

The State of Australian Church Websites 2026

Australian Church Directory · Census of 13,356 active churches · Measured 17 to 18 August 2026 · CC-BY 4.0

Nearly half of Australia's churches cannot be found on the web. **48.2% have no working website of their own.** 6,436 of 13,356 either hold no website address at all, or hold one that does not reach them.

Every website address the directory holds was fetched and classified. Nobody had tested them before. The sector's own coverage figures are inflated by exactly that omission: the pre-audit figure was 58.6%, and testing the addresses moved it to 51.8%.

48.2%
No working website
6,436 of 13,356

11.5%
Stored links that fail
902 of 7,823 tested

64.3%
No site, remote
Over 250 km from a capital

14 : 1
Service-time gap
On a page vs machine-readable

The divide is geographic, and the gradient does not break

Distance from the nearest capital CBD	Churches	No working website	Stored links failing
Capital city, under 25 km	5,185	38.0%	9.1%
Outer metro, 25 to 75 km	2,797	43.2%	10.9%
Regional, 75 to 250 km	3,087	58.9%	15.6%
Remote, over 250 km	1,638	64.3%	14.7%

The gradient repeats inside 10 of the 11 denominations large enough to test separately. A remote Catholic parish is 3.4 times more likely than a Sydney or Melbourne one to have no working website. Lutheran is the sole exception, flat across all 4 bands.

Never went online

Denomination	No working site
Greek Orthodox	86.6%
Wesleyan Methodist	86.2%
Brethren	85.5%
Seventh-day Adventist	74.1%

Went online, stopped maintaining it

Denomination	Stored links failing
Salvation Army	22.9%
Presbyterian	20.4%
Lutheran	17.6%
ACC	16.6%

Churches rarely break their websites. They let them expire. The largest failure class is a lapsed domain, not a broken page: 465 churches, outnumbering 404s by 2.6 to 1. Of 310 redirecting church domains, 7 now lead to gambling sites, a fitness spam farm or a French wine estate, with the church's name still attached.

The service times exist. Nothing can read them. 4,998 churches state a service time on their own homepage; 347 have one in machine-readable form. 52.5% of working church sites carry no structured data at all. The sector has a markup problem, not a content problem. Mobile and HTTPS are already solved, at 96.2% and 98.0%.