

Australia



Equipping Chaplains

Project: N/A
Non Tax Deductible



46%

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

42,215

(an average daily number) prisoners in Australia in September 2023, up from 40,907 in September 2022)

11.6m

hospitalisations in Australia from 2021-2022

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 those serving with Christian ministries to reach out to people in prisons, detention centres, hospitals, aged care homes, youth hubs, red-light districts and other circumstances of vulnerability, providing resources relevant and helpful for whatever situation people find themselves in.

The needs vary. For those in prisons, many have never been exposed to the Bible's message or haven't been involved in church life for a long while. With the trauma of arrest, going through legal processes and facing the daunting reality of incarceration, prisoners are often open to seriously reading about and contemplating Jesus' call on their lives. Coupled with suddenly having more time to read and the availability of compassionate, helpful Christian chaplains to assist them in their discovery, many prisoners find Jesus irresistible and their lives forever changed.

There is such a range of ministries supported by this grant all over Australia, putting Bibles into the hands of gospel workers as they reach out with the good news of Jesus.

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.
– Titus 2:11-12, NIV

Goals

The goal of this project is to Open The Bible to people in vulnerable situations, and to meet them where they are at. 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 gospel workers are equipped with God's word and the ability to encourage and disciple those they work with.

A goal of the project is to support gospel ministries who are reaching out to a specific group where the need has been found compelling. Ministries have stepped up to address the need of these people to hear of the love of Jesus. To support gospel workers and chaplains in this valuable way, Bible Society Australia partners with people on the frontline to be as effective as they possibly can in their gospel ministry.

In 2025, this project will continue to serve chaplains and gospel workers, giving them the Scriptures and resources they need to share the gospel and disciple people who have come to faith.

Impact

The impact of the C&P Scripture Grant has been seen in the changed lives of recipients, and the stories and testimonies from chaplains, outreach workers and the beneficiaries who have received Bibles and Scripture resources.

In the 2023–2024 financial year, BSA partnered with chaplains and supplied Scripture resources to:

- 36 prison ministries
- 22 hospitals chaplaincy teams
- 62 'other' ministries.

From July 2023–June 2024, BSA gave away tens of thousands of Bibles and Scripture resources to front line gospel workers, including Bibles in languages other than English and specialised Christian tracts.

We continue to partner with Chaplains and front-line ministries who are reaching out and opening God's word with vulnerable and needy people in Australia's prisons, hospitals, camps and all manner of front-line ministries. In 2024, BSA have given away over \$100K of Scriptures and gospel resources.

Testimony

"There are six to eight men in [this prison] who come regularly to the chapel for prayer and church services who have begun a new journey to come and know and love God more deeply. When they are back in their living quarters during the week and on weekends when the chapel is closed, they gather together in small groups and do some Bible study together ... This is made possible because of the generous grant that is provided for Bibles we as chaplains are able to give to the men." — Brett, Prison Chaplain, QLD

Prayer Points

- 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.
- Pray that front line workers will be able to engage people with God's living word.