this project had a significant impact, distributing over \$85,000 worth of Bibles and Scripture materials to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The program had a particular impact in reaching remote areas, including the Top End of the Northern Territory and central desert regions, ensuring access to translated Scriptures in languages like Kriol, Pitjantjatjara, and Yumplatok. Notably, more than 1,500 Scripture tracts and 683 Indigenous Bibles reached these communities.

This project impacts diverse groups, including children, youth, non-literate individuals, and prisoners, facilitating engagement with God's word. Additionally, the use of digital technology and audio players have enhanced accessibility, catering to ongoing requests from hospital and prison chaplains. This comprehensive support not only aids Indigenous Christians in deepening their faith but also affirms their cultural identity and language, fostering a stronger connection to their spiritual heritage.

Testimony

"Back home, I will teach God's message for future generations so they can see and they will learn, so together we will help each other and understand fully the Word of God. What the Word of God is saying to all of us." — Theresa Mathayalma Dhamarrardji, Bible Translator

Prayer Points

- Please pray for open hearts among those who receive Bibles, that they may be receptive to God's word and experience spiritual awakening and renewal in their faith.
- Thank God for the strength and dedication of all individuals involved in the Bible distribution process, from warehouse workers to ministry leaders.
- Please pray for effective follow-up to disciple those who receive Bibles, so they may grow in their faith. Pray too for local churches, that they would be able to support new believers with resources to help them grow.