

Bible Society Australia (BSA) Group Finance Results for 2017

2017 saw the BSA Group return to a more traditional financial result with a small surplus of \$0.018 million generated for the year. This was after an extraordinary year in 2016, where bequestors and donors gave generously, our investment in Koorong delivered a sound net contribution and we consolidated our property holdings to generate a large one-off gain (\$2.9 million).

Our supporters remained faithful with donations increasing year on year—up from \$7.98 million in 2016 to \$8.23 million in 2017 (3%)—to the highest level since nationalisation in 2011. This allowed our direct mission investment to grow, both internationally and locally, up from \$6.7 million in 2016 to \$7.8 million across 2017 (16%).

While God continues to be gracious to BSA the giving landscape continues to be challenging as our traditional supporter base ages. In an environment defined by an ever growing need for charitable support, BSA has been investing more in supporter awareness and fundraising activity (\$4.5 million in 2017 up from \$3.5 million in 2016) to ensure that we can continue to do the work that God has set before us.

In 2017, BSA marked its 200th birthday and took the opportunity to celebrate and thank those who contribute to our work. We also reflected upon what is necessary to sustain and grow BSA missional outcomes into the future. Examples of new missional activity in 2017 included investment in Bible advocacy (by the Centre for Public Christianity), youth engagement (Masterclass), digital content and distribution platforms (Eternity), and Christian publishing (*Mr Eternity* and *Our Mob, God's Story*).

BSA incurred increased costs in a range of functions including Executive and governance, special project consultancies and new senior personnel in Operations and Digital Development. (\$1.8 million in 2017 versus \$1.3 million in 2016).

As we look to face the challenges of the next 200 years, the Lord continues to provide and sustain BSA, with some \$39.5 million of net assets available at year end to further grow and prosper his ministry!

Ian French

Group Chief Financial Officer

Bible Society Australia

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