

The situation of rural and remote Aborigines is very serious – they rank poorly on almost every social, economic and health index. The reasons for this are complex, and the pace of change is slow despite millions of government dollars.

Centuries ago, the apostle Paul spoke of the generosity of the Macedonian churches

In the NT, Anglican churches led by indigenous elders are part of the solution to the many problems facing Aboriginal communities. But congregations in these places face difficulties including remoteness, lack of literacy, language barriers, crumbling church buildings, financial pressures, spiritual warfare and wider social dysfunction.

In Sydney, a key challenge is to train the next generation of Aboriginal leaders.

We cannot solve the problems but, in the words of Rev. Carol Robertson from Ngukurr Anglican Church, we can 'do something'.

Anglican Deaconess Ministries invites you to also take up the challenge. You can:

1. Pray Foremost, we need to pray for our Aboriginal brothers and sisters who are faithfully ministering amid great difficulties. Secondly, there are a number of simple measures you and your church can take today to support the ministry to Aboriginal Australians in Sydney and the Northern Territory.



Esther sorting clothes at Minyerri, NT

2. Support Income-Generating Initiatives

Some NT Aboriginal churches have started Opportunity Shops to raise ministry funds and teach basic skills to local people. Donations of clothing from Sydney can help kick-start a local ministry in a remote community.

If you would like to be part of contributing to an Op Shop ministry in the NT, contact Anglican Deaconess Ministries on 02 9284 1476 or email mpinchback@deaconessministries.org.au

3. Support Families at Bible College

Families with pre-school children are often reluctant to leave them in communities while undertaking Bible training at Nungalinya College, Darwin. A new crèche is under construction at the College to cater for these families. The cost of caring for a child for the duration of a four-week course is \$875.



Contact Nungalinya College directly at <http://www.nungalinya.edu.au/> or email tlindsay@nungalinya.edu.au

4. Educate Urban Aboriginal Children

In Sydney, make a difference in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children by assisting Gawura, based at St Andrew's Cathedral School. For \$365, you can sponsor the school for a day or help support school chaplaincy or donate a lump sum to help create an annual scholarship for an Aboriginal child. Donations are tax deductible.



Contact the Head of Marketing & Development, Vicki Fraser on 02 9286 9500 or email any inquiries to vfraser@sacs.nsw.edu.au

5. Buy Childrens' Accessible English Bibles for churches and schools

Help churches put the Word of God into the hands of NT Aboriginal children by supporting the purchase of children's accessible English Bibles \$40 each.

Kriol is spoken by Aboriginal communities across the Top End. The Bible is now in this language and each copy costs \$40 each.

Contact Phil Gerber, Anglican Diocese of NT (08) 8941 7440 pgerber@internode.on.net

6. Fund Ministry Training in Sydney

Raising the next generation of Aboriginal leadership is a key challenge. You can help by assisting with MTS training stipends for young Aborigines, or by directly supporting the training initiatives of the Wollongong Regional Council or Sydney Anglican Indigenous Peoples' Ministry Committee (SAIPMC).



Action songs' at a church fellowship meeting, Minyerri, Arnhem Land, NT



Rev. Andrew Robertson and new believers at Ngukurr, Arnhem Land, NT



Back to the Cross, Youth Camp, NT



Children's Bible study, Yangbala Kemp (Youth Camp), Arnhem Land, NT



Pastor Ray Minniecon



Rev. Jonathan Lilley



Pastor Michael Duckett & Mrs Mary Shillingsworth

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This leaflet is an initiative of Anglican
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www.deaconessministries.org.au and
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Ministry Committee



Six ways to support the Aboriginal church in Sydney and Arnhem Land

'For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness.'
(2 Cor 8:13-14)