



DIOCESAN SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census

Archdiocese of Brisbane



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AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research

July 2023

Dear readers,

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

I hope that you will find it to be a valuable tool for your diocese's pastoral planning by helping you understand the local Catholic community and assess its needs. Diocesan pastoral councils and diocesan agencies in particular will find it a useful resource.

The data in this profile has 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 remember that most of the data in this profile applies to all those people living within the boundaries of your diocese 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, produced for every Catholic parish and diocese in Australia, is 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 as part of its commitment to the support of parish and diocesan life. I trust that you find it informative, useful and thought-provoking.

Yours sincerely,

(Professor) Gabrielle McMullen AM

Chair, Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research

Diocesan Social Profile

At a Glance (pages 2 and 3)

Provides a brief glance at some key demographic indicators for the diocese.

	Page
Diocesan Snapshot	2
What has changed since 1996?	3

Diocesan Overview (pages 4-7)

Provides a clear overview of the Catholic community of the diocese, how it is changing and how it compares to other dioceses.

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

Diocesan Details (pages 9-25)

Provides much more detail about the Catholics of the diocese, allowing for deeper analysis of the nature of the Catholic community.

Detailed 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 Diocesan 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 diocese'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 diocese to realise the vision.

This Diocesan Social Profile has been developed as a resource for pastoral planning, and it focuses on the second two of these three 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

By giving a clear picture of the diocese's demographic reality, this profile helps the diocesan leaders name its strengths and shortcomings and better understand how it might use the resources it has to pursue the mission of the Church.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE DIOCESE (2021)

Total Population: 3,815,443

Catholic Population: 684,423

Catholics make up 17.9 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 43 years

Total Catholic families: 285,557

63,483 Catholics live alone

170,485 Catholics were born overseas

10,006 Catholics do not speak English well

45,738 Catholics need assistance with core activities

284,614 Catholics have changed address since 2016



What has changed in the diocesan community since 1996?

This chart will help you identify, at a glance, changes in some of the key indicators for Catholics in the diocese between 1996 and 2021 and may alert you to possible trends that are occurring. The 2016 and 2021 figures are drawn from the Diocesan 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 of the diocese 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.

	Diocese in 1996	Diocese in 2001	Diocese in 2006	Diocese in 2011	Diocese in 2016	Diocese in 2021 ¹
Catholic population	550,993	598,336	645,765	716,434	708,701	684,423
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	22.6	21.9	21.0	20.7	20.2	17.9
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	11.1	11.8	12.1	13.0	15.8	19.6
Catholics born in NESC ² (%)	12.1	11.8	11.9	12.6	13.9	16.7
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5
Catholic families	197,969	223,809	252,636	279,735	281,437	285,557
Catholics living alone	39,990	49,831	52,914	58,489	58,402	63,483
Catholic students attending Catholic schools (%)	47.8	45.1	45.2	47.4	48.2	50.3
Catholics with university degree (%)	10.3	12.8	15.9	18.7	21.5	25.9
Catholic males in labour force (%)	71.8	62.6	71.3	71.3	70.0	67.5
Catholic females in labour force (%)	55.3	53.1	59.4	61.2	62.0	61.4
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	67.2	66.5	69.0	67.9	67.9	70.8

Notes:

1. Prior to 2021, persons living on Australian Defence Force bases were excluded from the Diocesan Social Profiles figures, but rather were counted within the Military Ordinariate of Australia figures. For 2021, such persons have been included in the geographical diocese in which the military base is located. The overall result of inclusion in 2021 figures is negligible.
2. NESC = Non-English-Speaking Country.



Overview

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

The Diocesan Profile begins by looking at the total population living within the diocesan boundaries, and the percentage who identified as Catholic. The rest of the figures in this overview refer only to these Catholics, except where otherwise indicated.

How has the make-up of the diocesan population changed over the last five years? Of the changes identified here, which do you think have been the most significant for the life of the diocese?

Table 1: Population ¹	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank ²	Diocese 2016 Rank ²
Total population ³	3,815,443	3,418,901	25,422,788	23,401,892	2	2
Catholic population	684,423	708,701	5,075,910	5,291,834	2	2
Per cent Catholic	17.9	20.7	20.0	22.6	22	23
At same address since previous Census (%)	52.8	51.4	59.4	57.3	26	24
Median age ⁴ (years)	43	39	43	40	12	16
Aged 0-14 (%)	17.9	20.2	17.9	19.8	19	18
Aged 65+ (%)	19.6	15.8	19.9	16.6	18	19
Males per 100 females	86.6	88.5	89.1	90.6	24	26

Table 2: Disability (for more detail 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.

In what particular ways does the diocese support disabled persons and their carers?

Table 2: Disability	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Need assistance with core activities (%)	6.7	5.5	6.7	5.8	11	17
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability ⁵ (% of Catholics aged 15+)	13.0	12.0	13.5	12.5	18	21

Notes:

1. All figures in this report refer to Catholics only, except for Total Population and certain other clearly indicated figures.
2. A diocesan rank of 1 indicates that the diocese had the highest score of any diocese, while the diocese with the lowest score had a diocesan rank of 28.
3. The population figures for the diocese and Australia do not include overseas visitors.
4. Median age: Half the Catholic population of the diocese (or Australia) are above this age, half are below it. A diocesan rank of 1 signifies that the diocese has the highest median age of all dioceses.
5. The Census asked whether a person had provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability in the two weeks prior to the Census.



Overview

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

The extent to which people are involved in the labour force, and the type of work they are doing, influences and shapes many aspects of the community's life.

How might the changes in the employment status of Catholics over the last five years have affected the diocese?

Table 3: Employment	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Managers and Professionals ¹ (% of those recording an occupation)	37.4	34.1	37.1	34.1	5	5
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations ² (% of those recording an occupation)	26.8	28.4	28.1	29.6	23	24
Men, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	67.5	70.0	66.5	69.7	12	9
Women, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	61.4	62.0	59.7	60.6	9	8
Unemployed at time of Census ⁴ (%)	4.6	6.5	4.2	5.8	3	8
Youth unemployed at time of Census ⁵ (%)	9.7	13.7	8.9	12.2	6	4

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

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

Is there a need for the diocese to review the way it addresses the needs of recently arrived Catholic migrants? How does the cultural mix of the diocese compare to that of the rest of Australia?

Table 4: Birthplace, Indigenous Status & Language	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Born overseas in English-speaking country ⁶	8.2	8.3	5.5	5.6	3	3
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	16.7	13.9	21.4	19.1	10	10
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries & arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	13,384	12,772	97,457	106,428	3	4
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	16,474	15,397	135,686	133,528	1	1
Speak language other than English at home (%)	15.0	12.7	21.5	20.4	11	12
Not proficient in English ^{7, 8} (%)	1.5	1.4	2.7	2.6	11	10

Notes:

1. This group includes, 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. This group includes, for example, toolmakers, technicians, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, bakers and chefs, veterinary nurses, hairdressers, machinery operators, drivers, cleaners and labourers.
3. The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).
4. The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.
5. The percentage of Catholics aged 15-24 who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.
6. New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada and South Africa.
7. Percentage of all Catholics who reported that they spoke English not well, or not at all.
8. The figures and rankings for some dioceses were slightly incorrect in the 2016 Social Profile and have been amended in this 2021 Social Profile.



Overview

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

Catholic schools are a very important part of every diocese 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.

What are the implications for the diocese, if any, of changes in the percentage of Catholics with a university degree?

Has there been any change in the percentage of young Catholics continuing their education in the post-compulsory years?

What challenges for the diocese are associated with the percentage of Catholic students attending Catholic schools? And what challenges are associated with the percentage of non-Catholics among students at Catholic schools?

In relation to the topics covered in this table, how does this diocese compare with other dioceses in Australia?

Table 5: Education ¹	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Catholics aged 15+ with bachelor degree or higher qualification (%)	25.9	21.5	24.6	20.6	6	6
Catholics attending an educational institution (% of all Catholics in each age group)						
Aged 15-17	95.7	91.9	94.9	92.2	6	9
Aged 18-19	65.0	58.2	67.2	62.9	8	10
Aged 20-24	42.9	37.3	43.4	38.2	7	8
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)	51.4	48.6	55.5	53.1	20	18
Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)	40.2	43.3	38.4	41.0	14	12
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)	48.9	47.6	55.3	54.5	18	18
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)	36.3	38.3	33.4	35.1	15	16
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ¹ (%)	38.8	28.7	36.6	28.1	19	19
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ¹ (%)	44.0	38.4	41.3	35.7	19	16

Notes:
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

Table 6, 7 & 8: Marital Status, Families & Households (for more detail see pages 13-16).

In 2021, 84 per cent of Australia's Catholics lived in a family setting, with a further ten 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%).

Have you observed changes to marriage and family life in recent years? Do you think these changes are common to Australia as a whole, or are they particularly prevalent in this diocese?

What programs and strategies does the diocese have in place to support families with children? One-parent families? Catholics living alone? Catholics who are separated or divorced?

Table 6: Marital Status of Catholics aged 15+

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Never married (%)	32.4	33.4	32.9	33.3	15	11
Married (%)	48.9	48.7	49.3	49.7	16	16
Divorced or Separated (%)	13.1	12.7	11.7	11.2	5	4
Widowed (%)	5.6	5.2	6.1	5.8	21	21

Table 7: Families¹
in which at least one person is Catholic

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Families	285,557	281,392	1,995,658	1,997,833	2	2
One-parent families	31,606	32,197	225,180	231,370	2	2
One-parent families (% of all families)	11.1	11.4	11.3	11.6	16	16
Couples of mixed religions ² (%)	64.6	62.0	58.1	55.9	8	9
De facto couples (%)	19.1	19.0	17.7	17.7	12	11
Median annual family income ³ (\$)	119,564	99,484	120,943	100,270	9	10

Table 8: Households⁴
in which at least one person is Catholic

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Households	364,726	357,345	2,567,362	2,548,354	2	2
Persons living alone (aged under 35)	6,225	6,526	51,145	53,499	3	2
Persons living alone (aged 35+)	57,258	51,876	442,080	407,684	2	2
Persons living alone (total)	63,483	58,402	493,225	461,183	2	2
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	9.3	8.2	9.7	8.7	21	21
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	70.8	67.9	73.0	71.2	22	21
Median monthly housing loan repayment ⁵ (\$)	1,948	1,912	1,948	1,873	10	9

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. 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, 50 per cent a lower income. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.
4. A household can consist of one or more families, non-family groups or persons living alone.
5. Fifty per cent of households with a housing loan pay a higher repayment, 50 per cent a lower figure.



Diocesan Details

CONTENTS OF THE DETAILED PROFILE

Tables	Page
9: Religious affiliation by age.....	9
10: Age by sex.....	10
11a: Need for assistance with core activities 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 of the Catholic population, 2016 & 2021.....	11
Age-sex profile of the Catholic population, 2021.....	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 all 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



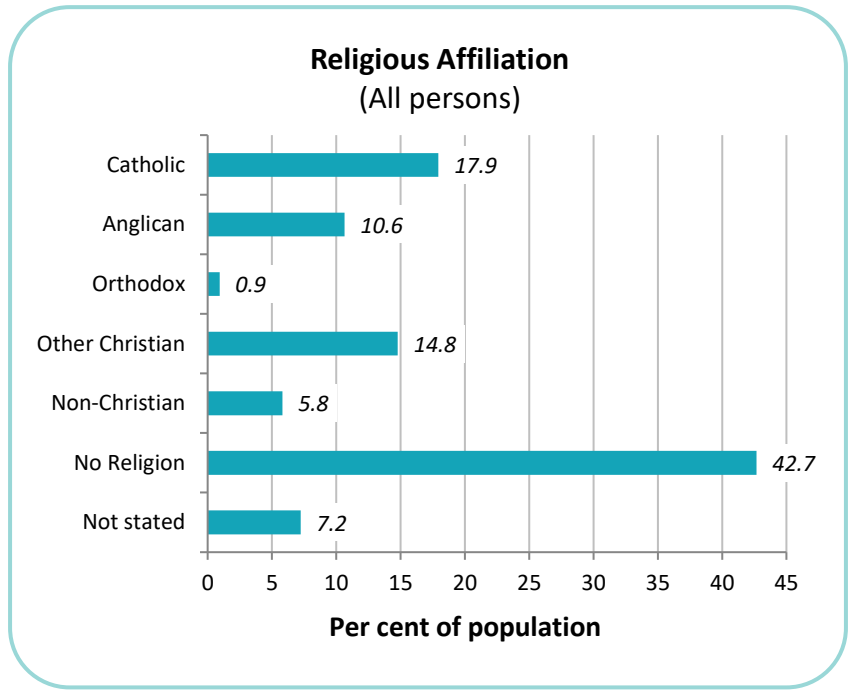
Religious Affiliation

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 religious identification rather than religious practice or belief. For the 2016 Census, the ABS moved the 'No Religion' response category to be the first response category in the religion question, where it remained in 2021. Prior to 2016, it was the last response category.

How does the number of Catholics in the 0-9 age group compare with the number of children baptised in the diocese in the period 2012-2021?

What are the largest non-Catholic religious groups? What involvement does the diocese have in ecumenical and interfaith activities and programs?

What challenges to the diocese are associated with the increase in the number of people who report that they have no religion?



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 (Latin Rite) Catholic	72,220	93,947	67,938	80,301	92,710	96,527	83,172	62,833	32,297	681,945
Maronite Catholic	86	70	43	75	76	73	42	25	16	506
Melkite Catholic	20	18	13	23	23	17	17	17	9	157
Ukrainian Catholic	9	21	6	10	25	9	24	26	6	136
Chaldean Catholic	22	21	16	14	13	13	9	-	-	108
Syro-Malabar Catholic	332	405	76	207	351	158	22	9	-	1,560
Total Catholic	72,689	94,482	68,092	80,630	93,198	96,797	83,286	62,910	32,328	684,412
Per cent Catholic (of total population in age group)	16.0	19.7	13.5	15.0	18.5	20.4	20.5	20.8	21.4	17.9
Anglican	21,935	36,346	22,494	28,336	51,099	68,554	71,008	68,853	37,229	405,854
Orthodox	3,802	4,322	3,708	4,445	5,017	5,178	4,005	2,970	1,899	35,346
Other Christian	54,811	65,924	50,708	60,844	71,042	78,904	79,978	66,513	35,500	564,224
Non-Christian	32,250	23,289	36,362	50,106	33,749	20,773	15,210	7,477	2,461	221,677
No Religion	237,892	224,768	281,990	270,822	214,669	172,241	126,583	72,484	26,680	1,628,129
Not Stated	31,366	30,402	41,885	42,955	35,985	31,532	26,062	20,557	15,030	275,774
Total Population	454,745	479,533	505,239	538,138	504,759	473,979	406,132	301,764	151,127	3,815,416

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	2,474	2,416	4,890	6,504
1	2,634	2,586	5,220	7,722
2	2,966	2,825	5,791	8,274
3	3,264	3,101	6,365	8,583
4	3,527	3,429	6,956	9,120
5	3,975	3,943	7,918	9,625
6	4,255	4,020	8,275	10,266
7	4,485	4,346	8,831	10,312
8	4,636	4,445	9,081	10,529
9	4,743	4,637	9,380	10,842
10	4,927	4,634	9,561	10,545
11	5,108	4,977	10,085	10,286
12	5,113	4,979	10,092	10,335
13	5,148	4,933	10,081	9,988
14	5,123	4,876	9,999	9,950
15	4,993	4,677	9,670	10,124
16	4,810	4,610	9,420	9,912
17	4,589	4,457	9,046	9,524
18	4,268	4,193	8,461	9,124
19	4,127	3,950	8,077	8,980
20-24	17,383	17,937	35,320	42,145
25-29	14,973	17,798	32,771	40,236
30-34	16,359	20,947	37,306	44,295
35-39	19,485	23,840	43,325	44,953
40-44	20,153	24,348	44,501	50,021
45-49	22,210	26,476	48,686	51,317
50-54	22,528	26,646	49,174	49,210
55-59	21,747	25,873	47,620	44,431
60-64	19,630	24,488	44,118	39,261
65-69	17,163	22,011	39,174	37,332
70-74	16,237	20,476	36,713	27,996
75-79	11,744	14,462	26,206	20,298
80+	12,919	19,408	32,327	26,628
Total	317,696	366,744	684,440	708,668

The table on this page shows the number of Catholics in the diocese in 2021, by age and sex, and compares the total number of Catholics in each age group with those 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 rates in the past and mortality rates, but in many parishes and dioceses the key factor is migration, related either to people moving to other parts of the country or to people arriving from other parishes or dioceses, or from overseas.

It is important to keep an eye on how the diocesan age profile changes over time, as different age groups have different needs and require different pastoral responses.

In this diocese, which age group has the largest Catholic population?

Which age groups have seen the greatest changes since 2016?

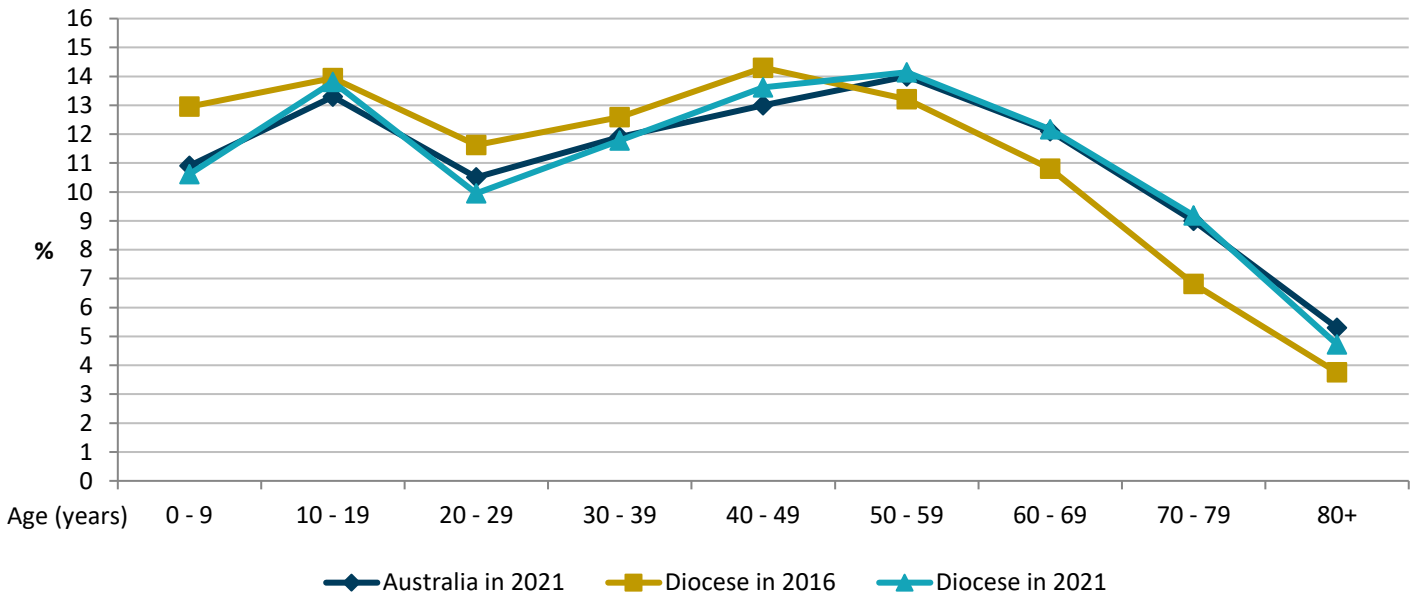
Does this data suggest any new challenges for the diocese?

Note: The Catholic population of the diocese 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.

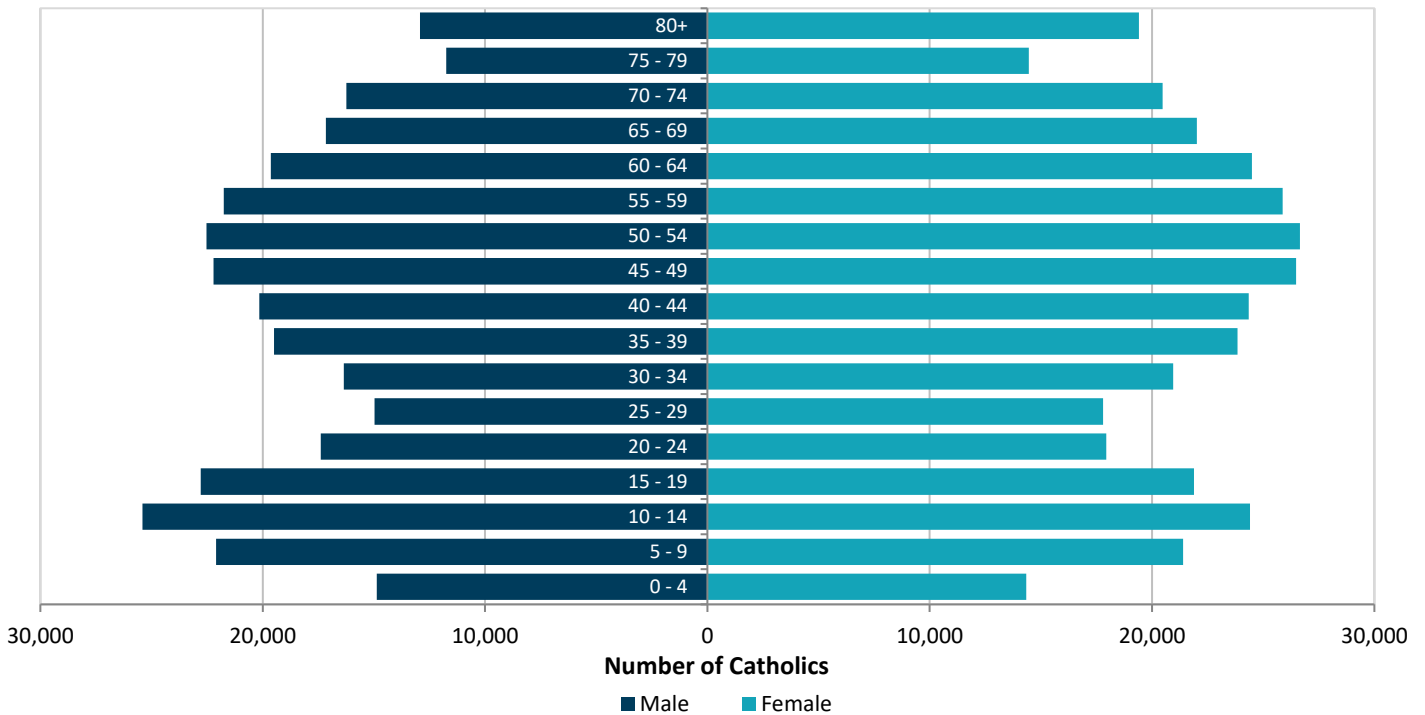


Age and Sex

Age profile of the Catholic population, 2016 & 2021



Age-sex profile of the Catholic population, 2021



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. 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

How does the diocese support people who need assistance with core activities? How well are Catholic schools in the diocese equipped to meet the needs of students with a disability?

How does the diocese support and encourage Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to people with a disability?

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 members:							
Males	2,980	2,855	2,566	2,557	2,702	1,406	15,066
Females	1,523	2,321	3,233	2,889	3,221	2,033	15,220
Lone Persons:							
Males	-	270	733	491	557	460	2,511
Females	-	181	773	791	1,577	1,614	4,936
Other non-family members or persons not present in a household on Census night³							
Males	54	335	593	580	747	749	3,058
Females	19	231	631	655	1,210	2,201	4,947
Total							
Males	3,034	3,460	3,892	3,628	4,006	2,615	20,635
Females	1,542	2,733	4,637	4,335	6,008	5,848	25,103

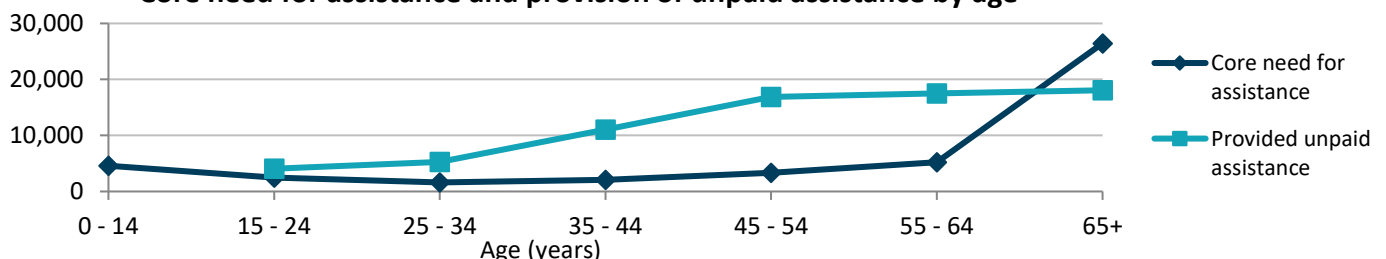
Table 11b: Provision of unpaid assistance by age

	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							
Males	1,787	1,826	3,777	5,921	6,121	7,167	26,599
Females	2,274	3,436	7,276	10,940	11,367	10,903	46,196

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 a rise in the percentage of those never married and those separated and divorced.

How might changes in marital status patterns affect the life of the Church in this diocese? Do they result in the need for new pastoral services and programs?

The graph below shows, for each marital status, the percentage of Catholic men and women aged 15 years and older who lived in the diocese at the time of the 2021 Census and who had changed address in the previous five years. Across Australia in 2021, 35 per cent of Catholics aged 15 and over had changed address since the previous Census.

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	39,981	21,956	11,831	8,542	5,381	2,364	1,164	91,219
Married	160	8,556	24,087	28,765	27,305	23,273	16,595	128,741
Divorced or Separated	27	800	3,636	7,181	8,149	6,371	3,193	29,357
Widowed	5	24	90	245	544	1,384	3,707	5,999
Total	40,173	31,336	39,644	44,733	41,379	33,392	24,659	255,316
Females								
Never married	39,395	23,104	11,373	8,254	4,951	2,277	1,397	90,751
Married	378	13,836	30,477	33,079	30,654	24,894	12,467	145,785
Divorced or Separated	50	1,739	6,064	10,866	12,243	9,291	4,276	44,529
Widowed	9	63	278	928	2,517	6,030	15,737	25,562
Total	39,832	38,742	48,192	53,127	50,365	42,492	33,877	306,627

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

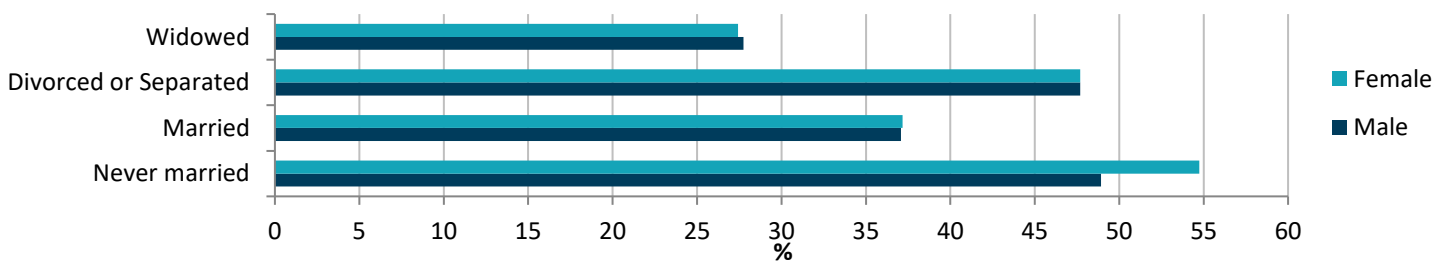


Table 13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status

	In a registered marriage	In a de facto marriage	Total couples	% couples in de facto marriages
Both persons Catholic	67,909	10,425	78,334	13.3
One person Catholic, the other non-Catholic Christian	69,517	12,721	82,238	15.5
One Catholic, the other non-Christian, not stated or temporarily absent	55,239	22,272	77,511	28.7
Total	192,665	45,418	238,083	19.1



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.

What is the proportion of 'mixed marriages' among couple families in this diocese? It is likely to be higher now than previously. How does this alter the pastoral needs of families, and how does it affect diocesan services, including Catholic education?

Is this a particularly difficult time, financially, for families in the diocese? What assistance is the diocese able to give struggling families? Note that the income of one-parent families is likely to be much lower than that of two-parent families. What support services can the diocese offer one-parent families?

Table 14: Family composition ¹ 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 Family Income ² (\$)
Two-parent families with children at home:										
Both parents Catholic	385	611	1,809	6,076	10,972	8,390	11,517	2,043	41,803	3,003
One parent Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	253	444	1,474	5,067	9,875	8,472	11,924	2,169	39,678	3,193
One parent Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	280	529	1,628	5,715	10,823	8,374	10,426	1,824	39,599	2,991
Couples with no children living at home:										
Both partners Catholic	2,601	5,479	6,370	7,509	7,031	3,348	3,405	787	36,530	1,591
One partner Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	2,656	6,420	7,624	9,033	8,185	3,944	3,874	833	42,569	1,596
One partner Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	1,383	2,603	3,704	6,512	8,787	4,505	3,933	645	32,072	2,172
One-parent families:										
Parent is Catholic	2,442	4,090	6,768	7,993	5,245	1,436	1,114	2,518	31,606	1,366
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	646	1,019	2,343	3,639	3,541	1,827	2,040	808	15,863	1,975
Other: Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,837	5,837	-
Total	10,646	21,195	31,720	51,544	64,459	40,296	48,233	17,464	285,557	2,293

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 any one 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	7,617	1,564	951	377	142	10,651
\$500-\$799	15,963	2,397	1,885	688	267	21,200
\$800-\$1,249	22,995	3,919	3,111	1,143	537	31,705
\$1,250-\$1,999	31,545	8,190	7,820	2,875	1,132	51,562
\$2,000-\$2,999	33,184	11,670	13,711	4,639	1,266	64,470
\$3,000-\$3,999	17,520	7,783	10,716	3,516	759	40,294
\$4,000 or more	17,872	9,361	14,408	5,432	1,173	48,246
Income not fully stated	9,053	3,225	3,275	1,353	570	17,476
Total Families	155,749	48,109	55,877	20,023	5,846	285,604
Median Family Income (\$)	1,886	2,546	2,914	2,916	2,442	2,293

Note: Table population is Catholic families. Dependent children include all children aged 0-14 and dependent students aged 15-24. Some figures may differ from figures in other similar tables (i.e. Table 14) due to the randomisation process used by the ABS – see note at the bottom of page 10.

**Weekly Family Income
(Catholic families)**

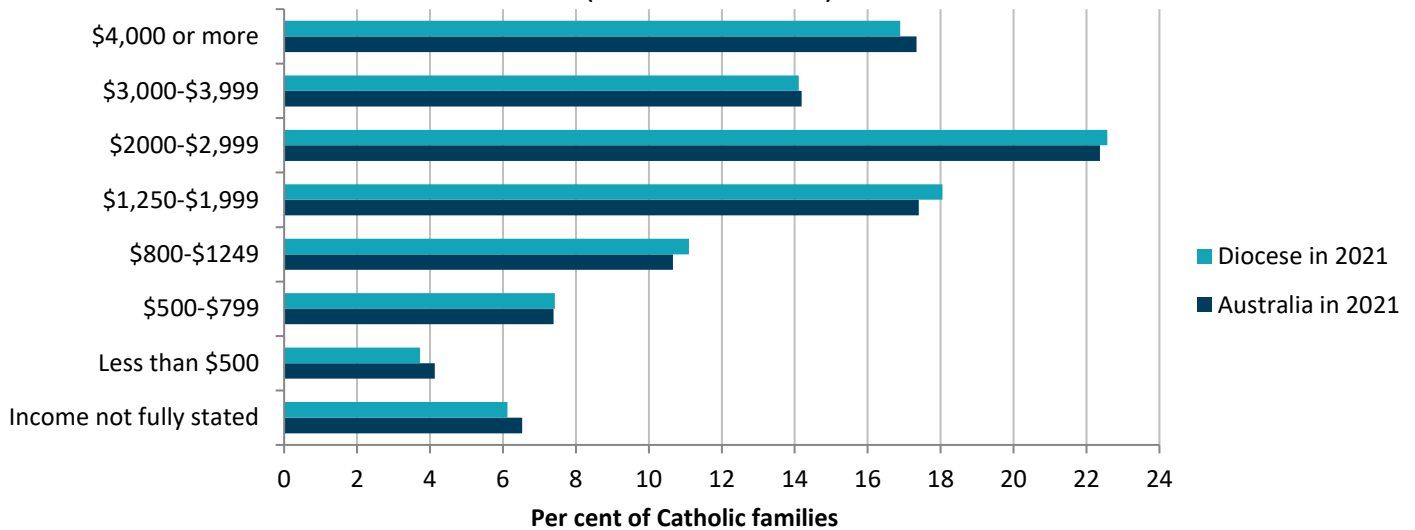


Table 16: Social marital status by number of dependent children

	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)	107,467	27,747	39,343	14,402	3,698	192,657
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	29,351	7,166	5,913	2,109	859	45,398
One parent family, parent Catholic	12,232	9,696	6,765	2,155	757	31,605
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	6,661	3,486	3,872	1,328	511	15,858
Total families	155,711	48,095	55,893	19,994	5,825	285,518



Households

The Australian Bureau of Statistics 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. At least one Catholic person lived in 2,567,352 households, or 26 per cent of all households. Seventy-seven per cent of these Catholic households were family households and, of the Catholic family households, 77 per cent were occupied dwellings that were owned or being purchased.

What is the current housing situation in this diocese? For example, is there a sufficient stock of rental properties available? Are there areas with large numbers of new houses? Are families under stress to pay rent or meet mortgage repayments? What aspects of the diocese's pastoral strategies relate to housing issues?

	Fully owned or being purchased	Rented from State or Territory Housing	Rented from other landlord, or landlord not stated	Other households	Total households	Per cent owned or being purchased
Family households	213,575	3,421	65,063	3,536	285,595	74.8
Lone person aged under 35 years	2,267	123	3,556	279	6,225	36.4
Lone person aged 35 years or over	37,037	3,520	14,272	2,429	57,258	64.7
Group households	5,319	266	9,624	439	15,648	34.0
Total households	258,198	7,330	92,515	6,683	364,726	70.8

	\$1-\$599	\$600-\$999	\$1,000-1,599	\$1,600-\$2,199	\$2,200-\$2,799	\$2,800 or more	Median monthly household loan payment
Family households	5,468	7,213	23,079	35,294	19,393	27,233	1,992
Lone person aged under 35 years	30	125	720	594	159	128	1,603
Lone person aged 35 years or over	1,052	1,227	2,769	2,396	750	837	1,484
Group households	146	276	722	739	285	289	1,668
Total households	6,696	8,841	27,290	39,023	20,587	28,487	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.

How does the diocese support Catholics born in non-English-speaking countries in matters such as chaplaincy, education, pastoral care, and so on?

Is there a need for the diocese to review the way it addresses the needs of Catholics who have arrived in Australia in recent years?

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)

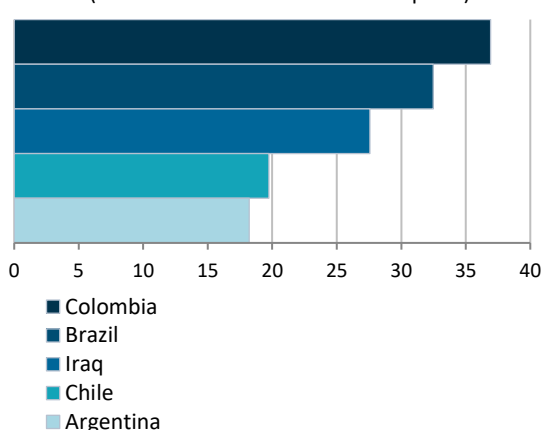


Table 19: Birthplace

	All Catholics	% of Catholics	% recent arrivals ¹
Australia	508,638	74.3	-
New Zealand	20,224	3.0	5.2
Other Oceania	7,588	1.1	6.6
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	19,831	2.9	3.8
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	7,926	1.2	5.4
Italy	6,811	1.0	3.9
Malta	1,367	0.2	1.1
Spain and Portugal	1,992	0.3	9.9
France	1,780	0.3	11.1
Netherlands	2,478	0.4	1.0
Germany	3,732	0.5	3.5
Austria	955	0.1	3.2
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	3,084	0.5	0.9
Poland	3,304	0.5	3.4
Hungary	1,428	0.2	2.6
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	2,114	0.3	4.6
Other Europe NEC	1,067	0.2	7.2
Vietnam	4,972	0.7	7.4
Philippines	26,467	3.9	14.8
Indonesia	1,422	0.2	8.6
Malaysia	1,881	0.3	5.2
Singapore	1,153	0.2	8.1
South East Asia NEC	1,183	0.2	12.0
India	6,808	1.0	12.3
Sri Lanka	2,012	0.3	9.2
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	1,057	0.2	10.2
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	1,385	0.2	13.6
Korea, Republic of (South)	2,448	0.4	12.0
Egypt	352	0.1	2.3
Lebanon	581	0.1	5.0
Iraq	798	0.1	27.6
Sudan (including South Sudan)	860	0.1	3.5
Middle East and North Africa NEC	1,519	0.2	18.2
South Africa	4,394	0.6	6.8
Mauritius	883	0.1	1.6
United States of America	2,454	0.4	11.7
Canada	1,571	0.2	10.9
Argentina	895	0.1	18.2
Brazil	4,831	0.7	32.5
Colombia	4,539	0.7	36.9
Chile	1,145	0.2	19.7
Central America and South America NEC	4,664	0.7	11.6
Other countries	4,530	0.7	11.9
Inadequately described/Not stated	5,312	0.8	0.2
Total	684,435	100.0	2.4

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.

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



Language

In 2021, around 22 per cent of Australia's Catholics spoke a language other than English at home, and three per cent were not proficient in English. 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

What provisions does this diocese make for people who do not speak English well in terms of availability of Masses in languages other than English, interpreters at diocesan events, translation of written material, access to priests and other pastoral ministers who speak their language, and so on?

Is there a need for current services to be reviewed in the light of recent changes to the non-English-speaking Catholic population?

Table 20: Language spoken at home by religious affiliation

	Catholic	Not Catholic (or not stated)	All persons	% Catholics among speakers ²
English	575,930	2,464,315	3,040,245	18.9
Italian	9,165	4,053	13,218	69.3
Maltese	645	131	776	83.1
Spanish	13,361	13,018	26,379	50.7
Croatian	2,633	882	3,515	74.9
Polish	3,481	1,592	5,073	68.6
Dutch	1,047	3,837	4,884	21.4
French	3,323	7,000	10,323	32.2
German	2,517	9,435	11,952	21.1
Portuguese	5,890	7,749	13,639	43.2
Hungarian	1,498	1,793	3,291	45.5
Ukrainian	176	440	616	28.6
Vietnamese	7,194	21,720	28,914	24.9
Filipino languages	19,873	7,073	26,946	73.8
Chinese languages	4,437	102,749	107,186	4.1
Malayalam	5,516	4,648	10,164	54.3
Sinhalese	998	5,699	6,697	14.9
Korean	2,780	17,008	19,788	14.0
Indonesian & Malay	1,067	5,098	6,165	17.3
Arabic	2,376	12,021	14,397	16.5
Assyrian and Chaldean	394	209	603	65.3
Oceanic and Papuan languages	4,895	24,672	29,567	16.6
Australian Indigenous Languages	285	2,075	2,360	12.1
Other European languages NEC	2,951	47,151	50,102	5.9
Other Asian languages NEC	3,027	123,526	126,553	2.4
Other languages NEC	2,991	35,299	38,290	7.8
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/Not stated	5,966	207,838	213,804	2.8
Total	684,416	3,131,031	3,815,447	17.9

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 who 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

What are the most commonly spoken languages other than English among the Catholics of this diocese? Are speakers of some languages more likely than others to have difficulty with English? Can you see the influence of the three factors outlined above reflected in the figures on this page?

Table 21: Language spoken at home by age

	0-4	5-11	12-19	20-29	30-39	40-59	60 and over	Total	% who do not speak English well
English	24,270	55,302	67,068	55,996	136,063	122,181	115,047	575,927	-
Italian	232	293	305	467	1,931	2,183	3,749	9,160	8.8
Maltese	3	8	5	28	95	138	359	636	4.6
Spanish	786	935	637	2,020	5,759	1,567	1,659	13,363	10.2
Croatian	88	110	120	152	564	624	976	2,634	10.8
Polish	140	200	146	159	978	647	1,212	3,482	8.1
Dutch	14	32	45	40	147	237	532	1,047	2.0
French	157	232	185	214	980	607	946	3,321	4.3
German	108	156	107	172	567	535	878	2,523	3.1
Portuguese	346	400	237	1,003	3,147	454	310	5,897	7.3
Hungarian	55	81	81	61	394	324	504	1,500	8.6
Ukrainian	4	9	9	8	50	30	70	180	7.9
Vietnamese	351	628	793	1,055	2,242	1,418	704	7,191	28.0
Filipino languages	474	742	1,322	2,749	8,323	4,288	1,973	19,871	2.7
Chinese languages	179	473	285	430	1,259	737	1,070	4,433	12.6
Malayalam	413	944	794	411	2,418	456	86	5,522	5.2
Sinhalese	48	62	75	145	399	164	103	996	3.1
Korean	128	379	233	259	1,256	378	150	2,783	22.6
Indonesian & Malay	47	62	73	138	411	185	154	1,070	7.3
Arabic	101	203	277	310	768	430	277	2,366	14.7
Assyrian and Chaldean	25	47	59	60	120	61	28	400	26.2
Oceanic and Papuan languages	215	422	545	705	1,614	939	455	4,895	6.4
Australian Indigenous Languages	14	36	58	31	93	39	18	289	-
Other European languages NEC	141	237	163	224	908	566	708	2,947	6.5
Other Asian languages NEC	149	356	362	364	1,093	444	259	3,027	10.4
Other languages NEC	177	363	398	448	1,089	387	123	2,985	15.8
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/ Not stated	550	428	446	455	1,157	892	2,048	5,976	9.1
Total	29,215	63,140	74,828	68,104	173,825	140,911	134,398	684,421	1.5

Notes:

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

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



Attendance at Educational Institutions

According to the 2021 Census, more than 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.

The pie-chart below shows the language background of all primary and secondary school students in your diocese, both Catholic and non-Catholic, attending Catholic schools. Nationally, around 17 per cent of all students in Catholic schools speak a language other than English at home. The adjacent bar-chart shows the educational participation rate of Catholic males and females in each of the three age groups.

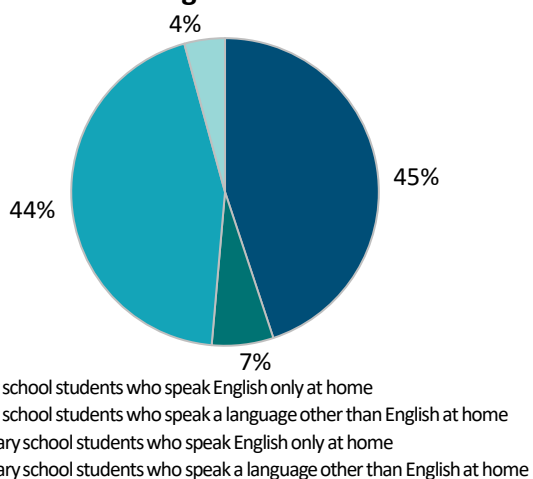
How does the diocese connect with Catholic students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, especially those not attending Catholic schools?

Table 22: Type of educational institution attending by religious affiliation

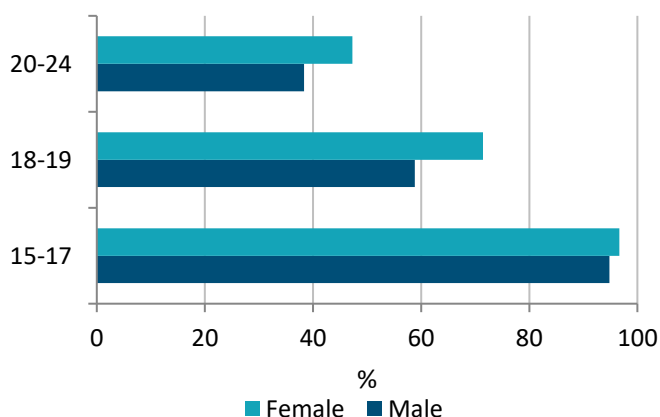
	Catholic	Not Catholic or not stated	All persons	% Catholic
Infants/Primary – Government	24,780	191,737	216,517	11.4
Infants/Primary – Catholic	31,684	20,108	51,792	61.2
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	5,129	38,441	43,570	11.8
Secondary – Government	20,324	133,678	154,002	13.2
Secondary – Catholic	27,421	21,575	48,996	56.0
Secondary – Other Non-Government	8,275	48,636	56,911	14.5
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	15,106	70,689	85,795	17.6
University or other Tertiary Institutions	32,309	154,255	186,564	17.3
Other (including pre-school)	17,128	85,994	103,122	16.6
Not stated/Not applicable ¹	502,267	2,365,907	2,868,174	17.5
Total	684,423	3,131,020	3,815,443	17.9

Note:
 1. This table includes the total population of the diocese and so there are high numbers for categories where the question about type of educational institutions being attended is not applicable.

Language background of all students attending Catholic schools



Education participation rate (Catholics aged 15-24)



Attendance at Educational Institutions

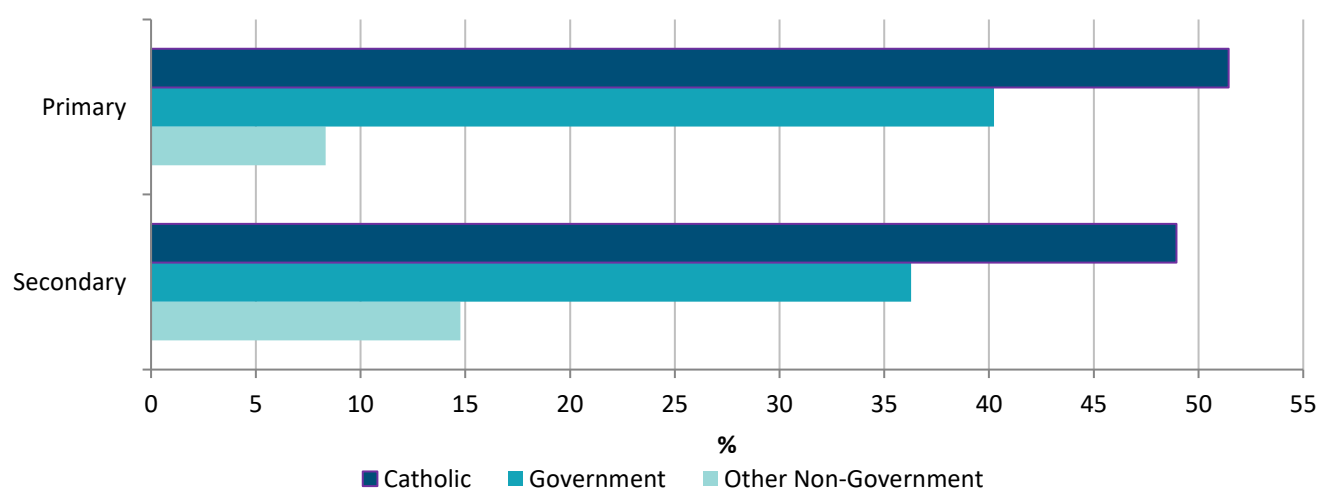
Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family¹

	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	843	1,453	2,283	4,616	6,212	3,709	3,738	24,277	123,005
Infants/Primary – Catholic	458	817	1,542	3,741	7,184	6,386	9,657	31,218	165,814
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	101	118	201	509	989	901	1,953	5,095	183,491
Secondary – Government	609	1,143	1,953	3,742	5,133	2,896	2,295	19,365	118,886
Secondary – Catholic	328	572	1,097	2,766	5,256	5,320	9,463	26,547	179,736
Secondary – Other Non-Government	166	184	333	775	1,372	1,327	3,093	7,838	187,662
TAFE, University or other Tertiary institution	126	202	423	1,236	2,253	2,225	4,986	12,453	191,208
Other (including pre-school)	87	148	190	467	656	458	581	2,738	136,197
Not stated or not applicable	94	112	149	283	270	146	197	1,444	102,513
Total	2,812	4,749	8,171	18,135	29,325	23,368	35,963	130,975	152,987

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

Both 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 courses, such as nursing, 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 both men and women had degrees.

To what extent has participation in higher education in theology and related fields kept pace in this diocese with participation in higher education in general? What new challenges and opportunities are presented to the diocese as a result of the increase in the number of Catholics with a university education?

The increased level of participation in higher education by women is a reflection of significant changes in women's roles and responsibilities in society.¹ How have women's roles and responsibilities in the diocese changed in the last two decades?

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	89	1,568	3,222	3,218	2,504	2,264	12,865
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	2,590	8,798	10,319	9,772	6,694	6,971	45,144
Advanced diploma or diploma level	1,428	2,687	4,505	5,419	4,481	4,544	23,064
Certificate level	6,447	9,888	12,251	13,630	12,948	15,404	70,568
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	29,616	8,393	9,343	12,695	14,752	28,880	103,679
Total	40,170	31,334	39,640	44,734	41,379	58,063	255,320
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>34.2</i>	<i>29.0</i>	<i>22.2</i>	<i>15.9</i>	<i>22.7</i>
Females							
Postgraduate degree	142	2,702	4,316	3,636	2,494	1,782	15,072
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	4,248	16,057	18,262	15,295	9,817	8,887	72,566
Advanced diploma or diploma level	2,367	4,986	7,134	8,127	6,771	6,367	35,752
Certificate level	5,775	6,980	8,829	10,258	9,547	7,470	48,859
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	27,285	8,023	9,649	15,806	21,731	51,853	134,347
Total	39,817	38,748	48,190	53,122	50,360	76,359	306,596
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>48.4</i>	<i>46.9</i>	<i>35.6</i>	<i>24.4</i>	<i>14.0</i>	<i>28.6</i>
All Catholics							
Postgraduate degree	231	4,270	7,538	6,854	4,998	4,046	27,937
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	6,838	24,855	28,581	25,067	16,511	15,858	117,710
Advanced diploma or diploma level	3,795	7,673	11,639	13,546	11,252	10,911	58,816
Certificate level	12,222	16,868	21,080	23,888	22,495	22,874	119,427
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	56,901	16,416	18,992	28,501	36,483	80,733	238,026
Total	79,987	70,082	87,830	97,856	91,739	134,422	561,916
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>41.6</i>	<i>41.1</i>	<i>32.6</i>	<i>23.4</i>	<i>14.8</i>	<i>25.9</i>

Note:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 1999. Australian Social Trends 1999. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.83.



Employment

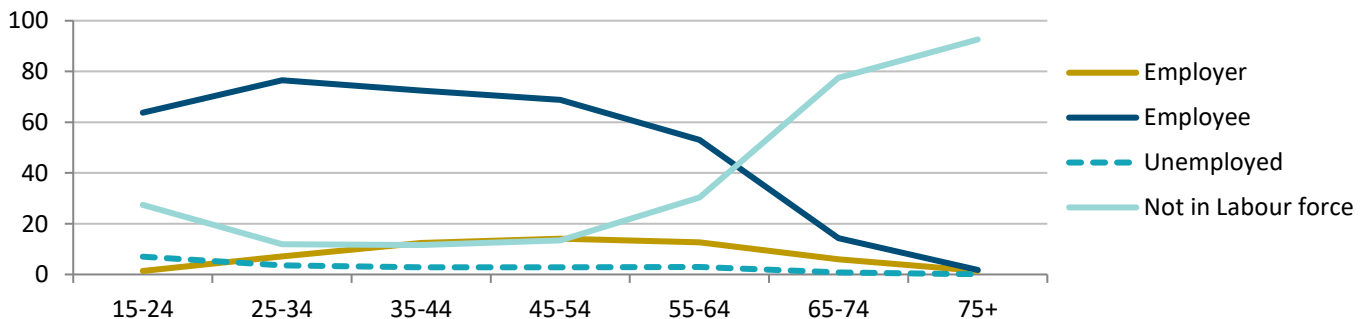
In recent years there have been many changes in society and the workplace that have affected Australian workers. One major change has been the increase in the percentages of workers, especially young people and women, in part-time jobs. Another has been the rise in participation in the labour force by 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.

Have any of the changes described above had a noticeable impact on Catholic life in this diocese?

Table 25: Labour force status by age and sex

	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15+					
Males					
Employer	626	9,690	16,188	3,664	30,168
Employee	24,238	52,371	51,112	5,582	133,303
Unemployed	3,155	2,444	2,767	405	8,771
Not in the labour force	11,906	5,774	15,175	47,159	80,014
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	245	703	875	1,252	3,075
Total	40,170	70,982	86,117	58,062	255,331
<i>Per cent in labour force²</i>	69.8	90.9	81.4	16.6	67.5
<i>Per cent unemployed³</i>	11.3	3.8	3.9	4.2	5.1
Females					
Employer	485	6,167	9,248	1,719	17,619
Employee	26,724	64,875	64,896	6,289	162,784
Unemployed	2,448	2,510	2,666	225	7,849
Not in the labour force	9,982	12,753	25,802	65,850	114,387
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	190	632	869	2,281	3,972
Total	39,829	86,937	103,481	76,364	306,611
<i>Per cent in labour force²</i>	74.5	84.6	74.2	10.8	61.4
<i>Per cent unemployed³</i>	8.3	3.4	3.5	2.7	4.2

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



Notes:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. *Australian Social Trends 2004. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.115.*
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.



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 who reported their occupation 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. For women, it is Professionals.

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15+							
Males							
Managers	703	2,905	6,990	8,724	5,901	1,935	27,158
Professionals	1,985	5,860	8,005	7,872	5,395	2,063	31,180
Technicians & Trade Workers	5,436	7,241	7,825	7,397	5,525	1,346	34,770
Community & Personal Service Workers	3,006	2,122	2,102	2,432	1,632	451	11,745
Clerical & Administrative Workers	1,352	1,704	2,148	2,516	2,125	659	10,504
Sales Workers	4,553	1,414	1,605	1,861	1,634	680	11,747
Machinery Operators & Drivers	1,870	2,279	2,943	3,771	3,610	1,092	15,565
Labourers	5,642	3,181	2,960	3,309	2,959	943	18,994
ID / NS / NA ¹	15,625	4,618	5,075	6,856	12,596	48,895	93,665
Total	40,172	31,324	39,653	44,738	41,377	58,064	255,328
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	11.0	32.8	43.4	43.8	39.2	43.6	36.1
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	52.7	47.6	39.7	38.2	42.0	36.9	42.9
Females							
Managers	797	2,961	5,516	5,906	3,328	880	19,388
Professionals	3,160	11,203	13,726	12,210	7,632	1,778	49,709
Technicians & Trade Workers	1,026	1,586	1,490	1,545	997	239	6,883
Community & Personal Service Workers	7,229	5,304	5,509	6,406	4,953	963	30,364
Clerical & Administrative Workers	3,514	5,613	8,156	10,351	8,375	2,314	38,323
Sales Workers	8,322	2,144	2,158	2,898	2,592	869	18,983
Machinery Operators & Drivers	437	404	421	494	441	108	2,305
Labourers	2,468	1,995	2,087	2,678	2,826	785	12,839
ID / NS / NA ¹	12,881	7,536	9,121	10,631	19,215	68,418	127,802
Total	39,834	38,746	48,184	53,119	50,359	76,354	306,596
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	14.7	45.4	49.3	42.6	35.2	33.5	38.6
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	14.6	12.8	10.2	11.1	13.7	14.3	12.3
All Catholics							
Managers	1,500	5,866	12,506	14,630	9,229	2,815	46,546
Professionals	5,145	17,063	21,731	20,082	13,027	3,841	80,889
Technicians & Trade Workers	6,462	8,827	9,315	8,942	6,522	1,585	41,653
Community & Personal Service Workers	10,235	7,426	7,611	8,838	6,585	1,414	42,109
Clerical & Administrative Workers	4,866	7,317	10,304	12,867	10,500	2,973	48,827
Sales Workers	12,875	3,558	3,763	4,759	4,226	1,549	30,730
Machinery Operators & Drivers	2,307	2,683	3,364	4,265	4,051	1,200	17,870
Labourers	8,110	5,176	5,047	5,987	5,785	1,728	31,833
ID / NS / NA ¹	28,506	12,154	14,196	17,487	31,811	117,313	221,467
Total	80,006	70,070	87,837	97,857	91,736	134,418	561,924
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	12.9	39.6	46.5	43.2	37.1	38.9	37.4
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	32.8	28.8	24.1	23.9	27.3	26.4	26.8

Notes:

1. ID = Inadequately described; NS = Not stated; NA = Not applicable.

2. See Notes 1 and 2 on page 5 for the type of occupations covered by the terms ‘managers and professionals’ and ‘blue collar’.



Occupation

Occupation is one of the many indicators of socioeconomic status.

Does the following table suggest that the socioeconomic status of Catholics in this diocese is different from that of non-Catholics? If there are differences, how might they have arisen?

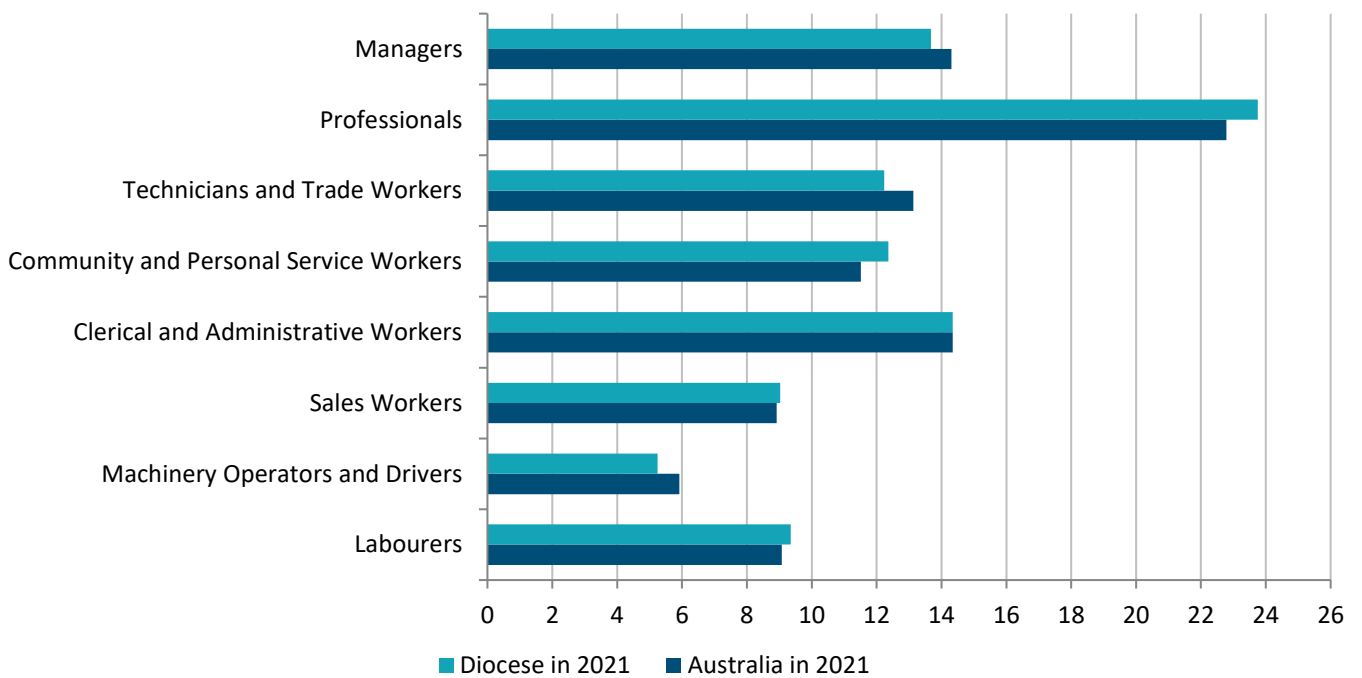
Table 27: Occupation by religious affiliation¹ (%)

	Catholic	Non-Catholic
All persons aged 15+ with an occupation		
Managers	13.7	12.7
Professionals	23.8	23.4
Technicians & Trade Workers	12.2	13.5
Community & Personal Service Workers	12.4	12.4
Clerical & Administrative Workers	14.3	13.1
Sales Workers	9.0	8.9
Machinery Operators & Drivers	5.2	6.4
Labourers	9.4	9.6
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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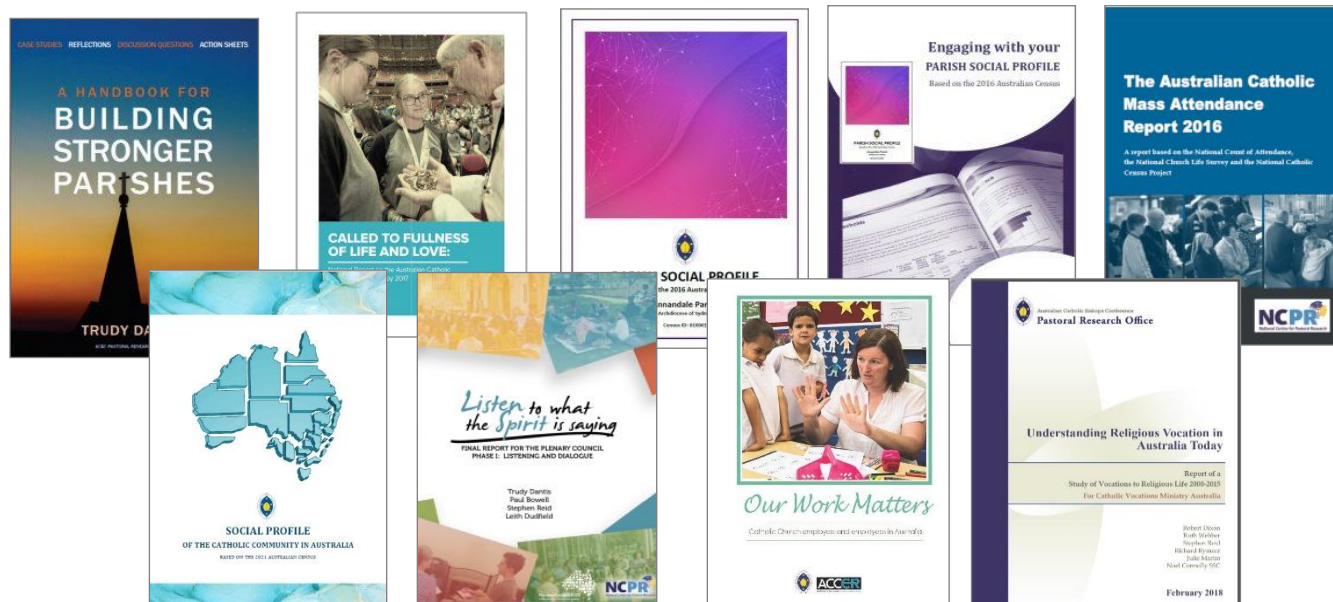
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- Reports on the National Count of Attendance
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This profile has been created by the staff of the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research as part of the National Catholic Census Project 1991-2021.

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