

Equipping Chaplains



Project: N/A
Non-Tax-Deductible

Australia

Overview

Bible Society Australia equips chaplains and gospel-centred ministries across Australia by providing Scriptures and Christian resources through the Chaplaincy and Parachurch Scripture Grant. These resources enable frontline workers to share hope, comfort and the life-changing message of Jesus with people facing crisis, isolation and vulnerability.

The Need

Chaplains and Christian ministry workers serve people in some of Australia's most vulnerable contexts, including prisons, detention centres, hospitals, aged-care homes, youth hubs and areas marked by violence, homelessness or exploitation. In these situations of crisis or uncertainty, people are often grateful to hear God's Word, receiving pastoral care and exploring faith.

The Chaplaincy and Parachurch Scripture Grant helps meet this need by ensuring chaplains and gospel workers are well-resourced with Bibles, Scripture portions and gospel-centred literature, including materials in multiple heart languages. These resources support evangelism, discipleship, pastoral conversations and small-group gatherings in difficult environments.

For many in prisons, the combination of trauma, sudden isolation and spiritual hunger creates a unique openness to the gospel. Others, such as hospital patients or those in aged care, find comfort in Scripture during fear, grief or loneliness. Across Australia, chaplains rely on the Bible to anchor conversations, bring clarity in crisis, and walk patiently with people who are searching for hope.

- **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)
- **46,998** adult prisoners in Australia in 2025, up 6% (2,595 prisoners) from 2024
- **12.6 million** hospitalisations in 2023–24



Goals

This project aims to maintain strong momentum by resourcing at least 23,000 Australians with Scriptures through chaplains and gospel-centred ministries.

Building on partnerships with more than 120 chaplaincy and ministry teams, the project will continue supporting workers who serve in prisons, hospitals and other communities across the country.

The project also aims to expand access to Scripture and gospel resources for people in custody. Currently, resources such as the CEV Interconfessional Bible and digital gospel resources — including *Soar Above the Storm Devotional*, *Meet Jesus Bible Study*, *How to Read the Bible*, *Faith Stories*, and the *Five Secrets* gospel tract — are available for people in custody through Corrective Services NSW. The project seeks to extend this access to correctional services in other states.

Impact

The impact of the Chaplaincy and Parachurch 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 2025, the Chaplaincy and Parachurch Scripture Grant continued to place God's word into the hands of people facing crisis, transition and profound need. Across Australia, chaplains and gospel workers used these resources to support conversations, offer pastoral care and introduce people to Jesus.

During the 2024–25 financial year, 23,299 Scriptures were distributed nationwide, helping resource 22 hospital chaplaincy teams, 36 prison chaplaincy teams, and 62 community-based ministries. These partnerships ensured that individuals in prisons, hospitals, youth programs and outreach ministries could access the Bible at the moment they needed it most.

A key development last year was the distribution of five digital gospel resources to men and women in custody through Corrective Services NSW, expanding the reach of the gospel where printed materials are restricted. These resources continued to offer hope in some of Australia's hardest places.

Impact in Numbers

23,000+

Scriptures placed into the hands of Australians through chaplains and frontline ministries.

120+

ministry teams equipped with Bibles and evangelistic resources.

Testimony

"We visit people in Prison, run a course ... and follow up groups. When people finish the course, they are given their own Bible from Bible Society ... We see up to 500 people a year. All participants have voluntarily joined these programs. We go through Mark's Gospel and ask, "Who is Jesus?", "Why did he come to earth?", and "So what?!!!" ... It is always so encouraging to see so many people's lives being transformed by God's Word and his love. One ex-prisoner, who came to faith in prison through reading the Bible and God's Spirit literally bringing him to his knees in tears, now facilitates the Church on Fridays for ex-offenders ... This grant really makes a difference [to our ministry]! — Simon*, prison chaplain

*Name changed to protect privacy.

How Your Support Helps

\$10

will help gift a reflective Christ-centred booklet (*Still and Breathe*) for comfort and calm.

\$10

helps provide 10 'No Worries' booklets for those feeling anxious.

\$25

will help place a Bible into the hands of someone in prison and provide a bedside Bible in hospital, offering hope during difficult days.

"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**