

AUSSIE BREAD TAGS FOR WHEELCHAIRS FAQ

This document aims to answer some of the questions we get asked frequently. I guess that's why it's called FAQ!

- **How does it all work?**
- **What's the difference between collecting myself and hosting a collection point?**
- **I want to collect. What do I need to do?**
- **Can my school collect?**
- **I want to host a collection point. What do I need to do?**
- **Is there any cost associated with collecting?**
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- **Can I include broken tags?**
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- **Can I include large tags?**
- **Can I include bread ties?**
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How does it all work?

Bread Tags for Wheelchairs has been running in South Africa since 2006, collecting bread tags which a plastics company, [Zibo](#), buys for a small amount per kilo. The tags (high impact polystyrene, type 6 plastic) are recycled, being made into seedling trays. The proceeds are used to provide wheelchairs for the needy. At present about 500kg are collected per month in South Africa, funding 2-3 wheelchairs.

People who were aware of this program had been collecting tags for this cause in Australia for many years and either taking them to South Africa when they visited or posting them. In August 2018, we set up an Aussie arm of Bread Tags for Wheelchairs in order to promote the program, increase collection, look into local recycling and streamline the transport of the tags.

In February 2019, we delivered our first batch of tags to an Australian recycler, [Transmutation – Reuse, Reduce, Recycle](#), who are based in Robe in South Australia. They have agreed to regularly buy batches of tags from us, so we have started along the path of local recycling.

It is likely that initially some of our tags will be recycled in Australia while others will still be sent to South Africa. Our aim is to have all Aussie tags recycled here, with just the funds remitted to South Africa to buy wheelchairs.

What's the difference between collecting myself and hosting a collection point?

Anyone can collect at home, work, school etc. All you need to do is get a jar and throw your tags in, or print off some of our labels and signs to collect at work or school. Also, think of asking places where lots of bread and rolls are used such as your local café, child care centre, nursing home, hospital or school canteen. When it suits you, drop your accumulated bread tags off at one of our collection points, which you can find on our [map](#) (also accessible from the Collection Points tab of our website). If there is no collection point that is convenient to you, contact us on aussiebreadtags@gmail.com and we'll try to work something out. For more information, see our Aussie Bread Tags How to Collect pdf.

A collection point is a place where the public can drop off their tags. Anyone can host a collection point. It can be at a business, school, TAFE, child care centre, community centre, church, private home – anywhere. You just need to get a bigish container, print some signage and let us know your location and contact details. We then add you to our collection points [map](#) (also accessible from the Collection Points tab of our website) so people can find you. For privacy reasons, if a collection point is at a private home, we just show the town/suburb, not the full address, so people will contact you for the address. From time to time you will need to get your accumulated tags to a central point in your capital city. For more information, see our Aussie Bread Tags Host a Collection Point pdf.

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I want to collect. What do I need to do?

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Can my school collect?

Absolutely, a school is a great place to collect because so many families will be involved. You will be saving bread tags from going into landfill and helping people who cannot afford a wheelchair to get one. A good idea can be to have a competition between the classes in your school to see which class can collect the most tags in e.g. six months or a year. Have a look at **I want to collect. What do I need to do?** to see how to go about it. Teachers : bread tag collection can be great for teaching counting, weighing, sorting etc.

I want to host a collection point. What do I need to do?

A collection point is a place where the public can drop off their tags. Anyone can host a collection point. It can be at a business, school, TAFE, child care centre, community centre, church, private home – anywhere. You just need to get a bigish container, print some signage and let us know your location and contact details. We then add you to our collection points [map](#) (also accessible from the Collection Points tab of our website) so people can find you. For privacy reasons, if a collection point is at a private home, we just show the town/suburb, not the full address, so people will contact you for the address. From time to time you will need to get your accumulated tags to a central point in your capital city. For more information, see our Aussie Bread Tags Host a Collection Point pdf.

Is there any cost associated with collecting?

We do not ask for any money. You will need to get your collected tags to a collection point, but as these are springing up everywhere, hopefully there is one not too far from you, so you can drop them off without any expense. Similarly we ask collection point hosts to take responsibility for getting their accumulated tags to the central collection points in their state's capital city. Some collectors in regional areas choose to post tags to us, which is at their own expense.

I've been collecting. Where do I send my tags?

Have a look at our collection points [map](#) (also accessible from the Collection Points tab of our website) to see your closest collection point. You may need to contact the host for the exact address or for opening hours. If there is no collection point that is convenient to you, contact us on aussiebreadtags@gmail.com and we'll try to work something out.

What's the story behind the organisation?

After Mary Honeybun, who started Bread Tags for Wheelchairs, retired from a long and successful nursing career she found that she could not 'retire' from her passion to help people.

During her nursing career she realised how important it is, both physically and emotionally, for a person disabled by an accident or a medical condition, to have the mobility that a wheelchair gives them. She also learnt how much the burden on the family and carers of a disabled person is eased if the disabled person has this mobility. Furthermore she was aware that the majority of people in need of wheelchairs in South Africa were often unable to afford to buy their own. So she determined that she would put her efforts into providing them.

She also felt strongly that she wanted to work for a charity where all of the funds raised went into providing for the needy rather than into the administrative costs of the charity. In addition, she wanted to reach out to people of all races and creeds.

Her fourth priority was that it should be something that was environmentally friendly.

And so, after many hours of research, Mary came up with the idea of recycling bread tags, which usually go into landfill, and using the funds to provide wheelchairs. The rest, as they say, is history!

How can bread tags be recycled into wheelchairs?

Bread tags are not turned into wheelchairs. The recyclers pay us for the tags and this funds the wheelchairs. In South Africa the tags are recycled into seedling trays. Our Australian recycler has so far made door knobs from bread tags (they look like marble!) and is looking to make coasters and floor tiles too.

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Are the tags recycled in Australia or in South Africa?

In South Africa there is a well-established relationship between Bread Tags for Wheelchairs and a plastics company called Zibo. In Australia we have not had any success with the large plastics or recycling companies. As of February 2019, we have engaged with a small company in Robe in South Australia, [Transmutation – Reuse, Reduce, Recycle](#), who have an eco shop and are starting to make products out of recycled plastic. They have committed to taking tags from us on an ongoing basis. Brad Scott, who runs the company, is part of the [Precious Plastics](#) community, and has built his machines for small scale plastic recycling based on these designs.

So for now, we will be recycling some of our collected tags locally but still sending some to South Africa for recycling. Our aim is to have all Aussie tags recycled here, with just the funds remitted to South Africa to buy wheelchairs.

How are the tags transported?

Transport remains one of our biggest challenges, given the size of Australia and the distance to South Africa.

As the local recycling is so new, we do not yet have a way of getting the tags to Robe, but the plan is to approach a transport company to ask if they can donate monthly transport of tags from Adelaide and/or Melbourne to Robe, which is between these two cities.

It is hoped that eventually we will be able to engage with another recycler closer to NSW and QLD, and another in WA, and so replicate the collection and transport model in those regions.

There is a significant community of South African ex-pats in Australia, so at present we are finding it quite easy to get tags back to South Africa with travellers taking a few kilos in their luggage. As Bread Tags for Wheelchairs is so well established over there, there are many collection points in most areas, so very easy for travellers to drop off tags.

We also have some space available in a charity container going from Adelaide to South Africa.

Who gets the wheelchairs?

South Africans who cannot afford a wheelchair can apply to the organisation and get in the queue for a basic wheelchair. There is nowhere near the level of funding for disability services in South Africa as there is in Australia, so someone who cannot afford to buy their own wheelchair may not be able to get one at all.

Why bread tags?

We collect bread tags because nobody else does! These pesky little pieces of plastic usually go into landfill and because of their small size are particularly dangerous to wildlife. They are made of high impact polystyrene (type 6 plastic) which is denser than many other types of plastic, making them compact. Because of their small size, our recycler in Robe can skip the shredding stage of his process, going straight to melting and extruding the plastic. Also, unlike most other plastic waste, bread tags are usually clean.

Can I include broken tags?

Yes, they are going to be recycled, so bits of tag are fine.

Can I include dirty tags?

They don't have to be spotless, but if you spilt your breakfast honey on them, please give them a rinse before you send them to us!

Can I include large tags?

Yes, the large tags that come e.g. on bags of potatoes are fine.

Can I include bread ties?

No, these are metal surrounded by plastic, so not suitable.

What are your organisation's overheads?

Zero! We are all volunteers with day jobs and families. We are more of a community network than an established organisation. No wages are drawn. We just do this because we love it!

How can I contact you?

Email : aussiebreadtags@gmail.com

FB : [aussiebreadtags](#)

WWW : <http://www.breadtagsforwheelchairs.co.za>