

# Church Property Security

## Building security.

**The impact of a theft or break-in can be far reaching. Beyond the damage or property loss, it is also a drain on the church's resources and its mission to the community. On a personal level it can also impact your sense of safety with a feeling of violation.**

### LOW COST SECURITY MEASURES.

Depending on the local church's budget a number of security measures can be put into place, below are some low-cost suggestions:

- Sufficient lighting inside and outside can act as a deterrent to unlawful activities.
- Keep outdoor shrubs and trees trimmed to avoid providing places where an individual could conceal themselves.
- Keep the site well maintained and neatly presented sends a message that the church cares for its property and its people. When a site is neglected those outsiders are less likely to care about it too which can make the site vulnerable.
- Keep internal doors locked to reduce the loss in the event of an intrusion.
- Install deadbolts on external doors and windows.
- Have a security team appointed to ensure the site is locked up at the end of every event.

### INVESTING IN STRONGER CONTROLS.

If your Adventist site would benefit from stronger security measures that are financially a little out of reach, RMS may be able to offer some co-funding. Here are some ideas:

- Steel **security fences and gates** ( > 1.8m ) is the first line of defence against opportunistic theft or vandalism.
- **CCTV cameras** with careful planning is both a deterrent to intruders and can provide valuable evidence in many types of incidents.
- A **monitored** alarm system including access control cards or fobs (instead of keys) can provide security and peace of mind on many fronts.
- **Motion-sensor lighting** in key areas.
- **Window security screens**, bars or shutters subject to fire compliance and fire service approval.
- Anti-ram **bollards** for very specific locations and occupancy types to protect against ram raiders.

## Ministry resilience.

Risk and Safety Co-Funding may be available to eligible Adventist sites for equipment or hardware that improves a site's resilience by reducing the likelihood and severity of potential loss or injury. This includes some site security measures.

To find out more, email: [help@rms.org.au](mailto:help@rms.org.au)

## LOCAL CHURCH OFFERING

Be a cheerleader for local church offerings so that budget can be set aside for site upkeep and security. Talk to RMS about risk and safety co-funding to support ministry resilience.



## STRATEGIC RISK ASSESSMENT

Consider what are the most likely scenarios to occur at your church in terms of security. This will help you plan your security strategy and the measures needed to target harden the site.



## MAINTENANCE

A well-looked after site empowers your church to connect with the community and attract new members. Let it fall into disrepair and it becomes a magnet for vandals and thieves.



## CULTURE

Embed a culture of safety and security by adding it as an agenda item on every board meeting so it becomes part of the local church's mindset.

