

Church density in Australia — Q3 2026 executive summary

A quarterly data report from the Australian Church Directory. Published 3 July 2026.
Full report and methodology: auschurches.com.au/guides/church-density-in-australia-2026-q3

12,912

active Christian churches nationally

4,363

distinct suburb-state locations
across 8 states and territories

1 : 867

churches to self-identified
Christians (11.5 per 10,000)

TOP FINDINGS

- Tasmania has the highest state church density.** 7.4 churches per 10,000 residents, 45% above the national average of 5.1. On a per-Christian basis the lead widens to 19.3 per 10,000, nearly double the national 11.5. This reflects preserved colonial-era infrastructure and slower population growth, not higher Christian affiliation (Tasmania sits below the national 43.9% Census share).
- Melbourne has the lowest church density of any Australian capital.** 3.3 churches per 10,000 residents, half of Hobart's 6.2 and well below Brisbane's 5.4. The 2.1 gap to Brisbane corresponds to roughly 1,000 additional Melbourne churches at Brisbane's density. Melbourne's low Christian affiliation (40.9%) and long history of mainline Protestant consolidation drive the gap.
- Anglican is the second-largest denomination by directory count, materially above its Census share.** Anglican has 1,962 listings (15.2%), between Catholic (2,158) and Uniting (1,563). The 15.2% directory share exceeds the 9.8% Census affiliation share, reflecting the geographic breadth of the 23-diocese parish register into rural, regional, and remote Australia.

STATE COMPARISON

State	Churches	Population	Christian %	Per 10k residents	Per 10k Christians
New South Wales	3,921	8,072,163	47.6	4.9	10.2
Victoria	2,958	6,629,870	40.9	4.5	10.9
Queensland	2,734	5,185,974	45.7	5.3	11.5
Western Australia	1,320	2,660,089	41.1	5.0	12.1
South Australia	1,275	1,820,495	40.0	7.0	17.5
Tasmania	402	541,479	38.4	7.4	19.3
ACT	174	456,652	38.1	3.8	10.0
Northern Territory	122	249,671	40.5	4.9	12.1

CAPITAL-CITY LEADERBOARD

Hobart **6.2** per 10k, Brisbane **5.4**, Adelaide **4.8**, Sydney **4.1**, Perth **3.9**, Darwin **3.9**, Canberra **3.8**, Melbourne **3.3**.
National average across all states: **5.1**.

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Methodology. Population and Christian-affiliation figures held constant against ABS 2021 Census (Snapshot RELP for state Christian %, QuickStats GCCSA usual-resident counts for metros). Church counts sourced from the AusChurches directory as of 3 July 2026. Full sources block on the guide page.

Next update. Q4 2026 ~ 1 October 2026 at auschurches.com.au/guides/church-density-in-australia-2026-q4.