

# Supporting Indigenous Translation



Project: N/A  
Tax-Deductible

## Australia

### Overview

Bible Society Australia (BSA) is dedicated to ensuring people across Australia can access the Bible in the language that speaks most deeply to them, with a particular focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and Auslan. This work supports translation in every key Indigenous language requesting it, using both traditional and Oral Bible Translation approaches. Through consultancy, training and community collaboration, BSA is helping communities engage with Scripture in meaningful and culturally grounded ways.



### The Need

Bible translation in the languages of Australia's First Nations is vital to ensuring people can engage with Scripture in the language that speaks most deeply to their hearts. More than 120 Indigenous languages are still spoken, yet only one — Kriol — has a complete Bible. For many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, English is not a first language, creating barriers to comprehension and connection. Translation affirms cultural identity and supports language revitalisation, preserving linguistic heritage for future generations. With only around 30% of Indigenous languages having any Scripture and translation work active in just 25 languages, the need remains significant.

- **120+** Australian Indigenous languages are still spoken
- **One** complete Bible in an Australian Indigenous language — Kriol

### Goals

In 2026, BSA will continue strengthening translation work through consultancy, workshops and community-led engagement.

The Pitjantjatjara Old Testament project will progress toward completing the first full draft in 2026, while consultants support second and third draft checks for remaining books. A Translation Consultancy workshop, planned for December, will complete checks of Psalms and Proverbs, with the aim of publishing them.

The Noongar Bible Translation Project will expand its Scripture resources following the release of new storybooks and audio recordings, supporting deeper community engagement and language revitalisation.

BSA will also invest in translator training nationwide, including workshops and ongoing development through Nungalinga College, equipping translators from multiple language groups to draft, check and publish new Scripture portions for their communities.

## Impact

In 2025, the Pitjantjatjara Old Testament reached a major milestone, with 98% of the translation now first-drafted, and steady checking continued across books such as Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Job, Psalms and Proverbs.

The Noongar project strengthened language and faith engagement through the release of the children's storybook *Boolanga-Yira Boodja Warn (God Made the Earth)* and new audio recording of the Noongar Bible Storybooks and the

*Story of Ruth* are now accessible on the Australian Bibles website. These resources are a source of joy and spiritual encouragement to the Noongar people.

BSA continued to support our mission partners with further translation projects through national workshops. In November a short passage workshop at Nungalinga College equipped 20 translators from seven languages, helping them grow in skill and confidence as they drafted new Scripture portions.

## Impact in Numbers

# 98%

of the Pitjantjatjara Old Testament is now drafted.

# 7

Indigenous language groups represented by 20 translators participated in translation workshops in 2025.

### Testimony

"It's important to my people, to learn about the Bible and understand in language. It will touch their hearts deeper because in English they don't understand those big words. So we decided to make a Bible in Iwaidja so they can understand deeper."

— Isobel Lamilami, Iwaidja Bible Translator

## How Your Support Helps

# \$20

will help cover the cost to print a copy of a new translation resource in an Indigenous language, like the Noongar Creation Storybook.

# \$1,000

will help supporting the cost of an Indigenous translator for a translation checking workshop.

"It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it." — **Isaiah 55:11, NLT**

"palu puṛunypa ngayulu wangkanytja ngaṛanyi, panya ngayulu tjukurpa wangkanyangka kutjupa kutjupa tjuṭa utiringkupai alatjitu ngayulu panya wangkanytjitja tjuṭa kutju. Panya ngayulu kutjupa kutjupa palyantjikitja mukuringkula ngayulu wangkapai, ka mulapaṭu wangkanyangka utiringkupai." — **Aitjayaku 55:11 (Isaiah 55:11 from Pitjantjatjara Shorter Bible, Tjukurpa Palya)**