



Remote and Indigenous Ministry Support  
Project Fact Sheet 2022

# RIMS: Indigenous Audio Scriptures

## Overview

A printed Bible, even translated into a heart language, is at times not sufficient for people to Open The Bible for themselves. Some people remain unable to fully engage with the printed text of their Scriptures due to poor eye health, low literacy skills, or other reasons.

Bible Society therefore works to produce Audio Scriptures, which provide the Gospel in a format communities can readily access.

## The Need

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are oral cultures; important information is conveyed through story telling rather than the written word. This means that Indigenous communities readily engage with audio content in a way non-Indigenous cultures do not often appreciate or understand.

There are over 35 Indigenous languages in Australia with some translated Scripture available, of which only 16 have been made into audio recordings.



## Project Goals

Bible Society's goal is to ensure all the Indigenous languages which have been translated also have audio Scripture recorded, so that the Bible is accessible to as many people as possible. Also, as well as ensuring a greater engagement with Scripture, the audio recordings serve as a literacy tool, developing skills as people listen to the Bible.

In 2022, BSA will be coordinating several Bible Audio Projects including a multi-voice recording of the PEV (Plain English Version) Bible. This translation is specifically designed for Aboriginal audiences in which

English is not a first language.

Work on the Kriol Old Testament Audio Recording continues with a 'Checking' workshop scheduled for later in the year.

Plans are underway to expand Bible Society's involvement in Oral Bible Translation Projects. Currently, BSA assists with Translation Consultancy for Oral Bible Translation in the language of Kimberley Kriol. There are plans to develop and run an Oral Bible Translation Project in the Northern Territory.

## Impact

In 2021, BSA was involved in coordinating two audio projects: the Western Arrarnta New Testament and the Kriol Audio Recording. The Western Arrarnta New Testament Audio Recording will reach approximately 1,000 people in and around Hermannsburg (Ntaria) in the Northern Territory. The Kriol Audio Recording will reach approximately 30,000 people from Western Australia, across the top of the Northern Territory and into Queensland.

Once the Scripture recordings are completed, a mobile App is developed which unites the readings (the spoken word) with the printed text. As the audio is played, the words are highlighted in the text, forming an effective literacy tool. These apps are made available for free download from the Google Apps store and [www.aboriginalbibles.com](http://www.aboriginalbibles.com).

## Prayer Needs

*"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Romans 10:27*

- Pray that these audio recordings of Scripture will bless many generations across Australia.
- Thank God that many people who are unable to read can embrace the Gospel and know God's love through the spoken word.
- Pray for more opportunities to record Scripture in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.
- Pray for capable readers to offer their time and abilities to serve God and his people.