

# Australia

## *Outreach Guide*



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## OUTREACH GUIDE

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## AUSTRALIA - INTRODUCTION

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Let's just get it out there, you're gonna (see Australian language section ☺) love it here.

Australia is a fairly modern country, with good infrastructure and is fairly safe (just don't touch the wildlife, they may be cute, but they WILL kill you).

Australia (OZ) is a young nation and the first modern nation to have had an up and running, 'self'-elected government, even prior to the formation of our federation in 1901. This means Aussies (people from Australia) love to 'have a say' and struggle to be told things like 'you must' etc. from outsiders.

There is still a strong leaning towards our English heritage, along with, a strong pull towards affiliation with the USA due to our similarities, military partnerships and the ever-pressing influence of Hollywood,

Aussies are a pretty easy going, fun loving, sport-mad people, and although like most nationalities, there are some major issues sitting underneath the surface, the phrase 'she'll be right mate' still stands strong during tough times and circumstances.

We have 1 main language in Australia and that is English; but thank the Lord we are so close to Asia and have had the blessing of many Asians bringing their culture and best of all, their diversity of foods and flavours to our shores.

We have 5 mainland capital cities, the largest ones being Melbourne and Sydney with 4.7 million people in each. Then comes Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth followed by the Jewel of the Apple Isle's (Tasmania) capital city, Hobart.

We are a large country and popping from one city to another city is not as easy as one may think. To put it into perspective, Melbourne and Adelaide are the 2 closest cities at approximately 750km apart, whilst Perth's closest mainland city is also Adelaide; but it is a good 3-hour flight and just under a 2700km drive away. Surprisingly though, this has not diversified our inhabitants as much as could be expected. Mostly we speak with the same accent (with some slight variations), have the same colloquialism's, enjoy similar pastimes and eat similar foods.

Australia is known as the 'sunburnt country,' with long summers and generally mild winters. 95% of the country's population live along the coastline and what a coastline it is. Sparse and diverse, you're sure to find plenty to explore and do. The middle of the country however, is - well - dry! We are apparently the driest continent in the world! Just take a trip 200-300km inland from most points and you will probably agree.

Economically we have done well, through the last decade or so, due to a good government, a 'she'll be right' attitude and an abundance of natural resources. So, whilst we have poverty, it is less extreme and less obvious than other places around the world.

Australians LOVE Australia and are very proud of their country! They are generally welcoming and kind-hearted, while being very competitive between cities and states. So, remember when you are in a city to let them know how great it is and then when you are in Adelaide (RADelaide) you can let your guard down, be honest, and let them know this is by far the best city in Australia.

- Martin Stockdale (Proudly based in Adelaide, Australia)...

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## EXPECTATIONS

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We have the privilege of becoming God's co-workers in the nation of Australia. It is a responsibility and an honour that has the potential to change the way they do church and ultimately impact the nation. Go with a teachable and humble spirit, not as experts. Whilst we are going to help the churches there grow into greater health we do not travel as gurus or as experts but as servants. As much as we are there to serve the local churches, an open heart and a healthy dose of humility will ensure each of us learns and grows from the experience. Beware of a critical spirit that often begins innocently with the phrase, 'Back home we... (do it like this)

Remember we are people of the Word and of the Spirit. We have both available to each of us so be prepared to minister if asked to. Expect God to challenge different areas of your life and thinking. Expect God to use the outreach (and people a part of it) to teach, humble and stretch you. Think big! Expect God to save, deliver, heal, raise from the dead, bless and love the people through you. Realise that there are bound to be times that you will be irritated and frustrated. Lack of sleep, different food, cultures etc. can all put extra pressure on people and you may be surprised at how these things affect you. Talk to your outreach leader if needed, ask for help and prayer. You're not on your own and the beauty of team is knowing you've got others along with you possibly experiencing very similar feelings themselves.

**Be ambassadors of Christ. We are called to model New Testament Christianity,** therefore we need to be Christ-like in our attitude. In Philippians 2 the command is "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." Furthermore we need to model servanthood, faith, worship, prayer, etc. Be an example in all things!

**Be a blessing, be an encourager, be a servant to the people.** Serve your hosts (if they will let you), serve in meetings (practically and spiritually) and serve other members of the team.

**Be aware of cultural differences.** Try not to pre-judge the behaviour without understanding the worldview. GO WITH AN ATTITUDE TO LEARN and be TEACHABLE.

If you do experience difficulties do not make changes to plans without speaking it through with your outreach leader first (i.e. accommodation, travel plans, etc). A lot of effort goes into the planning of outreaches and each decision can have a ripple effect. Likewise, it is easy to cause confusion or offense without meaning to.

If faced with needs amongst the people you encounter and there are donations or gifts you would like to give them, please work it through with your outreach leader. Remember that often there are many others that have gone before you ministering into that area and you want to respect their work and ways of doing things. Do not get involved in local pastoral issues, rather always point people back to their leaders. By all means pray for people and encourage people but it is easy to unintentionally cause problems for churches by giving perspective without knowing the whole story. Refrain from prophesying births, deaths or marriages, rather if you feel prompted by these things share them with your team leader to process with the local leaders.

Where there is unity the Lord commands the blessing. Satan knows this and seeks to be divisive. The 'golden rule' is: "When on an outreach, your outreach leader has the first and

final say!" If you have a different idea, suggestion, opinion or an 'easier way to do it', by all means share it with your leader but make sure you're doing so respectfully and at an appropriate time.

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give account. Obey them so that their work may be a joy, not a burden, for that will be of no advantage to you" (Hebrews 13:17).

For team leaders: Ask if God has shown any of the team anything that they think is important to share, communicate well, listen to their perspectives and be patient with their questions, possible worries or thoughts.

Anchor all that you say and do in prayer. In Jesus' most needy hour, He prayed. "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25). Remember, that the most vulnerable time is just after a great victory. Be vigilant and prayerful, especially on your return journey. "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed" (Proverbs 16:3).

The success of an outreach is not dependant on the team leader, but on the whole team. The team is only as strong as the weakest link, so pull together and support one another. Be a 'good follower', look for ways to support your team leader (bearing in mind if you're tired, he's most likely twice as tired as you are as he leads the team and ministers to other leaders). Speak well of your team and leaders to others, remember that your words carry weight and careless words can cause very real damage.

Take time out if you can, often we travel far distances for outreaches and it's a great idea to make the most of the travel time. Don't try and fit 'tourist time' into your outreach time, rather add on a few days before or after the outreach (at your own expense and with your own accommodation arrangements) to see the sights and have some 'down time'.

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## CURRENT OBJECTIVES IN AUSTRALIA

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To continue to establish two healthy Four12 partnering base churches, both in Perth and Adelaide, to act as models to other churches that are looking into Four12. These churches are already healthy local churches; but our heart is to see them transition into becoming Four12 **base** churches as well.

To assist Peter Meyer in his envisaged apostolic role with the churches he is working into in Fiji and Indonesia.

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## CHURCH CULTURE

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At Heart City Church (Perth) they have a large restaurant area on site where they provide a meal every Sunday for the entire church family to have lunch together after the service. Social gatherings as a church family are a big part of both Impact Church (Adelaide) and Heart City Church.

Worship at both these churches is very vibrant and very much the same as what you will experience across many of our Four12 partnering churches.

Prayer times happen before the Sunday services and you will be encouraged to arrive 30 minutes beforehand for this.

Dress code for meetings is very casual and will be similar to what one would expect within most Four12 partnering churches.

These churches are both open to the prophetic and spontaneous songs etc. are welcomed (of course this is always done under submission to the team coordinator and local elder).

A wise way to ensure that you are well received within the local church is by taking caution when it comes to consuming alcohol. Although each one of us has different convictions when it comes to alcohol, for the sake of the saints in the congregations, we ask that you **please abstain from drinking alcohol** for the duration of your time in Australia. Paul writes to the church in Philippi and has the following to say, in a similar vein;

*“Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others” (Phil 2:1-4).*

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## WHY SEND TEAMS ON SHORT TRIPS TO THE NATIONS?

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- To expose churches to New Testament Christianity as modelled by the saints a part of the team.
- To encourage leaders in Australia to rise to their full potential, equipping and mobilizing their people to reach the lost and disciple the nations.
- To encourage and build up the churches in Australia.
- To expose people to nations outside of their own, and how God works there.
- To enlarge the faith of those who **GO!** and to stir their hearts to greater things (with the aim of them then taking this back to their home church).
- To give them a better idea of how/ what to pray for people/ churches in other nations.

- To encourage generosity in the saints by exposing them to the costs that come with working into the nations (travel costs etc.).

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## REPORTING BACK TO YOUR CHURCH

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There is no doubt that you will have something to share when you return home. This is a great opportunity for you to encourage the local church with news of all the things that God did during the outreach. It is also very rewarding for those who have invested prayer and finances into the outreach to hear your feedback. Giving feedback is also the apostolic pattern found in Acts. Use this opportunity to enthuse, inform, motivate, energise and increase the faith of the local church.

To bring a good report: Caleb - *“Let us go up at once and possess it for we are well able to overcome it”* (Numbers 13:30).

- It can be helpful to keep a journal of your trip. It will serve as a reminder of the wonderful events of the outreach and encourage you to keep your commitments to pray for the people you met.
- When giving feedback, show excitement, enthusiasm and faith.
- Communicate how your own impact was significant and the impact the outreach had on you.
- Be truthful (there is no need for exaggeration), be prepared (know what to say and how to say it) and be encouraging (God can use others in the same way).
- Avoid being long-winded. Be short, concise and to the point (avoid unnecessary repetition, irrelevant details, etc.) Concentrate less on the cultural/physical differences and more on what God did. People like to hear what happened to you, but also in you!
- Avoid inside jokes or extensive mentions of food, smells, etc.
- Make sure God gets the glory!

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## MINISTRY

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Leave preaching of governmental issues to elders. Rather, share about things that you have had victory in, are living in or can speak with conviction about. Remember people catch who we are not what we say.

Remember that the elders of the local church are the highest authority in that context, so refer people to them. Submit to their covering and way of doing things while you are in their church. Honour and respect them as fathers in God’s house.

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## BEING HOSTED

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- **Give dates and times of arrival;** and communicate any delays or changes as soon as possible.
- **Offer to contribute** towards meals and even cook for them. Taking your hosts out to eat is an option but this can get quite pricey. If you are able to bless your hosts in this way, please feel free to do so. If, however you are unable to do this, this is not the only way you can bless your hosts and it is not expected of you.
- **Remember the children** – please include them as they too, are part of the body. You will often find that winning the heart of a child goes a long way in winning the hearts of their parents.
- **Be grateful** for your hosting accommodation – don't compare with others' hosting experiences.
- **Be adventurous** – eat what is offered as far as is possible. Australia has a variety of cuisines and is considered one of the “food-hubs” of the world. Why not try some of the traditional meals as well as the foreign cuisines that have been brought to Australia's shores by the multitude of immigrants that have enriched Australia with their diverse cuisines.
- **Be helpful** – wash dishes, make your bed, serve the family – let them remember the Christ in you!
- **Communicate** your movements so that your hosts know when you will be home etc.

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## PRE-TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

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Your pre-travel arrangements are very important. They will need to be made well in advance of your departure date to avoid last minute confusion or stress.

**You need a valid passport;** without it you cannot leave or enter a country.

- Check your passport's expiry date: It must be valid for at least 6 months after your intended return date.
- You will need to investigate if you will need a visa to visit Australia. If you do need to apply for a visa you will need to do this well in advance to allow for collection of your relevant documents and processing times.
- Photocopy the page of your passport with your photo and information on it and keep it separate from your passport in case the latter goes missing. We also suggest you keep a digital copy of your passport on file.

## Vaccinations and Health

- There is no need for vaccinations when entering Australia.
- If you are on prescription medication, ensure you have adequate supplies on hand as they can't always be obtained in Australia. Also, keep a copy of your doctor's prescription on hand for the relevant authorities, if needed.
- Please inform the outreach leader of any significant medical conditions.

## Travel/Medical/Accident Insurance

It is recommended but not essential. For some people cover can be arranged on their personal householder policies, also some credit cards offer free cover with air ticket purchase.

## Foreign Currency

- Foreign currency should be purchased prior to, or upon, your arrival in Australia to provide for various needs during your trip.

Options are available, including using ATM's in the airport. Speak to your bank beforehand to ensure your cards are authorised for ATM use in Australia.

- Australia trades in Australian Dollars- abbreviated AUD.

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# TRAVELING

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- Most airlines require you to be at the airport **at least two hours** before departure.
- It is easier to **check-in online the day before you fly**, but you can also do it at the airport when you get there.
- **Check for any schedule changes/delays beforehand**- this can be done on-line or with one of several apps.
- **There are many airports in Australia make sure you fly into the exact one specified by your outreach leader.**
- To travel across a city in Australia can be quite a slow process due to traffic congestion. **Public transport** is fairly cheap and safe.
- Alternatively, **car rental is** available but will be pricey.
- **Do offer to pay for petrol** if you are driven somewhere.

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## PASSPORT CONTROL / CUSTOMS

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- If asked, you are travelling as a tourist, visiting friends. We will provide you with an address for you to use if you are asked.
- Australia's customs are very strict on the bringing of food and organic materials from overseas so don't try to bring fresh unsealed produce or unprocessed timber artifacts etc.
- Do not carry anything for anybody else!

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## CRIME

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**Australia is generally a low crime country and a little common sense and vigilance should see you through!**

- If you have a backpack/ bag on you be very aware – we suggest you wear it on the front of your body rather than on your back.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Don't wander into places you do not know.
- In case of a theft:
  - o File a police report.
  - o Contact the embassy for a new passport and emergency money – if these are taken.
  - o Take new passport photos - make photocopies of the police report.
  - o Cancel any cards.

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## TIME KEEPING

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- Please be as punctual as possible.
- Do not stress if your hosts make you late, or if there is a major traffic problem- but don't be the reason for being late!

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## COMMUNICATION

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- SIM cards and airtime are easily available and often work out a lot cheaper than using your local sim card / contract.
- Most people have Wi-Fi in their homes but please do ask about their data limits to prevent you from incurring extra costs for your hosts.
- If you are on a prepaid phone contract ensure to investigate all data and call charge costs for travel abroad, these are often very high.

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## EATING OUT

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Restaurants can be expensive, but the food is great and there are usually more affordable options. Australia boasts one of the most diverse and experiential dining scenes in the world, just think of Masterchef Australia! So, eating out can be quite the treat, provided there is time for it and you can afford it.

Even with the diverse cuisines, remember to try some more traditional Australian food.

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## THE 11<sup>TH</sup> COMMANDMENT

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**Remember:** it is important to have fun!!

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# AUSTRALIA LANGUAGE SURVIVAL KIT

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## Oz Language = Shorten Everything

<b>G'day</b>	Good day to you
<b>G'day Mate</b>	Good day to you fine sir
<b>Gonna</b>	Going to
<b>Now</b>	Now (Not some weird time off in the future. This includes now now, and just now.)
<b>Sanga</b>	Sandwich
<b>Mate</b>	Brother/ Bru/ Friend
<b>Cobber</b>	Brother/ Bru/ Friend
<b>Arvo</b>	Afternoon
<b>Chockers</b>	Full, Can't Fit Anymore
<b>Devvo</b>	Devastated
<b>Fair Dinkum</b>	Genuine, True
<b>Footy</b>	Australian Football
<b>Nah, yeah</b>	Yes
<b>Yeah, nah</b>	No
<b>Servo</b>	Petrol Station
<b>Thongs</b>	Flip Flops
<b>Howzit going?</b>	How are you doing?
<b>No worries</b>	Don't worry about it / You're welcome
<b>What a beaut</b>	Something/ Someone Beautiful
<b>Stoked</b>	Excited!
<b>Good onya</b>	Well Done!
<b>Crikey</b>	Amazement
<b>Sheila</b>	Female
<b>Blokes</b>	Male
<b>Mozzie</b>	Mosquito
<b>Roo</b>	Kangaroo

<b>She'll be right</b>	Everything will be alright
<b>Sweet as</b>	Awesome
<b>Barbie</b>	Barbeque
<b>Ta</b>	Thank you