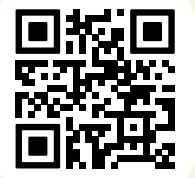


Vanuatu Translation Centre



Vanuatu

Project: 102546
Non-Tax-Deductible

Overview

Bible Society Australia is supporting the Bible Society of the South Pacific (BSSP) to establish a Translation Centre in Santo, Vanuatu, decentralising the Translation Department and strengthening regional capacity. The facility will include an office, training and collaboration spaces and a recording studio for audio Scriptures located close to where many translation projects are based, improving coordination across 16 Pacific Island nations.



The Need

Across the South Pacific, Christianity is strong, yet many communities still lack Scripture in their heart languages. Distance, high travel costs, and dispersed islands limit coordination and slow translation progress. Establishing the Translation Centre in Vanuatu reduces these barriers by creating a central, accessible hub for translation teams, churches, and partner agencies. A purpose-built centre protects hard-won progress, preserves languages, and supports ongoing training, translation and distribution from a resilient base in Santo.

- **1,200+ languages** are spoken across Oceania, with **110+ languages in Vanuatu** alone.
- **16 major languages** in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Samoa are currently being prioritised for translation by BSSP.
- **1,000+ kilometres** of open ocean can separate islands reached by BSSP with translation work.

Goals

The goal of this project is to establish a fully functioning Bible Translation Centre in Santo, Vanuatu, enabling long-term decentralisation, stronger regional collaboration, and sustained translation progress across 16 Pacific Island nations. This project will see the construction of a purpose-built facility, relocate senior translation staff to Vanuatu, and expand regional capacity through training for project managers and coordinators.

In 2026, the goal is to finalise the issuance of the 'Special Use' land title and long-term lease following 2025 approvals, complete architectural drawings and engineering approvals, finalise development preparations, and begin foundation works and initial construction phases, positioning the Translation Centre for full build-out in 2027.

Impact

This project will ultimately impact the 2.8 million people living in the South Pacific. The Translation Centre in Vanuatu will strengthen Bible translation across 16 island nations by creating a central, resilient hub that improves coordination, increases translation continuity, and accelerates completion rates, projected to shorten timelines by around 20% through closer teamwork and ongoing training programs.

The Centre will also expand regional capacity by equipping project managers and coordinators, ensuring sustainable

leadership and uninterrupted progress despite future disruptions.

In 2025, the project secured key regulatory approvals, completed concept design and advanced architectural planning, maintained and protected the site, and deepened multi-agency collaboration, positioning the build to commence once final documentation is issued in 2026.

Impact in Numbers

2

key approvals secured in 2025: lease extension and Special Purpose Title rezoning.

1

concept design completed; architectural planning underway.

Testimony

"Vanuatu is considered the translation hub of the West Pacific Countries that BSSP serves; having the Translation Department decentralised to Vanuatu would have major sustainability and project continuity impact for BSSP."

— Geoffrey Miller, BSSP General Secretary

How Your Support Helps

\$60

will help to cover basic site safety and maintenance supplies that keep the property secure and ready for construction.

\$300

will help to support property upkeep and utilities during the preparation phase before building begins.

\$2,000

will help cover the cost of specialised engineering reviews required before construction begins.

"... and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

— 2 Timothy 3:15-16, NIV