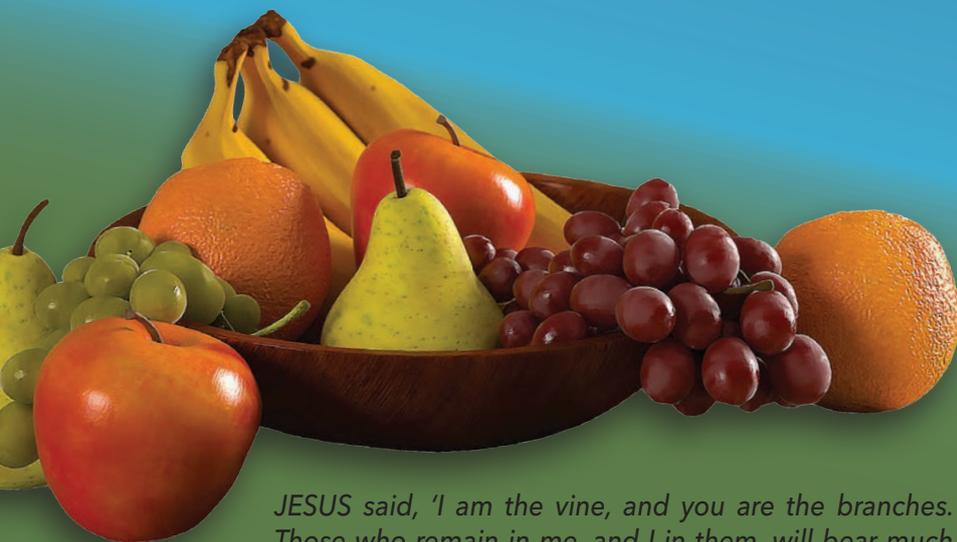


WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS AUSTRALIA

Impact Report

Looking at
Wycliffe Australia's
activities
from January 2019
to September 2020



JESUS said, 'I am the vine, and you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me'. JOHN 15:5 (GNT)

Wycliffe 
Bible Translators

FACTS about our people

- **Wycliffe Australia serves in 18 Countries** throughout Africa, Asia, Europe as well as Australia and Pacific.
- **280 WBTA members** including Board members, 103 active retired members.
- **Regional Volunteers: 30 volunteers** helping Wycliffe staff around Australia.
- **Remote Assignments: 25 language workers** who are working remotely from their assigned country.

LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS COMPLETED 2019-20

	Print	Apps	Video	Audio	Web
Scripture	11	4	2	9	
Bible Stories	11				1
Hymns & Songs	1			7	
Scripture Use	6			1	
Literacy	1			1	
Reference	2	2			1
Health & Community	10		1		

Impact Report 2019-20

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Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia
70 Graham Road, Kangaroo Ground 3097
ABN 22 004 705 953

www.wycliffe.org.au
www.facebook.com/wycliffeaustralia

Enquiries:
Ph: (03) 9712 2777
E: communications@wycliffe.org.au

Design: Rodney Jones
Data Research: John Tan
Editor: Deb Fox
Photos: Gary McMaster

This Impact Statement has been submitted to the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission)

As I contemplate the impact of Wycliffe Australia in this last biennium, I can't help but be challenged by these words of God from Isaiah 55:8 (NIV):

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts..."



It helps me to understand that the 'impact' is not necessarily our responsibility. We want to see people from every language group living as disciples of Jesus Christ through the power of God's Word in a language that speaks to their heart. Yet that power of God's Word is not something that we somehow own or control or cleverly manipulate. It is God's Word and he decides its impact. His ways are higher than our ways.

On the other hand, we are called by Jesus himself to take his gospel message to the ends of the earth and make disciples among all the nations. By bringing the good news of Jesus to those people that don't yet have it in a language they fully understand, we simply become a gardener who waters the earth and waits to see it 'bud and flourish and yield seed for the sower and bread for the eater' Isaiah 55:10 (NIV).

So even if the impact does not belong to us, the mandate remains for Wycliffe Australia to take those precious words from the mouth of God, the Bible, to every language in the world.

His Word will not return empty. His Word will accomplish everything he desires. His word will achieve the purposes for which he sent it. His Word will have an impact!

Max Sahl
CEO - Wycliffe Australia

VISION AND MISSION

Vision: To see people from every language group living as disciples of Jesus Christ through the power of God's Word in a language that speaks to their heart.

Mission: To assist the church in making disciples of all nations through Bible translation into vernacular languages.

We participate as a partner in the Bible translation movement through:

Promotion - presenting the work of Wycliffe and our partners, particularly in Australia

Advocacy - speaking out on behalf of the language groups without adequate Scriptures

Recruitment - inviting and encouraging Australian Christians to join the movement

Training - providing appropriate and timely training to prepare people for roles in the Bible translation task

Networking - building relationships and partnerships that serve the task of Bible translation

Empowering - sending people and supporting them in ways that allow them to work effectively

Resourcing - cultivating resources, such as prayer and funding, to assist the Bible translation movement.

Promotion

MISSION MATTERS 2020 *Coordinating COVID-compliant Conferences!*



The planning for 'Mission Matters', which is Mission Interlink's cross-cultural mission conference for South-East Queensland, was turned on its head in March when COVID sparked the shut-down of gatherings of any size all over Australia. However, the committee felt that we should wait until June to decide whether to cancel, postpone, go online, or run as planned. With Queensland relaxing restrictions, it went ahead as an in-person event under approved COVID plans at Mt Tamborine 25-27 September, with 253 people and 19 mission agencies attending – similar to previous years!

COVID compliance added a whole host of additional considerations:

- Distancing limited the numbers in the auditorium – yes we hit that limit!
- COVID-compliant food service – all food, tea and coffee being served. Two meal sittings to limit dining room numbers.
- Eliminating 'multi-touch' mission stand displays – fewer brochures, QR codes for 'sign ups'.
- Hand sanitiser EVERYWHERE!

Wycliffe personnel significantly helped pull off this event – the first big in-person mission event from when the pandemic hit Australia. Four of the thirteen organising committee members were Wycliffe, and then ten other Wycliffe members from South-East Queensland, some of whom were 'stranded' back in Australia, came to help out with logistics and service – data projection, cook helper, 'house parents', food and drink servers.

The weekend proved to be a great encouragement and blessing, as reflected in participant feedback:

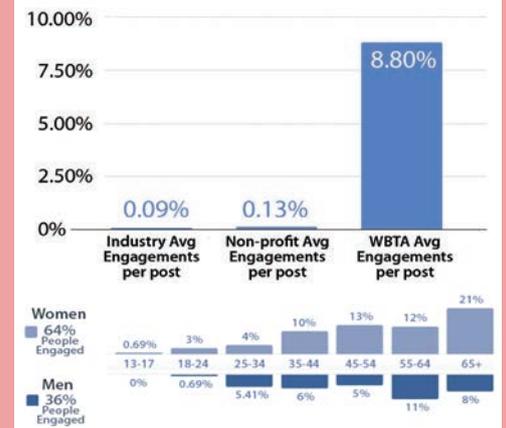
Being reminded that I just need to be faithful with what God has given me in order to fulfil the Great Commission, no matter how much it is. (27-year-old male)

I thought that the Q&A session was really good and answered a lot of questions for me, personally. (Simon, teenager)

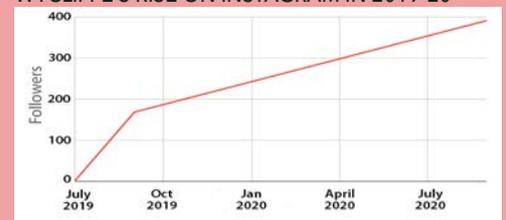
Hearing all the mission speakers, and meeting all the amazing people, and hearing their testimonies of God's goodness, in their lives. (Michelle, 27-year-old)

Spending time with God, getting to hear testimonies from missionaries about how they do missions with kids. (Alana, 32-year-old)

PEOPLE ENGAGING WITH WYCLIFFE'S FACEBOOK



WYCLIFFE'S RISE ON INSTAGRAM IN 2019-20



Connecting with People and Churches

- 456 churches throughout Australia who support our missionaries
- 12,425 people are receiving our Wycliffe Today magazine
- 139,873 views of Wycliffe Australia website
- Social Media: FaceBook 2,439 followers, Instagram 392 followers. There has been a 16% growth for the year
- Videos: YouTube 12,536 views representing 422.8 hours, Vimeo 3226 views representing 128.4 hours



...“We went to the land to which you sent us and, oh! It does flow with milk and honey! Just look at this fruit!” NUM 13:26 (THE MESSAGE)

STATISTICS ON WYCLIFFE PROJECTS

- 47 projects were supported to the tune of \$519,000 for this period
- 14 new projects have started
- 17 completed or finalised
- 53 projects continuing
- 9436 views of our project pages, representing 7% of total views on our website for this period



MOBA LITERACY

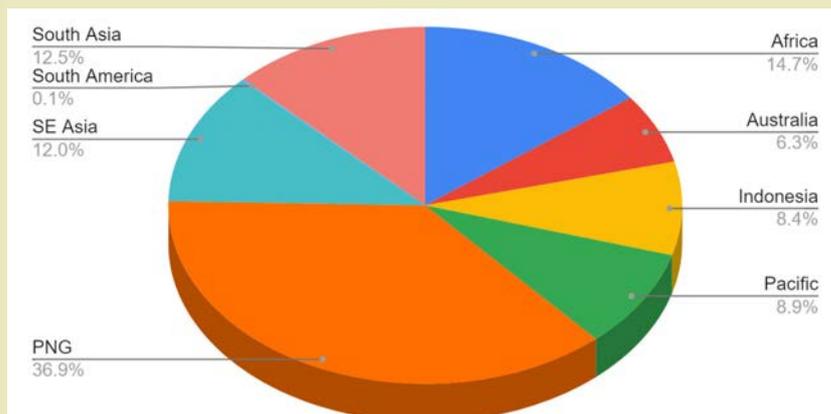


This literacy project has a profound impact on communities, enabling men and women who have never had a chance to go to school to read the Bible and other books fluently, to help their children in their studies and get paid professions with their new reading and writing skills.

Djadame is an apprentice seamstress. She comes from a poor family in Ghana and was only able to attend school in French for two years. Djadame explains how an opportunity to attend a Moba literacy class in her village has transformed her life:

I am very happy to share my joy with you over the benefits obtained from literacy. Given my very low level of French, I could neither read nor write, though my profession demands it for note measurements and writing the names of my clients. I was worried about how I would be able to accomplish my job as a seamstress if I was unable to read or write. God heard me and a Moba literacy class was opened in my church last year. After only four months of classes, I can now take my clients' measurements and also write down their names. I also read with ease and understand the Word of God in Moba, to name just a few blessings. I sincerely want to thank those who have allowed me to benefit from these blessings. May the Lord continue to support you so that others may also benefit through literacy like me.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECT FUNDING



...The Tree of Life was planted on each side of the River, producing twelve kinds of fruit, a ripe fruit each month. The leaves of the Tree are for healing the nations...
REV 22:2 (THE MESSAGE)

Recruitment

NATIONAL TRAINING EVENT - CANBERRA



Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia created a Mexican marketplace experience for students attending the National Training Event (NTE) in Canberra in December 2019. More than 2000 university students from all across the country who are part of the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) and Pacific region (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) experienced a taste of what is involved in Bible translation through interactive games, puzzles, the opportunity to taste local 'delicacies' (bugs!) hearing from a family heading to Mexico to help a translation project, and having conversations with Wycliffe representatives.

Jemima was one of the twelve Wycliffe representatives. She shares what it was like to connect with university students about the role they can play in the Bible translation movement:

I really loved the opportunity to go to the National Training Event, and found I had the best conversations with people about Wycliffe just by having it on my name tag instead of the university I was linked with. One of the opening questions when getting to know someone at NTE was 'What uni are you from?' Explaining what Wycliffe is, or if people knew about it, flowed easily with the rest of the conversation about what they were studying. I was amazed at how many students I met who were studying languages, linguistics, or teaching—even teaching English as a second language! People who didn't know that Bible translation was an option, but who already had a passion for languages, translation and heart for people to hear the good news about Christ! It was great to be able to point them towards the Wycliffe stand for conversations with the members there who had been on the field themselves, or who were better equipped to explain the opportunities to serve the Lord through Wycliffe, should God lead them down that path!



Wycliffe team members at the Wycliffe stand



Students engaging with the projects

RECRUITING 2019-20

- 13 new members
- 17 people in application process

Connecting with Colleges, Uni & Schools

(some on regular basis):

- 10 Theological Colleges
- 3 University Christian groups
- 5 Christian Schools

Connecting at Conferences:

Wycliffe represented at 17 events over the period



... Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream ... It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.

JEREMIAH 17:7-8 (NIV)

EQUIPPING PARTNERS IN BIBLE TRANSLATION



Stephen left and Kidu on the right

REGIONAL TRAINING

- Story the Bible - 13 workshops,
- Encounter Culture - 1 Workshop
- Perspectives (Culture Module) - 1 Workshop
- Explore Language - 2 Workshops
- The Mark Drama - 5 Workshops
- The John Drama - 4 Workshops

ORIENTATION FOR NEW MEMBERS:

- World Wide Wycliffe - 3 Workshops
- Partnership Development - 4 Workshops
- Ready Set Thrive - 3 Workshops

STAFF TRAINING

- First Aid Training - 1 Workshop
- Working with Children - 1 Workshop
- Cyber-security Awareness Training - 4 Sessions
- 'Families of Missionaries' Day - 1 Workshop
- Refresh Webinar (Partnership Development for existing members)

Papua New Guinea is home to around 12 percent of the world's languages. There are 838 living languages in PNG and 462 of those languages are still without any Scripture of their own.* The needs are great but there is currently a worldwide shortage of translation consultants and checkers to continue the work.

Stephen Moyaru is a Program Coordinator for the PNG Bible Translation Association (BTA) and Kidu Magi is a Translation Consultant who has translated the New Testament into the Sinaugoro language. Stephen and Kidu were in Melbourne last year to complete a Diploma of Ministry with SIL Australia through Melbourne School of Theology (MST) so they could further their work with BTA and increase training opportunities.

Stephen explains that more specialised local translators are required to help keep momentum going:

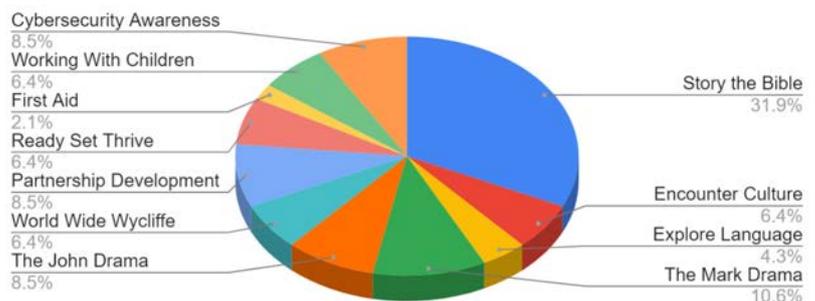
Our strategy for the next three years involves strengthening nine languages and publishing six completed Bible translations. The only way we can do that is to have workers who understand the language and the culture - but they also need the right level of training. That is why we came to Australia to be further trained in theological studies so that we can continue training future translation teams in PNG.

* Wycliffe Global Alliance statistics current as at October 2018 www.wycliffe.net/resources/statistics



Live in Me. Make your home in Me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with Me. JOHN 15:4 (THE MESSAGE)

Training Workshops



Networking

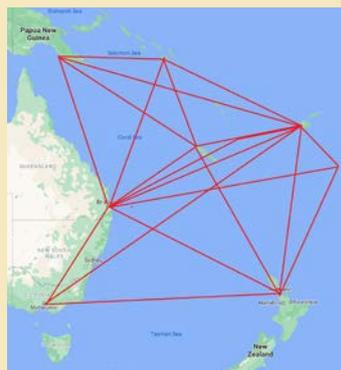
SOUTH PACIFIC BIBLE FORUM *Nadi Fiji, 12-14 November.2019*



One example of the increasing desire of mission agencies to work better together was the South Pacific Bible Forum, held in Fiji for the first time in eight years. It was a special time for Bible-based ministries and missions to get together and talk about common topics including Bible translation, new technologies, Scripture engagement, and training. The event was organized by Wycliffe Australia, Bible Society Australia and SIL Pacific Area.

The agencies and countries included:

- Wycliffe Global Alliance: Australia, Tonga, New Zealand, Fiji, Solomon Islands, PNG, Vanuatu;
- Bible Society: Australia, USA, South Pacific, New Zealand, Fiji, PNG, New Caledonia;
- Summer Institute of Linguistics: Vanuatu, Australia, Solomon Islands, and International leadership team;
- CWCI: Australia, New Zealand;
- Other: Faith comes by Hearing, Megavoice, Jesus Film Project, Worldwide Evangelization Crusade (WEC), and Homes of Hope.



From the participants:

'Just great to meet so many passionate stewards of God's Word and realise we are not alone.'

'I enjoyed the discussion groups very much, especially the chance to understand more about the different ministries and organisations that were represented, which really helps with ideas around collaboration and networking.'

'This was a great exercise. Now it is important to see the actions that will flow from this.'

'Great seeing the body of Christ come together with passion to advance the Bible translation work to meet the demand out there!'

MOUs

We have Memorandum of Understandings with 10 other organisations relating to facilities and personnel. These include World Evangelisation for Christ, Global Recordings, Scripture Union NT, Pioneers, Mission Aviation Fellowship to name but a few.

Connecting with different mission and Christian groups:

- Pacific Bible Forum
- Kartidaya, Indonesia (English immersion)
- Institute for Bible Reading in the USA to help promote Bible
- Australian Centre for Mission Aviation's aviation camp
- Missions Interlink, Wycliffe members involved in many ways
- Mission Matters, Queensland (Wycliffe helped in planning and running)
- Reachout Conventions, Katoomba and Manning Valley NSW
- Youth For Christ - Wycliffe member on YFC Board and YFC CEO on Wycliffe Board
- Scripture Union North West Creation Care Camp
- Global Records Network - Wycliffe member on GRN Board and GRN leader on Wycliffe Board
- PWMU Victoria (Presbyterian Women's Mission Union) attend AGM every year.
- Belgrave Heights Convention
- EMDC (Eurasia Media Distribution Conference)
- ICCM (International Conference on Computing & Mission)



But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. GAL 5:22-23 (THE MESSAGE)

MEMBER CARE HAS REORGANISED

The Member Care program has been in the process of restructuring to support the needs of members and staff. Regional Offices have been more involved in the program, with 21 people now directly involved in providing Member Care to new members, regional carers and church-based support groups.

RETIRES - A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH!

We keep in touch with 310 retired members. Considering that the retired and former members are advocates and pray-ers for the work and the members, just keeping in touch with them with phone calls, sending Retiree Newsletters, Prayer Words/ Notes, and other Wycliffe publications and providing the Retiree Gatherings are all ways we empower them in these roles.

COVID-19 MEMBER MOVEMENTS

On 18 March, all of our members serving overseas were urged to return to Australia in accordance with recommendations from the Australian government.

- 17 Wycliffe Australia families returned from their host countries.
- 22 individual members or families remained in their assigned locations.
- 13 members with overseas assignments were already in Australia and unable to return to their country of assignment.



Words satisfy the mind as much as fruit does the stomach; good talk is as gratifying as a good harvest. PROVERBS 18:20 (THE MESSAGE)

THE FORCE IS STRONG WITH MEMBER CARE



James and Natalie Nelson have been Wycliffe Australia members since 2009. They have been based in Papua New Guinea for 11 years, with James serving as a pilot and Nat working in pathology at a local clinic. This is their experience of returning to Australia amid a global pandemic and being supported by Wycliffe Australia's Member Care team along the way:

The manner in which we had to depart PNG was quite traumatic for us, as the COVID-19 pandemic led to the Australian government, and then Wycliffe Australia, recommending an urgent return to Australia. Our story

mirrors many others, with ever-changing plans, last-minute flight cancellations, border closures, travel restrictions and lockdowns.

In many ways it felt like our lives over those two weeks mimicked a Star Wars movie when the small spaceship enters the Death Star (enemy space station) to blow it up from the inside and then escapes through tiny alleyways as the roof falls in and all around there are explosions. The road seems impassable and just about to block off completely, then all of a sudden, they manage to exit through the tiniest opening. That was us.

We were grateful for those who knew what was happening, prayed and did all they could to help from afar. All praise to God who kept doors open and brought us safely back to Cairns!

The Nelsons are now back in Far North Queensland, with Nat working remotely part-time for a clinic in PNG and taking on a new role in the Personnel department. After experiencing the support of the Member Care team, Nat says she is looking forward to helping new members as they begin and guiding members through home assignments: 'I really enjoy getting to assist all the Wycliffe Australia members who serve all around the world. It feels a bit like multiplying the effort!'



Resourcing

DR. HAVEL'S STORY

Dr Joseph Havel is a retired forestry officer now living in Western Australia. He has been a faithful supporter of Bible translation through the years, giving in various ways to Vision 2025 projects, Next Step Development projects and Wycliffe members, including friends, Richard and Aretta Loving (d). Dr Havel shares the story behind the deep friendships he formed in Papua New Guinea that gave him a heart for Bible translation:



By Dr Joseph Havel

My contact with Richard and Aretta Loving started rather informally but it lasted for 60 years. Back in 1957, I was working as a forestry officer for the Australian administration of what was then the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. I was working at Bulolo, a gold mining and timber town.

The project employed several hundred local workers, mainly hired in the highlands for a period of 18 months at a time. Some of the people we employed were from the Awa language group. On Sundays, I used to drive up to their camp in the rainforest above us, to run an adult Sunday school class. This was only possible because of an Awa translator and foreman, Yeda.

I used a New Testament in Neo-Melanesian (now called Tok Pisin) – a trade language used for contact between locals, administrators, traders and missionaries. I would read the lesson and make comments on it in Tok Pisin and Yeda would translate it into Awa.

A few months into our lessons, I had a visit from a rather tall American, not unlike Abraham Lincoln in looks, who introduced himself as Dick Loving. He explained that he was involved in translating the New Testament into the Awa language and he wanted to know who was running the Awa Sunday school class. When he found out that I was theologically sound, Dick gave me a partial copy of the Awa NT translation, and showed me how to read it phonetically.

After the translation for the Awa New Testament was completed, the Lovings moved around PNG before eventually heading to East Africa. By 1997, they were back in Papua New Guinea at the Ukarumpa centre, working on a revision of the New Testament translation. We continued correspondence and I supported them through Wycliffe.

I kept my contact with the Lovings afterwards until replies stopped in 2018. It was only recently that I learned that they passed away to be with the Lord ahead of me. I am grateful for the contact I had with them. Our friendship opened doors for me to experience first-hand the power of people receiving God's Word in their own language. My connection to Wycliffe over the years has influenced my understanding and appreciation for mission and how we can all play a part in God's work.

PRAYER

- Prayer Words readership 1,020 people: Print 332, Email 577, Phone App 111
- Regional Prayer Notes readership 242 people: NSW 160, SA 19, QLD 63

DONATIONS

- Over 5,130 Financial Donors - individuals and churches
- To members: \$11,694,218 in 70,821 gifts (Avg \$165/gift)
- To Ministry Resourcing: \$702,902 in 1,706 gifts (Avg \$412/gift)
- Legacies: \$191,112 in 16 gifts (Avg \$11,945/gift)
- From Bethel Funerals: \$783,500
- From other sources: \$6,172 (STEER)



You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, He gives you.

JOHN 15:16 (THE MESSAGE)



Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia

NATIONAL OFFICE
70 Graham Road,
Kangaroo Ground VIC 3097
ABN 22 004 705 953

Ph: 03 9712 2777
Fax: 03 9712 2799

Email: info@wycliffe.org.au
Web: www.wycliffe.org.au

NSW / ACT
Ph: (02) 8014 6487
E: nswro@wycliffe.org.au

QLD
Ph: (07) 3256 1803
E: qldro@wycliffe.org.au

SA / NT
Mob: 0455 467 898
E: saro@wycliffe.org.au

TAS
Ph: 0455 476 292
E: tasro@wycliffe.org.au

VIC
Ph: (03) 9712 2720
E: vicro@wycliffe.org.au

WA
Ph: (08) 9243 0486
E: waro@wycliffe.org.au