



# DIOCESAN SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census

Diocese of Lismore



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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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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# 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: 543,186

Catholic Population: 97,971

Catholics make up 18.0 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 50 years

Total Catholic families: 42,410

11,323 Catholics live alone

11,137 Catholics were born overseas

441 Catholics do not speak English well

8,261 Catholics need assistance with core activities

34,843 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	99,989	105,586	108,168	111,450	104,580	<b>97,971</b>
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	25.0	23.8	21.9	20.3	18.6	<b>16.2</b>
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	14.6	16.3	17.4	19.3	22.9	<b>27.5</b>
Catholics born in NESC <sup>2</sup> (%)	4.7	4.9	4.9	5.3	6.0	<b>7.4</b>
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	<b>0.5</b>
Catholic families	36,779	40,060	42,752	44,669	42,984	<b>42,410</b>
Catholics living alone	7,550	9,532	10,483	11,298	11,151	<b>11,323</b>
Catholic students attending Catholic schools (%)	49.0	48.6	50.7	53.3	56.3	<b>61.3</b>
Catholics with university degree (%)	5.9	7.7	9.4	11.2	13.5	<b>17.0</b>
Catholic males in labour force (%)	62.8	51.4	58.8	58.3	58.3	<b>57.1</b>
Catholic females in labour force (%)	46.5	43.0	49.1	50.7	52.3	<b>53.3</b>
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	68.0	68.0	71.2	71.4	72.4	<b>75.6</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>543,186</b>	504,437	25,422,788	23,401,892	13	13
Catholic population	<b>97,971</b>	104,580	5,075,910	5,291,834	12	13
Per cent Catholic	<b>18.0</b>	20.7	20.0	22.6	21	22
At same address since previous Census (%)	<b>58.8</b>	57.1	59.4	57.3	14	14
Median age <sup>4</sup> (years)	<b>50</b>	46	43	40	1	1
Aged 0-14 (%)	<b>16.2</b>	18.6	17.9	19.8	25	25
Aged 65+ (%)	<b>27.5</b>	22.9	19.9	16.6	1	1
Males per 100 females	<b>85.8</b>	88.8	89.1	90.6	27	24

**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>8.4</b>	7.3	6.7	5.8	1	1
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability <sup>5</sup> (% of Catholics aged 15+)	<b>14.7</b>	13.8	13.5	12.5	4	2

**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>32.0</b>	29.7	37.1	34.1	19	20
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations <sup>2</sup> (% of those recording an occupation)	<b>30.2</b>	32.2	28.1	29.6	18	17
Men, employed or seeking work <sup>3</sup> (%)	<b>57.1</b>	58.3	66.5	69.7	28	28
Women, employed or seeking work <sup>3</sup> (%)	<b>53.3</b>	52.3	59.7	60.6	28	28
Unemployed at time of Census <sup>4</sup> (%)	<b>4.3</b>	6.2	4.2	5.8	8	9
Youth unemployed at time of Census <sup>5</sup> (%)	<b>7.6</b>	12.5	8.9	12.2	18	14

**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>4.0</b>	3.9	5.5	5.6	14	15
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	<b>7.4</b>	6.0	21.4	19.1	24	25
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries & arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	<b>719</b>	623	97,457	106,428	21	21
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	<b>5,259</b>	5,478	135,686	133,528	11	9
Speak language other than English at home (%)	<b>5.6</b>	4.5	21.5	20.4	25	25
Not proficient in English <sup>7, 8</sup> (%)	<b>0.5</b>	0.4	2.7	2.6	26	25

**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>17.0</b>	13.5	24.6	20.6	18	19
Catholics attending an educational institution (% of all Catholics in each age group)						
Aged 15-17	<b>92.3</b>	91.1	94.9	92.2	16	15
Aged 18-19	<b>52.1</b>	50.9	67.2	62.9	16	15
Aged 20-24	<b>32.6</b>	27.5	43.4	38.2	16	16
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)	<b>61.0</b>	55.0	55.5	53.1	4	7
Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)	<b>33.4</b>	40.1	38.4	41.0	25	21
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)	<b>61.7</b>	57.9	55.3	54.5	3	5
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)	<b>30.3</b>	35.7	33.4	35.1	24	21
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic <sup>1</sup> (%)	<b>43.5</b>	35.4	36.6	28.1	10	10
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic <sup>1</sup> (%)	<b>48.7</b>	43.6	41.3	35.7	11	7

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>29.2</b>	29.6	32.9	33.3	26	27
Married (%)	<b>48.1</b>	48.6	49.3	49.7	19	17
Divorced or Separated (%)	<b>14.7</b>	14.3	11.7	11.2	1	1
Widowed (%)	<b>7.9</b>	7.5	6.1	5.8	1	1

**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>42,410</b>	42,989	1,995,658	1,997,833	12	12
One-parent families	<b>4,758</b>	5,223	225,180	231,370	12	11
One-parent families (% of all families)	<b>11.2</b>	12.1	11.3	11.6	13	9
Couples of mixed religions <sup>2</sup> (%)	<b>68.5</b>	65.8	58.1	55.9	3	4
De facto couples (%)	<b>18.6</b>	17.8	17.7	17.7	14	15
Median annual family income <sup>3</sup> (\$)	<b>93,440</b>	75,543	120,943	100,270	28	28

**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>55,606</b>	56,180	2,567,362	2,548,354	12	12
Persons living alone (aged under 35)	<b>545</b>	631	51,145	53,499	20	22
Persons living alone (aged 35+)	<b>10,778</b>	10,520	442,080	407,684	11	11
Persons living alone (total)	<b>11,323</b>	11,151	493,225	461,183	11	11
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	<b>11.6</b>	10.7	9.7	8.7	6	6
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	<b>75.6</b>	72.4	73.0	71.2	9	13
Median monthly housing loan repayment <sup>5</sup> (\$)	<b>1,766</b>	1,657	1,948	1,873	13	18

**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

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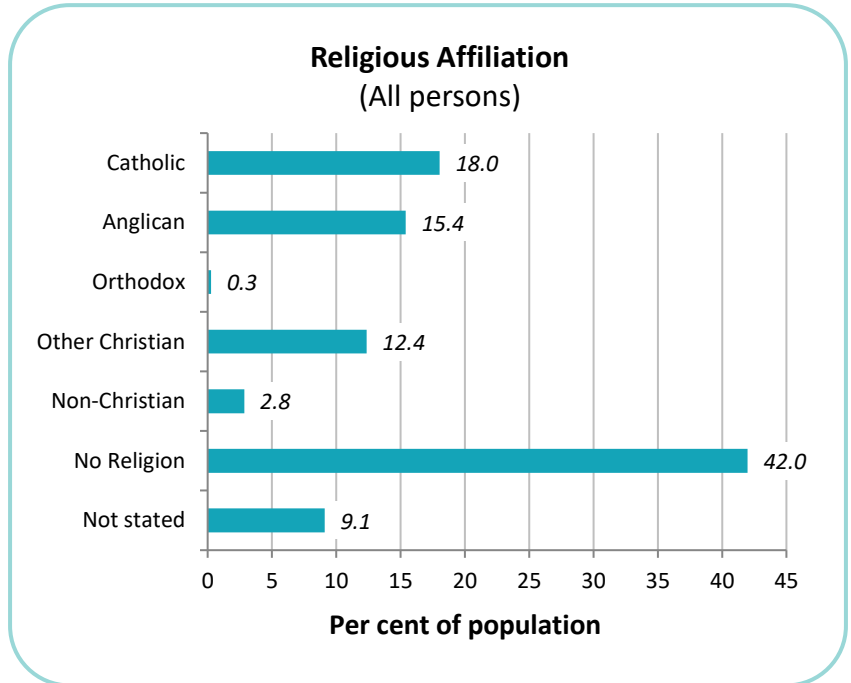
# Religious Affiliation

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	8,985	12,814	7,217	8,756	10,938	14,241	15,420	12,387	7,145	<b>97,903</b>
Maronite Catholic	3	4	-	3	5	5	-	-	-	<b>20</b>
Melkite Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ukrainian Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chaldean Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syro-Malabar Catholic	12	3	-	12	6	-	-	-	-	<b>33</b>
<b>Total Catholic</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>12,821</b>	<b>7,217</b>	<b>8,771</b>	<b>10,949</b>	<b>14,246</b>	<b>15,420</b>	<b>12,387</b>	<b>7,145</b>	<b>97,956</b>
<b>Per cent Catholic (of total population in age group)</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>18.0</b>
Anglican	3,475	5,833	3,470	4,451	8,360	12,805	17,113	17,196	11,003	<b>83,706</b>
Orthodox	117	175	91	147	206	245	213	165	90	<b>1,449</b>
Other Christian	4,659	5,930	3,771	5,104	6,623	9,515	12,721	11,579	7,233	<b>67,135</b>
Non-Christian	1,619	1,272	1,878	2,726	2,528	2,150	2,047	998	214	<b>15,432</b>
No Religion	32,311	31,687	27,210	30,443	28,606	27,206	28,380	16,249	5,985	<b>228,077</b>
Not Stated	5,180	5,524	5,388	6,228	6,069	6,029	6,411	4,815	3,780	<b>49,424</b>
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>56,361</b>	<b>63,242</b>	<b>49,025</b>	<b>57,870</b>	<b>63,341</b>	<b>72,196</b>	<b>82,305</b>	<b>63,389</b>	<b>35,450</b>	<b>543,179</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	246	272	<b>518</b>	806
1	278	278	<b>556</b>	869
2	366	300	<b>666</b>	1,012
3	365	372	<b>737</b>	1,047
4	445	415	<b>860</b>	1,179
5	517	474	<b>991</b>	1,314
6	529	501	<b>1,030</b>	1,295
7	551	573	<b>1,124</b>	1,447
8	605	604	<b>1,209</b>	1,466
9	636	657	<b>1,293</b>	1,509
10	677	636	<b>1,313</b>	1,516
11	664	683	<b>1,347</b>	1,546
12	707	680	<b>1,387</b>	1,481
13	739	707	<b>1,446</b>	1,479
14	710	672	<b>1,382</b>	1,504
15	666	690	<b>1,356</b>	1,521
16	715	632	<b>1,347</b>	1,584
17	643	581	<b>1,224</b>	1,529
18	575	531	<b>1,106</b>	1,287
19	486	442	<b>928</b>	1,071
20-24	1,887	1,898	<b>3,785</b>	4,388
25-29	1,589	1,847	<b>3,436</b>	4,164
30-34	1,666	2,345	<b>4,011</b>	4,531
35-39	2,079	2,683	<b>4,762</b>	4,973
40-44	2,181	2,762	<b>4,943</b>	6,093
45-49	2,736	3,275	<b>6,011</b>	6,847
50-54	3,019	3,637	<b>6,656</b>	7,626
55-59	3,412	4,175	<b>7,587</b>	8,035
60-64	3,625	4,361	<b>7,986</b>	7,462
65-69	3,338	4,099	<b>7,437</b>	7,278
70-74	3,283	3,709	<b>6,992</b>	5,875
75-79	2,420	2,978	<b>5,398</b>	4,588
80+	2,892	4,258	<b>7,150</b>	6,235
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,247</b>	<b>52,727</b>	<b>97,974</b>	104,557

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?*

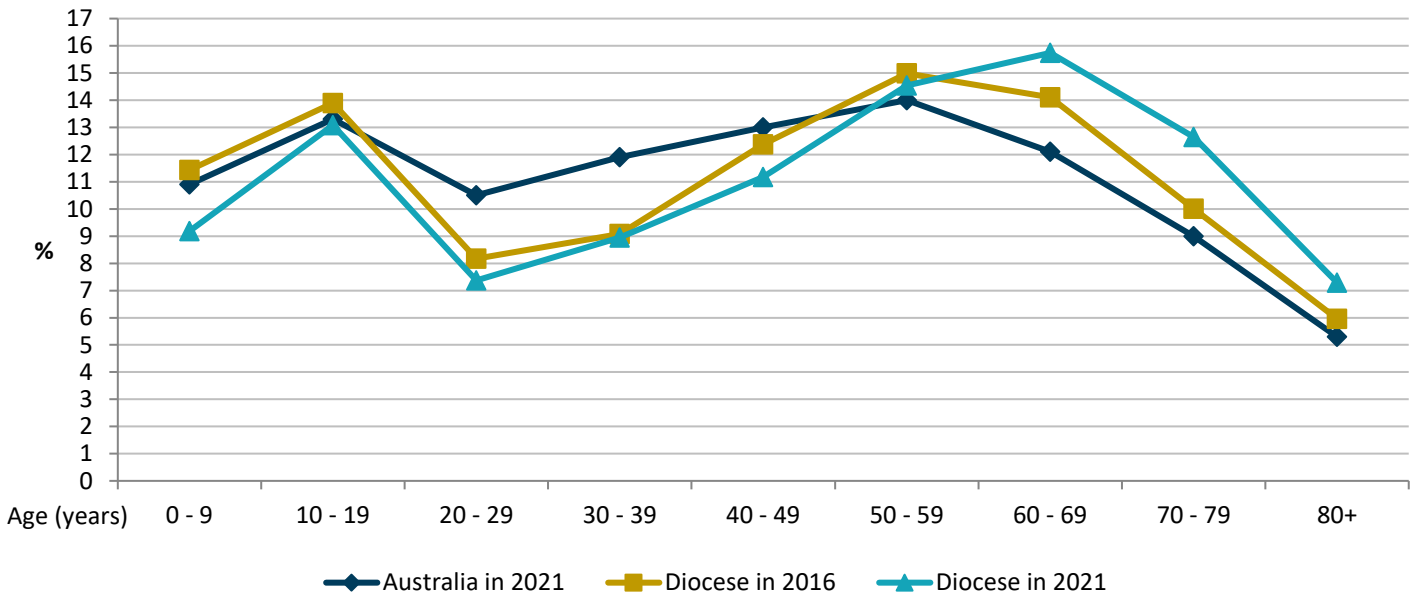
*Does this data suggest any new challenges for the diocese?*

*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.*

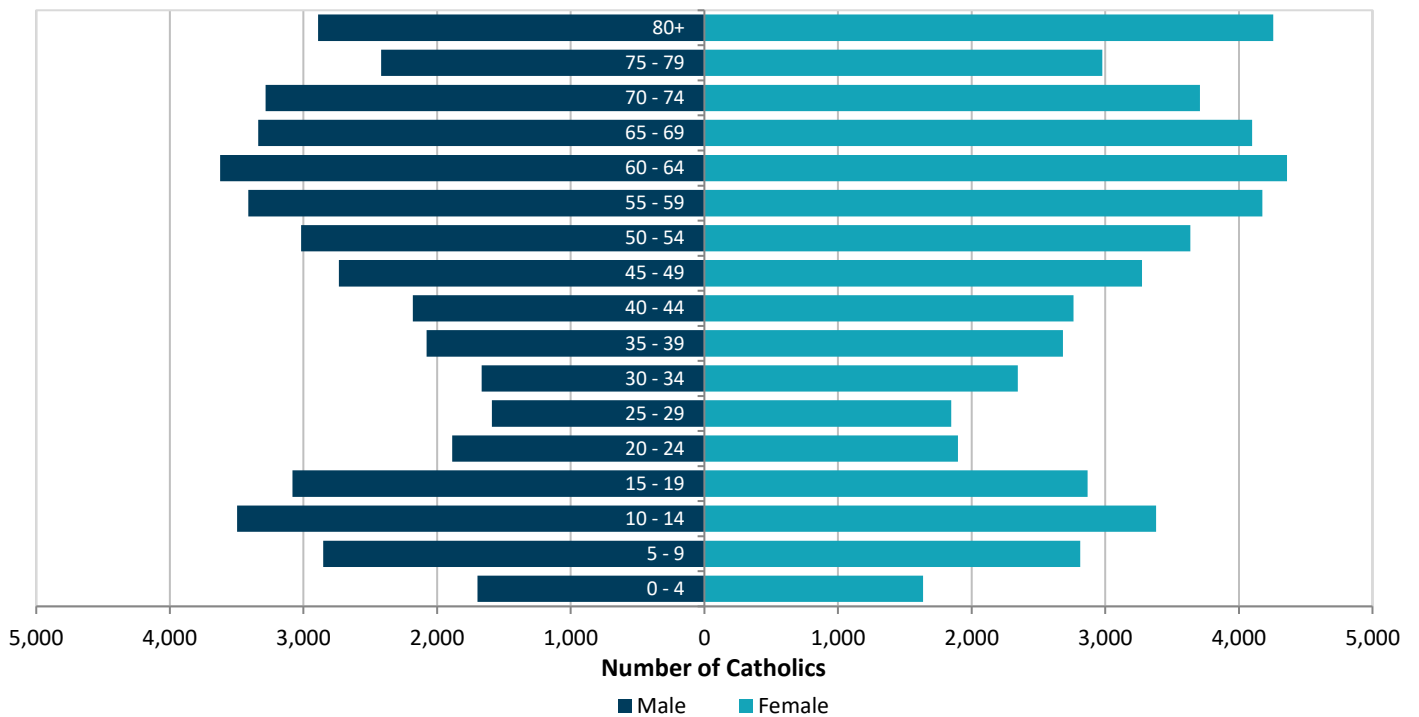


# Age and Sex

## 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	486	467	478	446	507	284	2,668
Females	254	349	525	467	556	403	2,554
<b>Lone Persons:</b>							
Males	-	36	166	81	120	91	494
Females	-	33	168	128	291	359	979
<b>Other non-family members or persons not present in a household on Census night<sup>3</sup></b>							
Males	11	39	119	124	139	181	613
Females	6	33	99	128	241	446	953
<b>Total</b>							
Males	497	542	763	651	766	556	3,775
Females	260	415	792	723	1,088	1,208	4,486

**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	269	256	459	813	1,155	1,464	4,416
Females	325	505	998	1,597	2,057	2,188	7,670

**Notes:**

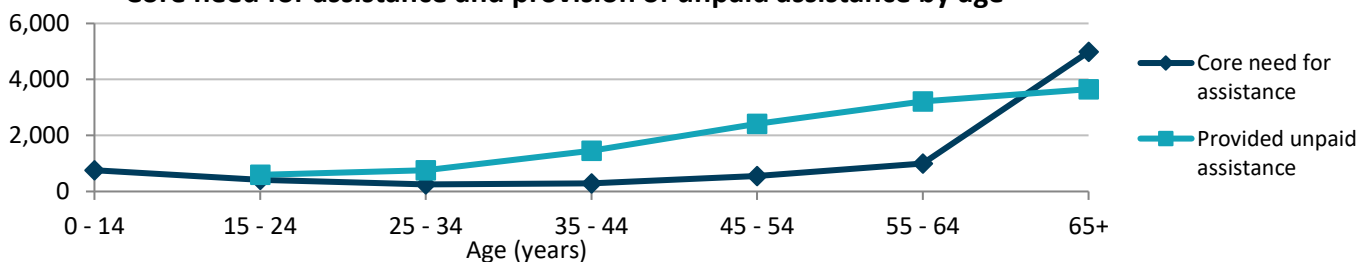
1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006. *Census Dictionary Australia 2006*. Catalogue No. 2901.0.

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.

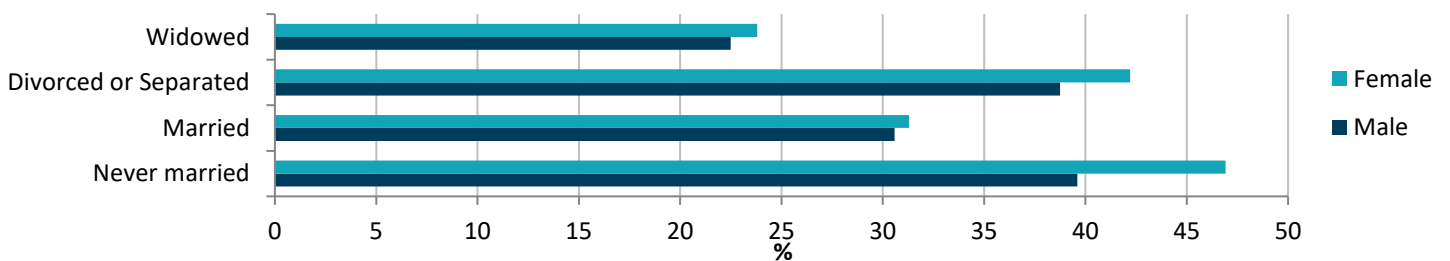
*How might changes in marital status patterns affect the life of the Church in this diocese? Do they result in the need for new pastoral services and programs?*

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	4,941	2,292	1,419	1,523	1,262	545	267	12,249
Married	25	858	2,442	3,264	4,096	4,329	3,456	18,470
Divorced or Separated	-	100	396	946	1,555	1,442	705	5,144
Widowed	-	5	5	25	123	305	889	1,352
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,966</b>	<b>3,255</b>	<b>4,262</b>	<b>5,758</b>	<b>7,036</b>	<b>6,621</b>	<b>5,317</b>	<b>37,215</b>
<b>Females</b>								
Never married	4,727	2,450	1,491	1,333	1,045	447	264	11,757
Married	38	1,550	3,200	3,994	4,961	4,585	2,725	21,053
Divorced or Separated	3	186	712	1,449	2,051	1,711	846	6,958
Widowed	-	8	45	141	471	1,067	3,393	5,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,768</b>	<b>4,194</b>	<b>5,448</b>	<b>6,917</b>	<b>8,528</b>	<b>7,810</b>	<b>7,228</b>	<b>44,893</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	8,935	1,393	10,328	13.5
One person Catholic, the other non-Catholic Christian	12,498	2,353	14,851	15.8
One Catholic, the other non-Christian, not stated or temporarily absent	7,030	2,760	9,790	28.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,463</b>	<b>6,506</b>	<b>34,969</b>	<b>18.6</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	53	81	280	918	1,275	820	719	288	4,434	2,581
One parent Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	66	82	328	1,016	1,833	1,164	889	422	5,800	2,653
One parent Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	60	92	260	972	1,501	903	672	278	4,738	2,563
<b>Couples with no children living at home:</b>										
Both partners Catholic	425	1,080	1,303	1,280	955	368	283	196	5,890	1,272
One partner Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	618	1,783	1,921	2,120	1,508	514	375	219	9,058	1,284
One partner Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	256	481	719	1,090	1,044	360	320	110	4,380	1,717
<b>One-parent families:</b>										
Parent is Catholic	407	743	1,256	1,183	521	116	83	449	4,758	1,159
<b>Other families where at least one person is Catholic</b>										
Other: Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent <sup>3</sup>	122	229	465	663	573	250	194	166	2,662	1,738
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,007</b>	<b>4,571</b>	<b>6,532</b>	<b>9,242</b>	<b>9,210</b>	<b>4,495</b>	<b>3,535</b>	<b>2,818</b>	<b>42,410</b>	<b>1,792</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.



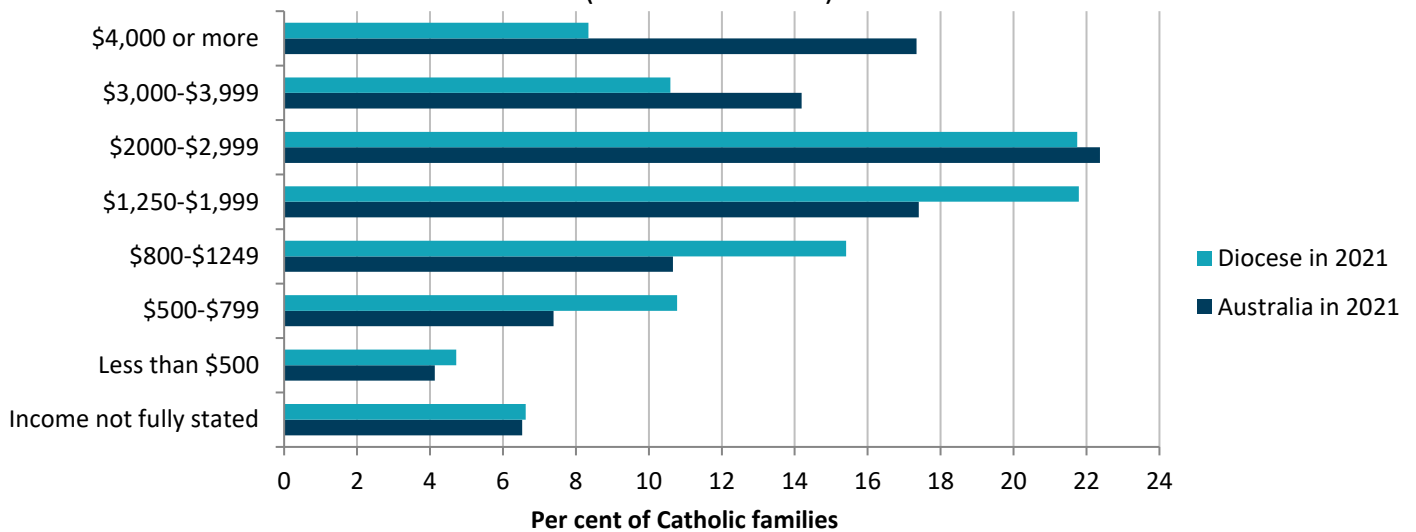
# Families

**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	1,496	253	176	47	28	2,000
\$500-\$799	3,648	445	322	115	36	4,566
\$800-\$1,249	5,061	664	496	215	91	6,527
\$1,250-\$1,999	5,988	1,211	1,309	517	208	9,233
\$2,000-\$2,999	4,905	1,455	1,934	705	216	9,215
\$3,000-\$3,999	1,962	775	1,174	447	128	4,486
\$4,000 or more	1,598	559	889	392	97	3,535
Income not fully stated	1,645	475	422	194	71	2,807
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>26,303</b>	<b>5,837</b>	<b>6,722</b>	<b>2,632</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>42,369</b>
<b>Median Family Income (\$)</b>	<b>1,516</b>	<b>2,074</b>	<b>2,437</b>	<b>2,460</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>1,792</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)	19,051	2,873	4,243	1,800	502	28,469
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	4,123	1,016	923	295	154	6,511
One parent family, parent Catholic	2,025	1,376	908	315	130	4,754
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	1,102	557	638	246	101	2,644
<b>Total families</b>	<b>26,301</b>	<b>5,822</b>	<b>6,712</b>	<b>2,656</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>42,378</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	33,597	440	7,582	722	42,341	79.3
Lone person aged under 35 years	190	7	307	41	545	34.9
Lone person aged 35 years or over	7,310	460	2,396	612	10,778	67.8
Group households	939	47	891	65	1,942	48.4
<b>Total households</b>	<b>42,036</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>11,176</b>	<b>1,440</b>	<b>55,606</b>	<b>75.6</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	891	1,346	3,536	4,467	2,076	2,422	1,814
Lone person aged under 35 years	-	13	66	44	13	6	1,527
Lone person aged 35 years or over	219	222	385	262	51	91	1,271
Group households	31	59	101	69	20	37	1,406
<b>Total households</b>	<b>1,141</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>4,088</b>	<b>4,842</b>	<b>2,160</b>	<b>2,556</b>	<b>1,766</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.

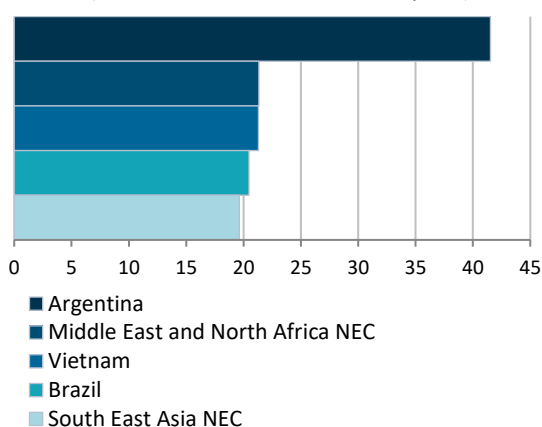
*How does the diocese support Catholics born in non-English-speaking countries in matters such as chaplaincy, education, pastoral care, and so on?*

*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	85,091	86.9	-
New Zealand	860	0.9	2.0
Other Oceania	278	0.3	9.7
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	1,856	1.9	2.9
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	562	0.6	2.8
Italy	600	0.6	3.3
Malta	225	0.2	-
Spain and Portugal	115	0.1	13.9
France	206	0.2	7.3
Netherlands	393	0.4	1.5
Germany	416	0.4	2.2
Austria	136	0.1	-
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	146	0.1	-
Poland	176	0.2	4.0
Hungary	85	0.1	-
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	162	0.2	3.7
Other Europe NEC	170	0.2	7.1
Vietnam	108	0.1	21.3
Philippines	1,867	1.9	14.1
Indonesia	69	0.1	18.8
Malaysia	114	0.1	18.4
Singapore	49	0.1	-
South East Asia NEC	163	0.2	19.6
India	311	0.3	17.4
Sri Lanka	42	0.0	-
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	36	0.0	13.9
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	45	0.0	11.1
Korea, Republic of (South)	31	0.0	12.9
Egypt	55	0.1	-
Lebanon	27	0.0	-
Iraq	14	0.0	-
Sudan (including South Sudan)	25	0.0	-
Middle East and North Africa NEC	75	0.1	21.3
South Africa	216	0.2	4.6
Mauritius	41	0.0	-
United States of America	269	0.3	6.3
Canada	157	0.2	8.9
Argentina	118	0.1	41.5
Brazil	342	0.3	20.5
Colombia	65	0.1	6.2
Chile	84	0.1	8.3
Central America and South America NEC	223	0.2	7.6
Other countries	205	0.2	8.3
Inadequately described/Not stated	1,718	1.8	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,946</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.9</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	91,528	385,012	476,540	19.2
Italian	721	618	1,339	53.8
Maltese	64	21	85	75.3
Spanish	556	1,254	1,810	30.7
Croatian	83	38	121	68.6
Polish	150	125	275	54.5
Dutch	126	532	658	19.1
French	293	1,061	1,354	21.6
German	288	1,669	1,957	14.7
Portuguese	386	749	1,135	34.0
Hungarian	58	87	145	40.0
Ukrainian	3	25	28	10.7
Vietnamese	127	340	467	27.2
Filipino languages	1,144	339	1,483	77.1
Chinese languages	101	1,702	1,803	5.6
Malayalam	278	137	415	67.0
Sinhalese	18	89	107	16.8
Korean	21	217	238	8.8
Indonesian & Malay	54	400	454	11.9
Arabic	79	387	466	17.0
Assyrian and Chaldean	3	6	9	33.3
Oceanic and Papuan languages	85	564	649	13.1
Australian Indigenous Languages	181	985	1,166	15.5
Other European languages NEC	173	2,020	2,193	7.9
Other Asian languages NEC	266	6,739	7,005	3.8
Other languages NEC	173	1,842	2,015	8.6
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/Not stated	995	38,246	39,241	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,954</b>	<b>445,204</b>	<b>543,158</b>	<b>18.0</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	3,051	7,854	9,756	6,764	17,644	21,128	25,330	91,527	-
Italian	10	17	20	31	155	170	319	722	7.6
Maltese	-	4	-	-	9	19	37	69	-
Spanish	22	35	14	61	237	92	105	566	8.4
Croatian	-	-	10	3	17	8	42	80	13.6
Polish	11	13	5	7	44	32	45	157	2.0
Dutch	-	6	9	4	17	27	75	138	-
French	19	21	21	13	88	51	78	291	2.8
German	7	21	16	9	54	57	122	286	-
Portuguese	17	48	20	45	223	21	9	383	2.1
Hungarian	-	-	-	-	12	9	37	58	5.1
Ukrainian	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	4	-
Vietnamese	9	21	21	14	53	16	4	138	18.3
Filipino languages	36	47	76	111	523	242	119	1,154	3.8
Chinese languages	3	4	17	12	19	27	18	100	18.9
Malayalam	43	52	12	14	145	7	7	280	9.7
Sinhalese	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	12	-
Korean	-	-	-	3	10	-	-	13	40.0
Indonesian & Malay	-	7	-	-	25	13	12	57	-
Arabic	6	3	-	3	28	18	22	80	10.6
Assyrian and Chaldean	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oceanic and Papuan languages	-	10	7	19	36	9	10	91	3.4
Australian Indigenous Languages	14	35	28	16	45	25	18	181	1.7
Other European languages NEC	8	10	13	11	52	29	57	180	6.3
Other Asian languages NEC	24	44	28	29	94	30	12	261	31.1
Other languages NEC	8	19	25	17	57	28	13	167	18.9
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/ Not stated	49	55	67	46	120	169	490	996	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,337</b>	<b>8,326</b>	<b>10,165</b>	<b>7,232</b>	<b>19,723</b>	<b>22,227</b>	<b>26,981</b>	<b>97,991</b>	<b>0.5</b>

Notes:

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

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



Diocese of Lismore

National Catholic Census Project 1991-2021

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

# Attendance at Educational Institutions

According to the 2021 Census, 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.

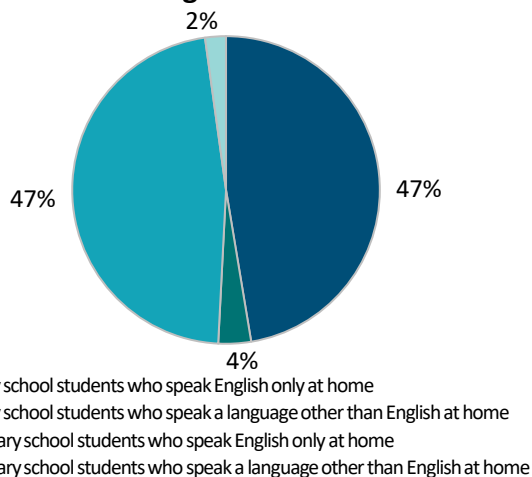
*How does the diocese connect with Catholic students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, especially those not attending Catholic schools?*

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

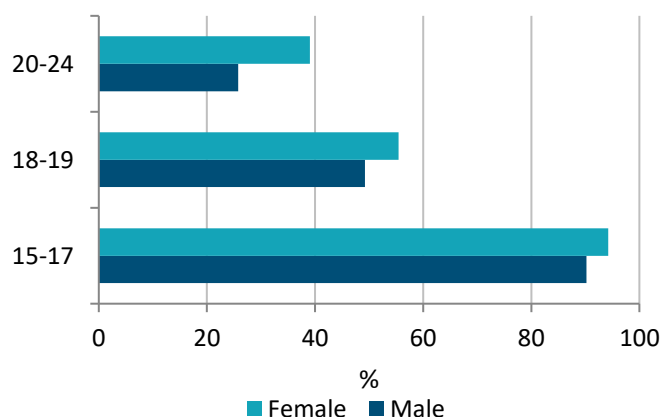
	Catholic	Not Catholic or not stated	All persons	% Catholic
Infants/Primary – Government	2,809	22,893	25,702	10.9
Infants/Primary – Catholic	5,133	3,948	9,081	56.5
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	466	5,002	5,468	8.5
Secondary – Government	2,220	15,793	18,013	12.3
Secondary – Catholic	4,511	4,279	8,790	51.3
Secondary – Other Non-Government	584	4,752	5,336	10.9
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	2,195	10,793	12,988	16.9
University or other Tertiary Institutions	2,347	10,677	13,024	18.0
Other (including pre-school)	2,190	10,768	12,958	16.9
Not stated/Not applicable <sup>1</sup>	75,516	356,310	431,826	17.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>97,971</b>	<b>445,215</b>	<b>543,186</b>	<b>18.0</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

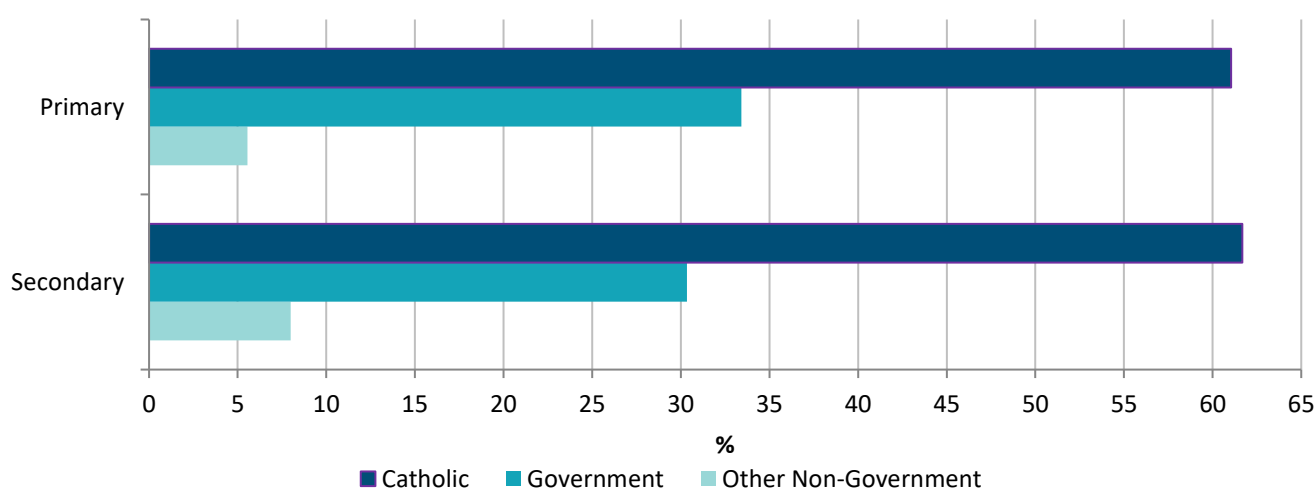
**Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family<sup>1</sup>**

	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	136	226	338	641	704	348	189	2,737	101,209
Infants/Primary – Catholic	116	195	338	841	1,516	943	842	5,035	135,415
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	8	18	35	67	83	95	118	468	209,093
Secondary – Government	81	156	258	423	512	287	145	2,051	105,589
Secondary – Catholic	75	124	287	685	1,073	955	828	4,391	145,218
Secondary – Other Non-Government	10	23	27	85	96	103	135	567	155,594
TAFE, University or other Tertiary institution	5	19	40	97	157	115	173	666	180,571
Other (including pre-school)	10	26	34	105	133	79	65	480	124,256
Not stated or not applicable	28	21	31	54	47	15	14	239	83,272
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>1,388</b>	<b>2,998</b>	<b>4,321</b>	<b>2,940</b>	<b>2,509</b>	<b>16,634</b>	<b>129,054</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	3	88	192	189	222	241	935
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	100	523	775	800	767	1,004	3,969
Advanced diploma or diploma level	39	199	411	574	579	748	2,550
Certificate level	720	1,347	1,688	2,205	2,668	3,501	12,129
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	4,104	1,105	1,199	1,979	2,801	6,439	17,627
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,966</b>	<b>3,262</b>	<b>4,265</b>	<b>5,747</b>	<b>7,037</b>	<b>11,933</b>	<b>37,210</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>18.7</i>	<i>22.7</i>	<i>17.2</i>	<i>14.1</i>	<i>10.4</i>	<i>13.2</i>
<b>Females</b>							
Postgraduate degree	9	178	288	292	247	214	1,228
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	233	1,314	1,785	1,653	1,377	1,434	7,796
Advanced diploma or diploma level	128	537	744	1,034	1,194	1,319	4,956
Certificate level	735	1,111	1,351	1,768	2,022	1,627	8,614
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	3,662	1,045	1,271	2,171	3,700	10,440	22,289
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,767</b>	<b>4,185</b>	<b>5,439</b>	<b>6,918</b>	<b>8,540</b>	<b>15,034</b>	<b>44,883</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>35.7</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>28.1</i>	<i>19.0</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>20.1</i>
<b>All Catholics</b>							
Postgraduate degree	12	266	480	481	469	455	2,163
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	333	1,837	2,560	2,453	2,144	2,438	11,765
Advanced diploma or diploma level	167	736	1,155	1,608	1,773	2,067	7,506
Certificate level	1,455	2,458	3,039	3,973	4,690	5,128	20,743
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	7,766	2,150	2,470	4,150	6,501	16,879	39,916
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,733</b>	<b>7,447</b>	<b>9,704</b>	<b>12,665</b>	<b>15,577</b>	<b>26,967</b>	<b>82,093</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>31.3</i>	<i>23.2</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>17.0</i>

Note:

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



# Employment

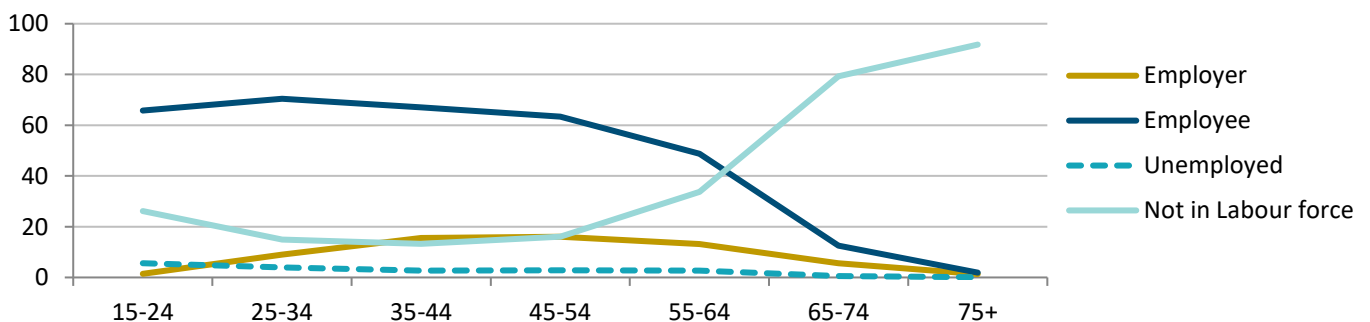
In recent years there have been many changes in society and the workplace that have affected Australian workers. One major change has been the increase in the percentages of workers, especially young people and women, in part-time jobs. Another has been the rise in participation in the labour force by 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	72	1,301	2,597	672	4,642
Employee	3,150	4,988	6,440	955	15,533
Unemployed	318	277	417	59	1,071
Not in the labour force	1,376	809	3,102	9,910	15,197
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	54	142	230	329	755
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,970</b>	<b>7,517</b>	<b>12,786</b>	<b>11,925</b>	<b>37,198</b>
<i>Per cent in labour force<sup>2</sup></i>	71.2	87.3	73.9	14.1	57.1
<i>Per cent unemployed<sup>3</sup></i>	9.0	4.2	4.4	3.5	5.0
<b>Females</b>					
Employer	68	873	1,498	310	2,749
Employee	3,259	6,757	9,187	1,090	20,293
Unemployed	224	277	351	31	883
Not in the labour force	1,168	1,590	4,195	13,030	19,983
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	48	126	215	575	964
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,767</b>	<b>9,623</b>	<b>15,446</b>	<b>15,036</b>	<b>44,872</b>
<i>Per cent in labour force<sup>2</sup></i>	74.5	82.2	71.4	9.5	53.3
<i>Per cent unemployed<sup>3</sup></i>	6.3	3.5	3.2	2.2	3.7

**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	100	271	687	894	797	487	3,236
Professionals	78	369	630	706	622	275	2,680
Technicians & Trade Workers	960	856	898	984	858	213	4,769
Community & Personal Service Workers	334	222	300	416	372	75	1,719
Clerical & Administrative Workers	81	121	132	234	223	85	876
Sales Workers	569	142	218	238	268	95	1,530
Machinery Operators & Drivers	190	264	319	495	596	215	2,079
Labourers	879	403	418	569	711	196	3,176
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	1,772	605	664	1,217	2,580	10,297	17,135
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,963</b>	<b>3,253</b>	<b>4,266</b>	<b>5,753</b>	<b>7,027</b>	<b>11,938</b>	<b>37,200</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	5.6	24.2	36.6	35.3	31.9	46.4	29.5
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’<sup>2</sup></i>	63.6	57.5	45.4	45.1	48.7	38.0	50.0
<b>Females</b>							
Managers	81	236	522	691	533	224	2,287
Professionals	224	1,062	1,415	1,440	1,129	303	5,573
Technicians & Trade Workers	152	179	206	214	168	59	978
Community & Personal Service Workers	1,046	663	747	1,057	1,023	193	4,729
Clerical & Administrative Workers	293	579	866	1,258	1,264	331	4,591
Sales Workers	1,168	303	326	446	481	134	2,858
Machinery Operators & Drivers	24	18	32	45	60	13	192
Labourers	331	198	254	336	541	138	1,798
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	1,456	961	1,076	1,425	3,346	13,648	21,912
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,775</b>	<b>4,199</b>	<b>5,444</b>	<b>6,912</b>	<b>8,545</b>	<b>15,043</b>	<b>44,918</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	9.2	40.1	44.3	38.8	32.0	37.8	34.2
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’<sup>2</sup></i>	15.3	12.2	11.3	10.8	14.8	15.1	12.9
<b>All Catholics</b>							
Managers	181	507	1,209	1,585	1,330	711	5,523
Professionals	302	1,431	2,045	2,146	1,751	578	8,253
Technicians & Trade Workers	1,112	1,035	1,104	1,198	1,026	272	5,747
Community & Personal Service Workers	1,380	885	1,047	1,473	1,395	268	6,448
Clerical & Administrative Workers	374	700	998	1,492	1,487	416	5,467
Sales Workers	1,737	445	544	684	749	229	4,388
Machinery Operators & Drivers	214	282	351	540	656	228	2,271
Labourers	1,210	601	672	905	1,252	334	4,974
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	3,228	1,566	1,740	2,642	5,926	23,945	39,047
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,738</b>	<b>7,452</b>	<b>9,710</b>	<b>12,665</b>	<b>15,572</b>	<b>26,981</b>	<b>82,118</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	7.4	32.9	40.8	37.2	31.9	42.5	32.0
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’<sup>2</sup></i>	39.0	32.6	26.7	26.4	30.4	27.5	30.2

**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?*

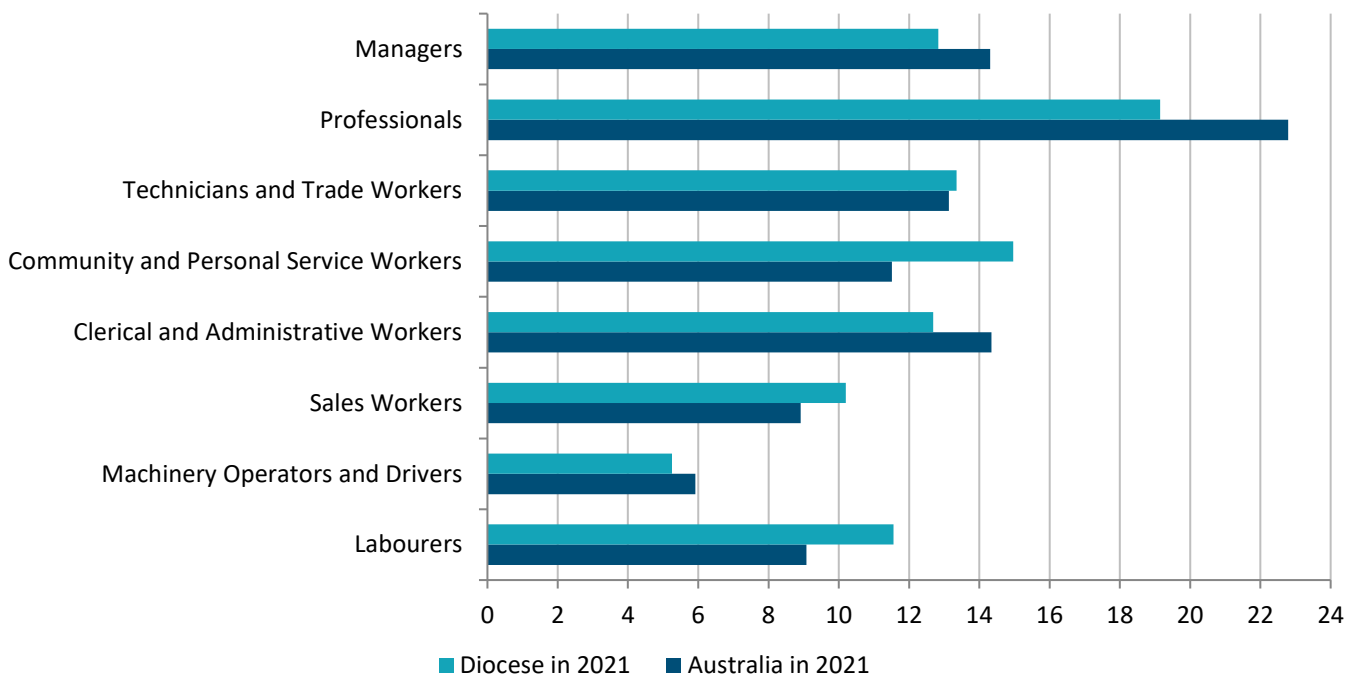
**Table 27: Occupation by religious affiliation<sup>1</sup> (%)**

	Catholic	Non-Catholic
<b>All persons aged 15+ with an occupation</b>		
Managers	12.8	13.1
Professionals	19.1	20.2
Technicians & Trade Workers	13.3	14.3
Community & Personal Service Workers	15.0	14.6
Clerical & Administrative Workers	12.7	11.1
Sales Workers	10.2	9.2
Machinery Operators & Drivers	5.3	5.3
Labourers	11.6	12.0
<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)



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Visit the website to obtain:

- Social Profiles for any diocese or parish in Australia
- A Social Profile for the Catholic population of Australia
- Helpful hints on using the Census data
- Reports on the National Count of Attendance
- 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.

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