



SOCIAL PROFILE

OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA

BASED ON THE 2021 AUSTRALIAN CENSUS



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BASED ON THE 2021 AUSTRALIAN CENSUS



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research

April 2023

Dear readers,

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is pleased to make available to you this profile of the Catholic population of Australia.

I hope that you will find it to be a valuable tool in helping you understand the contemporary Australian Catholic community and assessing its needs.

The data in this profile have been sourced from the Australian Census, which is carried out every five years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Most of the data comes from the 2021 Census, but some comparisons are provided with 2016 and earlier years.

It is important to note that the data in this profile apply to all those who identified themselves as Catholic in the Census. Census data informs us about a population's demographic characteristics, but not about their religious practice.

This social profile and the companion versions of it, produced for every Catholic parish and diocese in Australia, are an outcome of the National Catholic Census Project established by the Bishops Conference at the time of the 1991 Census. This project is managed by the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research. The Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research is most grateful to the Centre's staff for the work that they do in providing demographic resources for parishes and dioceses, including this social profile.

This profile is provided to you free of charge by the Bishops Conference. I trust that you find it informative, useful and thought-provoking.

Yours sincerely,

(Professor) Gabrielle McMullen AM
Chair, Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research



Australian Social Profile



At a glance (Pages 2-3)

Provides a brief glance at some key demographic indicators.

	Page
Snapshot of the Catholic Community in Australia	2
What has changed since 1996?	3

Overview (Pages 4-7)

An overview of the Catholic community and how it is changing.

Overview Tables	Page
1. Population	4
2. Disability	4
3. Occupation & Employment	5
4. Birthplace, Indigenous Status & Language	5
5. Education	6
6. Marital Status	7
7. Families	7
8. Households	7

Details (Pages 8-25)

A more detailed look at Catholics across Australia for deeper analysis and planning.

Detail Topics	Page
Religious Affiliation	9
Age and Sex	10
Disability	12
Marital Status	13
Families	14
Households	16
Birthplace	17
Language	18
Attendance at Educational Institutions	20
Educational Qualifications	22
Employment	23
Occupation	24



The Australian Catholic Community



Pastoral planning is the process of a Catholic community organising itself to carry out the mission of the Church in its own locality. It is a process built upon a community's knowledge in three areas:

- Knowing its vision—its aspiration for itself.
- Knowing what sort of people make up the Catholic community and the general community.
- Knowing the resources (strengths, gifts and circumstances) available to the community to realise the vision.

This Australian Social Profile has been developed as a resource for pastoral planning, and it focuses on the second and third areas of knowledge.

The Church strongly encourages pastoral planning. As Pope John Paul II said:

"I earnestly exhort the Pastors of the particular Churches, with the help of all sectors of God's People, confidently to plan the stages of the journey ahead, harmonising the choices of each diocesan community with those of neighbouring Churches and of the universal Church ... It is not a matter of inventing a 'new program'. The program already exists: it is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition." Novo Millennio Ineunte #29

Pope Francis reminds that all renewal must be grounded in:

"... a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation." Evangelii Gaudium #27

A SNAPSHOT OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA (2021)

Total Population: 25,422,788

Catholic Population: 5,075,910

Catholics make up 20.0 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 43 years

Total Catholic families: 1,995,658

493,225 Catholics live alone

1,369,744 Catholics were born overseas

134,718 Catholics do not speak English well

342,034 Catholics need assistance with core activities

1,757,245 Catholics have changed address since 2016



What has changed since 1996?

This chart will help you identify at a glance changes in some of the key indicators for Catholics in Australia between 1996 and 2021, and will alert you to possible trends that are occurring. Figures are drawn from the Australian Overview tables on pages 4-7. All figures in this table refer to Catholics only. The term "Catholic" in this report refers to all persons who identified themselves as Catholics in the Census, not only those who have some form of active association with the Church.

RANDOMISATION OF CENSUS DATA

The Catholic population may be slightly different in different tables in this profile as a result of the randomisation procedure used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in carrying out its statutory obligation to protect the confidentiality of individuals. This variation in figures does not impair the value of Census data as the Census is intended to be an instrument that paints a broad picture rather than a precise measurement of a particular locality. Care should always be taken in interpreting small counts in tables.

	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021
Catholic population	4,799,090	5,001,624	5,126,862	5,439,267	5,291,834	5,075,910
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	23.0	22.3	21.1	20.5	19.8	17.9
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	10.9	12.0	13.2	14.1	16.6	19.9
Catholics born in non-English-speaking countries (%)	18.9	17.9	17.6	17.9	19.1	21.4
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.7
Catholic families	1,669,789	1,796,836	1,893,776	2,019,556	1,997,833	1,995,658
Catholics living alone	346,322	408,896	438,307	470,613	461,183	493,225
Catholic students attending Catholic schools (%)	52.7	51.8	52.3	52.8	53.7	55.4
Catholics aged 15+ with a university degree (%)	9.7	12.2	15.0	17.6	20.6	24.6
Catholic males in labour force (%)	67.2	62.8	69.4	69.6	68.9	66.5
Catholic females in labour force (%)	51.7	52.3	56.7	58.5	60.1	59.7
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	69.4	70.1	72.0	71.4	71.2	73.0



Overview

Table 1: Population (for more details on Population and Religion see page 9)

The Australian Profile begins by looking at the total population in Australia, and the percentage who identified as Catholic. Except where clearly marked otherwise, the figures in this report refer only to those people who identified themselves as Catholic in the Census. In Tables 1 to 8, a comparison is given with the total population for 2021.

Table 1: Population ¹	Catholics						All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2021
Total population ²	17,752,089	18,767,249	19,855,287	21,507,719	23,401,892	25,422,788	25,422,788
Catholic population	4,799,090	5,001,624	5,126,862	5,439,267	5,291,834	5,075,910	-
Per cent Catholic	27.0	26.6	25.8	25.3	22.6	20.0	-
At same address since previous Census (%)	51.3	52.5	55.6	57.5	57.3	59.4	50.0
Median age ³ (years)	33	34	37	38	40	43	38
Aged 0-14 (%)	23.0	22.3	21.1	20.5	19.8	17.9	18.2
Aged 65+ (%)	10.9	12.0	13.2	14.1	16.6	19.9	17.2
Males per 100 females	94.6	93.5	92.4	92.1	90.6	89.1	97.4

Notes:

1. All figures refer to Catholics only, except for Total Population and certain other clearly-indicated figures.
2. Population figures do not include overseas visitors.
3. Median Age: Half of the Catholic population are above this age, half are below it.

Table 2: Disability (for more details on Disability and Carers see page 12)

Table 2 shows the percentage of Catholics who are disabled to the extent that they require assistance for some core activities (i.e. they need help or assistance with self-care, communication or mobility). It also shows the percentage of Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with some form of disability.

Table 2: Disability	Catholics						All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2021
Need assistance with core activities (%)	na ¹	na ¹	4.3	4.9	5.8	6.7	5.8
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability ² (% of Catholics aged 15+) ³	na ¹	na ¹	10.8	11.7	12.5	13.5	11.9

Notes:

1. The 2006 Census was the first time questions on disability and provision of unpaid assistance to people with disabilities was asked, so there is no comparable data for 1996 and 2001.
2. The Census asked whether a person had provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability in the two weeks prior to the Census.
3. An early version of the 2016 National Social Profile had an incorrect figure of 10.0%.



Overview

Table 3: Employment (for more details on Occupation and Employment see pages 23-25)

This table shows the extent to which people are involved in the workforce and the type of work they are doing, which influences and shapes many aspects of the community's life.

Table 3: Occupation & Employment	1996	2001	Catholics				All persons
			2006	2011	2016	2021	2021
Managers and Professionals ¹ (% of those recording an occupation)	na ²	na ²	32.1	33.0	34.1	37.1	38.3
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations ³ (% of those recording an occupation)	31.8	29.7	31.7	30.6	29.6	28.1	28.7
Men, employed or seeking work ⁴ (%)	67.2	62.8	69.4	69.6	68.9	66.5	64.0
Women, employed or seeking work ⁴ (%)	51.7	52.3	56.7	58.5	60.1	59.7	57.5
Unemployed at time of Census ⁵ (%)	8.7	7.2	4.8	5.0	5.8	4.2	5.1
Youth unemployed at time of Census ⁶ (%)	13.7	12.1	8.8	10.2	12.2	8.9	10.8

Notes:

1. Managers and Professionals include, for example, farmers and farm managers, sales, marketing and production managers, education and health service managers, retail managers, school principals and school teachers, medical practitioners, nurses, scientists, arts and media professionals, accountants, engineers and IT professionals.
2. Due to a change in the Classification of Occupations used by the ABS, no directly comparable data from the 1996 and 2001 Censuses is available for Managers and Professionals.
3. Blue collar workers include, for example, toolmakers, technicians, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, bakers and chefs, veterinary nurses, hairdressers, machinery operators, drivers, cleaners and labourers.
4. The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).
5. The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.
6. The percentage of Catholics aged 15-24 who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.

Table 4: Birthplace and Language (for more details on Birthplace and Language see pages 17-19).

This table begins to explore the ethnic balance of Australia's Catholic community, which may highlight greater needs related to communication and inclusiveness.

Table 4: Birthplace, Indigenous Status &	1996	2001	Catholics				All persons
			2006	2011	2016	2021	2021
Born overseas in English-speaking country ¹ (%)	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.7	5.6	5.5	8.1
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country	18.9	17.9	17.6	17.9	19.1	21.4	19.5
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	57,792	57,514	69,463	98,723	106,428	97,457	648,837
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	81,265	94,556	101,113	124,610	133,528	135,686	812,728
Speak language other than English at home (%)	20.2	19.2	18.6	19.0	20.4	21.5	22.1
Not proficient in English ² (%)	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.4

Notes:

1. English-speaking countries refer to New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada and South Africa.
2. Percentage of all population who reported that they spoke English not well, or not at all.



Overview

Table 5: Education (for more details on Education and Qualifications see pages 20-22)

Catholic schools are a very important part of the education sector in Australia. This table is primarily devoted to the educational levels of all Catholics, the participation of young Catholics and to the percentage of non-Catholics in Catholic schools.

Table 5: Education (%)	Catholics					All persons	
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2021
Aged 15+ with bachelor degree or higher qualification	9.7	12.2	15.0	17.6	20.6	24.6	26.3
Aged 15-17 attending an educational institution	83.0	85.8	83.9	87.2	92.2	94.9	89.2
Aged 18-19 attending an educational institution	52.1	56.0	54.4	57.8	62.9	67.2	59.1
Aged 20-24 attending an educational institution	26.2	31.4	31.6	34.3	38.2	43.4	40.4
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools	52.9	51.7	52.3	52.8	53.1	55.5	-
Catholic primary students at Government schools	44.5	44.6	42.6	41.2	41.0	38.4	-
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools	52.5	52.0	52.3	52.8	54.5	55.3	-
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools	42.3	40.9	38.8	37.2	35.1	33.4	-
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ¹	17.0	18.8	21.6	24.1	28.1	36.6	-
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ¹	22.5	26.3	28.0	31.5	35.7	41.3	-

Note:
1. 'Students . . . who are not Catholic' includes a small proportion whose religion was not stated in the Census. Some of these may be Catholic.



Overview

Tables 6, 7 & 8: Marital Status, Families & Households (for more details see pages 13-16)

In 2021, 84 per cent of Australian Catholics lived in a family setting, with a further 10 per cent living alone. The most common type of Catholic family was a couple family with children (44 per cent of all families where at least one person was a Catholic), followed by couple families without children (38%) and one-parent families (parent Catholic, 11%).

Table 6: Marital Status (of people aged 15+)	Catholics						All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2021
Never married (%)	31.8	32.1	33.1	33.9	33.3	32.9	39.5
Married (%)	53.3	51.8	50.6	49.6	49.7	49.3	47.6
Divorced or Separated (%)	8.9	10.0	10.5	10.8	11.2	11.7	10.6
Widowed (%)	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.8	6.1	2.3

Table 7: Families ¹ in which at least one person is Catholic	Catholics						All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2021
Families	1,669,789	1,797,916	1,893,776	2,019,556	1,997,833	1,995,658	6,730,187
One-parent families	182,363	205,367	220,616	239,340	231,370	225,180	1,068,262
One-parent families (%)	10.9	11.4	11.6	11.9	11.6	11.3	15.9
Couples of mixed religion ² (%)	52.9	55.1	56.7	55.1	55.9	58.1	-
De facto couples (%)	10.1	12.2	14.8	16.2	17.7	17.7	20.0
Median annual family income ³ (\$)	43,319	53,558	67,338	86,401	100,270	120,943	111,480

Notes:

1. A family is defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. Family members who live elsewhere are not included in the Census definition.
2. Couples of mixed religion refers to married or de facto couples where only one partner is Catholic as a percentage of all couples where at least one partner is Catholic.
3. Fifty per cent of families have a higher income, fifty per cent of families have a lower income. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.

Table 8: Households ¹ in which at least one person is Catholic	Catholics						All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2021
Households	2,131,263	2,372,747	2,424,008	2,594,239	2,548,354	2,567,362	9,808,428
Persons living alone aged under 35 ²	-	78,414	70,792	68,455	53,499	51,145	374,402
Persons living alone aged 35 and over ²	-	330,572	367,515	402,158	407,684	442,080	1,996,339
Persons living alone total	346,322	408,896	438,307	470,613	461,183	493,225	2,370,741
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	7.2	8.2	8.5	8.7	8.7	9.7	9.3
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	69.4	70.1	72.0	71.4	71.2	73.0	63.8
Median monthly housing loan repayment ³ (\$)	817	949	1,385	1,861	1,873	1,948	1,894

Notes:

1. A household can consist of one or more families, non-family groups or persons living alone.
2. Data not available for 1996.
3. Fifty per cent of households with a housing loan pay a higher repayment, fifty per cent a lower figure.





Details

CONTENTS OF THE DETAILED PROFILE

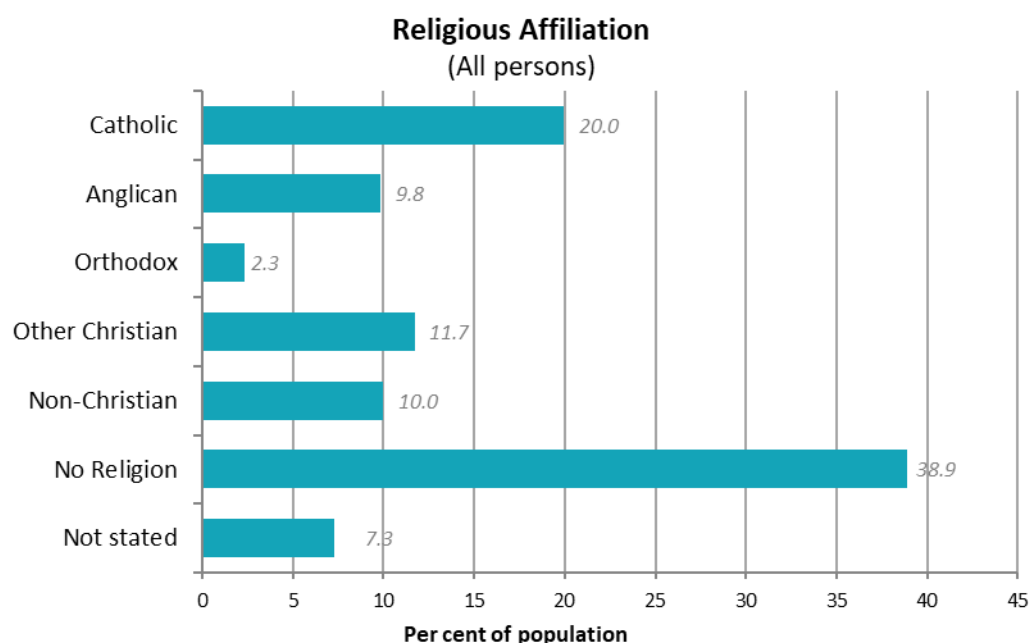
Tables	Page
9: Religious affiliation by age	9
10: Age by sex.....	10
11a: Need for assistance and provision of unpaid assistance by age	12
11b: Provision of unpaid assistance by age.....	12
12: Registered marital status by sex and age	13
13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status	13
14: Family composition by weekly family income.....	14
15: Weekly family income by number of dependent children.....	15
16: Social marital status by number of dependent children	15
17: Household composition by tenure type	16
18: Household composition by monthly housing loan repayment	16
19: Birthplace	17
20: Language spoken at home by religious affiliation	18
21: Language spoken at home by age	19
22: Type of educational institution attending by religious affiliation	20
23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family	21
24: Highest qualification attained by age and sex.....	22
25: Labour force status by age and sex	23
26: Occupation by age and sex.....	24
27: Occupation by religious affiliation.....	25

Graphs	Page
Religious affiliation	9
Age profile	11
Age-sex profile.....	11
Core need for assistance and provision of unpaid assistance by age	12
Change of address since 2016 by marital status	13
Weekly family income	15
Top 5 birthplaces of Catholics born overseas	17
Top 5 birthplaces with highest proportions of recent arrivals.....	17
Language background of students attending Catholic schools	20
Education participation rate.....	20
Type of school being attended by Catholic students	21
Labour force status by age	23
Occupation	25



Religious Affiliation

The Census question about religion is optional, and just over seven per cent of people across Australia chose not to answer it. Note that the question is about their religious identification rather than religious practice or belief. In 2016, the ABS moved the 'No Religion' response category to be the first response category in the religion question. Prior to 2016, it was the last response category.



Notes: No Religion also includes Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation.
Not Stated also includes Inadequately Described.

Table 9: Religious affiliation by age

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Total
Western Catholic	539,709	663,846	523,377	594,953	648,231	701,497	607,901	451,296	267,707	4,998,517
Maronite Catholic	7,152	7,255	6,229	6,358	6,512	5,479	4,045	2,678	1,295	47,003
Melkite Catholic	472	369	371	423	359	393	344	255	105	3,091
Ukrainian Catholic	235	263	189	259	337	334	546	550	173	2,886
Chaldean Catholic	2,370	2,532	2,142	2,059	1,704	1,595	1,043	481	182	14,108
Syro-Malabar Catholic	2,475	2,327	599	1,640	2,166	870	163	61	4	10,305
Total Catholics	552,413	676,592	532,907	605,692	659,309	710,168	614,042	455,321	269,466	5,075,910
<i>Per cent Catholic</i>	<i>18.1</i>	<i>22.2</i>	<i>15.9</i>	<i>16.4</i>	<i>20.1</i>	<i>22.5</i>	<i>22.2</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>24.6</i>	<i>20.0</i>
<i>(of total population)</i>										
Anglican	140,854	214,836	147,759	180,766	294,110	406,738	444,384	417,052	249,771	2,496,270
Orthodox	59,208	72,023	62,101	65,015	82,825	92,141	63,184	56,500	43,241	596,238
Other Christian	279,327	322,012	271,234	326,110	361,790	413,246	436,289	359,206	211,180	2,980,394
Non-Christian	389,335	282,242	432,223	562,374	366,718	224,251	165,689	83,771	31,984	2,538,587
No Religion	1,417,974	1,280,134	1,634,259	1,662,795	1,282,841	1,092,008	861,148	474,327	181,479	9,886,965
Not stated	210,841	198,026	270,731	289,149	237,214	214,300	181,846	136,516	109,813	1,848,436
Total Population	3,049,952	3,045,865	3,351,214	3,691,901	3,284,807	3,152,852	2,766,582	1,982,693	1,096,934	25,422,800

Note: Since the 1996 Census, following consultation with the Eastern Catholic Bishops, Eastern Catholics have been counted separately from Western (or Latin Rite) Catholics. Catholics belonging to the Chaldean, Maronite, Melkite, Syro-Malabar or Ukrainian Catholic Churches have been requested by their Bishops NOT to tick the box marked 'Catholic' on the Census form, but rather to write, for example, 'Maronite Catholic' in the space provided. Those Eastern Catholics who were unaware of this request and who ticked the 'Catholic' box are counted as Western Catholics.



Age and sex

Table 10: Age by sex

	Males 2021	Females 2021	Total 2021	Total 2016
Age (Years)				
0	20,631	19,875	40,506	51,360
1	21,819	21,051	42,870	59,254
2	24,067	23,216	47,283	62,269
3	25,488	24,551	50,039	64,991
4	27,323	26,221	53,544	67,731
5	30,365	29,177	59,542	69,825
6	31,145	29,773	60,918	73,726
7	32,316	31,389	63,705	74,542
8	33,768	32,384	66,152	76,522
9	34,542	33,308	67,850	77,865
10	34,867	33,542	68,409	76,210
11	36,072	35,067	71,139	74,073
12	36,276	35,107	71,383	74,209
13	36,729	35,644	72,373	73,105
14	36,760	35,099	71,859	72,683
15	35,551	34,042	69,593	72,985
16	34,264	32,454	66,718	72,529
17	33,416	31,785	65,201	71,307
18	31,243	30,003	61,246	67,686
19	30,130	28,537	58,667	64,999
20-24	135,798	134,979	270,777	310,251
25-29	123,594	138,538	262,132	308,931
30-34	131,597	159,038	290,635	330,055
35-39	143,999	171,066	315,065	330,604
40-44	146,143	170,365	316,508	359,765
45-49	159,557	183,244	342,801	374,850
50-54	166,117	190,976	357,093	368,558
55-59	164,683	188,392	353,075	338,721
60-64	150,936	177,743	328,679	293,508
65-69	128,137	157,221	285,358	274,233
70-74	118,813	145,040	263,853	209,064
75-79	86,081	105,378	191,459	164,388
80+	109,046	160,416	269,462	231,021
Total	2,391,273	2,684,621	5,075,894	5,291,820

The table on this page shows the number of Catholics in Australia in 2021, by age and sex, and compares the total number of Catholics in each age group with the figure in 2016.

In 1996, the median age of Catholics in Australia was 33 years; by 2021, this had risen to 43 years.

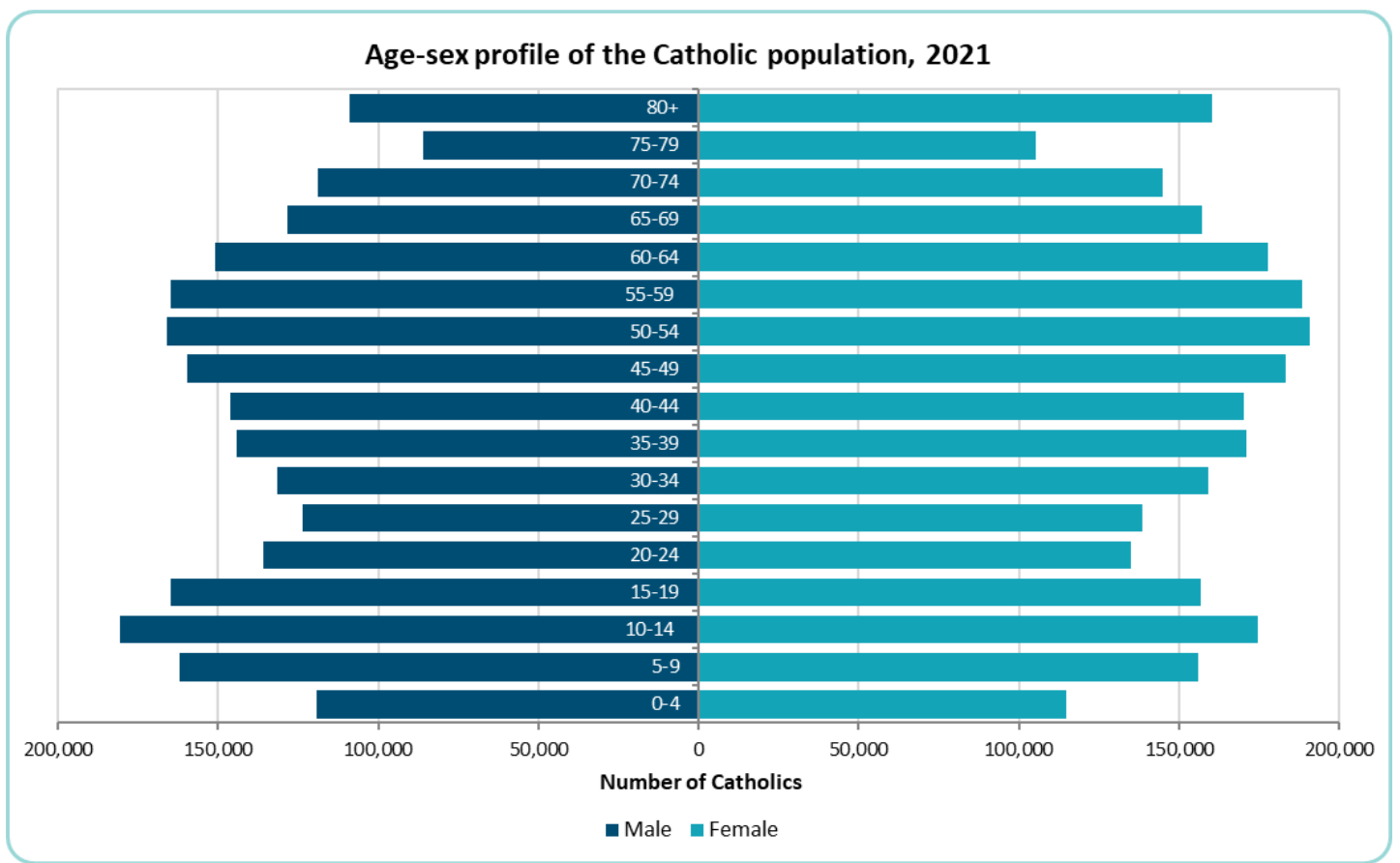
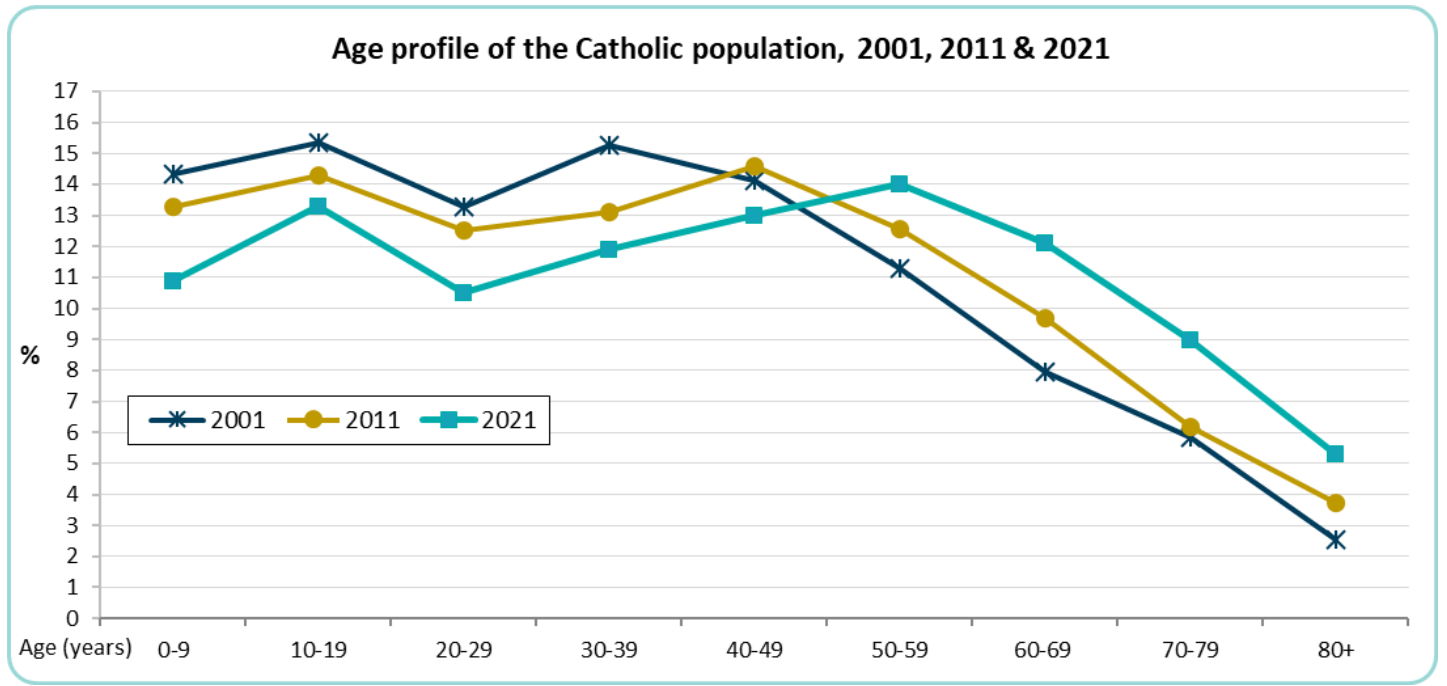
Several factors can influence the age profile, including fertility and mortality rates, and migration to and from Australia.

In many parishes and dioceses, migration is indeed the key factor, related either to people moving to other parts of the country or to people arriving from other parishes or dioceses, or from overseas.

RANDOMISATION OF CENSUS DATA: The Catholic population may be slightly different in different tables in this profile as a result of the randomisation procedure used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in carrying out its statutory obligation to protect the confidentiality of individuals. This variation in figures does not impair the value of Census data as the Census is intended to be an instrument that paints a broad picture rather than a precise measurement of a particular locality. Care should always be taken in interpreting small counts in tables.



Age and sex



Disability

The 2006 Census was the first to include the variable 'Core Activity Need for Assistance'. The variable was developed to measure the number of people with a profound or severe disability. The ABS defines the profound or severe disability population as: 'those people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), or old age'.¹ Most people who need assistance with core activities live either in a family or in a place such as a nursing home, where the care they need is provided. But many live alone. Often people with a disability have fewer opportunities for social interaction.²

Table 11a: Need for assistance with core activities by age

	0 - 14	15 - 44	45 - 64	65 - 74	75 - 84	85 and over	Total
Catholics who have need for assistance with core activities							
Family member							
Males	19,779	19,198	18,066	17,732	21,254	12,911	108,940
Females	9,888	15,185	22,845	20,824	25,670	17,021	111,433
Lone person							
Males	-	1,686	5,324	3,466	4,472	4,406	19,354
Females	-	1,257	5,603	6,012	13,702	15,747	42,321
Other non-family member & persons not present in a household on Census night³							
Males	354	2,123	4,234	3,774	5,442	6,672	22,599
Females	207	1,700	4,101	4,108	9,045	18,226	37,387
Total							
Males	20,133	23,007	27,624	24,972	31,168	23,989	150,893
Females	10,095	18,142	32,549	30,944	48,417	50,994	191,141

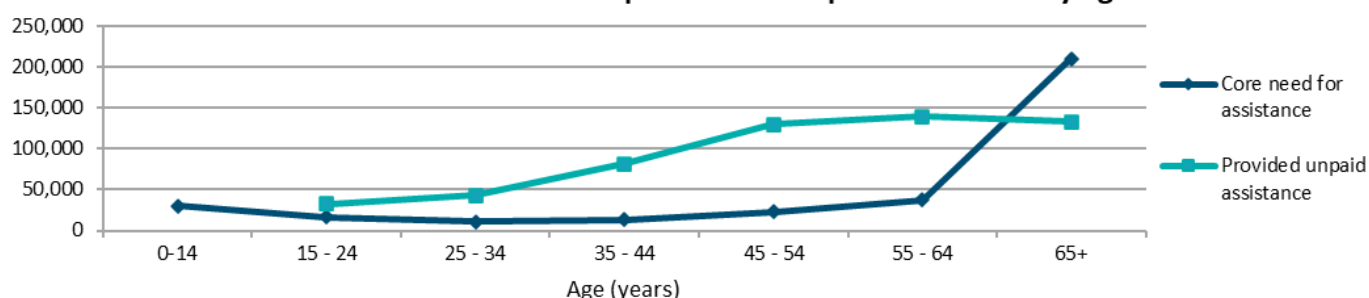
Table 11b: Provision of unpaid assistance by age

	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 and over	Total
Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability⁴							
Male	14,554	15,774	28,787	46,759	50,494	53,570	209,938
Female	17,993	27,208	52,760	83,748	89,481	79,717	350,907

Notes:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006. *Census Dictionary Australia 2006*. Catalogue No. 2901.0.
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. *Australian Social Trends 2004*. Catalogue No. 4102.0.
3. Among people aged 75 and over, being in hospital or a nursing home is a major reason for not being in a household on Census night.
4. The Census question asked whether the respondent had provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability in the two weeks prior to the Census. The question is not applicable to persons aged 0-14.

Core need for assistance and provision of unpaid assistance by age



Marital Status

The marital status patterns of Australian Catholics have changed noticeably over the last two decades. At the time of the 1991 Census, 31 per cent of Australian Catholics aged 15 and over had never been married, 55 per cent were married, seven per cent were separated or divorced and six per cent were widowed. By the 2021 Census, these figures were respectively 33 per cent, 49 per cent, 12 per cent and six per cent. Since 1991, there has been a decline in the percentage of married Catholics and an increase in the percentage of those never married and those separated or divorced.

Table 12: Registered marital status by sex and age

	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15 and over								
Males								
Never married	298,703	178,156	85,501	65,205	44,897	19,845	10,105	702,412
Married	1,411	71,032	180,030	210,826	208,230	172,873	132,832	977,234
Separated/Divorced	209	5,847	24,092	47,856	57,630	43,574	20,900	200,108
Widowed	78	153	519	1,787	4,857	10,660	31,291	49,345
Total	300,401	255,188	290,142	325,674	315,614	246,952	195,128	1,929,099
Females								
Never married	288,060	175,688	81,350	59,440	37,554	17,143	11,059	670,294
Married	3,284	109,804	219,568	238,448	229,042	181,107	96,623	1,077,876
Separated/Divorced	392	11,649	38,623	70,200	80,824	58,825	27,280	287,793
Widowed	71	433	1,889	6,126	18,717	45,183	130,832	203,251
Total	291,807	297,574	341,430	374,214	366,137	302,258	265,794	2,239,214

Change of address since 2016 by marital status
(Catholics aged 15+)

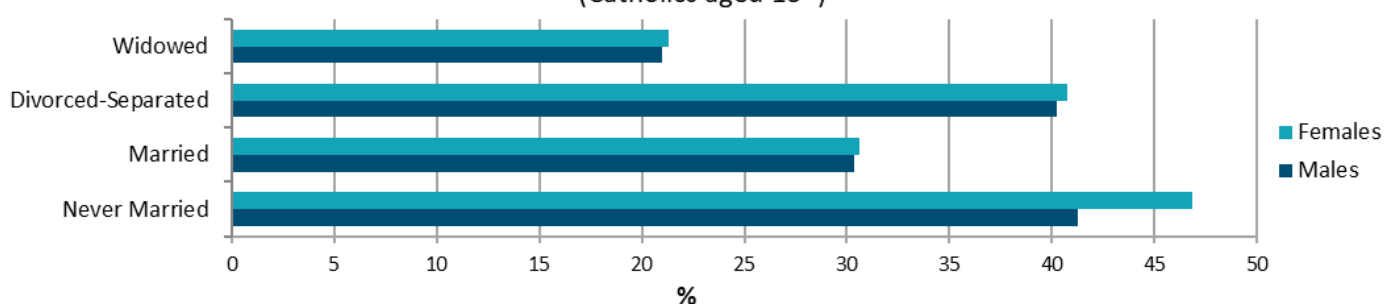


Table 13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status

	In a registered marriage	In a de facto marriage	Total couples	% Couples in de facto marriages
Both persons Catholic	583,211	75,368	658,579	11.4
One person Catholic, Other person non-Christian	419,662	77,696	497,358	15.6
One person Catholic, Other person, non-Christian, or Not stated	336,117	135,415	471,532	28.7
Total	1,338,990	288,479	1,627,469	17.7



Families

The table on this page shows family composition by weekly family income, with the median weekly family income for each type of family shown in the last column. Couple families are divided into three categories: both partners Catholic, Catholics with non-Catholic Christian partners, and Catholics with partners identifying with other religious traditions or none. The table includes partners in registered and de facto marriages.

Couples without children include those who have never had children as well as those whose children no longer live at home.

Table 14: Family composition¹ by weekly family income	Less than \$500	\$500- \$799	\$800- \$1,249	\$1,250- \$1,999	\$2,000- \$2,999	\$3,000- \$3,999	\$4,000 or more	Income not fully stated	Total families	Median weekly family income² (\$)
Two-parent families with children at home:										
Both parents Catholic	4,549	6,369	17,771	54,064	96,040	71,990	96,895	19,650	367,328	2,948
One parent Catholic, the other Christian but not Catholic	1,928	2,934	9,370	31,741	61,106	50,436	72,754	14,826	245,095	3,159
One parent Catholic, the other non-Christian, no religion or not stated	2,086	3,432	10,116	36,436	70,169	54,807	73,775	13,098	263,919	3,057
Couple with no children living at home:										
Both partners Catholic	24,712	47,161	47,724	55,788	54,250	27,202	26,320	8,109	291,266	1,545
One partner Catholic, the other Christian but not Catholic	15,943	36,276	42,980	52,940	49,661	24,291	24,170	5,994	252,255	1,645
One partner Catholic, the other non-Christian, no religion or not stated	8,659	15,568	22,126	39,326	55,920	31,399	30,040	4,559	207,597	2,283
One-parent families: Parent is Catholic	19,441	28,367	47,054	54,675	37,043	11,292	8,881	18,434	225,187	1,366
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	5,105	7,264	15,626	22,347	22,291	11,668	13,192	5,637	103,130	1,946
Other: Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	39,881	39,881	-
Total	82,423	147,371	212,767	347,317	446,480	283,085	346,027	130,188	1,995,658	2,319

Notes:

1. A family is defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. Family members who live elsewhere are not included in the Census definition. For Census purposes, a Catholic family is defined as a family in which at least one person is Catholic.
2. Median weekly family income: 50 per cent of families have a higher income, 50 per cent a lower income. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.
3. The religious affiliation of a temporarily absent spouse is not recorded, hence families in this category could belong to anyone of the first six categories above.



Families

Table 15: Weekly family income by number of dependent children

	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more dependent children	Total
Less than \$500	58,172	11,986	8,008	3,098	1,159	82,423
\$500-\$799	110,780	16,211	13,053	5,242	2,085	147,371
\$800-\$1,249	151,614	26,575	22,040	8,896	3,642	212,767
\$1,250-\$1,999	209,076	54,831	54,959	21,218	7,233	347,317
\$2,000-\$2,999	229,667	78,849	95,119	33,964	8,881	446,480
\$3,000-\$3,999	127,381	53,833	71,706	24,781	5,384	283,085
\$4,000 or more	137,325	67,648	96,858	36,570	7,626	346,027
Income not fully stated	69,906	23,446	23,122	10,021	3,718	130,213
Total	1,093,921	333,379	384,865	143,790	39,728	1,995,683
<i>Median weekly family income (\$)</i>	<i>1,936</i>	<i>2,575</i>	<i>2,870</i>	<i>2,837</i>	<i>2,437</i>	<i>2,319</i>

Note: Table population is Catholic families. Dependent children include all children aged 0-14 and dependent students aged 15-24.

Weekly Family Income
(Catholic families)

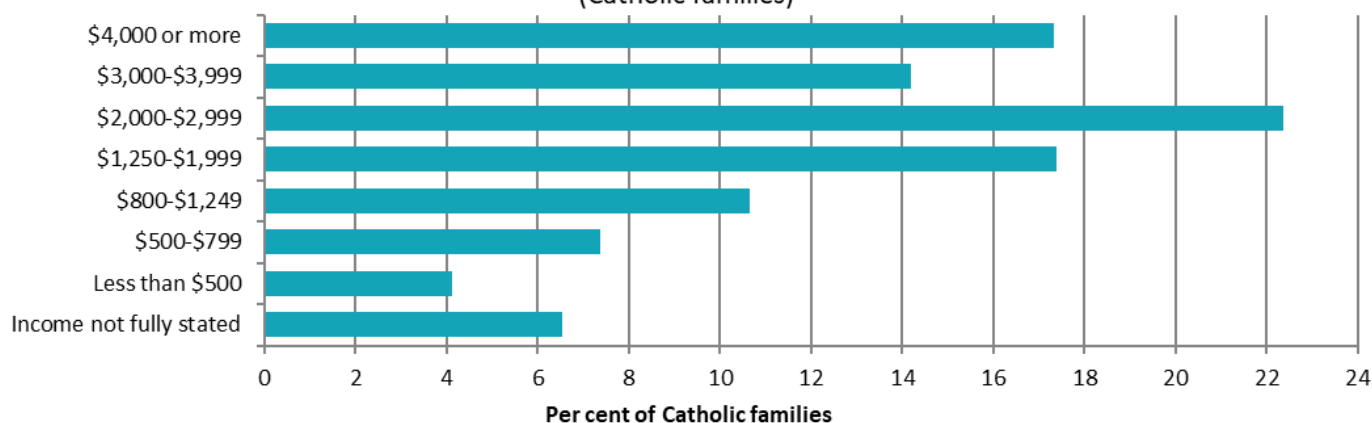


Table 16: Social marital status by number of dependent children

	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more dependent children	Total
Family Composition:						
Married couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	758,567	199,331	278,510	106,932	26,739	1,370,079
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	192,872	47,100	38,496	13,598	5,219	297,285
One-parent family, parent Catholic	96,552	64,994	44,147	14,627	4,861	225,181
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	45,930	21,954	23,712	8,633	2,909	103,138
Total families	1,093,921	333,379	384,865	143,790	39,728	1,995,683



Households

The ABS defines a household as one or more persons, at least one of whom is at least 15 years of age, usually resident in the same private dwelling.¹ Non-private dwellings such as motels, guest houses, prisons, religious institutions and nursing homes are not included in household statistics. A household can consist of one or more families, non-family groups or persons living alone.

The figures on this page refer to households in which at least one person is Catholic.²

There were 9,808,428 households in Australia in 2021, and 2,567,362 households, or 26 per cent of all households, had at least one Catholic person living in them. Seventy-seven per cent of these Catholic households were family households and, of these Catholic family households, 77 per cent were occupied dwellings that were owned or being purchased.

Table 17: Household composition by tenure type	Fully owned or being purchased	Rented from State or Territory Housing Authority	Rented from other landlord, or landlord not stated	Other households	Total households	Per cent owned or being purchased
Family households	1,527,649	30,689	394,789	32,742	1,985,869	76.9
Lone persons aged under 35 years	20,193	1,098	27,377	2,475	51,143	39.5
Lone persons aged 35 years or over	295,359	29,553	97,235	19,933	442,080	66.8
Group households	29,849	2,235	53,069	3,128	88,281	33.8
Total households	1,873,050	63,575	572,470	58,278	2,567,373	73.0

Table 18: Household composition by monthly housing loan repayment	\$1-\$599	\$600-\$999	\$1,000-\$1,599	\$1,600-\$2,199	\$2,200-\$2,799	\$2,800 and over	Median monthly household loan repayment (\$)
Family households	38,919	55,633	160,146	212,868	119,605	205,687	1,999
Lone persons aged under 35 years	364	1,245	5,592	5,294	1,643	1,447	1,667
Lone persons aged 35 years or over	8,097	9,765	19,664	15,944	5,670	7,358	1,469
Group households	941	1,712	3,777	3,641	1,444	1,685	1,628
Total households	48,321	68,355	189,179	237,747	128,362	216,177	1,948

Notes:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. *Census Dictionary Australia 2016. Catalogue No. 2901.0.*
2. For Census purposes, a Catholic household is any household in which at least one person is Catholic.



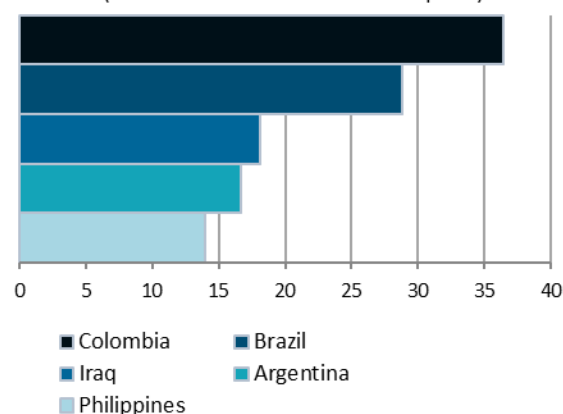
Birthplace

Catholics born overseas, especially those born in non-English-speaking countries, are likely to have different approaches to faith and spirituality, and different experiences and expectations of Church life, from those of Catholics born in Australia.

Top 5 birthplaces of Catholics born overseas
(% of all Catholics)



Top 5 birthplaces with highest proportions of recent arrivals
(% of all Catholics from that birthplace)



NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified

Notes:

1. % recent arrivals = the percentage of Catholics who were born in the named country and who arrived in Australia between 2018 and 2021 inclusive.

Table 19: Birthplace

	All Catholics	% of Catholics	% recent arrivals ¹
Australia	3,658,370	72.1	-
New Zealand	61,391	1.2	5.2
Other Oceania	25,214	0.5	8.5
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	117,445	2.3	3.5
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	60,123	1.2	9.0
Italy	134,278	2.6	1.6
Malta	31,124	0.6	0.3
Spain and Portugal	22,044	0.4	4.5
France	10,897	0.2	11.2
Netherlands	17,315	0.3	1.0
Germany	24,231	0.5	3.3
Austria	6,891	0.1	1.7
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	42,460	0.8	0.5
Poland	30,647	0.6	2.3
Hungary	7,500	0.1	2.3
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	17,719	0.3	3.8
Other Europe NEC	6,414	0.1	7.1
Vietnam	51,162	1.0	6.8
Philippines	216,653	4.3	14.0
Indonesia	20,127	0.4	11.1
Malaysia	19,564	0.4	8.5
Singapore	11,011	0.2	8.6
South East Asia NEC	14,644	0.3	7.5
India	71,138	1.4	12.7
Sri Lanka	25,530	0.5	9.2
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	13,698	0.3	9.1
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	12,499	0.2	9.0
Korea, Republic of (South)	17,151	0.3	7.3
Egypt	6,194	0.1	0.8
Lebanon	29,549	0.6	3.3
Iraq	36,573	0.7	18.1
Sudan (including South Sudan)	6,523	0.1	2.1
Middle East and North Africa NEC	17,364	0.3	12.2
South Africa	20,393	0.4	6.8
Mauritius	15,374	0.3	2.3
United States of America	14,694	0.3	13.0
Canada	7,388	0.1	10.3
Argentina	8,954	0.2	16.7
Brazil	19,966	0.4	28.8
Colombia	21,776	0.4	36.5
Chile	14,910	0.3	8.2
Central America and South America NEC	30,963	0.6	9.0
Other countries	30,253	0.6	11.2
Inadequately described/Not stated/At sea	47,779	0.9	0.1
Total	5,075,893	100.0	2.3



Language

In 2021, 22 per cent of Australian Catholics spoke a language other than English at home, and three per cent were not proficient in English or did not speak English at all. People who do not speak English well can face practical problems in education, employment and access to services. On the other hand, it is important to many people from a non-English-speaking background to maintain and promote, for reasons of cultural continuity and identity, the use of their home language.¹

Table 20: Language spoken at home by religious affiliation

	Catholic	Not Catholic (or not stated)	All persons	% Catholics among speakers ²
English	3,934,458	14,369,203	18,303,661	21.5
Italian	188,594	39,443	228,037	82.7
Maltese	24,736	1,816	26,552	93.2
Spanish	91,364	80,009	171,373	53.3
Croatian	46,561	7,556	54,117	86.0
Polish	32,561	12,813	45,374	71.8
Dutch	6,006	21,779	27,785	21.6
French	24,073	46,669	70,742	34.0
German	14,799	55,445	70,244	21.1
Portuguese	35,351	31,972	67,323	52.5
Hungarian	8,689	8,361	17,050	51.0
Ukrainian	2,967	3,676	6,643	44.7
Vietnamese	75,655	245,100	320,755	23.6
Filipino languages	176,067	57,961	234,028	75.2
Chinese languages	51,043	971,458	1,022,501	5.0
Malayalam	38,288	40,447	78,735	48.6
Sinhalese	13,380	72,486	85,866	15.6
Korean	19,924	95,606	115,530	17.2
Indonesian & Malay	19,479	75,024	94,503	20.6
Arabic	77,727	289,433	367,160	21.2
Assyrian and Chaldean	34,237	25,976	60,213	56.9
Oceanic and Papuan languages	19,127	92,610	111,737	17.1
Australian Indigenous Languages	10,379	68,279	78,658	13.2
Other European languages NEC	23,394	536,613	560,007	4.2
Other Asian languages NEC	32,430	1,265,699	1,298,129	2.5
Other languages NEC	23,531	370,110	393,641	6.0
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/ Not stated	51,083	1,461,315	1,512,398	3.4
Total	5,075,903	20,346,859	25,422,762	20.0

Notes:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 1999. *Australian Social Trends 1999*. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.11.

2. The percentage of Catholics among the speakers of these languages in Australia.

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



Language

Why does the proportion of people not speaking English well vary for different languages spoken at home? Part of the explanation lies in differences in average period of residence of the various language groups. Another factor is 'cultural distance': the more people from a particular culture share the customs, beliefs and lifestyles with the majority Australian culture, the easier it will be for them to overcome language barriers. A third factor is the size of the language group and the pattern of settlement. The concentration of large numbers of speakers in a region tends to reinforce the use of that language.¹

Table 21: Language spoken at home by age

	0-4	5-11	12-19	20-29	30-49	50-64	65 and over	Total	% who do not speak English well or at all
English	189,401	387,383	461,020	417,268	917,539	821,847	740,000	3,934,458	-
Italian	2,947	4,324	4,855	7,733	32,933	45,467	90,339	188,598	13.0
Maltese	233	416	461	682	3,614	4,718	14,609	24,733	7.5
Spanish	4,038	5,529	4,425	11,277	35,158	13,526	17,410	91,363	11.6
Croatian	1,129	1,902	2,257	2,786	9,819	9,556	19,111	46,560	12.9
Polish	973	1,445	1,261	1,706	8,007	6,903	12,267	32,562	10.4
Dutch	118	224	257	176	907	1,186	3,135	6,003	2.0
French	1,041	1,640	1,469	1,877	7,176	4,458	6,412	24,073	3.4
German	633	976	754	863	3,201	2,780	5,595	14,802	2.3
Portuguese	1,684	2,073	1,320	4,140	15,380	5,118	5,642	35,357	12.2
Hungarian	189	329	345	299	1,792	1,740	3,991	8,685	9.8
Ukrainian	98	142	127	150	645	542	1,260	2,964	8.1
Vietnamese	3,662	6,034	8,167	11,938	22,356	15,824	7,670	75,651	27.7
Filipino languages	4,529	6,895	12,405	22,192	74,677	36,650	18,722	176,070	2.9
Chinese languages	2,004	5,026	3,777	5,650	14,801	9,347	10,441	51,046	16.1
Malayalam	3,259	6,178	4,416	3,696	16,999	3,054	673	38,275	6.1
Sinhalese	636	951	865	2,276	5,154	2,253	1,240	13,375	4.1
Korean	884	2,114	1,633	1,859	7,903	3,242	2,286	19,921	27.2
Indonesian & Malay	816	1,343	1,262	3,276	7,593	2,954	2,235	19,479	8.2
Arabic	2,656	4,522	6,772	10,218	23,506	16,298	13,765	77,737	15.3
Assyrian and Chaldean	2,147	4,263	4,942	5,193	9,403	5,427	2,861	34,236	29.0
Oceanic and Papuan languages	886	1,508	1,874	3,068	6,314	3,829	1,656	19,135	7.5
Australian Indigenous Languages	700	1,446	1,741	1,674	2,866	1,444	518	10,389	7.0
Other European languages NEC	1,174	1,759	1,384	1,695	6,394	4,213	6,778	23,397	7.9
Other Asian languages NEC	1,601	2,997	2,709	4,138	12,319	5,417	3,257	32,438	9.4
Other languages NEC	1,369	2,589	2,842	3,427	9,015	3,037	1,247	23,526	11.9
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/	5,446	3,714	3,699	3,660	9,539	8,013	17,012	51,083	11.0
Total	234,253	457,722	537,039	532,917	1,265,010	1,038,843	1,010,132	5,075,916	2.7

Notes:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 1999. *Australian Social Trends 1999*. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.12-13.

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research
National Catholic Census Project 1991-2021

Principal source of data: Australian Bureau of Statistics—2021 Census of Population and Housing

Attendance at Educational Institutions

According to the 2021 Census, 767,800 Australians attended Catholic schools, accounting for almost 21 per cent of all school students in Australia.

In 2021, there were 847,500 Catholic students—almost one in six of all Catholics—attending Government, Catholic, and other Non-Government schools. A further 326,700 Catholics were involved in some form of post-secondary education. The Church of today, not just of tomorrow, is being shaped by the attitudes, beliefs and lifestyles of these young people.

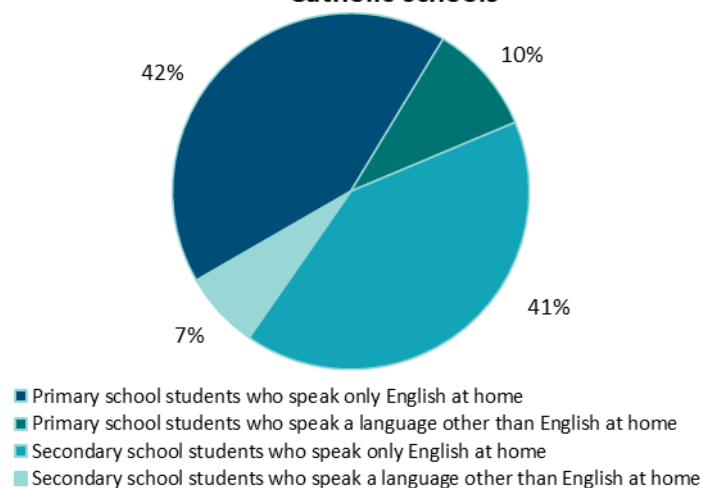
Table 22: Type of educational institution attending by religious affiliation

	Catholic	Not Catholic or not stated	All persons	% Catholic
Infants/Primary - Government	174,357	1,246,947	1,421,304	12.3
Infants/Primary - Catholic	251,572	145,186	396,758	63.4
Infants/Primary - Other Non-Government	27,662	226,384	254,046	10.9
Secondary - Government	131,622	802,519	934,141	14.1
Secondary - Catholic	217,713	153,315	371,028	58.7
Secondary - Other Non-Government	44,534	277,784	322,318	13.8
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	113,460	488,437	601,897	18.9
University or other Tertiary Institution	213,242	972,210	1,185,452	18.0
Other (including pre-school)	136,073	598,836	734,909	18.5
Not stated/Not applicable ¹	3,765,675	15,435,274	19,200,949	19.6
Total	5,075,910	20,346,892	25,422,802	20.0

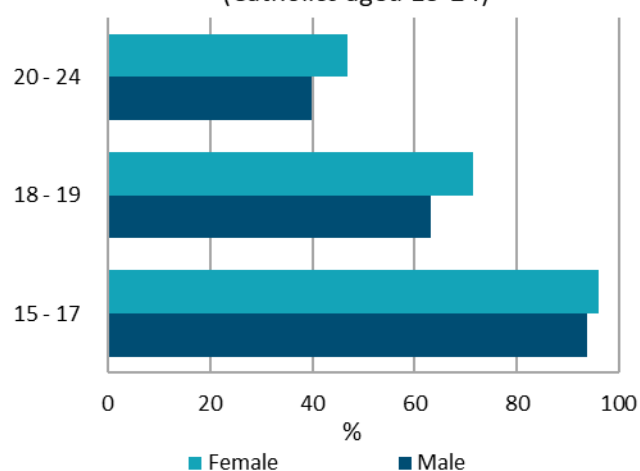
Note:

1. This table includes the total population of Australia and so there are high numbers for whom the question about type of educational institutions being attended is not applicable.

Language background of students attending Catholic schools



Education participation rate (Catholics aged 15-24)



Attendance at Educational Institutions

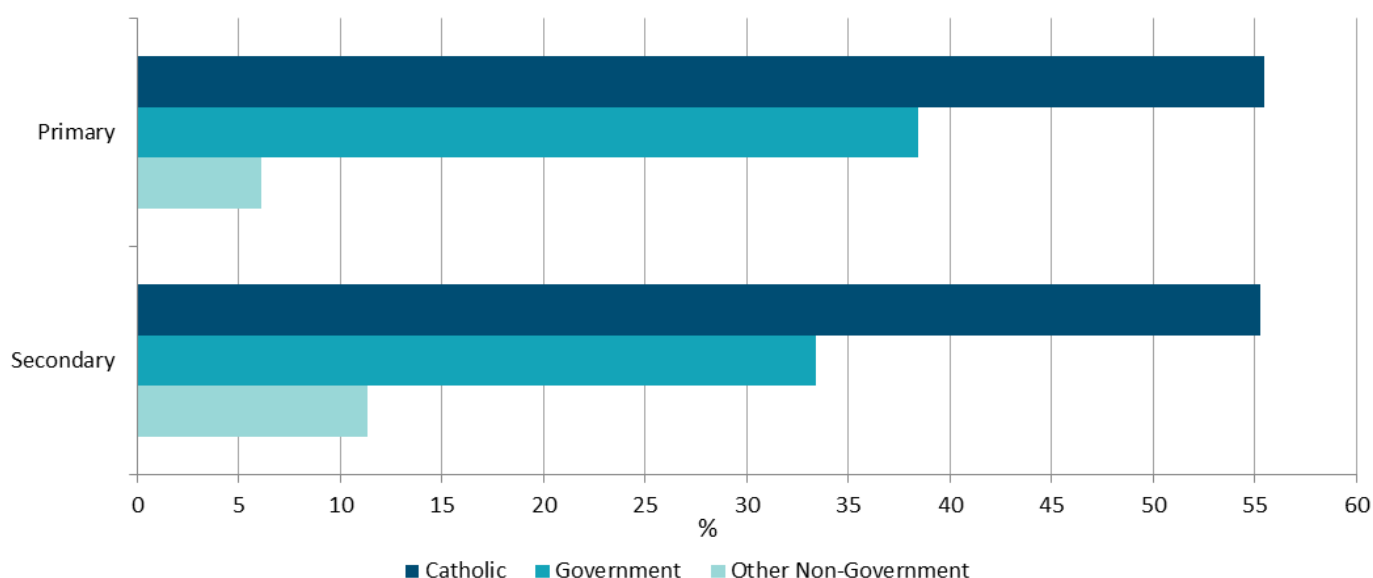
Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family¹

	Less than \$500	\$500-\$799	\$800-\$1,249	\$1,250-\$1,999	\$2,000-\$2,999	\$3,000-\$3,999	\$4,000 or more	Total ²	Median annual family income ³ (\$)
Infants/Primary - Government	6,524	10,284	15,621	30,187	42,623	25,735	29,248	170,089	125,662
Infants/Primary - Catholic	5,255	8,055	14,446	33,500	60,713	48,193	64,518	246,536	152,427
Infants/Primary - Other Non-Government	539	639	1,145	2,795	5,091	4,427	11,132	27,331	187,910
Secondary - Government	4,508	7,399	12,448	23,143	30,783	18,753	16,551	123,770	120,003
Secondary - Catholic	3,570	5,448	10,798	25,756	45,858	41,288	63,243	210,576	164,675
Secondary - Other Non-Government	802	826	1,537	3,731	6,640	6,428	18,333	41,611	201,930
TAFE, University or other tertiary institution	1,125	1,619	3,945	10,767	18,911	17,722	35,738	97,362	181,549
Other (including pre-school)	744	1,189	1,808	4,337	6,794	4,500	5,414	25,990	137,377
Not stated or not applicable	1,045	963	1,246	2,105	2,134	1,053	1,247	11,519	95,667
Total	24,112	36,422	62,994	136,321	219,547	168,099	245,424	954,784	148,580

Notes:

1. Because the population of this table is dependent children aged 5-14 and dependent students aged 15-24, the figures in the table refer to individuals, not families. The table shows, for example, the number of Catholic students attending Catholic primary schools whose families have a weekly income in the range \$1,250-\$1,999. A brother and sister at the same school would account for TWO of the cases in this category.
2. A column of figures for "Family income not fully stated, or not stated at all" has been omitted from the table, but the missing figures are included in the Total column.
3. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.

Type of school being attended by Catholic students



Educational Qualifications

The percentage of Catholics with university degrees and the gender balance of Catholics with degrees have changed dramatically in recent decades due to the upsurge in young people, especially women, undertaking tertiary study and the upgrading of certain courses to degree status. In 1991, less than seven per cent of Australian Catholics aged 15 or over had a degree; by 2021, that figure had reached 25 per cent. Among Catholics aged 15 to 34 years, in 2021, 30 per cent of women had a degree compared to 19 per cent of men. In contrast, among Catholics aged 55 and over, just under 17 per cent of men and women had degrees.

Table 24: Highest qualification attained by age and sex

	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15+							
Males							
Postgraduate degree	926	15,209	22,631	21,277	16,527	14,617	91,187
Graduate diploma, graduate certificate or bachelor degree	18,573	69,753	72,598	63,817	46,992	46,637	318,370
Advanced diploma or diploma	7,171	20,870	32,944	37,368	30,749	30,363	159,465
Certificate	41,323	79,883	88,002	100,362	99,107	111,423	520,100
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	232,406	69,470	73,963	102,856	122,246	239,046	839,987
Total	300,399	255,185	290,138	325,680	315,621	442,086	1,929,109
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>33.3</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>26.1</i>	<i>20.1</i>	<i>13.9</i>	<i>21.2</i>
Females							
Postgraduate degree	1,605	25,140	30,848	24,206	16,003	11,382	109,184
Graduate diploma, graduate certificate or bachelor degree	30,576	120,513	125,710	101,044	67,198	60,197	505,238
Advanced diploma or diploma	12,914	36,557	48,706	56,202	47,168	44,519	246,066
Certificate	34,656	53,080	62,578	71,948	66,992	51,348	340,602
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	212,054	62,280	73,578	120,829	168,762	400,609	1,038,112
Total	291,805	297,570	341,420	374,229	366,123	568,055	2,239,202
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>48.9</i>	<i>45.9</i>	<i>33.5</i>	<i>22.7</i>	<i>12.6</i>	<i>27.4</i>
All Catholics							
Postgraduate degree	2,531	40,349	53,479	45,483	32,530	25,999	200,371
Graduate diploma, graduate certificate or bachelor degree	49,149	190,266	198,308	164,861	114,190	106,834	823,608
Advanced diploma or diploma	20,085	57,427	81,650	93,570	77,917	74,882	405,531
Certificate	75,979	132,963	150,580	172,310	166,099	162,771	860,702
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	444,460	131,750	147,541	223,685	291,008	639,655	1,878,099
Total	592,204	552,755	631,558	699,909	681,744	1,010,141	4,168,311
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>41.7</i>	<i>39.9</i>	<i>30.1</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>24.6</i>

Employment

In recent years there have been many changes in society and the workplace that have affected Australian workers. One major change has been the increase in the percentage of workers, especially young people and women, in part-time jobs. Another has been the rise in participation in the labour force by women. A third major change has been the rise in participation in the labour force by older workers, following the removal of incentives to early retirement and resulting in the continuing availability of their skills, experience and maturity in the workplace.¹ Changes in labour force participation also influence the availability and size of the volunteer workforce, and can both reduce and change the pattern of workers' leisure time.

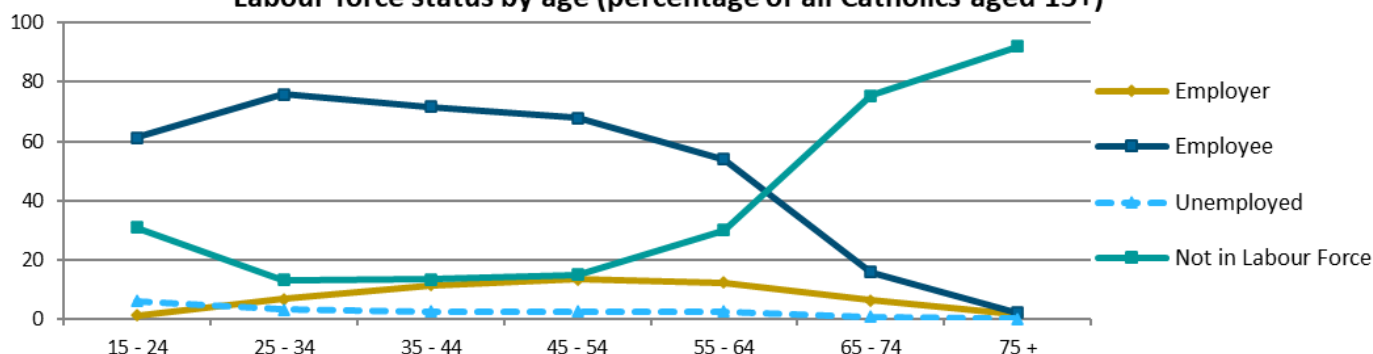
Table 25: Labour force status by age and sex

	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15+					
Males					
Employer	4,393	70,872	118,223	29,324	222,812
Employee	176,237	398,787	378,379	47,539	1,000,942
Unemployed	19,965	17,536	18,914	2,552	58,967
Not in labour force	97,603	51,874	117,391	350,575	617,443
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	2,202	6,259	8,387	12,095	28,943
Total	300,400	545,328	641,294	442,085	1,929,107
<i>Per cent in Labour Force²</i>	66.8	89.3	80.4	18.0	66.5
<i>Per cent unemployed³</i>	10.0	3.6	3.7	3.2	4.6
Females					
Employer	2,842	39,019	59,473	11,933	113,267
Employee	185,923	473,321	464,524	48,803	1,172,571
Unemployed	15,949	16,709	16,888	1,431	50,977
Not in labour force	85,404	104,793	192,239	487,782	870,218
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	1,676	5,165	7,236	18,112	32,189
Total	291,794	639,007	740,360	568,061	2,239,222
<i>Per cent in Labour Force²</i>	70.2	82.8	73.1	10.9	59.7
<i>Per cent unemployed³</i>	7.8	3.2	3.1	2.3	3.8

Notes:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. Australian Social Trends 2004. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.101-128.
2. The percentage of Catholics in each age group who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).
3. The percentage of Catholics in each age group who were in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.

Labour force status by age (percentage of all Catholics aged 15+)



Occupation

Catholic women are more likely to be employed as managers or professionals; 39 per cent of Catholic women and 35 per cent of Catholic men aged 15 and over in the 2021 Census worked as managers or professionals. But men were much more likely than women—45 per cent compared to 12 per cent—to have a 'blue collar' occupation. The largest occupational category for Catholic men in Australia is Technicians and Trades Workers, while for Catholic women it is Professionals.

Table 26: Occupation by age and sex

	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 and	Total
Catholics aged 15+							
Males							
Managers	6,266	25,560	51,994	62,687	46,846	18,190	211,543
Professionals	13,624	48,093	53,893	49,448	36,700	15,122	216,880
Technicians and Trades Workers	47,637	58,930	57,239	55,864	43,592	11,610	274,872
Community and Personal Service Workers	19,343	14,997	13,686	14,981	11,569	3,363	77,939
Clerical and Administrative Workers	9,041	13,731	15,933	17,880	15,845	5,259	77,689
Sales Workers	30,758	11,254	11,335	13,094	11,340	4,854	82,635
Machinery Operators and Drivers	12,542	18,603	23,645	31,657	32,201	9,557	128,205
Labourers	39,069	23,420	21,141	24,468	23,946	8,497	140,541
Inadequately described, Not stated, Not employed	122,126	40,596	41,273	55,607	93,568	365,614	718,784
Total	300,406	255,184	290,139	325,686	315,607	442,066	1,929,088
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals¹</i>	11.2	34.3	42.5	41.5	37.6	43.6	35.4
<i>Per cent 'blue collar' workers¹</i>	55.7	47.0	41.0	41.5	44.9	38.8	44.9
Females							
Managers	5,951	24,110	39,228	41,737	25,202	7,809	144,037
Professionals	22,817	90,528	92,574	79,065	51,200	13,221	349,405
Technicians and Trades Workers	8,017	11,625	10,920	11,061	7,814	1,967	51,404
Community and Personal Service Workers	48,360	36,717	36,413	43,324	35,674	7,738	208,226
Clerical and Administrative Workers	23,920	42,399	57,946	74,192	62,922	17,382	278,761
Sales Workers	59,165	16,306	16,277	21,984	19,798	5,486	139,016
Machinery Operators and Drivers	2,907	3,227	3,274	4,477	3,930	928	18,743
Labourers	15,665	11,990	13,340	18,226	19,997	5,788	85,006
Inadequately described, Not stated, Not employed	105,005	60,674	71,451	80,156	139,605	507,739	964,630
Total	291,807	297,576	341,423	374,222	366,142	568,058	2,239,228
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals¹</i>	15.4	48.4	48.8	41.1	33.7	34.9	38.7
<i>Per cent 'blue collar' workers¹</i>	14.2	11.3	10.2	11.5	14.0	14.4	12.2
All Catholics							
Managers	12,217	49,670	91,222	104,424	72,048	25,999	355,580
Professionals	36,441	138,621	146,467	128,513	87,900	28,343	566,285
Technicians and Trades Workers	55,654	70,555	68,159	66,925	51,406	13,577	326,276
Community and Personal Service Workers	67,703	51,714	50,099	58,305	47,243	11,101	286,165
Clerical and Administrative Workers	32,961	56,130	73,879	92,072	78,767	22,641	356,450
Sales Workers	89,923	27,560	27,612	35,078	31,138	10,340	221,651
Machinery Operators and Drivers	15,449	21,830	26,919	36,134	36,131	10,485	146,948
Labourers	54,734	35,410	34,481	42,694	43,943	14,285	225,547
Inadequately described, Not stated, Not employed	227,131	101,270	112,724	135,763	233,173	873,353	1,683,414
Total	592,213	552,760	631,562	699,908	681,749	1,010,124	4,168,316
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals¹</i>	13.3	41.7	45.8	41.3	35.7	39.7	37.1
<i>Per cent 'blue collar' workers¹</i>	34.5	28.3	25.0	25.8	29.3	28.0	28.1

Note:

1. Percentage of those with an occupation. See Notes 1 and 3 under Table 3 for the type of occupations covered by the terms 'Managers and Professionals' and 'blue collar'.



Occupation

Table 27: Occupation by religious affiliation¹ (%)

	Catholic	Not Catholic
All persons aged 15+ with an occupation		
Managers	14.3	13.8
Professionals	22.8	24.9
Technicians and Trades Workers	13.1	13.2
Community and Personal Service Workers	11.5	11.7
Clerical and Administrative Workers	14.4	12.5
Sales Workers	8.9	8.2
Machinery Operators and Drivers	5.9	6.5
Labourers	9.1	9.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Note:

1. In this table, 'Not Catholic' includes those who did not answer the question about religious affiliation.

Occupation
(Catholics aged 15+ with an occupation)



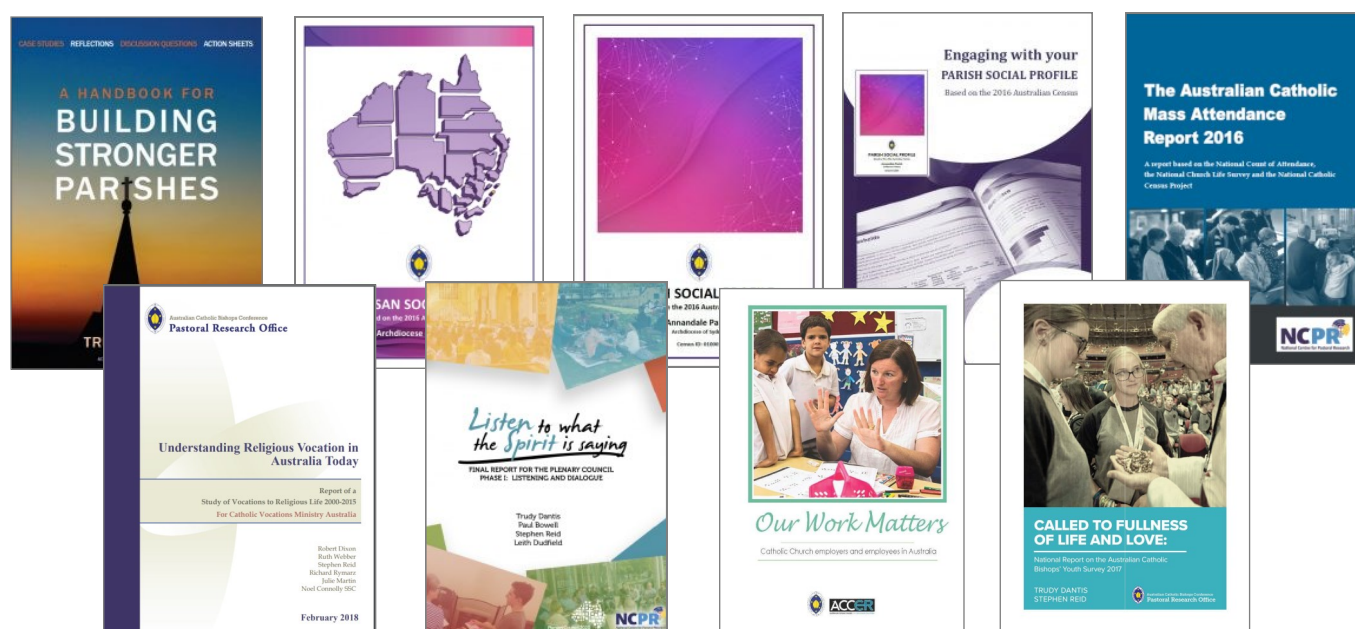
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Visit the website to obtain:

- Social Profiles for any diocese or parish in Australia
- A Social Profile for the Catholic population of Australia
- Helpful hints on using the Census data
- Reports on the National Count of Attendance
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This profile has been created by the staff of the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research as part of the National Catholic Census Project 1991-2021.

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