

Veterans' New Testament



Australia

Project: N/A
Non-Tax-Deductible

Overview

This project will distribute Veterans' New Testaments across Australia, providing spiritual and emotional support to those transitioning from military to civilian life. With additional helpful resources on resilience and recovery, this Veteran's New Testament offers hope, identity, and connection for veterans and their families facing isolation, trauma, and life after service.



The Need

Australian veterans face unique challenges after leaving the Defence Force, including loss of identity, isolation, and service-related trauma. Physical armour protects soldiers in combat, but it cannot shield against emotional or spiritual wounds. The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide revealed urgent need — 73 veteran suicides in 2023 and 1,840 between 1997–2023.

For generations, chaplains have provided Bibles as a source of strength and hope, but the specialised Camouflage Bible is reserved for active ADF personnel, leaving veterans without access. The Veterans' New Testament fills this gap with a distinctive design and trauma-informed content that offers comfort for those experiencing grief and isolation, and navigating transition, while connecting veterans to chaplaincy and support networks.

- **3** veteran suicides every fortnight (Royal Commission).
- **73** suicides in 2023; 1,840 from 1997–2023.
- Veterans **twice as likely** to die by suicide as the general population.

Goals

In 2026, Bible Society Australia will partner with veterans and veterans' chaplains to print and distribute 20,000 Veterans' New Testaments (second edition) nationwide through chaplains, ex-service organisations (ESOs) and veteran hubs.

Impact

BSA launched the first edition of the Veterans New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs in the New Living Translation in 2024, printing 2,000 copies for Blacktown, NSW RSL. This New Testament, complete with trauma healing and other helpful content to assist veterans to make a positive transition to civilian life were distributed to needy and interested veterans.

Veterans reported that the resource became a lifeline during times of grief and change, fostering conversations about identity and hope. Feedback from veterans also highlighted

the Scripture's role in reducing isolation and providing a sense of purpose.

It is expected that the distribution of 20,000 copies of the Veterans New Testaments (second edition) will help more veterans and their families with a tangible resource supporting mental, emotional and spiritual health. Other impacts of receiving the New Testament include improved reintegration outcomes for veterans adjusting to civilian life and reduced social isolation and loneliness through stronger community connections.

Impact in Numbers

2,000

Veteran's New Testaments were distributed in 2024 in less than a year through Blacktown RSL, reaching veterans in NSW, QLD, WA; many expressed their need for more copies.

Testimony

"When everything else seemed unfamiliar after leaving the ADF, the Bible provided familiarity, purpose, and peace. It helped me reframe my identity — not just as a Soldier ... or a Veteran, but as a whole person, deeply valued and never alone."

— David*, Veteran, VIC

*Name changed to protect privacy.

How Your Support Helps

\$20

will help fund the printing, production and distribution of a single Veterans' New Testament

\$460

will provide a box of Veterans NT to an ex-service organisation or serviceperson's retirement village.

"Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." — **Ephesians 6:11, NIV**