

Catalyst



**BAPTIST
WORLD AID
AUSTRALIA**
Be love. End poverty.

“ ‘He defended the cause of the poor and needy... Is that not what it means to know me?’ declares the Lord. ”

—Jeremiah 22:16

Catalyst Intro Kit.

Introduction

Welcome to Catalyst!

God has given us a vision for a world made right. Where poverty and injustice have ended and all people enjoy the fullness of life He intends. As God's people, we have the privilege of working with Him to make this vision our reality.

Our Catalyst program will equip you and your church to advocate for a world made right; a world where communities and nations have the resources to lift themselves out of poverty, where workers in developing countries are free from exploitation, and where children are not working to farm the cocoa we enjoy.

Catalyst groups and churches come together to learn about, pray about, and act on global justice issues. They mobilise their communities, and call on consumers, corporations, and the Government, to change their behaviour and policies from ones that exploit communities living in poverty, to ones that protect and empower.

With 65 active groups around the country – and that number continually growing – we are able to create change and transform the lives of people living in poverty in extraordinary ways.

When you act through Catalyst, you know that you're not acting alone. Not only are you advocating alongside other Catalyst groups around the country, but you are also directly connecting with major national justice coalitions such as Stop the Traffik and Micah Australia.

Getting Started

Groups often start by simply finding a few people in your church or community that share a passion for justice. Groups can function well with as few as two passionate people, or upwards of twenty!

After that, there's three simple steps:

1. Identify a leader (or leaders)
2. Hold an exploratory meeting and information night (feel free to invite a BWAA contact to come and speak at your meeting – visit our website www.baptistworldaid.org.au to find out the contact details for your state representative)
3. Register your group online (<https://www.baptistworldaid.org.au/get-involved/be-vocal/catalyst/register-a-group/>) and start meeting!

The Catalyst Calendar

(Learning, Lobbying, Awareness, and Review)

Learning (Usually February to March)

During the first few meetings of the year, we aim to get you equipped and inspired to tackle issues of injustice by providing some great educational resources and opportunities, including:

- An annual 'Catalyst launch', where advocates and groups gather to learn more and find out how they can take action
- Advocacy bible studies
- Briefing sheets
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Book recommendations

Lobbying (Usually April and October)

An important part of Catalyst is talking to decision makers, like politicians and corporations, about what they can and should be doing to end injustice. To help you do this we provide:

- Training on visiting your Member of Parliament
- Policy briefing sheets with clear asks
- Letter-writing templates to write to companies and MPs about particular campaign issues

While many new groups consider this the most intimidating element of advocacy, most discover it's much easier than they think. Remember, one of the most important things you can do by talking to your MP is showing them that there are people in their electorate passionate about seeing change.

Community Awareness (Usually May to September)

During this time, groups raise awareness and educate the community about the issues they are passionate about. We help by providing:

- Event ideas, and planning guides
- Tips and assistance on engaging your local media, hosting an event or running a forum
- DVDs and presentations to show to your church
- Postcards and petitions to get people to sign and send to companies and politicians
- Bible studies that can be used by your church

Review Phase (November -)

At the end of every year we encourage groups to spend time celebrating their achievements and reflect on the year that's been. It's also a good opportunity to decide on your plans for the year ahead (continue, have a break, or finish up as a group).

Baptist World Aid – Your Partner

We're here to help with anything we can, so don't hesitate to call or email. We'll also keep you up to date with our campaigns through a regular e-newsletter, blog, and our magazines.

To find out more, visit <https://www.baptistworldaid.org.au/faith-in-action/catalyst> or contact our Advocacy Coordinator, Eliza Johnson by emailing eliza.johnson@baptistworldaid.org.au