



# DIOCESAN SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census

Diocese of Broken Bay



Date of report: July 2023

Report prepared by: National Centre for Pastoral Research  
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference  
GPO Box 368  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Australia

Telephone: +61 (02) 6201 9812

Email: [ncpr@catholic.org.au](mailto:ncpr@catholic.org.au)

Web: [www.ncpr.catholic.org.au](http://www.ncpr.catholic.org.au)

#### **IMPORTANT COPYRIGHT INFORMATION**

Most statistics in this profile have been derived by the National Centre for Pastoral Research of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference from customised Census tables purchased from the Australian Bureau of Statistics as part of the National Catholic Census Project 1991-2021.

All Census data is copyright © Commonwealth of Australia.

You are free to reproduce this document or any part of it. If any tables, graphs or individual items of data are extracted from this document for use in reports or presentations or in any other way, please attribute the source of the material as follows:

'This material was prepared by the National Centre for Pastoral Research of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference from Census data obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.' A shorter form is also acceptable: 'Prepared by the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research from ABS data.'



# DIOCESAN SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census

**Diocese of Broken Bay**



# 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.

	<b>Page</b>
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.

<b>Overview Tables</b>	<b>Page</b>
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.

<b>Detailed Topics</b>	<b>Page</b>
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: 998,724

Catholic Population: 205,207

Catholics make up 20.5 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 44 years

Total Catholic families: 83,207

17,250 Catholics live alone

53,831 Catholics were born overseas

3,272 Catholics do not speak English well

11,961 Catholics need assistance with core activities

68,698 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 <sup>1</sup>
Catholic population	191,937	204,439	213,285	223,240	215,449	<b>205,207</b>
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	22.6	22.9	22.7	22.5	21.7	<b>19.3</b>
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	12.4	13.3	14.1	15.3	17.6	<b>20.6</b>
Catholics born in NESC <sup>2</sup> (%)	15.0	14.6	14.8	15.5	16.6	<b>19.0</b>
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	<b>1.6</b>
Catholic families	70,870	77,616	81,150	85,605	83,824	<b>83,207</b>
Catholics living alone	13,002	14,784	15,823	16,806	15,998	<b>17,250</b>
Catholic students attending Catholic schools (%)	50.8	46.9	47.3	46.8	47.9	<b>47.5</b>
Catholics with university degree (%)	14.2	17.1	21.1	24.0	27.4	<b>31.4</b>
Catholic males in labour force (%)	72.5	63.2	70.3	69.5	68.6	<b>65.4</b>
Catholic females in labour force (%)	56.2	53.1	57.6	58.2	59.9	<b>58.4</b>
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	72.7	73.5	74.8	74.4	74.5	<b>74.9</b>

### 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 <sup>1</sup>	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank <sup>2</sup>	Diocese 2016 Rank <sup>2</sup>
Total population <sup>3</sup>	<b>998,724</b>	942,438	25,422,788	23,401,892	7	7
Catholic population	<b>205,207</b>	215,449	5,075,910	5,291,834	7	7
Per cent Catholic	<b>20.5</b>	22.9	20.0	22.6	13	15
At same address since previous Census (%)	<b>61.0</b>	57.8	59.4	57.3	8	11
Median age <sup>4</sup> (years)	<b>44</b>	41	43	40	10	9
Aged 0-14 (%)	<b>19.3</b>	21.7	17.9	19.8	12	9
Aged 65+ (%)	<b>20.6</b>	17.6	19.9	16.6	11	10
Males per 100 females	<b>88.1</b>	88.7	89.1	90.6	21	25

**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 (%)	<b>5.8</b>	5.0	6.7	5.8	24	22
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability <sup>5</sup> (% of Catholics aged 15+)	<b>12.8</b>	12.8	13.5	12.5	21	13

**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 <sup>1</sup> (% of those recording an occupation)	<b>45.5</b>	42.1	37.1	34.1	1	1
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations <sup>2</sup> (% of those recording an occupation)	<b>21.1</b>	22.1	28.1	29.6	28	28
Men, employed or seeking work <sup>3</sup> (%)	<b>65.4</b>	68.6	66.5	69.7	15	13
Women, employed or seeking work <sup>3</sup> (%)	<b>58.4</b>	59.9	59.7	60.6	18	13
Unemployed at time of Census <sup>4</sup> (%)	<b>3.7</b>	4.7	4.2	5.8	20	25
Youth unemployed at time of Census <sup>5</sup> (%)	<b>7.5</b>	10.4	8.9	12.2	19	24

**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 <sup>6</sup>	<b>7.2</b>	7.2	5.5	5.6	4	5
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	<b>19.0</b>	16.6	21.4	19.1	8	8
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries & arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	<b>3,278</b>	3,497	97,457	106,428	7	7
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	<b>4,164</b>	3,556	135,686	133,528	17	19
Speak language other than English at home (%)	<b>18.0</b>	16.4	21.5	20.4	9	9
Not proficient in English <sup>7, 8</sup> (%)	<b>1.6</b>	1.5	2.7	2.6	10	8

**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 <sup>1</sup>	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Catholics aged 15+ with bachelor degree or higher qualification (%)	<b>31.4</b>	27.4	24.6	20.6	1	1
Catholics attending an educational institution (% of all Catholics in each age group)						
Aged 15-17	<b>96.0</b>	94.6	94.9	92.2	5	2
Aged 18-19	<b>76.4</b>	69.0	67.2	62.9	3	3
Aged 20-24	<b>50.5</b>	46.2	43.4	38.2	2	2
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)	<b>43.0</b>	43.2	55.5	53.1	27	26
Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)	<b>48.9</b>	48.8	38.4	41.0	3	7
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)	<b>52.5</b>	53.7	55.3	54.5	14	10
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)	<b>31.4</b>	32.1	33.4	35.1	21	25
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic <sup>1</sup> (%)	<b>23.5</b>	14.2	36.6	28.1	28	28
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic <sup>1</sup> (%)	<b>32.0</b>	26.5	41.3	35.7	27	28

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 (%)	<b>30.8</b>	30.3	32.9	33.3	21	26
Married (%)	<b>51.9</b>	52.9	49.3	49.7	3	2
Divorced or Separated (%)	<b>11.3</b>	10.9	11.7	11.2	21	20
Widowed (%)	<b>6.0</b>	5.9	6.1	5.8	16	14

**Table 7: Families<sup>1</sup>**  
*in which at least one person is Catholic*

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Families	<b>83,207</b>	83,820	1,995,658	1,997,833	7	7
One-parent families	<b>8,427</b>	8,667	225,180	231,370	8	8
One-parent families (% of all families)	<b>10.1</b>	10.3	11.3	11.6	26	26
Couples of mixed religions <sup>2</sup> (%)	<b>62.3</b>	60.2	58.1	55.9	16	13
De facto couples (%)	<b>15.0</b>	13.8	17.7	17.7	27	27
Median annual family income <sup>3</sup> (\$)	<b>142,298</b>	120,140	120,943	100,270	1	3

**Table 8: Households<sup>4</sup>**  
*in which at least one person is Catholic*

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Households	<b>102,731</b>	102,422	2,567,362	2,548,354	7	7
Persons living alone (aged under 35)	<b>1,115</b>	1,191	51,145	53,499	11	11
Persons living alone (aged 35+)	<b>16,135</b>	14,807	442,080	407,684	7	7
Persons living alone (total)	<b>17,250</b>	15,998	493,225	461,183	7	7
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	<b>8.4</b>	7.4	9.7	8.7	24	26
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	<b>74.9</b>	74.5	73.0	71.2	12	8
Median monthly housing loan repayment <sup>5</sup> (\$)	<b>2,585</b>	2,263	1,948	1,873	2	3

**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

<b>Tables</b>	<b>Page</b>
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

<b>Graphs</b>	<b>Page</b>
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



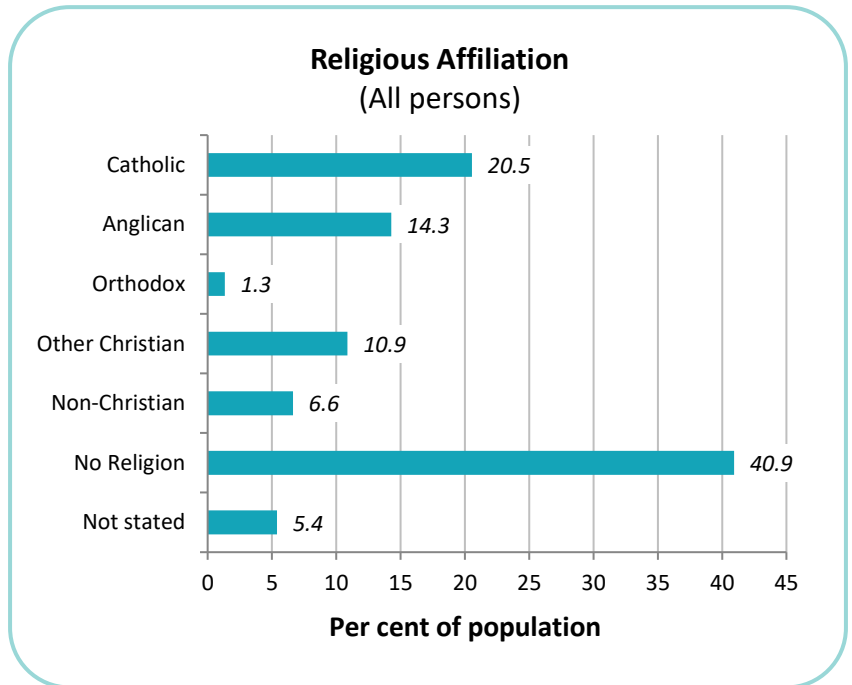
# Religious Affiliation

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	22,598	31,015	18,027	20,377	27,624	29,213	23,505	18,983	12,150	203,492
Maronite Catholic	188	198	193	168	173	196	119	98	58	1,391
Melkite Catholic	3	4	-	-	3	-	-	3	-	13
Ukrainian Catholic	8	7	-	10	10	11	10	16	6	78
Chaldean Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syro-Malabar Catholic	64	37	9	62	42	9	7	4	-	234
<b>Total Catholic</b>	<b>22,861</b>	<b>31,261</b>	<b>18,229</b>	<b>20,617</b>	<b>27,852</b>	<b>29,429</b>	<b>23,641</b>	<b>19,104</b>	<b>12,214</b>	<b>205,208</b>
<b>Per cent Catholic (of total population in age group)</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>20.5</b>
Anglican	9,403	15,319	8,506	9,210	18,184	22,881	21,668	21,975	15,414	142,560
Orthodox	1,372	1,716	1,152	1,330	1,954	2,210	1,476	1,284	980	13,474
Other Christian	9,494	12,107	8,812	10,538	13,907	15,950	15,629	13,107	9,051	108,595
Non-Christian	7,712	6,960	7,683	13,252	12,247	7,666	5,935	3,423	1,351	66,229
No Religion	59,987	56,722	53,990	60,803	59,080	48,746	37,134	22,414	9,888	408,764
Not Stated	6,246	5,938	5,851	7,007	7,005	6,190	5,464	4,769	5,444	53,914
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>117,075</b>	<b>130,023</b>	<b>104,223</b>	<b>122,757</b>	<b>140,229</b>	<b>133,072</b>	<b>110,947</b>	<b>86,076</b>	<b>54,342</b>	<b>998,744</b>

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**

	<b>Males 2021</b>	<b>Females 2021</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>Total 2016</b>
<b>Age (years)</b>				
0	753	713	<b>1,466</b>	1,887
1	767	795	<b>1,562</b>	2,318
2	910	936	<b>1,846</b>	2,498
3	955	1,015	<b>1,970</b>	2,782
4	1,110	1,036	<b>2,146</b>	2,820
5	1,272	1,181	<b>2,453</b>	3,082
6	1,315	1,328	<b>2,643</b>	3,411
7	1,369	1,351	<b>2,720</b>	3,290
8	1,536	1,521	<b>3,057</b>	3,586
9	1,568	1,436	<b>3,004</b>	3,713
10	1,600	1,563	<b>3,163</b>	3,608
11	1,779	1,623	<b>3,402</b>	3,477
12	1,640	1,586	<b>3,226</b>	3,486
13	1,785	1,650	<b>3,435</b>	3,490
14	1,787	1,668	<b>3,455</b>	3,362
15	1,677	1,587	<b>3,264</b>	3,275
16	1,662	1,464	<b>3,126</b>	3,318
17	1,503	1,455	<b>2,958</b>	3,156
18	1,448	1,272	<b>2,720</b>	2,855
19	1,333	1,181	<b>2,514</b>	2,548
20-24	5,402	5,043	<b>10,445</b>	11,060
25-29	3,790	3,988	<b>7,778</b>	9,304
30-34	4,056	5,209	<b>9,265</b>	10,819
35-39	5,148	6,201	<b>11,349</b>	12,778
40-44	5,841	7,097	<b>12,938</b>	15,237
45-49	6,825	8,081	<b>14,906</b>	16,015
50-54	6,912	8,203	<b>15,115</b>	15,332
55-59	6,653	7,665	<b>14,318</b>	13,400
60-64	5,692	6,890	<b>12,582</b>	11,569
65-69	4,766	6,289	<b>11,055</b>	11,034
70-74	4,609	6,020	<b>10,629</b>	9,121
75-79	3,693	4,783	<b>8,476</b>	7,277
80+	4,941	7,268	<b>12,209</b>	10,532
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,097</b>	<b>109,098</b>	<b>205,195</b>	215,440

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?*

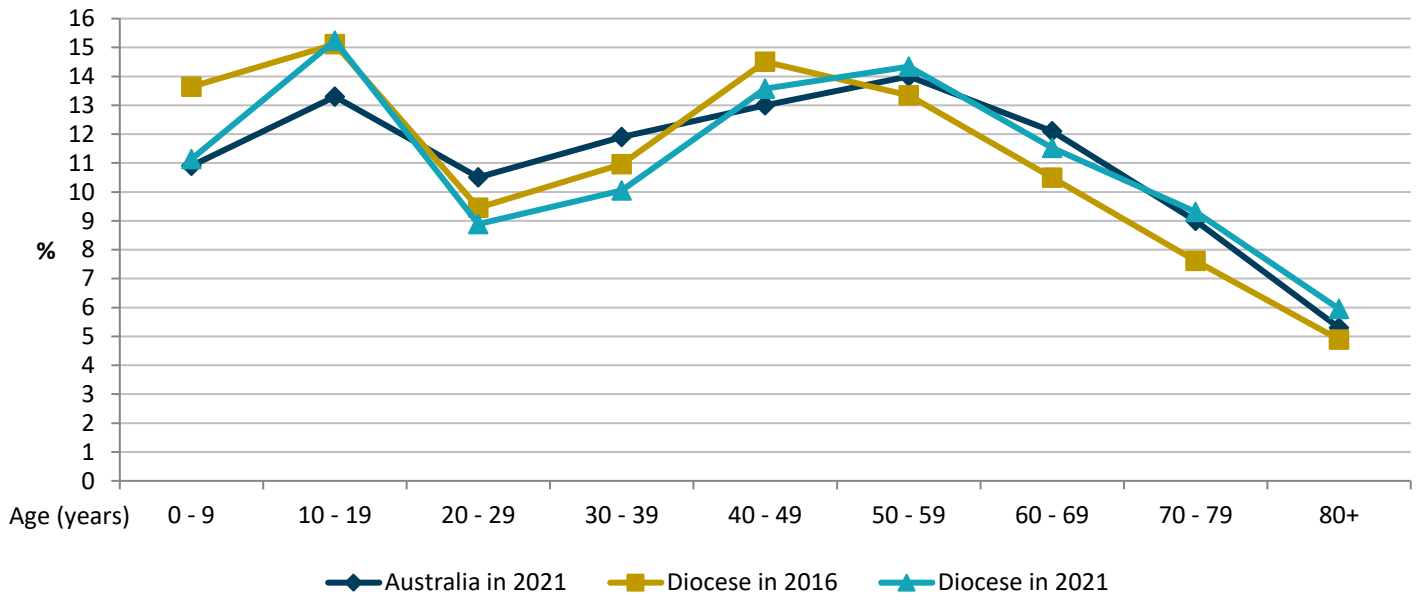
*Does this data suggest any new challenges for the diocese?*

*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.*

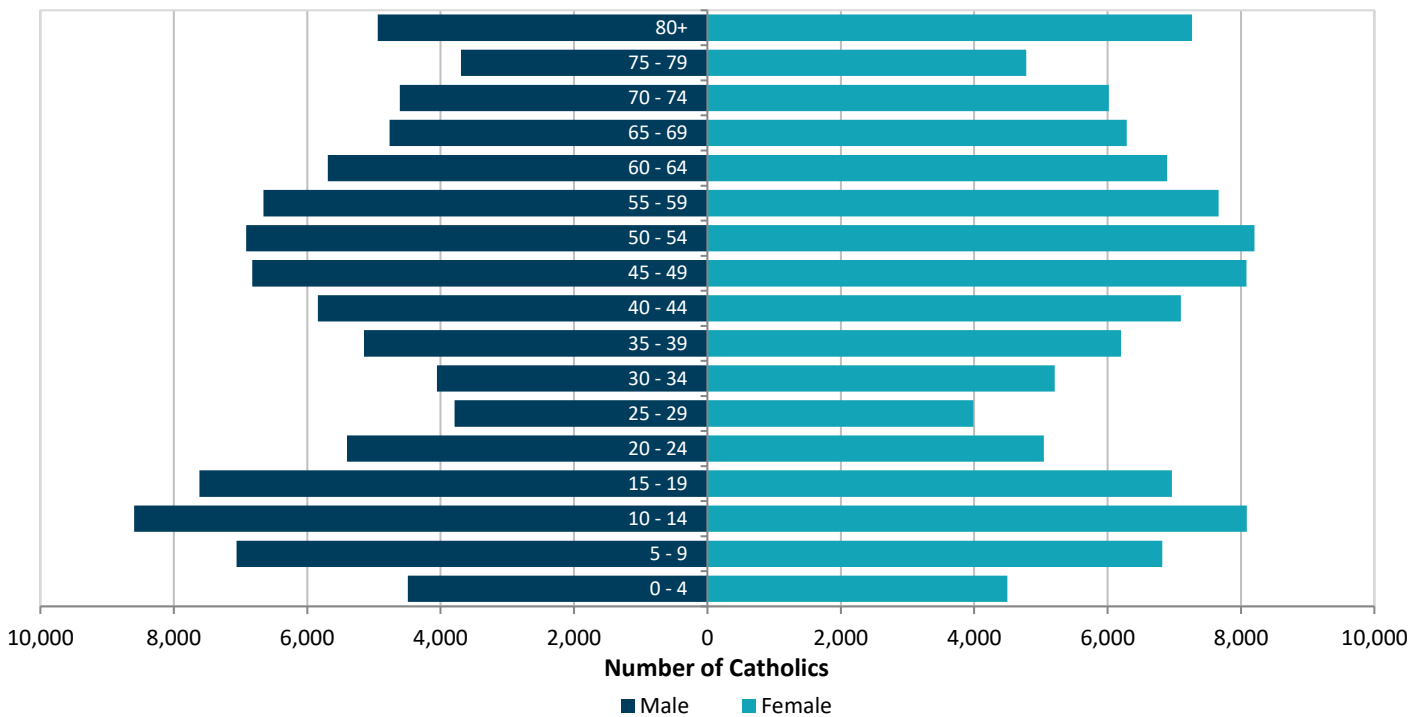


# Age and Sex

## 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”.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

*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
<b>Catholics who have need for assistance with core activities</b>							
<b>Family members:</b>							
Males	795	681	505	505	794	535	3,815
Females	361	519	659	615	919	790	3,863
<b>Lone Persons:</b>							
Males	-	57	148	85	158	156	604
Females	-	25	193	208	445	617	1,488
<b>Other non-family members or persons not present in a household on Census night<sup>3</sup></b>							
Males	11	75	124	130	189	281	810
Females	10	51	131	109	331	749	1,381
<b>Total</b>							
Males	806	813	777	720	1,141	972	5,229
Females	371	595	983	932	1,695	2,156	6,732

**Table 11b: Provision of unpaid assistance by age**

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability<sup>4</sup></b>							
Males	606	460	1,000	1,808	1,977	2,077	7,928
Females	669	770	1,880	3,303	3,466	3,177	13,265

Notes:

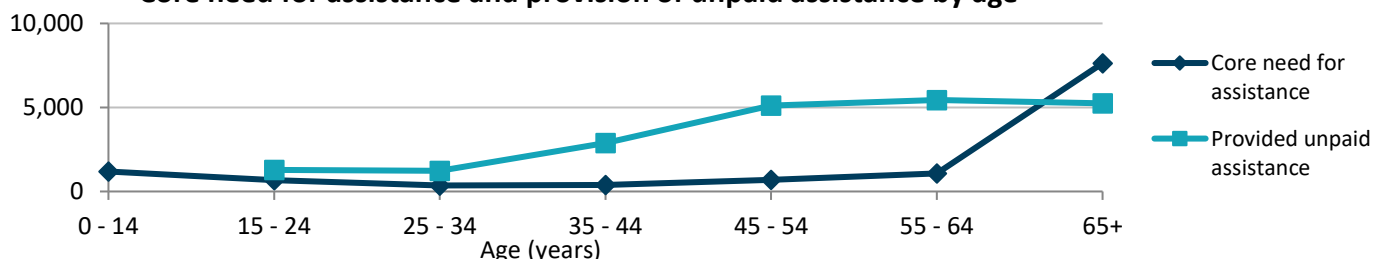
1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006. *Census Dictionary Australia 2006*. Catalogue No. 2901.0.

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.

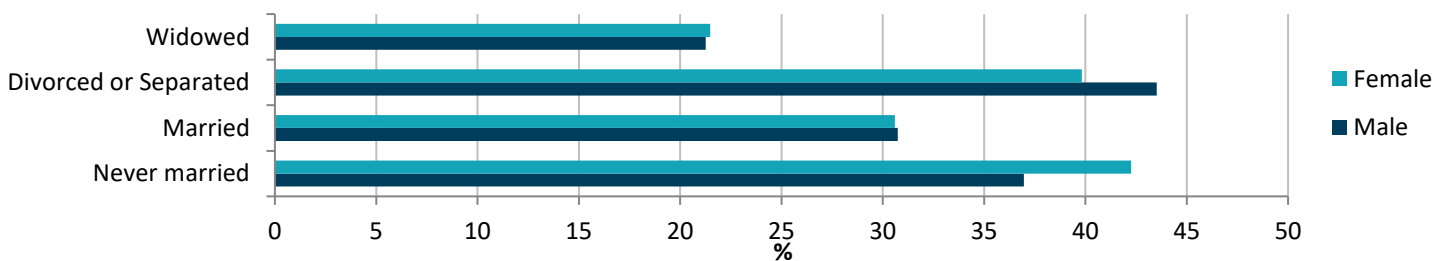
*How might changes in marital status patterns affect the life of the Church in this diocese? Do they result in the need for new pastoral services and programs?*

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
<b>Catholics aged 15 and over</b>								
<b>Males</b>								
Never married	12,971	5,628	2,750	2,291	1,541	677	361	26,219
Married	37	2,045	7,369	9,640	8,620	6,766	6,077	40,554
Divorced or Separated	12	165	850	1,748	2,044	1,516	866	7,201
Widowed	-	4	20	57	143	421	1,321	1,966
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,020</b>	<b>7,842</b>	<b>10,989</b>	<b>13,736</b>	<b>12,348</b>	<b>9,380</b>	<b>8,625</b>	<b>75,940</b>
<b>Females</b>								
Never married	11,926	5,494	2,733	2,109	1,333	705	453	24,753
Married	72	3,326	9,198	11,174	9,446	7,512	4,634	45,362
Divorced or Separated	6	367	1,326	2,783	3,130	2,464	1,462	11,538
Widowed	4	9	43	210	652	1,627	5,504	8,049
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,008</b>	<b>9,196</b>	<b>13,300</b>	<b>16,276</b>	<b>14,561</b>	<b>12,308</b>	<b>12,053</b>	<b>89,702</b>

**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	22,917	2,565	25,482	10.1
One person Catholic, the other non-Catholic Christian	20,196	2,975	23,171	12.8
One Catholic, the other non-Christian, not stated or temporarily absent	16,580	5,022	21,602	23.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,693</b>	<b>10,562</b>	<b>70,255</b>	<b>15.0</b>



# 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 <sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>2</sup> (\$)
<b>Two-parent families with children at home:</b>										
Both parents Catholic	100	152	428	1,474	2,980	2,633	6,159	709	14,635	3,694
One parent Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	65	105	310	1,119	2,400	2,355	5,760	731	12,845	3,873
One parent Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	74	93	307	1,231	2,536	2,225	5,565	569	12,600	3,797
<b>Couples with no children living at home:</b>										
Both partners Catholic	883	1,544	1,663	2,071	1,987	1,004	1,419	262	10,833	1,682
One partner Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	626	1,345	1,603	2,200	1,902	1,018	1,422	196	10,312	1,755
One partner Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	300	552	747	1,451	1,979	1,152	1,624	161	7,966	2,430
<b>One-parent families:</b>										
Parent is Catholic	607	950	1,531	2,006	1,582	522	556	673	8,427	1,544
<b>Other families where at least one person is Catholic</b>										
Other: Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,043	1,043	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,834</b>	<b>5,004</b>	<b>7,150</b>	<b>12,431</b>	<b>16,306</b>	<b>11,416</b>	<b>23,493</b>	<b>4,573</b>	<b>83,207</b>	<b>2,729</b>

**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.



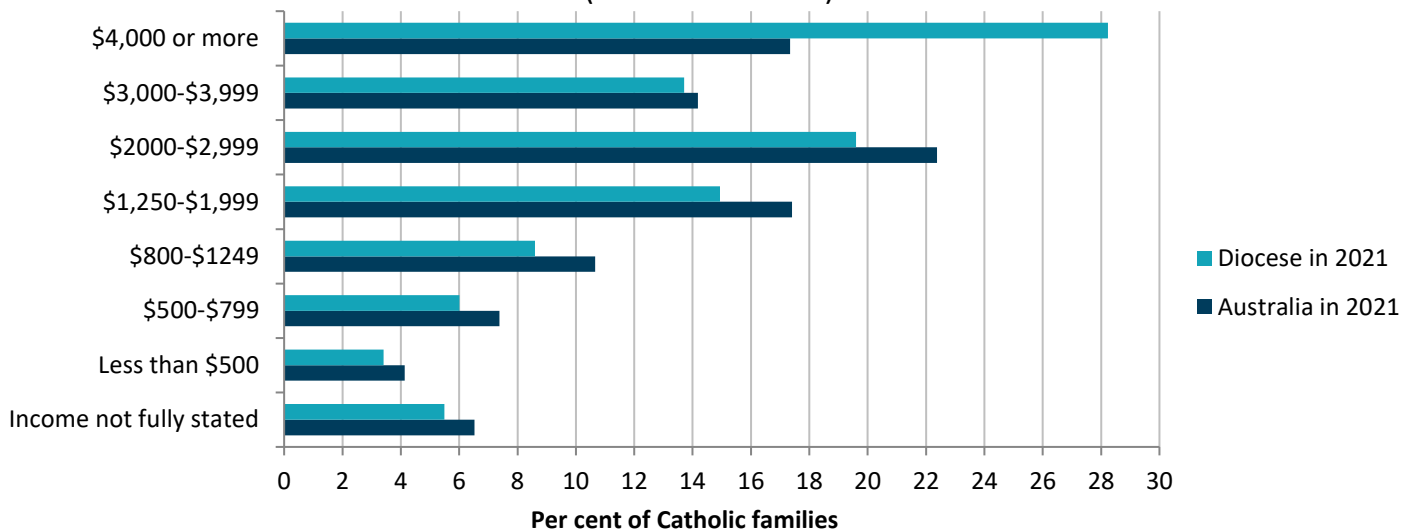
# Families

**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	2,090	374	273	78	27	2,842
\$500-\$799	3,865	531	424	133	53	5,006
\$800-\$1,249	5,340	851	634	253	85	7,163
\$1,250-\$1,999	7,881	1,950	1,756	667	180	12,434
\$2,000-\$2,999	8,550	2,866	3,495	1,144	265	16,320
\$3,000-\$3,999	5,010	2,263	2,936	1,014	196	11,419
\$4,000 or more	7,533	4,519	7,945	2,919	590	23,506
Income not fully stated	2,326	836	899	391	122	4,574
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>42,595</b>	<b>14,190</b>	<b>18,362</b>	<b>6,599</b>	<b>1,518</b>	<b>83,264</b>
<b>Median Family Income (\$)</b>	<b>2,112</b>	<b>3,046</b>	<b>3,225</b>	<b>2,817</b>	<b>3,448</b>	<b>2,729</b>

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
<b>Family Composition:</b>						
Married couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	30,558	8,943	13,971	5,090	1,113	59,675
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	6,746	1,756	1,428	503	143	10,576
One parent family, parent Catholic	3,670	2,413	1,691	528	130	8,432
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	1,636	1,076	1,257	440	123	4,532
<b>Total families</b>	<b>42,610</b>	<b>14,188</b>	<b>18,347</b>	<b>6,561</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>83,215</b>



# 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

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	64,265	558	16,829	1,038	82,690	77.7
Lone person aged under 35 years	382	23	662	48	1,115	34.3
Lone person aged 35 years or over	11,211	730	3,577	617	16,135	69.5
Group households	1,076	45	1,587	83	2,791	38.6
<b>Total households</b>	<b>76,934</b>	<b>1,356</b>	<b>22,655</b>	<b>1,786</b>	<b>102,731</b>	<b>74.9</b>

	\$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	1,279	1,399	3,846	6,188	4,637	15,415	2,674
Lone person aged under 35 years	4	10	52	100	49	53	2,008
Lone person aged 35 years or over	217	230	421	518	234	361	1,741
Group households	16	42	82	89	54	77	1,869
<b>Total households</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>1,681</b>	<b>4,401</b>	<b>6,895</b>	<b>4,974</b>	<b>15,906</b>	<b>2,585</b>

**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.



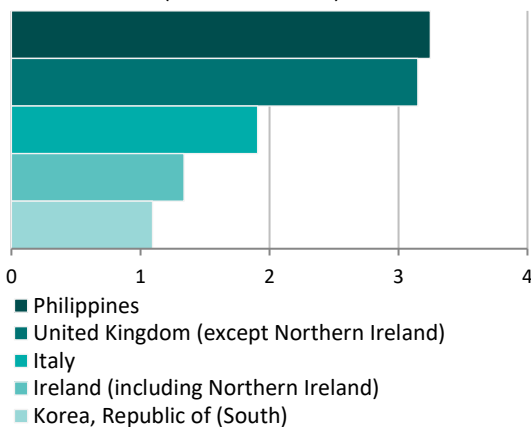
# Birthplace

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.

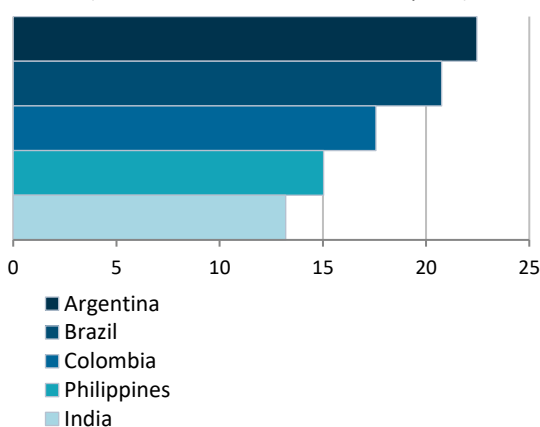
*How does the diocese support Catholics born in non-English-speaking countries in matters such as chaplaincy, education, pastoral care, and so on?*

*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 <sup>1</sup>
Australia	149,957	73.1	-
New Zealand	2,235	1.1	3.4
Other Oceania	904	0.4	3.0
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	6,465	3.1	3.7
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	2,746	1.3	2.8
Italy	3,917	1.9	2.4
Malta	779	0.4	0.4
Spain and Portugal	631	0.3	12.8
France	744	0.4	8.5
Netherlands	643	0.3	2.0
Germany	1,077	0.5	6.4
Austria	341	0.2	-
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	1,324	0.6	0.9
Poland	1,205	0.6	3.9
Hungary	359	0.2	1.9
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	871	0.4	3.9
Other Europe NEC	442	0.2	7.7
Vietnam	446	0.2	7.6
Philippines	6,664	3.2	15.0
Indonesia	897	0.4	5.5
Malaysia	836	0.4	3.6
Singapore	617	0.3	12.0
South East Asia NEC	213	0.1	8.9
India	1,803	0.9	13.2
Sri Lanka	557	0.3	4.7
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	1,118	0.5	7.5
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	1,915	0.9	8.5
Korea, Republic of (South)	2,245	1.1	5.0
Egypt	300	0.1	1.0
Lebanon	858	0.4	2.3
Iraq	54	0.0	-
Sudan (including South Sudan)	19	0.0	-
Middle East and North Africa NEC	483	0.2	8.9
South Africa	1,480	0.7	8.7
Mauritius	306	0.1	3.3
United States of America	1,276	0.6	11.1
Canada	557	0.3	6.3
Argentina	699	0.3	22.5
Brazil	1,884	0.9	20.8
Colombia	609	0.3	17.6
Chile	635	0.3	7.4
Central America and South America NEC	1,772	0.9	6.5
Other countries	905	0.4	7.6
Inadequately described/Not stated	1,451	0.7	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>205,239</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>

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.<sup>1</sup>

*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 <sup>2</sup>
English	166,678	576,059	742,737	22.4
Italian	5,020	1,290	6,310	79.6
Maltese	424	55	479	88.5
Spanish	4,410	3,501	7,911	55.7
Croatian	1,398	248	1,646	84.9
Polish	1,197	531	1,728	69.3
Dutch	338	1,442	1,780	19.0
French	1,407	3,032	4,439	31.7
German	1,054	3,504	4,558	23.1
Portuguese	2,296	2,650	4,946	46.4
Hungarian	319	475	794	40.2
Ukrainian	75	172	247	30.4
Vietnamese	537	2,230	2,767	19.4
Filipino languages	4,978	1,558	6,536	76.2
Chinese languages	4,547	77,903	82,450	5.5
Malayalam	940	1,258	2,198	42.8
Sinhalese	178	1,807	1,985	9.0
Korean	2,693	10,649	13,342	20.2
Indonesian & Malay	729	2,058	2,787	26.2
Arabic	1,655	2,273	3,928	42.1
Assyrian and Chaldean	20	66	86	23.3
Oceanic and Papuan languages	296	1,386	1,682	17.6
Australian Indigenous Languages	28	270	298	9.4
Other European languages NEC	1,021	14,052	15,073	6.8
Other Asian languages NEC	895	35,803	36,698	2.4
Other languages NEC	461	11,028	11,489	4.0
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/Not stated	1,611	38,189	39,800	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>205,205</b>	<b>793,489</b>	<b>998,694</b>	<b>20.5</b>

**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.<sup>1</sup>

*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	7,369	17,591	22,202	15,551	35,798	35,009	33,157	166,677	-
Italian	92	141	149	199	966	1,175	2,295	5,017	10.5
Maltese	8	7	8	12	57	77	254	423	3.8
Spanish	217	376	284	352	1,719	678	778	4,404	7.1
Croatian	21	39	57	60	237	288	696	1,398	11.1
Polish	58	65	57	37	375	221	381	1,194	5.8
Dutch	10	28	28	10	83	67	114	340	-
French	72	169	159	64	462	252	228	1,406	1.8
German	71	88	118	62	250	209	253	1,051	1.9
Portuguese	165	222	116	220	1,303	140	123	2,289	6.3
Hungarian	4	8	20	6	76	63	141	318	7.5
Ukrainian	3	8	9	-	21	9	25	75	-
Vietnamese	26	47	55	77	190	95	53	543	13.7
Filipino languages	138	183	231	509	2,348	972	600	4,981	2.9
Chinese languages	127	501	352	282	1,177	857	1,251	4,547	10.7
Malayalam	92	169	67	49	478	65	26	946	5.8
Sinhalese	6	15	6	22	61	43	22	175	-
Korean	99	247	269	214	948	520	389	2,686	25.3
Indonesian & Malay	19	55	56	63	283	150	101	727	6.8
Arabic	63	67	97	166	444	423	400	1,660	9.0
Assyrian and Chaldean	-	4	-	-	3	3	6	16	-
Oceanic and Papuan languages	21	23	21	43	82	75	32	297	9.0
Australian Indigenous Languages	-	5	4	4	9	7	3	32	-
Other European languages NEC	62	110	84	43	337	153	231	1,020	5.0
Other Asian languages NEC	40	113	95	76	317	142	121	904	4.9
Other languages NEC	22	50	39	42	155	82	68	458	10.4
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/ Not stated	162	109	114	75	276	242	631	1,609	10.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,967</b>	<b>20,440</b>	<b>24,697</b>	<b>18,238</b>	<b>48,455</b>	<b>42,017</b>	<b>42,379</b>	<b>205,193</b>	<b>1.6</b>

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.

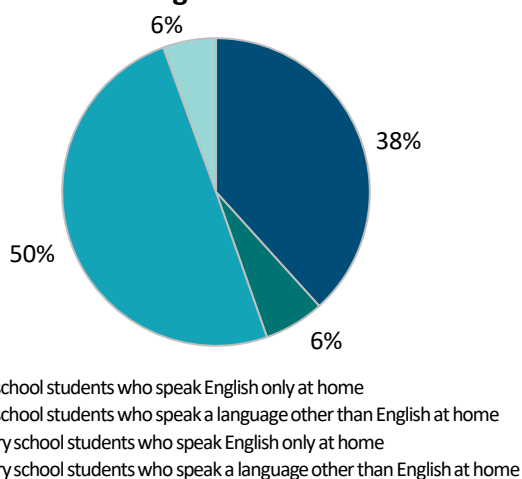
*How does the diocese connect with Catholic students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, especially those not attending Catholic schools?*

**Table 22: Type of educational institution attending by religious affiliation**

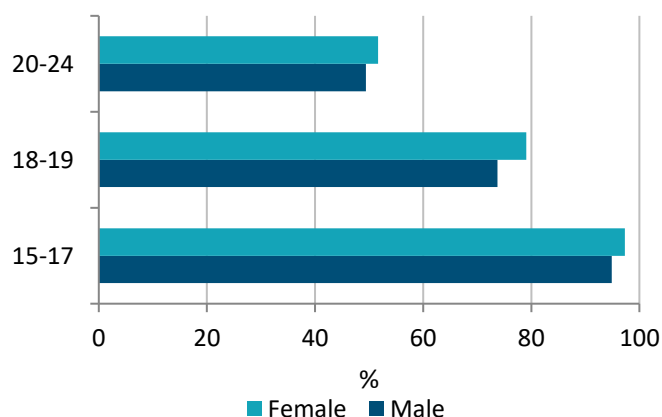
	Catholic	Not Catholic or not stated	All persons	% Catholic
Infants/Primary – Government	10,004	54,244	64,248	15.6
Infants/Primary – Catholic	8,802	2,707	11,509	76.5
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	1,642	10,248	11,890	13.8
Secondary – Government	5,807	34,164	39,971	14.5
Secondary – Catholic	9,705	4,576	14,281	68.0
Secondary – Other Non-Government	2,981	16,207	19,188	15.5
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	4,478	18,629	23,107	19.4
University or other Tertiary Institutions	9,358	38,859	48,217	19.4
Other (including pre-school)	5,908	24,330	30,238	19.5
Not stated/Not applicable <sup>1</sup>	146,522	589,553	736,075	19.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>205,207</b>	<b>793,517</b>	<b>998,724</b>	<b>20.5</b>

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

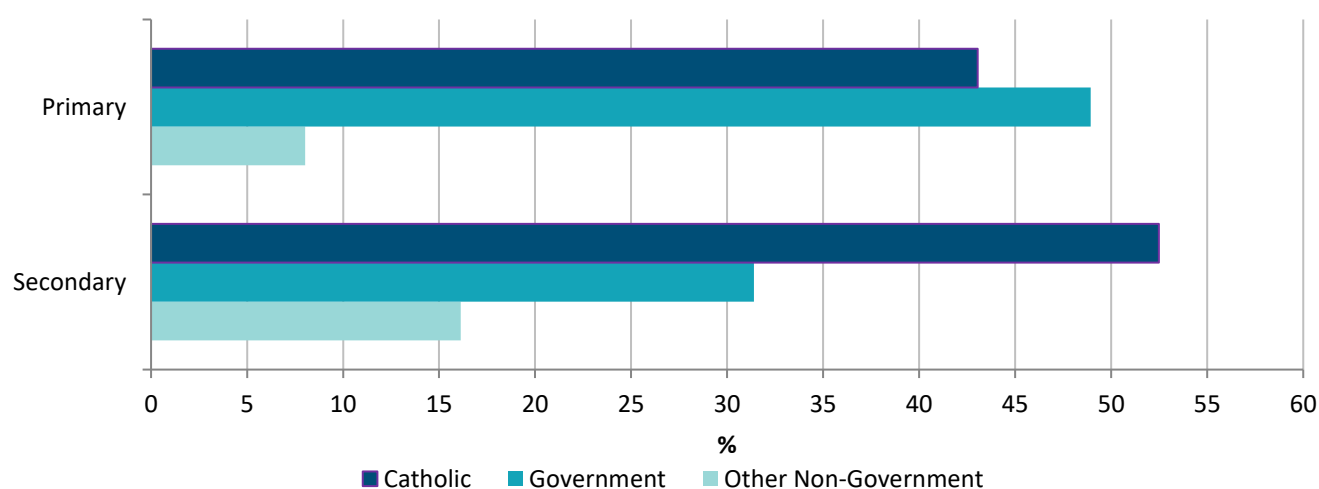
**Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family<sup>1</sup>**

	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 <sup>2</sup>	Median annual family income <sup>3</sup> (\$)
Infants/Primary – Government	200	370	544	1,181	2,002	1,551	3,615	9,802	171,029
Infants/Primary – Catholic	125	175	319	819	1,683	1,355	3,912	8,635	197,674
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	30	21	41	96	216	210	949	1,616	217,749
Secondary – Government	152	275	430	816	1,213	896	1,482	5,570	145,479
Secondary – Catholic	101	139	279	729	1,514	1,490	4,643	9,441	210,761
Secondary – Other Non-Government	34	33	59	133	298	337	1,754	2,853	169,204
TAFE, University or other Tertiary institution	47	44	117	368	723	766	2,827	5,269	215,559
Other (including pre-school)	26	40	42	146	257	208	463	1,212	176,451
Not stated or not applicable	19	16	29	43	48	31	73	303	128,689
<b>Total</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>1,860</b>	<b>4,331</b>	<b>7,954</b>	<b>6,844</b>	<b>19,718</b>	<b>44,701</b>	<b>196,683</b>

**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.<sup>1</sup> 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
<b>Catholics aged 15+</b>							
<b>Males</b>							
Postgraduate degree	15	519	1,355	1,715	1,223	1,135	5,962
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	797	2,591	3,525	3,755	2,778	3,005	16,451
Advanced diploma or diploma level	218	602	1,233	1,713	1,345	1,390	6,501
Certificate level	1,240	2,203	2,730	3,554	3,683	4,673	18,083
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	10,745	1,923	2,138	3,000	3,318	7,808	28,932
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,015</b>	<b>7,838</b>	<b>10,981</b>	<b>13,737</b>	<b>12,347</b>	<b>18,011</b>	<b>75,929</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>39.7</i>	<i>44.4</i>	<i>39.8</i>	<i>32.4</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>29.5</i>
<b>Females</b>							
Postgraduate degree	39	881	1,805	1,658	1,026	779	6,188
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	1,154	4,172	5,771	5,579	3,515	3,260	23,451
Advanced diploma or diploma level	430	1,140	1,831	2,794	2,194	2,519	10,908
Certificate level	1,003	1,414	1,923	2,687	2,785	2,745	12,557
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	9,380	1,587	1,975	3,576	5,041	15,054	36,613
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,006</b>	<b>9,194</b>	<b>13,305</b>	<b>16,294</b>	<b>14,561</b>	<b>24,357</b>	<b>89,717</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>55.0</i>	<i>56.9</i>	<i>44.4</i>	<i>31.2</i>	<i>16.6</i>	<i>33.0</i>
<b>All Catholics</b>							
Postgraduate degree	54	1,400	3,160	3,373	2,249	1,914	12,150
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	1,951	6,763	9,296	9,334	6,293	6,265	39,902
Advanced diploma or diploma level	648	1,742	3,064	4,507	3,539	3,909	17,409
Certificate level	2,243	3,617	4,653	6,241	6,468	7,418	30,640
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	20,125	3,510	4,113	6,576	8,359	22,862	65,545
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,021</b>	<b>17,032</b>	<b>24,286</b>	<b>30,031</b>	<b>26,908</b>	<b>42,368</b>	<b>165,646</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>47.9</i>	<i>51.3</i>	<i>42.3</i>	<i>31.7</i>	<i>19.3</i>	<i>31.4</i>

Note:

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



# Employment

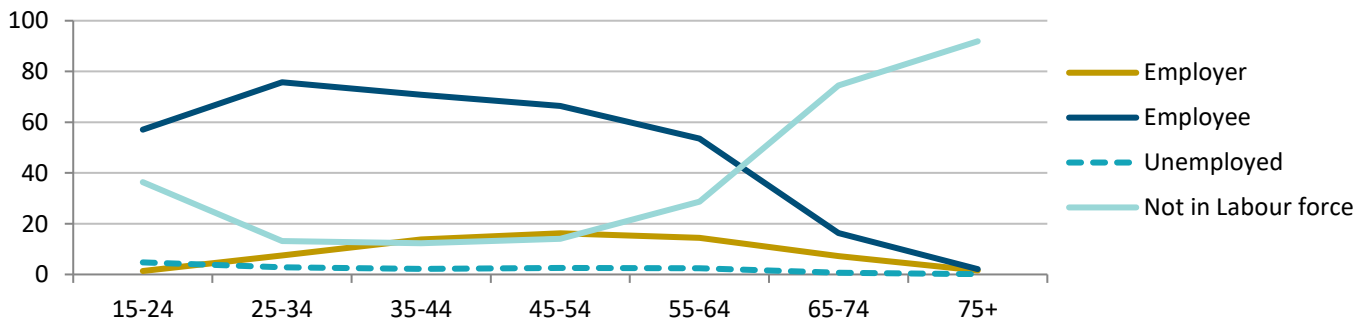
In recent years there have been many changes in society and the workplace that have affected Australian workers. One major change has been the increase in the percentages of workers, especially young people and women, in part-time jobs. Another has been the rise in participation in the labour force by 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.<sup>1</sup> 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
<b>Catholics aged 15+</b>					
<b>Males</b>					
Employer	213	2,958	5,713	1,337	10,221
Employee	7,139	13,444	14,996	1,798	37,377
Unemployed	705	550	754	99	2,108
Not in the labour force	4,889	1,705	4,361	14,379	25,334
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	76	183	258	402	919
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,022</b>	<b>18,840</b>	<b>26,082</b>	<b>18,015</b>	<b>75,959</b>
<i>Per cent in labour force<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>61.9</i>	<i>90.0</i>	<i>82.3</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>65.4</i>
<i>Per cent unemployed<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>4.2</i>
<b>Females</b>					
Employer	128	1,675	3,026	555	5,384
Employee	7,135	16,663	19,354	2,164	45,316
Unemployed	483	484	659	62	1,688
Not in the labour force	4,200	3,534	7,554	20,793	36,081
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	53	148	253	785	1,239
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,999</b>	<b>22,504</b>	<b>30,846</b>	<b>24,359</b>	<b>89,708</b>
<i>Per cent in labour force<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>64.6</i>	<i>83.6</i>	<i>74.7</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>58.4</i>
<i>Per cent unemployed<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>2.9</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>3.2</i>

**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.

Table 26: Occupation by age and sex	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15+</b>							
<b>Males</b>							
Managers	253	906	2,529	3,451	2,271	627	10,037
Professionals	730	1,785	2,773	3,066	2,153	958	11,465
Technicians & Trade Workers	1,850	1,655	1,768	1,833	1,453	410	8,969
Community & Personal Service Workers	879	441	472	542	373	119	2,826
Clerical & Administrative Workers	407	409	538	702	590	215	2,861
Sales Workers	1,271	426	495	624	504	231	3,551
Machinery Operators & Drivers	482	377	480	722	793	273	3,127
Labourers	1,405	569	563	717	719	283	4,256
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	5,733	1,277	1,369	2,075	3,477	14,898	28,829
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,010</b>	<b>7,845</b>	<b>10,987</b>	<b>13,732</b>	<b>12,333</b>	<b>18,014</b>	<b>75,921</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>13.5</i>	<i>41.0</i>	<i>55.1</i>	<i>55.9</i>	<i>50.0</i>	<i>50.9</i>	<i>45.7</i>
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>51.4</i>	<i>39.6</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>28.1</i>	<i>33.5</i>	<i>31.0</i>	<i>34.7</i>
<b>Females</b>							
Managers	238	920	1,990	2,347	1,216	278	6,989
Professionals	1,063	3,077	4,223	4,212	2,615	681	15,871
Technicians & Trade Workers	297	327	330	365	256	73	1,648
Community & Personal Service Workers	1,943	1,099	1,084	1,423	1,193	292	7,034
Clerical & Administrative Workers	860	1,240	2,106	3,174	2,698	962	11,040
Sales Workers	2,172	507	611	858	742	249	5,139
Machinery Operators & Drivers	130	60	76	122	113	20	521
Labourers	516	229	284	429	461	148	2,067
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	4,802	1,744	2,599	3,354	5,264	21,661	39,424
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,021</b>	<b>9,203</b>	<b>13,303</b>	<b>16,284</b>	<b>14,558</b>	<b>24,364</b>	<b>89,733</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>53.6</i>	<i>58.0</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>41.2</i>	<i>35.5</i>	<i>45.4</i>
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>7.1</i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>8.4</i>
<b>All Catholics</b>							
Managers	491	1,826	4,519	5,798	3,487	905	17,026
Professionals	1,793	4,862	6,996	7,278	4,768	1,639	27,336
Technicians & Trade Workers	2,147	1,982	2,098	2,198	1,709	483	10,617
Community & Personal Service Workers	2,822	1,540	1,556	1,965	1,566	411	9,860
Clerical & Administrative Workers	1,267	1,649	2,644	3,876	3,288	1,177	13,901
Sales Workers	3,443	933	1,106	1,482	1,246	480	8,690
Machinery Operators & Drivers	612	437	556	844	906	293	3,648
Labourers	1,921	798	847	1,146	1,180	431	6,323
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	10,535	3,021	3,968	5,429	8,741	36,559	68,253
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,031</b>	<b>17,048</b>	<b>24,290</b>	<b>30,016</b>	<b>26,891</b>	<b>42,378</b>	<b>165,654</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>47.7</i>	<i>56.7</i>	<i>53.2</i>	<i>45.5</i>	<i>43.7</i>	<i>45.5</i>
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>32.3</i>	<i>22.9</i>	<i>17.2</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>20.9</i>	<i>20.7</i>	<i>21.1</i>

**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 affiliation<sup>1</sup> (%)**

	Catholic	Non-Catholic
<b>All persons aged 15+ with an occupation</b>		
Managers	17.5	17.8
Professionals	28.1	32.3
Technicians & Trade Workers	10.9	10.6
Community & Personal Service Workers	10.1	9.6
Clerical & Administrative Workers	14.3	12.5
Sales Workers	8.9	7.8
Machinery Operators & Drivers	3.7	3.5
Labourers	6.5	5.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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)



*This page is intentionally left blank*

*This page is intentionally left blank*

[www.ncpr.catholic.org.au](http://www.ncpr.catholic.org.au)

The National Centre for Pastoral Research website allows you to view the Social Profiles online.

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
- Research reports from the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia
- Results of other research projects conducted by the National Centre for Pastoral Research



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.

National Centre for Pastoral Research Staff:  
Trudy Dantis (Director), Stephen Reid, Katherine Jelavic,  
Leith Dudfield, Marilyn Chee and Dragan Lancuski.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference  
National Centre for Pastoral Research  
GPO Box 368 Canberra ACT 2601

Phone: +61 2 6201 9812  
Email: [ncpr@catholic.org.au](mailto:ncpr@catholic.org.au)

