



# EXPLORING THE SALVATION ARMY



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# About us

## International mission statement

The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by love for God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human needs in his name without discrimination.

## Mission statement

The Salvation Army in Australia is a Christian movement dedicated to sharing the love of Jesus. We share the love of Jesus by:

### Caring for people

*Being there when people need us most  
We offer care and compassion as a sacred encounter  
with transformative potential*

### Creating faith pathways

*Taking a holistic approach to the human condition that  
values spirituality  
We graciously share the Good News of Jesus and grow  
in faith together*

### Building healthy communities

*Investing ourselves in relationships that promote mutual  
flourishing  
We find the wholeness God intends for us in community*

### Working for justice

*Tackling the social systems that harm creation and  
strip away human dignity  
We join God's work to build a fairer world where all  
can thrive*

## Our vision

*Wherever there is hardship or injustice, Salvos will live,  
love and fight, alongside others, to transform Australia  
one life at a time with the love of Jesus.*

## Values statement

Recognising that God is already at work in the world,  
we value:

### Integrity

*Being honest and accountable in all we do*

### Compassion

*Hearing and responding to pain with love*

### Respect

*Affirming the worth and capacity of all people*

### Diversity

*Embracing difference as a gift*

### Collaboration

*Creating partnerships in mission*

We commit ourselves in prayer and practice to this land  
of Australia and its people, seeking reconciliation, unity  
and equity.

## Commitment to reconciliation

The Salvation Army recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Australia. Our vision for reconciliation is to be a faith movement committed to equity, freedom and the righting of injustice.

We respect, value and acknowledge the traditions, spiritualities and languages of the oldest living cultural history in the world. We're intentional about engaging in unified and positive relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their communities.







# History

## Origins in East London

William Booth, a former Methodist minister, founded The Salvation Army in the slums of London in 1865.

Originally known as the Christian Mission, the name was changed to The Salvation Army in 1878. Since then, the organisation's structure has been based on military lines.

Booth's aim was to make worship and the church more accessible to the whole community. Initially, Booth sought to gather the poverty-stricken multitudes of London's East End and connect them with existing churches. However, at the time many poor and working-class people were excluded from church. Regarded as drunken outcasts, they were not welcomed by the wealthy and respectable churchgoers of the day.

As a result, Booth was forced to provide a more permanent organisation for the ongoing spiritual care of his newcomers.

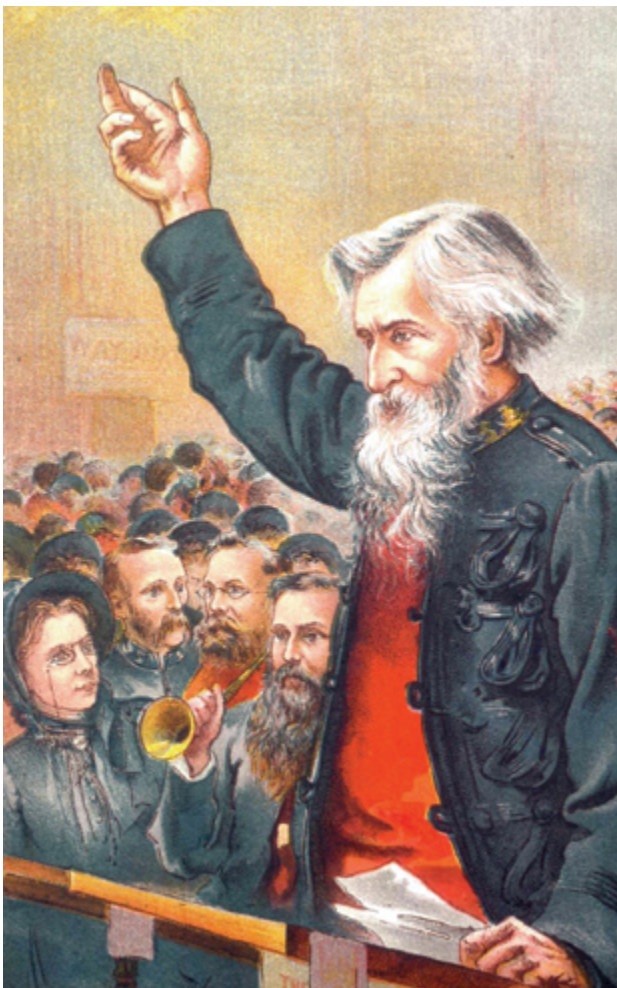
## Spiritual revolution

Booth's concern for the destitute masses of England was not only spiritual. The more he learned of the plight of the thousands spurned by Britain's industrial revolution, the more determined he was to see lasting social change.

From its earliest days, The Salvation Army developed social programs alongside its spiritual ministry, including food shops, homes for vulnerable girls and shelters. However, these were just the first steps in a grander plan.

In the early 1890s, Booth published *In Darkest England – and the Way Out*, a blueprint to help England rise above its social distress. As the need for work increased throughout the decade, Booth set up businesses under the banner of The Salvation Army. He opened labour exchange services, placing thousands of unemployed people in jobs, and offered free legal aid to the destitute. Learning that approximately 9000 people went missing in London each year, Booth established a missing persons bureau.

From these initial offerings grew a social service network that continues today in more than 120 countries across the world.



## Who was William Booth?

William Booth was born on 10 April 1829 in Nottingham, England. He married Catherine Mumford in June 1855, and together they had eight children.

From his earliest years, Booth was no stranger to poverty. At just 14 years old, his father died, and William worked as a pawnbroker's apprentice to supplement the family income.

Despite despising the trade, Booth completed a six-year apprenticeship. As a result of the poverty and suffering he saw daily, his passion for social justice only grew.

As a fiery and impulsive teenager, Booth became a Christian, attending the Wesleyan Chapel in Nottingham. Even then, as a teenager, his talent for preaching was evident. With his concern for the poor growing, Booth took his message to where the people were – the streets.

Although he later worked as a travelling evangelist for the Methodist church, it was preaching in the streets of London that Booth realised his driving force – to reach the down-and-out of Britain's cities with the Gospel of Christ – and The Salvation Army was born.

**William Booth was born on 10 April 1829 in Nottingham, England. His own experiences of hardship as a child contributed to his passion to help the poor.**





## Beginnings in Australia

On 5 September 1880, John Gore and Edward Saunders led Australia's first Salvation Army meeting from the back of a greengrocer's cart in Adelaide Botanic Park.

When Gore said, "If there's a man here who hasn't had a square meal today, let him come home to tea with me," little did he realise that within a century, The Salvation Army would feed hundreds of thousands of Australians each year.

Nor did he know he was expressing the ethos of an organisation which, from its earliest days, was equally concerned for both a person's physical and spiritual needs.

In a climate where religion had failed to gain acceptance, Gore and Saunders presented themselves as ordinary men. Without theological training or the status of ordination, the builder and the railway worker invited their small audience to attend a meeting of The Salvation Army that evening.

With a good number of attendees, Gore and Saunders formed a corps (church) under the temporary leadership of Gore. After an appeal to London for officers to be sent, Captain and Mrs Thomas Sutherland arrived in 1881.

From this humble beginning, The Salvation Army grew rapidly in Australia. Pioneer Salvationists faced rowdy and sometimes violent opposition, with at least two members being fatally injured.

However, by 1890, mob attacks had virtually ceased, and by the early 1900s Salvationists were accepted in the community. Research reveals The Salvation Army is now one of Australia's most well-loved organisations.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### Early Australian Film Producers

Operating in Melbourne from 1897 to 1910, The Salvation Army Limelight Department was Australia's most important film production company in the early years of the twentieth century. Among its many achievements, the Limelight Department is credited with producing a major multi-media production, *Soldiers of the Cross*, during 1900, and recording Australia's Federation in 1901.

# Structures and terminology

## Military structure

William Booth's Christian Mission was functioning as an army even before becoming The Salvation Army in 1878.

Since its earliest days, the Christian Mission adopted military insignia and terminology to represent the battle against poverty, injustice and evil – a popular Christian theme of the time.

With the name change in 1878, many more Salvationists began using military phrases, many of which continue today. Uniforms, flags and brass bands began to appear, and by October 1878, the first volume of *Orders and Regulations for The Salvation Army* was required reading for Salvationists.

## Officers

In keeping with the military structure, The Salvation Army clergy are known as officers and can hold varying ranks. Officers are full-time ministers of religion, trained and commissioned (ordained) by The Salvation Army. Their work involves all the usual duties of a minister and can also include diverse roles in The Salvation Army social service programs or administration.

In keeping with the military structure, The Salvation Army clergy are known as officers and hold varying ranks (see p. 9). Officers wear uniforms whenever they are on duty and are full time ministers of religion, trained and commissioned by The Salvation Army.

William Booth was the first general of The Salvation Army. Australian generals have included George Carpenter, who led The Salvation Army during the Second World War (1939-45) and Eva Burrows (1986-93) who was the second female general of The Salvation Army.

**The Salvation Army adopted a military structure from its earliest days to represent the battle against poverty, injustice and sin.**

## Soldiers

A soldier is a follower of Jesus, who is aged 14 or over and who identifies with The Salvation Army and its mission in the world. In an enrolment ceremony, they sign a covenant (or promise) with God. They state their belief in the 11 doctrines of The Salvation Army (see page 11); promise to share the good news of Jesus with others and to care for those in need; commit to living a lifestyle that supports our mission; including giving of their time, talents and finances, and not consuming alcohol, drugs or pornography.

Children are encouraged to be active members of The Salvation Army. They have the opportunity to sign a special promise and become 'junior soldiers'.

Many soldiers wear our uniform, especially when representing The Salvation Army in the community.

## Adherents

An adherent is a follower of Jesus, who is aged 14 or over and who has chosen The Salvation Army as their church. Having experienced the love of Jesus, they commit to live for him and want to show his love to others. They also commit to support the corps and participate in worship, fellowship and service.

New adherents sign a certificate of promise during a special ceremony. They may choose to wear an 'adherent' badge as an outward sign of the commitment they have made.

## Corps

A corps is The Salvation Army equivalent of a local church, and often acts as a community centre. Each corps is led by a corps officer (or leader) who is responsible to an area officer. There are more than 300 corps in Australia.

## Divisions

In Australia, there are six divisions, each administered by divisional commanders who are responsible to the chief secretary.

The divisions in Australia are:

- Queensland
- NSW/ACT
- Victoria
- Tasmania
- Western Australia
- South Australia/Northern Territory

Each division is made up of a number of areas led by area officers who oversee Area Leadership Teams. These teams work collaboratively to serve the community (see Local Mission Delivery, page 8).

Divisions also consist of a range of mission expressions led by both officers and qualified staff, including:

- Corps
- Social mission centres (homelessness, family violence, youth services and alcohol and other drugs)
- Community engagement services (emergency relief and financial counselling)
- Mission Enterprises (Salvos Stores, Aged Care, Employment Plus, Salvos Housing and Salvos Funerals)





## Local Mission Delivery

Local Mission Delivery is central to how The Salvation Army in Australia is organised for greatest impact in mission and ministry. Local Mission Delivery is how the different mission expressions collaborate to serve in a holistic and consistent way across the nation. The leaders of the different mission expressions in an area come together regularly as an Area Leadership Team to collaborate in mission.

The development of Local Mission Delivery is driven by the understanding that holistic, integrated mission is an essential part of The Salvation Army's DNA. In short, it is the national structure for intentional collaboration in holistic mission and the outworking of the wider framework of The Salvation Army, including our vision, mission and values.

**A corps is The Salvation Army equivalent of a church and is led by a corps officer. Salvation Army church members are known as soldiers or adherents, while clergy are known as officers and can hold various ranks. Many people worship at The Salvation Army without becoming soldiers and without wearing a uniform.**



# Ranks in The Salvation Army



A senior soldier who feels called to be an officer goes to The Salvation Army officer training college and becomes a [cadet](#)



After two years' training, the cadet is commissioned (ordained) and appointed as a [lieutenant](#)



After five years' service, and advanced training studies, a lieutenant is promoted to [captain](#)



After fifteen years' service, a captain is promoted to [major](#)



[Lieutenant colonels](#) are promoted and appointed by the general



[Colonels](#) are promoted and appointed by the general



[Commissioners](#) are promoted and appointed by the general



One officer at a time is elected world leader of The Salvation Army, and is known as [the general](#)



Senior soldiers can apply to become an [Auxiliary Lieutenant](#), serving full time in a ministry position.



# Worship, beliefs and practices

## Worship

Every weekend, church services at The Salvation Army worship and present the message of Jesus Christ. All the elements in the service work together and churches use a variety of means to communicate the gospel through Bible messages, music (traditional and contemporary), drama and personal experiences.

Family participation is a vital component of The Salvation Army church life. Increasingly, there are different expressions of faith communities too – including small groups that meet in homes.

In addition to church services, The Salvation Army corps provide an extensive range of support activities and opportunities to serve the community. Many are designed for families or single adults, while others are specifically designed to appeal to youth, children or the elderly.



## Beliefs

There are 11 doctrines of The Salvation Army, which are the basis of its belief and teachings. These doctrines are explained further in The Salvation Army Handbook of Doctrine.

### 1. **Word of the living God**

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and they only constitute the Divine rule of Christian faith and practice.

### 2. **Creator of Heaven and Earth**

There is only one God, who is infinitely perfect, the Creator, Preserver and Governor of all things, who is the only proper object for religious worship.

### 3. **The God who is never alone**

There are three persons in the Godhead – the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost – undivided in essence and coequal in power and glory.

### 4. **God's eternal son**

In the person of Jesus Christ, the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.

### 5. **Distorted image**

Our first parents were created in a state of innocence, but by their disobedience lost their purity and happiness. In consequence of their fall all people have become sinners, totally depraved, and as such are justly exposed to the wrath of God.

### 6. **Atonement through Christ**

The Lord Jesus Christ has by his suffering and death made an atonement for the whole world so that whosoever may be saved.

### 7. **The process of salvation**

Repentance towards God, faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration by the Holy Spirit, are necessary to salvation.

### 8. **The nature of salvation**

Justification is by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and those who believe have the witness in themselves.

### 9. **Obedient faith**

Continuance in a state of salvation depends upon continued obedient faith in Christ.

### 10. **Holiness**

It is the privilege of all believers to be wholly sanctified, and their whole spirit, soul and body may be preserved blameless until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### 11. **Resurrection hope**

The Salvation Army believes in the immortality of the soul; the resurrection of the body; the general judgement at the end of the world; the eternal happiness of the righteous; and the endless punishment of the wicked.

## Practices

### Covenant

Officers and soldiers in The Salvation Army sign a covenant. Having accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and desiring to fulfil the mission of God, they enter into the following covenant:

1. *I believe and will live by the truths of the word of God expressed in The Salvation Army's eleven articles of faith:*
2. *I will be responsive to the Holy Spirit's work and obedient to his leading in my life, growing in grace through worship, prayer, service and the reading of the Bible. I will make the values of the Kingdom of God and not the values of the world the standard for my life.*
3. *I will uphold Christian integrity in every area of my life, allowing nothing in thought, word or deed that is unworthy, unclean, untrue, profane, dishonest or immoral.*
4. *I will maintain Christian ideals in all my relationships with others: my family and neighbours, my colleagues and fellow Salvationists, those to whom and for whom I am responsible, and the wider community.*
5. *I will uphold the sanctity of marriage and of family life. I will be a faithful steward of my time and gifts, my money and possessions, my body, my mind and my spirit, knowing that I am accountable to God.*
6. *I will abstain from alcoholic drink, tobacco, the non-medical use of addictive drugs, gambling, pornography, the occult and all else that could enslave the body or spirit.*
7. *I will be faithful to the purposes for which God raised up The Salvation Army, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, endeavouring to win others to him, and in his name caring for the needy and the disadvantaged.*
8. *I will be actively involved, as I am able, in the life, work, worship and witness of the corps, giving of my own income as there is need to support its ministries and the worldwide work of the Army.*
9. *I will be true to the principles and practices of The Salvation Army, loyal to its leaders, and I will show the spirit of Salvationism whether in times of popularity or persecution.*
10. *I now call upon all present to witness that I enter into this covenant and sign these articles of war of my own free will, convinced that the love of Christ, who died and now lives to save me, requires from me this devotion of my life to his service for the salvation of the whole world; and therefore do here declare my full determination, by God's help, to be a true soldier of The Salvation Army.*



### Sacraments

Unlike most other Christian denominations, The Salvation Army does not observe the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion/Lord's Supper. The Army believes it is possible to experience the inward grace of sacraments without the need for the rituals themselves.

### Christian festivals

The Army observes the major Christian festivals of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost, but the emphasis given to others varies from one country to another.

### Women

From the beginning, The Salvation Army has taken a firm stance on the place of women and has advocated the validity of female ministry. This was largely shaped by Catherine Booth's firm conviction that women should be free to preach the gospel. Today, men and women officers are commissioned and appointed on the same terms.

Salvationists do not observe the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion/Lord's Supper but do observe Christmas and Easter.

All positions of authority in The Salvation Army have always been open to women.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### First doughnuts

The Salvation Army officers from the Atlanta Georgia Red Shield Services in America are credited with creating the first ever recipe for doughnuts during World War I. There was a shortage of food, but rations included flour, oil and sugar. A sweet dough was made with the flour and sugar. This was then deep fried in hot oil and rolled in sugar. It proved very popular with soldiers, as it was a tasty improvisation on their rations.



# Symbols and characteristics



## Red shield

The red shield is an internationally recognised symbol of The Salvation Army service to those in need.

At the turn of the century, a silver Salvation Army shield was often worn as a badge by many Salvation Army personnel, particularly those serving with the Defence Forces.

Following the Boer War, Australian Salvationist Major George Carpenter was concerned the silver shield worn by Salvationists in times of war would reflect light – especially at night – and reveal the location of troops to the enemy. As a result, the silver was replaced with red enamel and became known as the Red Shield.



## Flag

Around the world, The Salvation Army flag is a symbol of the Army's war against sin and social evil.

The red on the flag represents the blood of Christ, the blue border stands for purity and the yellow star in the centre signifies the fire of the Holy Spirit.

The flag is used at special occasions such as marriages, funerals, marches, open-air meetings, enrolments of soldiers, farewells and retirements.

The Salvation Army's first flag was designed and presented to the Coventry Corps in England by Catherine Booth in 1878. At the time the centre of the flag was a yellow sun representing the Light of Life. This was changed to the star in 1882.



## Crest

The crest is a meaningful symbol of the Salvationists' beliefs. Its emblems set forth the leading doctrines of The Salvation Army as follows:

- The sun (the surround) represents the light and fire of the Holy Spirit
- The cross of Jesus stands at the centre of the crest and a Salvationist's faith
- The 'S' stands for salvation from sin
- The swords represent the fight against sin
- The shots (seven dots on the circle) stand for the truths of the gospel
- The crown speaks of God's reward for his faithful people
- 'Blood and Fire' is the motto of The Salvation Army, describing the blood Jesus shed on the cross to save all people, and the fire of the Holy Spirit which purifies believers



## Uniform

The Salvation Army uniform reflects the military principles upon which the Army is organised. For The Salvation Army officers and soldiers, it is a visible expression of their faith that often creates valuable opportunities to provide a helping hand.

Uniforms have been worn in many forms since the Army's earliest days. The first evangelists of the Christian Mission wore clerical suits with frock coats, tall hats and black ties. Women evangelists wore plain dresses and small Quaker-type bonnets. When the Christian Mission became The Salvation Army, it was agreed that a military type uniform should be adopted, modelled on Victorian military attire.

Elijah Cadman, a former chimneysweep and first captain of The Salvation Army, is credited with the idea of military-style uniforms. At an early meeting of the newly formed Army, Cadman declared,

“ *I should like to wear a suit of clothes that would let everyone know I meant war to the teeth and salvation for the world.* ”

The Salvation Army uniform has evolved over the years. Today, most Salvationists don't wear hats and many people often wear a casual uniform. There is variation in uniform internationally because of climate and other circumstances.

## Brass bands

The Salvation Army is renowned worldwide for its brass bands and choirs, but the introduction of bands to the Army happened almost by chance.

The first Salvation Army band was launched in 1878 in Salisbury, England, and was made up of Charles Fry, a local builder and leader of the Methodist orchestra, and his three sons.

Salvation Army evangelists in Salisbury were having trouble with local hooligans, so Fry and his sons offered to act as bodyguards while the Salvationists sang in the marketplace.

As an afterthought, the men brought their instruments to accompany the singing. In this unwitting fashion the first Salvation Army band was born.

Their immediate success led the Fry family to sell their business and become full-time musicians with the Army. Within the next few years, brass bands sprung up all over the country.

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Raised age of consent

The Salvation Army successfully campaigned to have the age of consent in the UK raised from 13 years old to 16 years old in 1885.





# Social and community services

## Our services

Christian concern for both a person's physical and spiritual welfare is reflected in the wide network of Salvation Army social and community services that exists today.

Following the example of Jesus, we serve people without discrimination and with no strings attached. We share faith and hope in our churches and other centres across Australia. We advocate for a fair and just society, believing every person has dignity and value because they are created in the image of God.

## Aged Care

Quality care for older Australians, including residential aged care, retirement villages, respite and home care.

## Chaplains

Salvation Army chaplains provide counsel and comfort to victims of disaster and emergency, and to the support personnel who serve at such times. Our rural chaplains traverse the country to combat the isolation of life on the land.

Chaplains are also embedded in our social mission centres, aged care and employment services and Salvos Stores.

## Children's services

The Salvation Army runs a range of children's services:

- Church-based kids clubs and Sunday school
- Homework clubs
- Distribution of gifts at Christmas
- Holiday camps for disadvantaged children
- Childcare centres

## Homelessness

The Salvation Army is the largest provider of homelessness services across the country. The organisation provides services to people at risk and/or experiencing homelessness in every state and territory. We provide a range of homelessness services specific to adult men and women, women and children, and families, including accommodation, counselling, meals, connection and referral to specialist services.

## Doorways

Our innovative, best-practice emergency relief model provides support for people experiencing short-term hardship and offers case-management assistance for complex needs.



## Emergency services and disaster response

The Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) continues to be on the frontline at major disasters involving the Australian community. Its main purpose is to provide catering for first responders and those affected, as well as practical support, hope and encouragement. SAES teams continue to provide support for as long as it takes to rebuild.

## Employment services

The Salvation Army is committed to assisting more people into meaningful employment through:

- National job-placement service, Employment Plus
- On-the-job training cafes
- Vocational training
- Targeted programs for teens at risk of leaving school early

## Financial counselling

Our Moneycare free financial counselling service and No Interest Loan Scheme help break the cycle of poverty and give people freedom from financial burden.

## Alcohol and other drugs

The Salvation Army offers a lifeline for people with a range of addictions, including alcohol, other drugs and gambling. Across Australia, our services offer unique programs for people experiencing alcohol or drug problems. These include:

- Withdrawal management services (detox)
- Residential treatment
- Community-based treatment

## Youth services

The Salvation Army Youth Services has a range of programs for young people, their families and the community. We understand that a safe space for growth is created when people feel believed in, valued, listened to and respected.

## Family and domestic violence

The Salvation Army provides a wide range of services to support women and women with children impacted by family and domestic violence. We offer refuge, children's and parenting services, counselling, support, men's programs, accommodation and advice to women and children who are experiencing, or who have experienced, family and/or domestic violence.

## Salvos Funerals

Salvos Funerals is a natural extension of the care we provide both in the community and through our aged care facilities. Salvos Funerals is the ethical face of the funeral industry as all our profits go directly back to the community work of the Salvos.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Invention of safety matches

Red-tipped safety matches were introduced by The Salvation Army in England during the 1890s. At the time, matches were produced using poisonous yellow phosphorus, which caused the fatal disease 'phossy jaw' in factory workers.





# An international army

## A global mission

The Salvation Army operates an international network of services caring for those experiencing homelessness and poverty in more than 120 countries around the world.

The Army's internationalism is expressed in the ethnicity of its leadership around the world. From the beginning, the Army has encouraged and nurtured the use of Indigenous people in command positions in order to preserve cultural understanding and identification. However, the mission of The Salvation Army is universal in its desire to serve God, care for all humankind and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Internationally, there are almost 15,000 Salvation Army corps, as well as a wide range of social, medical, educational and other community services.

If you would like to know more about The Salvation Army in Australia, please visit:

**[www.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au)**

or

**[my.salvos.org.au](http://my.salvos.org.au)**





**salvationarmy.org.au**

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