



At Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM), our vision is to see people living in the remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia become mature and faithful followers of Jesus.

As a ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, we've been taking the good news of Jesus to the furthest regions of our country since our foundation in 1912, by the Rev John Flynn.

We continue that mission today through our network of ministry teams, and from our new long-term home in Ardlethan, New Dunesk.

For more information on the work of PIM and the New Dunesk Gap Year, visit www.pim.org.au/gap-year

Presbyterian Inland Mission

PO Box 9, Ardlethan NSW 2665

☎ 0438 868 964

✉ gapyear@pim.org.au

📘 @PresbyterianInlandMission

pim.org.au/gap-year



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An initiative of 

The New Dunesk Gap Year is an exciting opportunity for young people to grow in their faith and build practical farm and ministry skills, allowing them to share in PIM's vision to *make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia*.

Through the New Dunesk Gap Year, you will:

- Grow as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ and deepen your theological understanding through course study
- Develop practical farm skills and explore a variety of rural employment options
- Gain useful ministry skills to be applied in evangelistic and church settings
- Connect with rural churches, where you might make a meaningful and long-term contribution.

General information

Dates

The Gap Year is a full time, live-on program that accepts participants in early February and Early July each year. You can participate in the program for either a full year or 6 months. 2-4 participants are accepted each year.

Cost

\$12,000 for a full year*

\$6,000 for a half year*

*You may be eligible for AUSTUDY or Youth Allowance which covers much of this cost. Those not eligible should contact us to discuss course costs.

The cost of the program includes:

- On site accommodation (excluding meals)
- 6* subjects for the Timothy Partnership Academic Studies in Theology Certificate (ASTC) *3 subjects for 6 month participants
- A variety of training, operating and safety courses relevant to the work performed.
- Travel expenses for placements on other properties.

Living arrangements

New Dunesk Gap Year Participants (Gappies) live onsite at New Dunesk, our 600 acre farm in Ardlethan, NSW in a caravan or similar type accommodation at the property's campground. A camp kitchen, laundry facilities and a common area are available.

The New Dunesk manager and family live nearby in the property homestead. It is expected that Gappies and the onsite family will develop a close relationship over the course of the year; however, participants are still required to take care of their own washing, cooking and housekeeping chores. Where required, assistance will be provided to help participants learn to prepare a range of easy and nutritious meals.

In order to manage the practicalities of rural living, all Gappies need to hold a driver's licence and have their own vehicle.

Skills and qualifications

In addition to working towards the Academic Studies in Theology Certificate with the Timothy Partnership, Gappies also gain useful church ministry skills throughout the course of the program that will equip them to:

- Lead a regular Bible study
- Run SRE classes
- Lead a church service
- Publicly read the Bible and pray confidently
- Preach (where appropriate)

Throughout the program, Gappies gain a variety of practical farm skills, including:

- Installing, maintaining and repairing fences
- Driving and maintaining tractors and other farm vehicles
- Safe and effective use of a range of tools, including chainsaws, mowers and power tools
- Firearm handling and safety
- Livestock and grain handling

Daily life

Daily life as a Gappie is always something new and exciting.

Daily devotions start off the day and involve everyone at New Dunesk. As well as actively participating in these devotion times, by the end of their year Gappies will develop the competency and confidence to plan and lead these sessions themselves.

Self-guided **Bible study**, as well as structured learning as part of the **Timothy Partnership course**, are also a daily activity. The New Dunesk manager acts as a mentor to Gappies as they work through the course content, grow in their knowledge of the Bible, and learn to apply it to their lives.

Gappies will find time each day to complete washing, shopping and other chores. Weekends and evenings are also theirs to relax as they see fit.

Rarely do two weeks at New Dunesk look the same. The year is interspersed with a **range of events** that bring visitors onto the property and keep life at New Dunesk busy. During these times, Gappies work with the New Dunesk manager to help these events run smoothly.

In between these busy times, Gappies perform regular farm work and projects on a daily basis, which can look like:

- Mechanical work on farm vehicles
- Fencing repairs around the property
- Assisting neighbouring farmers with projects as needed
- Vermin and weed control

Over the course of the year, participants also engage in **intentional and regular supervised ministry work** at Temora Presbyterian Church. This might include worship service leading, public Bible reading, preaching, teaching SRE or helping run bible studies and small groups. Training and mentoring is provided to help Gappies prepare for activities and run them well. Debriefing and feedback form an important part of this process so that Gappies can develop their skills over the year. Gappies also participate in various evangelistic outreach efforts at local community events.

As the Gap Year program is small, there is flexibility to accommodate daily life to individual needs.

Field placement

Each Gappie will undertake a 4-6 week placement (pro-rata for 6 month participants) on another rural property to gain wider experience in the agricultural industry. The placement is carefully sourced through the networks of the Presbyterian Inland Mission and could be anywhere within Australia. This placement is designed to broaden both the agricultural and church experiences of each Gappie and help them think further about where they might like to live, work and serve in the future.

End of Year employment options

Upon completion of the program, we endeavour to help our Gappies gain paid seasonal employment in harvest and grain handling work in the wider Ardlethan area. This seasonal work not only provides Gappies with an income, but also helps to build an employment history and additional skills.

If Gappies choose to take on seasonal employment, the exact completion date of the program may be impacted. Harvest time in the area begins in November. Leave can be provided to mid-year intake Gappies who are aiming to complete a full year of the program but wish to gain employment over harvest season.



Timothy Partnership Academic Studies in Theology Certificate (ASTC)

An important part of the New Dunesk Gap Year includes the completion of the Academic Studies in Theology Certificate (ASTC), delivered by the Timothy Partnership.

The ASTC is intended to be an introduction to theological studies and prepares Gappies for future study if desired.

The course consists of 8 subjects:

- Introduction to Study Skills
- Developing Study Skills
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Christian Belief
- Plus 3 electives, that include subject areas such as pastoral care, teaching RE, and leadership.

The Timothy Partnership guidelines suggest each subject requires 3 hours of study per week. Most of the course work is done on a flexible and self-directed basis that readily works around life at New Dunesk.

It is expected that Gappies will complete 6* of the 8 subjects over the course of the year (*3 for 6 month participants). They will then need to complete the remaining subjects after the program to be awarded the full Academic Studies in Theology Certificate.

More information on the ASTC can be found at:
www.pynsw.org.au/timothy-partnership-certificate/