



DIOCESAN SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census

Archdiocese of Melbourne



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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: 4,962,398

Catholic Population: 1,038,276

Catholics make up 20.9 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 43 years

Total Catholic families: 391,626

103,984 Catholics live alone

331,471 Catholics were born overseas

40,664 Catholics do not speak English well

76,451 Catholics need assistance with core activities

331,682 Catholics have changed address since 2016



What has changed in the diocesan community since 1996?

This chart will help you identify, at a glance, changes in some of the key indicators for Catholics in the diocese between 1996 and 2021 and may alert you to possible trends that are occurring. The 2016 and 2021 figures are drawn from the Diocesan Overview tables on pages 4-7. All figures in this table refer to Catholics only. The term 'Catholic' in this report refers to all persons who identified themselves as Catholics in the Census, not only those who have some form of active association with the Church.

RANDOMISATION OF CENSUS DATA

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

	Diocese in 1996	Diocese in 2001	Diocese in 2006	Diocese in 2011	Diocese in 2016	Diocese in 2021 ¹
Catholic population	996,665	1,029,256	1,063,089	1,112,764	1,067,030	1,038,276
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	21.2	20.5	19.6	19.2	18.6	16.8
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	11.1	12.6	14.0	14.8	17.3	20.1
Catholics born in NESC ² (%)	27.3	25.4	24.7	24.6	25.6	27.6
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	5.4	4.8	4.5	4.0	4.0	3.9
Catholic families	335,137	358,503	375,870	397,183	388,837	391,626
Catholics living alone	71,024	82,486	91,212	96,591	94,152	103,984
Catholic students attending Catholic schools (%)	59.6	57.5	56.9	57.3	59.6	60.5
Catholics with university degree (%)	10.9	13.8	17.1	20.1	23.5	27.6
Catholic males in labour force (%)	71.0	63.7	69.0	69.3	68.5	67.6
Catholic females in labour force (%)	53.8	52.7	55.8	57.7	59.0	59.6
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	74.1	74.7	75.4	74.8	74.0	75.1

Notes:

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



Overview

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

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

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

Table 1: Population ¹	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank ²	Diocese 2016 Rank ²
Total population ³	4,962,398	4,554,459	25,422,788	23,401,892	1	1
Catholic population	1,038,276	1,067,030	5,075,910	5,291,834	1	1
Per cent Catholic	20.9	23.4	20.0	22.6	8	13
At same address since previous Census (%)	62.4	61.1	59.4	57.3	5	6
Median age ⁴ (years)	43	40	43	40	11	11
Aged 0-14 (%)	16.8	18.6	17.9	19.8	24	24
Aged 65+ (%)	20.1	17.3	19.9	16.6	16	13
Males per 100 females	89.1	89.3	89.1	90.6	17	23

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 (%)	7.4	6.3	6.7	5.8	7	6
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability ⁵ (% of Catholics aged 15+)	14.9	12.9	13.5	12.5	3	10

Notes:

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



Overview

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

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

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

Table 3: Employment	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Managers and Professionals ¹ (% of those recording an occupation)	38.5	36.0	37.1	34.1	4	4
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations ² (% of those recording an occupation)	26.6	27.2	28.1	29.6	24	25
Men, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	67.6	68.5	66.5	69.7	10	15
Women, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	59.6	59.0	59.7	60.6	14	16
Unemployed at time of Census ⁴ (%)	4.5	5.6	4.2	5.8	6	16
Youth unemployed at time of Census ⁵ (%)	10.3	12.8	8.9	12.2	3	11

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

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

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

Table 4: Birthplace, Indigenous Status & Language	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Born overseas in English-speaking country ⁶	4.3	4.4	5.5	5.6	11	11
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	27.6	25.6	21.4	19.1	3	3
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries & arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	23,189	25,297	97,457	106,428	1	1
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	5,285	4,990	135,686	133,528	10	13
Speak language other than English at home (%)	28.3	28.1	21.5	20.4	4	4
Not proficient in English ^{7, 8} (%)	3.9	4.0	2.7	2.6	2	2

Notes:

1. This group includes, for example, farmers and farm managers, sales, marketing and production managers, education and health service managers, retail managers, school principals and school teachers, medical practitioners, nurses, scientists, arts and media professionals, accountants, engineers and IT professionals.
2. This group includes, for example, toolmakers, technicians, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, bakers and chefs, veterinary nurses, hairdressers, machinery operators, drivers, cleaners and labourers.
3. The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).
4. The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.
5. The percentage of Catholics aged 15-24 who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.
6. New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada and South Africa.
7. Percentage of all Catholics who reported that they spoke English not well, or not at all.
8. The figures and rankings for some dioceses were slightly incorrect in the 2016 Social Profile and have been amended in this 2021 Social Profile.



Overview

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 5: Education ¹	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Catholics aged 15+ with bachelor degree or higher qualification (%)	27.6	23.5	24.6	20.6	3	3
Catholics attending an educational institution (% of all Catholics in each age group)						
Aged 15-17	97.1	94.5	94.9	92.2	1	3
Aged 18-19	77.0	74.7	67.2	62.9	2	2
Aged 20-24	50.5	46.2	43.4	38.2	1	3
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)	62.3	60.3	55.5	53.1	3	3
Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)	32.7	34.3	38.4	41.0	26	27
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)	58.5	58.7	55.3	54.5	7	4
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)	30.4	30.4	33.4	35.1	23	27
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ¹ (%)	29.8	22.9	36.6	28.1	25	24
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ¹ (%)	35.0	30.5	41.3	35.7	26	23

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 (%)	33.8	33.4	32.9	33.3	6	12
Married (%)	49.1	50.1	49.3	49.7	15	12
Divorced or Separated (%)	10.8	10.3	11.7	11.2	24	24
Widowed (%)	6.3	6.1	6.1	5.8	13	12

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

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Families	391,626	388,817	1,995,658	1,997,833	1	1
One-parent families	45,151	45,853	225,180	231,370	1	1
One-parent families (% of all families)	11.5	11.8	11.3	11.6	9	13
Couples of mixed religions ² (%)	52.6	50.0	58.1	55.9	25	26
De facto couples (%)	17.1	15.6	17.7	17.7	22	26
Median annual family income ³ (\$)	125,195	102,912	120,943	100,270	8	8

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

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Households	510,989	500,423	2,567,362	2,548,354	1	1
Persons living alone (aged under 35)	11,882	11,479	51,145	53,499	1	1
Persons living alone (aged 35+)	92,102	82,673	442,080	407,684	1	1
Persons living alone (total)	103,984	94,152	493,225	461,183	1	1
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	10.0	8.8	9.7	8.7	16	16
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	75.1	74.0	73.0	71.2	11	10
Median monthly housing loan repayment ⁵ (\$)	1,996	1,860	1,948	1,873	8	11

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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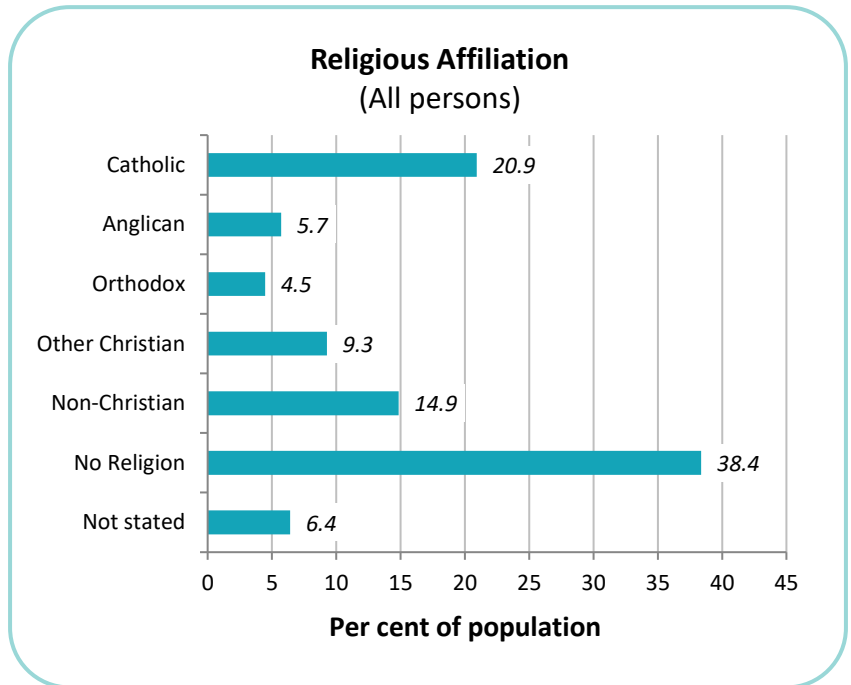
Religious Affiliation

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	104,527	130,570	113,605	123,902	134,315	146,661	120,688	90,715	60,772	1,025,755
Maronite Catholic	436	403	461	460	467	489	359	254	128	3,457
Melkite Catholic	88	51	72	89	80	97	99	74	23	673
Ukrainian Catholic	106	120	87	111	149	151	219	230	69	1,242
Chaldean Catholic	831	906	681	700	648	532	354	180	73	4,905
Syro-Malabar Catholic	502	535	163	320	486	209	46	12	-	2,273
Total Catholic	106,490	132,585	115,069	125,582	136,145	148,139	121,765	91,465	61,065	1,038,305
Per cent Catholic (of total population in age group)	18.2	23.4	16.2	15.9	20.6	24.8	24.8	26.3	29.2	20.9
Anglican	13,189	21,016	16,454	19,628	32,189	47,237	50,218	50,263	33,214	283,408
Orthodox	20,157	26,550	22,499	22,288	30,858	36,127	22,749	22,414	18,015	221,657
Other Christian	42,451	47,572	46,265	55,097	58,050	61,712	62,462	52,314	33,975	459,898
Non-Christian	114,730	80,708	129,683	165,031	103,558	62,052	46,510	24,658	10,002	736,932
No Religion	252,604	224,355	328,875	350,053	259,851	208,409	159,365	85,797	34,647	1,903,956
Not Stated	36,873	32,806	51,178	54,023	41,201	34,793	28,299	21,190	17,912	318,275
Total Population	586,494	565,592	710,023	791,702	661,852	598,469	491,368	348,101	208,830	4,962,431

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



Age and Sex

**Table 10:
Age by sex**

	Males 2021	Females 2021	Total 2021	Total 2016
Age (years)				
0	3,974	3,789	7,763	9,933
1	4,133	3,987	8,120	11,264
2	4,776	4,487	9,263	11,832
3	4,941	4,819	9,760	12,396
4	5,274	5,204	10,478	12,865
5	5,935	5,643	11,578	13,083
6	5,878	5,741	11,619	13,805
7	6,161	6,030	12,191	13,939
8	6,603	6,218	12,821	14,345
9	6,612	6,286	12,898	14,801
10	6,557	6,414	12,971	14,426
11	6,841	6,826	13,667	14,205
12	6,975	6,730	13,705	14,180
13	7,134	6,788	13,922	13,986
14	7,109	6,906	14,015	13,789
15	6,933	6,661	13,594	13,697
16	6,788	6,340	13,128	13,673
17	6,609	6,305	12,914	13,592
18	6,304	6,124	12,428	13,505
19	6,208	6,020	12,228	13,192
20-24	29,376	28,946	58,322	64,400
25-29	27,180	29,564	56,744	63,328
30-34	28,298	33,021	61,319	66,678
35-39	29,673	34,583	64,256	67,648
40-44	30,229	34,724	64,953	74,091
45-49	33,243	37,956	71,199	78,769
50-54	35,131	40,263	75,394	75,330
55-59	34,053	38,697	72,750	67,731
60-64	30,220	35,651	65,871	57,788
65-69	24,922	30,959	55,881	54,394
70-74	23,183	29,184	52,367	42,187
75-79	17,241	21,847	39,088	35,240
80+	24,635	36,432	61,067	52,943
Total	489,129	549,145	1,038,274	1,067,035

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

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

Several factors can influence the age profile, including fertility rates in the past and mortality rates, but in many parishes and dioceses the key factor is migration, related either to people moving to other parts of the country or to people arriving from other parishes or dioceses, or from overseas.

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

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

Which age groups have seen the greatest changes since 2016?

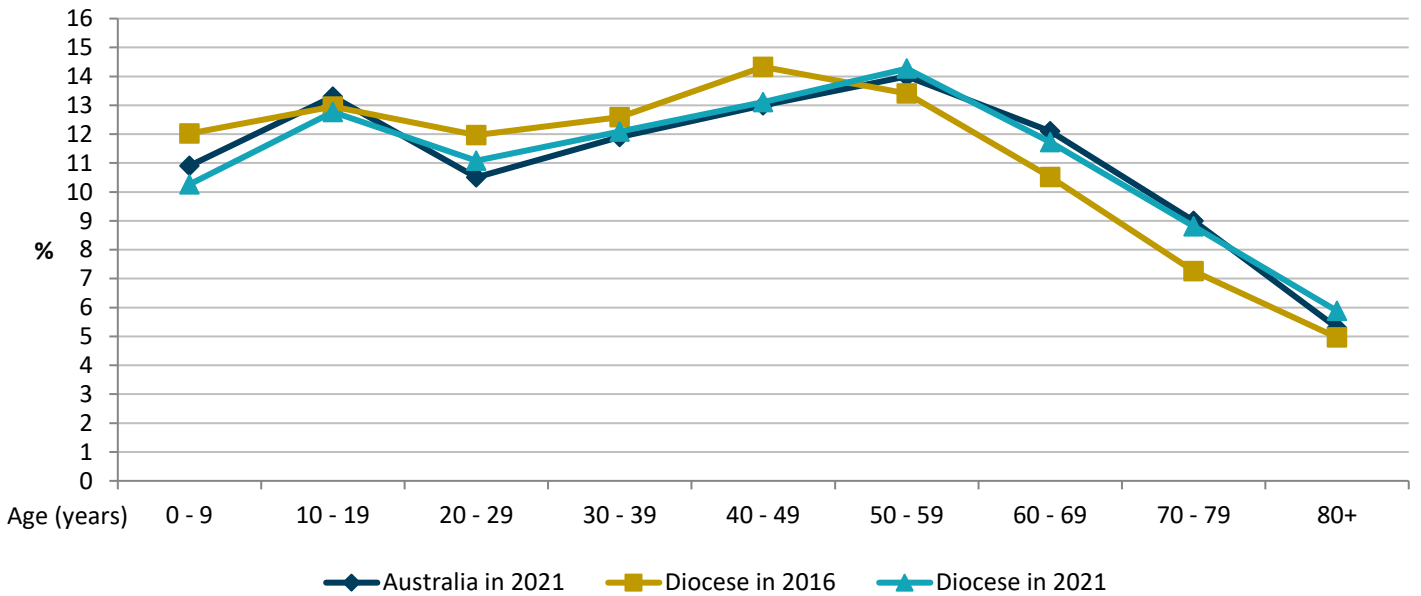
Does this data suggest any new challenges for the diocese?

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

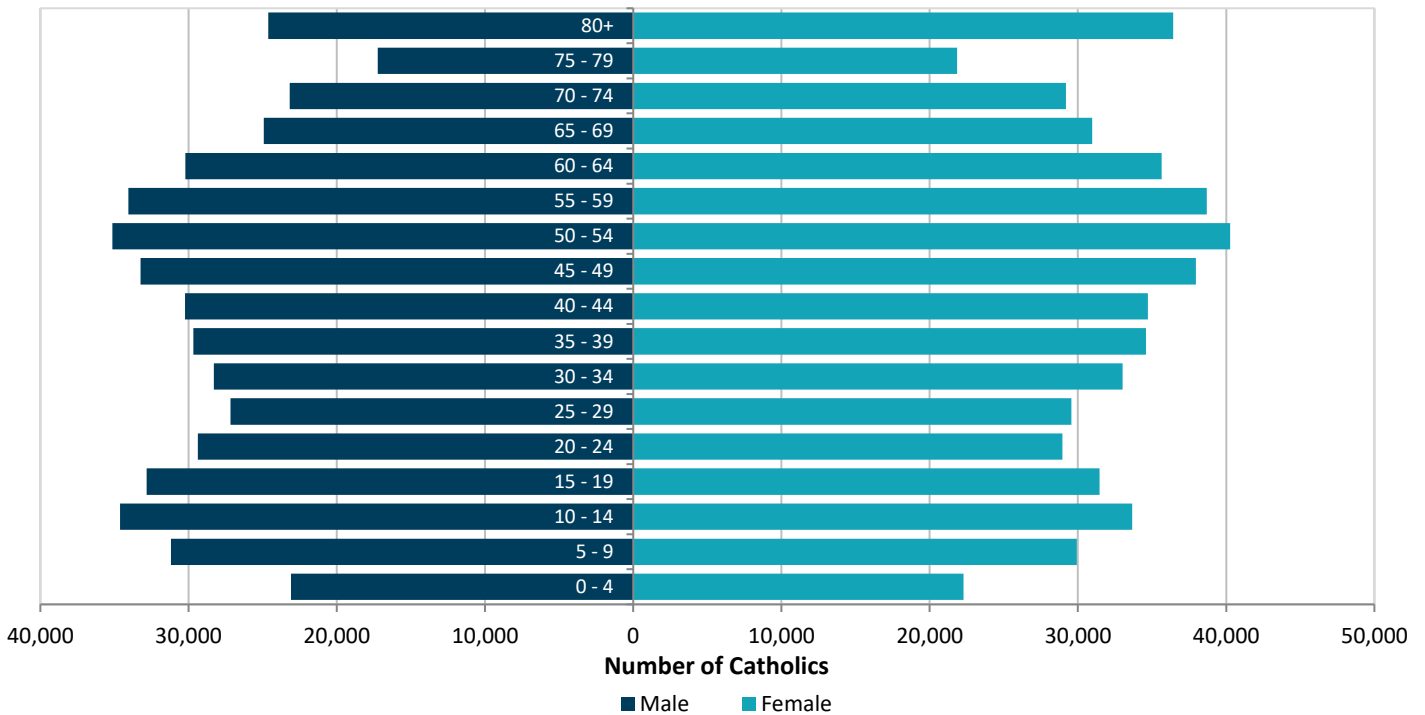


Age and Sex

Age profile of the Catholic population, 2016 & 2021



Age-sex profile of the Catholic population, 2021



Disability

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

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

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

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

	0-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75-84	85 and over	Total
Catholics who have need for assistance with core activities							
Family members:							
Males	3,867	3,823	3,743	3,639	4,989	3,421	23,482
Females	1,942	3,125	4,901	4,741	6,230	4,196	25,135
Lone Persons:							
Males	-	283	952	647	1,011	1,177	4,070
Females	-	241	1,072	1,318	3,734	4,236	10,601
Other non-family members or persons not present in a household on Census night³							
Males	47	414	850	745	1,188	1,619	4,863
Females	35	332	802	793	1,977	4,361	8,300
Total							
Males	3,914	4,520	5,545	5,031	7,188	6,217	32,415
Females	1,977	3,698	6,775	6,852	11,941	12,793	44,036

Table 11b: Provision of unpaid assistance by age

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability⁴							
Males	3,098	3,580	6,647	11,416	11,893	11,770	48,404
Females	3,927	5,788	11,384	20,252	20,928	17,664	79,943

Notes:

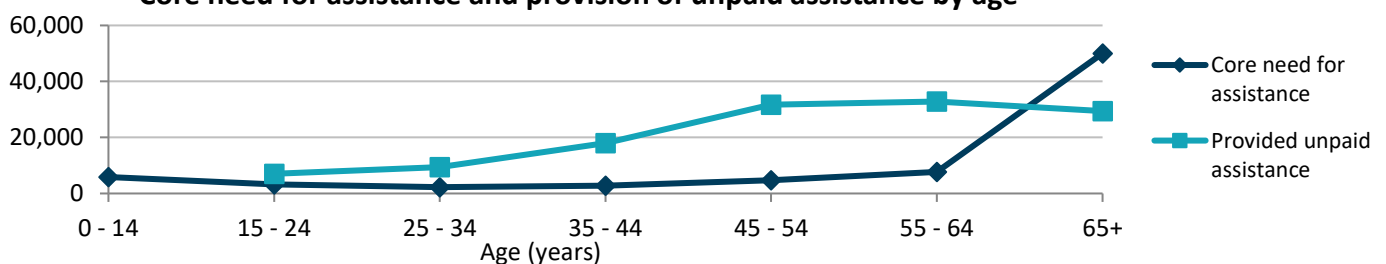
1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006. *Census Dictionary Australia 2006*. Catalogue No. 2901.0.

2. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. *Australian Social Trends 2004*. Catalogue No. 4102.0.

3. Among people aged 75 and over, being in hospital or a nursing home is a major reason for not being in a household on Census night.

4. The Census question asked whether the respondent had provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability in the two weeks prior to the Census. The question is not applicable to persons aged 0-14.

Core need for assistance and provision of unpaid assistance by age



Marital Status

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

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

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

Table 12: Registered marital status by sex and age

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15 and over								
Males								
Never married	61,995	40,703	17,799	13,302	8,505	3,867	2,078	148,249
Married	171	13,747	37,453	45,217	43,656	34,532	29,023	203,799
Divorced or Separated	35	998	4,556	9,507	11,180	7,696	3,849	37,821
Widowed	15	35	97	351	937	2,014	6,922	10,371
Total	62,216	55,483	59,905	68,377	64,278	48,109	41,872	400,240
Females								
Never married	59,845	39,756	17,064	12,713	7,973	3,664	2,398	143,413
Married	480	20,809	44,839	50,400	46,848	36,191	20,892	220,459
Divorced or Separated	61	1,960	7,100	13,937	16,022	11,143	5,297	55,520
Widowed	16	60	302	1,162	3,497	9,141	29,691	43,869
Total	60,402	62,585	69,305	78,212	74,340	60,139	58,278	463,261

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

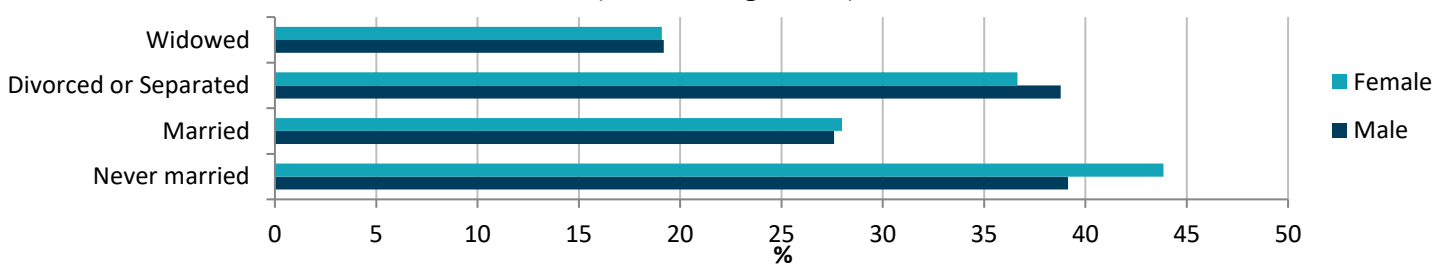


Table 13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status

	In a registered marriage	In a de facto marriage	Total couples	% couples in de facto marriages
Both persons Catholic	134,735	15,586	150,321	10.4
One person Catholic, the other non-Catholic Christian	62,010	11,466	73,476	15.6
One Catholic, the other non-Christian, not stated or temporarily absent	74,901	28,894	103,795	27.8
Total	271,646	55,946	327,592	17.1



Families

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

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

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

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

Table 14: Family composition ¹ by weekly family income	Less than \$500	\$500 - 799	\$800 - \$1,249	\$1,250 - \$1,999	\$2,000 - \$2,999	\$3,000 - \$3,999	\$4,000 or more	Income not fully stated	Total families	Median Family Income ² (\$)
Two-parent families with children at home:										
Both parents Catholic	1,283	1,680	4,570	12,869	22,303	16,586	22,558	4,289	86,138	2,920
One parent Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	327	483	1,527	5,006	9,488	8,010	13,360	2,168	40,369	3,283
One parent Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	491	703	1,905	7,102	14,421	12,073	17,741	2,709	57,145	3,215
Couples with no children living at home:										
Both partners Catholic	6,267	11,102	10,416	11,689	11,435	5,917	5,389	1,974	64,189	1,463
One partner Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	2,026	4,063	5,309	6,566	6,735	3,612	3,988	799	33,098	1,792
One partner Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	1,667	2,579	4,041	7,374	11,212	7,008	7,019	918	41,818	2,427
One-parent families:										
Parent is Catholic	3,944	5,111	9,080	11,045	7,854	2,513	1,887	3,717	45,151	1,425
Other families where at least one person is Catholic										
Other: Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,840	4,840	-
Total	17,072	27,024	39,639	65,757	87,497	57,870	74,349	22,418	391,626	2,401

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	12,124	2,352	1,758	616	232	17,082
\$500-\$799	20,336	2,945	2,480	933	335	27,029
\$800-\$1,249	27,926	5,006	4,445	1,678	587	39,642
\$1,250-\$1,999	38,729	10,829	11,266	3,848	1,109	65,781
\$2,000-\$2,999	44,543	15,862	19,576	6,197	1,317	87,495
\$3,000-\$3,999	26,156	11,331	14,880	4,704	807	57,878
\$4,000 or more	28,407	14,703	21,723	8,102	1,432	74,367
Income not fully stated	12,560	3,930	3,882	1,544	514	22,430
Total Families	210,781	66,958	80,010	27,622	6,333	391,704
Median Family Income (\$)	1,999	2,654	2,925	2,962	2,490	2,401

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

**Weekly Family Income
(Catholic families)**

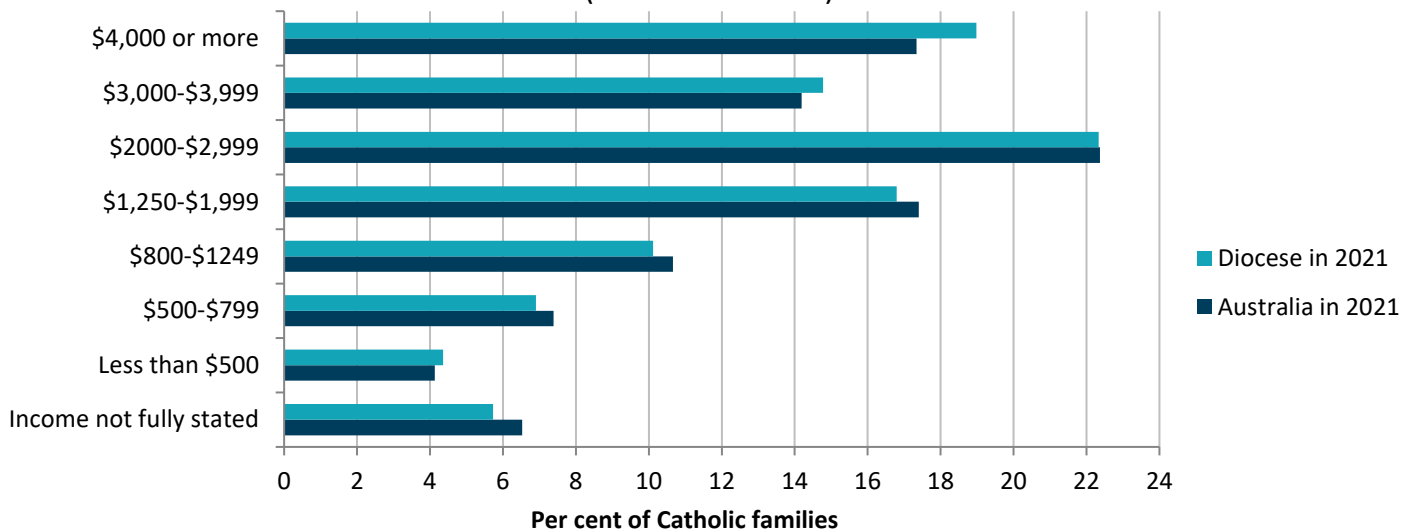


Table 16: Social marital status by number of dependent children

	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more dependent children	Total
Family Composition:						
Married couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	142,456	42,240	60,665	21,704	4,584	271,649
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	37,735	8,543	6,896	2,100	672	55,946
One parent family, parent Catholic	21,332	12,360	8,374	2,408	676	45,150
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	9,210	3,808	4,044	1,419	392	18,873
Total families	210,733	66,951	79,979	27,631	6,324	391,618



Households

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

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

There were 9,808,428 households in Australia in 2021. At least one Catholic person lived in 2,567,352 households, or 26 per cent of all households. Seventy-seven per cent of these Catholic households were family households and, of the Catholic family households, 77 per cent were occupied dwellings that were owned or being purchased.

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

	Fully owned or being purchased	Rented from State or Territory Housing	Rented from other landlord, or landlord not stated	Other households	Total households	Per cent owned or being purchased
Family households	308,445	3,788	71,296	5,956	389,485	79.2
Lone person aged under 35 years	4,984	137	6,321	440	11,882	41.9
Lone person aged 35 years or over	65,318	4,232	18,771	3,781	92,102	70.9
Group households	4,962	393	11,594	571	17,520	28.3
Total households	383,709	8,550	107,982	10,748	510,989	75.1

	\$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	8,008	9,616	28,856	41,863	24,573	42,952	2,050
Lone person aged under 35 years	64	165	1,189	1,610	472	381	1,794
Lone person aged 35 years or over	1,694	1,825	4,286	3,661	1,335	1,725	1,524
Group households	149	207	553	662	264	326	1,755
Total households	9,915	11,813	34,884	47,796	26,644	45,384	1,996

Notes:

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



Birthplace

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

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

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

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



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

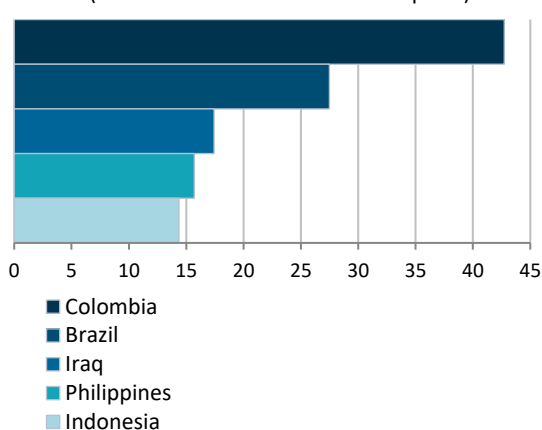


Table 19: Birthplace

	All Catholics	% of Catholics	% recent arrivals ¹
Australia	698,224	67.2	-
New Zealand	8,962	0.9	7.3
Other Oceania	2,871	0.3	8.0
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	18,477	1.8	3.7
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	10,711	1.0	11.6
Italy	50,220	4.8	1.0
Malta	13,946	1.3	0.2
Spain and Portugal	3,831	0.4	4.5
France	2,106	0.2	11.7
Netherlands	3,620	0.3	0.9
Germany	4,914	0.5	3.1
Austria	1,427	0.1	1.1
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	14,058	1.4	0.4
Poland	8,354	0.8	1.6
Hungary	1,696	0.2	1.1
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	4,451	0.4	2.8
Other Europe NEC	1,199	0.1	7.5
Vietnam	17,600	1.7	5.6
Philippines	40,343	3.9	15.7
Indonesia	4,699	0.5	14.4
Malaysia	5,579	0.5	9.5
Singapore	2,462	0.2	10.6
South East Asia NEC	3,769	0.4	6.2
India	21,126	2.0	11.0
Sri Lanka	11,491	1.1	9.4
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	3,303	0.3	10.8
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	2,631	0.3	8.9
Korea, Republic of (South)	2,252	0.2	8.1
Egypt	2,112	0.2	0.5
Lebanon	4,157	0.4	3.7
Iraq	14,373	1.4	17.4
Sudan (including South Sudan)	2,019	0.2	1.3
Middle East and North Africa NEC	4,906	0.5	11.9
South Africa	2,801	0.3	5.9
Mauritius	5,593	0.5	2.1
United States of America	2,799	0.3	13.3
Canada	1,275	0.1	10.1
Argentina	2,211	0.2	9.6
Brazil	2,125	0.2	27.5
Colombia	6,211	0.6	42.7
Chile	3,566	0.3	7.0
Central America and South America NEC	5,860	0.6	9.8
Other countries	5,365	0.5	9.7
Inadequately described/Not stated	8,596	0.8	0.1
Total	1,038,291	100.0	2.5

Notes:

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

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



Language

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

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

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

Table 20: Language spoken at home by religious affiliation

	Catholic	Not Catholic (or not stated)	All persons	% Catholics among speakers ²
English	733,234	2,393,626	3,126,860	23.4
Italian	71,919	12,300	84,219	85.4
Maltese	12,258	874	13,132	93.3
Spanish	20,691	18,058	38,749	53.4
Croatian	15,280	2,317	17,597	86.8
Polish	8,960	3,325	12,285	72.9
Dutch	1,271	3,926	5,197	24.5
French	5,864	10,076	15,940	36.8
German	2,948	11,046	13,994	21.1
Portuguese	4,396	4,051	8,447	52.0
Hungarian	2,387	1,868	4,255	56.1
Ukrainian	1,260	963	2,223	56.7
Vietnamese	26,792	88,034	114,826	23.3
Filipino languages	33,757	11,261	45,018	75.0
Chinese languages	13,149	290,011	303,160	4.3
Malayalam	7,677	10,079	17,756	43.2
Sinhalese	6,106	30,234	36,340	16.8
Korean	2,510	12,986	15,496	16.2
Indonesian & Malay	4,836	17,226	22,062	21.9
Arabic	13,766	70,846	84,612	16.3
Assyrian and Chaldean	14,742	6,258	21,000	70.2
Oceanic and Papuan languages	2,813	14,872	17,685	15.9
Australian Indigenous Languages	61	627	688	8.9
Other European languages NEC	6,302	193,244	199,546	3.2
Other Asian languages NEC	8,826	352,101	360,927	2.4
Other languages NEC	5,458	117,406	122,864	4.4
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/Not stated	11,004	246,510	257,514	4.3
Total	1,038,267	3,924,125	4,962,392	20.9

Notes:

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

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

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



Language

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

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

Table 21: Language spoken at home by age	0-4	5-11	12-19	20-29	30-39	40-59	60 and over	Total	% who do not speak English well
English	34,614	70,477	87,069	85,275	176,870	154,442	124,482	733,229	-
Italian	938	1,488	1,840	2,624	11,866	17,499	35,663	71,918	14.7
Maltese	105	181	182	328	1,778	2,376	7,311	12,261	8.1
Spanish	870	1,126	856	2,938	8,307	2,800	3,783	20,680	11.7
Croatian	344	650	720	886	3,164	3,155	6,363	15,282	14.4
Polish	189	321	310	481	1,904	2,082	3,662	8,949	12.3
Dutch	14	50	76	31	163	210	731	1,275	1.9
French	235	358	338	430	1,736	1,078	1,693	5,868	3.5
German	121	188	160	144	606	479	1,253	2,951	2.0
Portuguese	193	248	185	438	1,732	806	796	4,398	10.7
Hungarian	34	74	77	69	375	453	1,302	2,384	11.1
Ukrainian	37	60	52	66	259	236	553	1,263	9.8
Vietnamese	1,289	2,163	3,018	4,240	7,717	5,673	2,689	26,789	26.8
Filipino languages	865	1,314	1,950	4,343	14,364	7,154	3,765	33,755	2.5
Chinese languages	498	1,139	1,041	1,604	3,997	2,394	2,486	13,159	16.2
Malayalam	581	1,164	910	951	3,275	639	157	7,677	5.5
Sinhalese	254	401	406	1,204	2,174	1,081	581	6,101	4.2
Korean	132	295	216	249	1,155	334	128	2,509	20.0
Indonesian & Malay	212	341	325	1,000	2,041	509	403	4,831	7.2
Arabic	459	810	1,177	1,856	4,190	2,905	2,371	13,768	19.0
Assyrian and Chaldean	981	1,995	2,233	2,202	4,112	2,150	1,075	14,748	28.5
Oceanic and Papuan languages	153	235	305	436	932	545	200	2,806	7.3
Australian Indigenous Languages	3	4	7	10	21	9	-	54	5.1
Other European languages NEC	287	445	391	412	1,470	1,134	2,170	6,309	9.5
Other Asian languages NEC	435	787	695	1,253	3,444	1,404	812	8,830	10.1
Other languages NEC	369	679	693	790	1,961	652	306	5,450	11.4
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/ Not stated	1,167	744	728	798	2,117	1,804	3,649	11,007	12.9
Total	45,379	87,737	105,960	115,058	261,730	214,003	208,384	1,038,251	3.9

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.

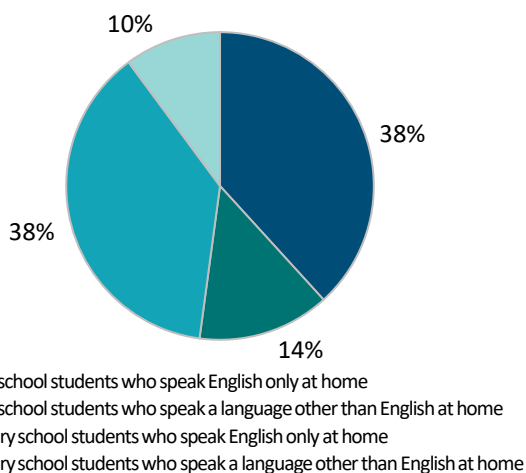
How does the diocese connect with Catholic students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, especially those not attending Catholic schools?

Table 22: Type of educational institution attending by religious affiliation

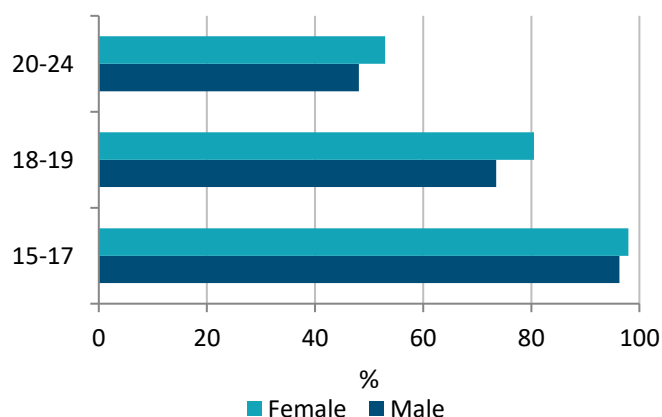
	Catholic	Not Catholic or not stated	All persons	% Catholic
Infants/Primary – Government	28,503	239,915	268,418	10.6
Infants/Primary – Catholic	54,223	22,968	77,191	70.2
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	4,340	41,026	45,366	9.6
Secondary – Government	23,936	148,356	172,292	13.9
Secondary – Catholic	46,042	24,845	70,887	65.0
Secondary – Other Non-Government	8,695	60,535	69,230	12.6
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	22,589	97,328	119,917	18.8
University or other Tertiary Institutions	49,008	235,952	284,960	17.2
Other (including pre-school)	30,423	135,119	165,542	18.4
Not stated/Not applicable ¹	770,517	2,918,078	3,688,595	20.9
Total	1,038,276	3,924,122	4,962,398	20.9

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

Language background of all students attending Catholic schools



Education participation rate (Catholics aged 15-24)



Attendance at Educational Institutions

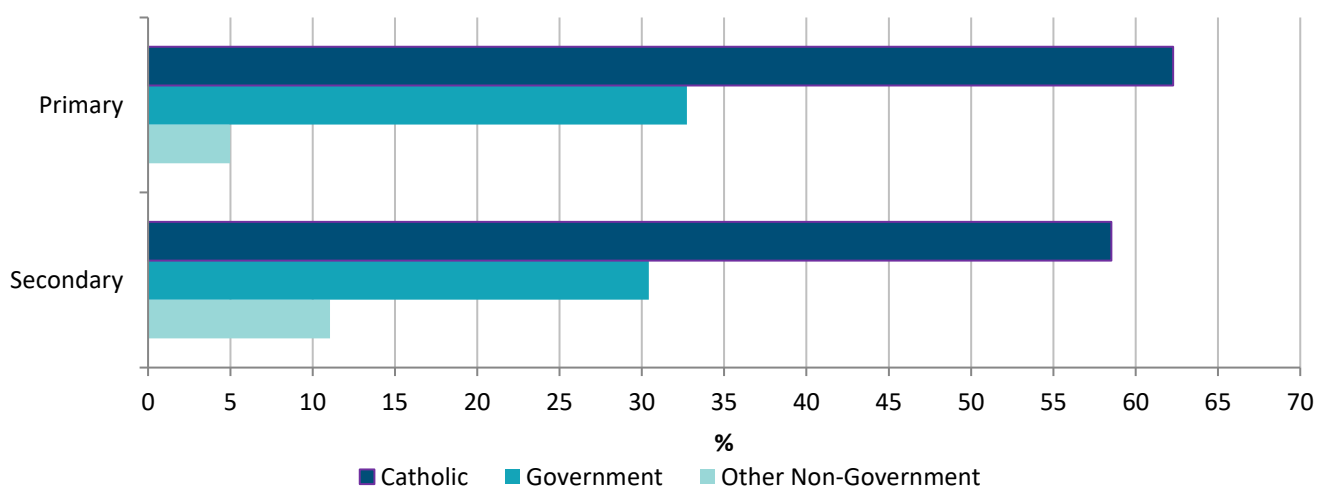
Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family¹

	Less than \$500	\$500-\$799	\$800-\$1,249	\$1,250-\$1,999	\$2,000-\$2,999	\$3,000-\$3,999	\$4,000 or more	Total ²	Median annual family income ³ (\$)
Infants/Primary – Government	1,055	1,538	2,346	4,864	7,035	4,337	5,641	27,954	130,983
Infants/Primary – Catholic	1,396	1,904	3,288	7,507	12,997	10,180	14,256	53,398	151,058
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	89	89	166	407	684	646	2,081	4,323	208,571
Secondary – Government	936	1,474	2,421	4,462	5,580	3,221	3,082	22,616	116,383
Secondary – Catholic	886	1,205	2,426	5,807	10,040	8,866	13,334	44,957	161,799
Secondary – Other Non-Government	171	142	288	690	1,141	1,149	4,156	8,275	160,026
TAFE, University or other Tertiary institution	311	491	1,173	3,081	5,302	4,648	8,817	25,547	173,844
Other (including pre-school)	194	292	478	1,025	1,622	1,120	1,410	6,368	139,013
Not stated or not applicable	219	137	220	396	387	191	197	2,005	94,535
Total	5,257	7,272	12,806	28,239	44,788	34,358	52,974	195,443	149,963

Notes:

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

Type of school being attended by Catholic students



Educational Qualifications

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

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

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

Table 24: Highest qualification attained by age and sex

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15+							
Males							
Postgraduate degree	340	4,519	5,326	4,757	3,718	3,045	21,705
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	4,800	17,721	17,692	15,468	11,221	10,009	76,911
Advanced diploma or diploma level	1,964	5,167	7,148	7,904	6,327	6,478	34,988
Certificate level	6,490	14,352	15,172	18,628	18,067	20,148	92,857
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	48,623	13,721	14,562	21,613	24,941	50,298	173,758
Total	62,217	55,480	59,900	68,370	64,274	89,978	400,219
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>40.1</i>	<i>38.4</i>	<i>29.6</i>	<i>23.2</i>	<i>14.5</i>	<i>24.6</i>
Females							
Postgraduate degree	541	7,048	7,202	5,361	3,485	2,371	26,008
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	7,355	27,957	28,169	23,514	14,848	12,285	114,128
Advanced diploma or diploma level	2,932	7,972	10,184	11,926	9,346	8,500	50,860
Certificate level	4,566	8,290	10,255	12,516	11,855	9,231	56,713
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	45,007	11,314	13,497	24,896	34,815	86,036	215,565
Total	60,401	62,581	69,307	78,213	74,349	118,423	463,274
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>55.9</i>	<i>51.0</i>	<i>36.9</i>	<i>24.7</i>	<i>12.4</i>	<i>30.2</i>
All Catholics							
Postgraduate degree	881	11,567	12,528	10,118	7,203	5,416	47,713
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	12,155	45,678	45,861	38,982	26,069	22,294	191,039
Advanced diploma or diploma level	4,896	13,139	17,332	19,830	15,673	14,978	85,848
Certificate level	11,056	22,642	25,427	31,144	29,922	29,379	149,570
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	93,630	25,035	28,059	46,509	59,756	136,334	389,323
Total	122,618	118,061	129,207	146,583	138,623	208,401	863,493
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>48.5</i>	<i>45.2</i>	<i>33.5</i>	<i>24.0</i>	<i>13.3</i>	<i>27.6</i>

Note:

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



Employment

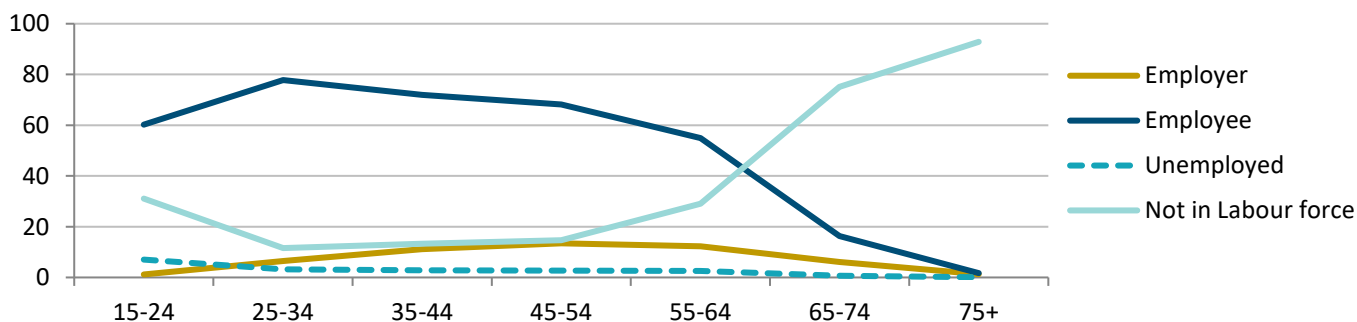
In recent years there have been many changes in society and the workplace that have affected Australian workers. One major change has been the increase in the percentages of workers, especially young people and women, in part-time jobs. Another has been the rise in participation in the labour force by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

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

Table 25: Labour force status by age and sex

	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15+					
Males					
Employer	896	14,612	25,288	5,751	46,547
Employee	35,584	86,103	79,650	9,692	211,029
Unemployed	4,665	3,701	3,995	514	12,875
Not in the labour force	20,675	9,752	22,113	71,554	124,094
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	391	1,227	1,601	2,469	5,688
Total	62,211	115,395	132,647	89,980	400,233
<i>Per cent in labour force²</i>	66.1	90.5	82.1	17.7	67.6
<i>Per cent unemployed³</i>	11.3	3.5	3.7	3.2	4.8
Females					
Employer	552	7,485	11,406	2,063	21,506
Employee	38,193	98,741	96,486	9,629	243,049
Unemployed	3,959	3,638	3,581	280	11,458
Not in the labour force	17,406	21,023	39,720	102,745	180,894
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	293	1,007	1,368	3,696	6,364
Total	60,403	131,894	152,561	118,413	463,271
<i>Per cent in labour force²</i>	70.7	83.3	73.1	10.1	59.6
<i>Per cent unemployed³</i>	9.3	3.3	3.2	2.3	4.2

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



Notes:

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. *Australian Social Trends 2004. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.115.*
2. The percentage of Catholics in each age group who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).
3. The percentage of Catholics in each age group who were in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.



Occupation

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

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics aged 15+							
Males							
Managers	1,167	5,289	11,161	13,675	9,734	2,979	44,005
Professionals	2,993	12,096	12,372	10,922	8,302	3,352	50,037
Technicians & Trade Workers	8,851	12,312	11,078	11,654	9,168	2,515	55,578
Community & Personal Service Workers	3,876	3,130	2,522	2,763	2,286	679	15,256
Clerical & Administrative Workers	2,205	3,630	3,834	4,161	3,714	1,256	18,800
Sales Workers	6,832	2,671	2,593	3,021	2,460	967	18,544
Machinery Operators & Drivers	2,233	3,393	4,060	5,946	6,079	1,717	23,428
Labourers	7,739	4,912	4,174	5,155	4,801	1,851	28,632
ID / NS / NA ¹	26,317	8,047	8,126	11,075	17,721	74,662	145,948
Total	62,213	55,480	59,920	68,372	64,265	89,978	400,228
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	11.6	36.7	45.4	42.9	38.8	41.3	37.0
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	52.4	43.5	37.3	39.7	43.1	39.7	42.3
Females							
Managers	1,230	5,244	8,208	8,835	4,798	1,095	29,410
Professionals	4,552	20,898	19,801	16,834	10,576	2,683	75,344
Technicians & Trade Workers	1,386	2,361	2,238	2,316	1,572	374	10,247
Community & Personal Service Workers	9,010	7,032	6,538	8,582	7,086	1,523	39,771
Clerical & Administrative Workers	4,534	8,557	11,382	15,651	13,404	3,581	57,109
Sales Workers	14,059	3,557	3,288	4,656	4,099	1,055	30,714
Machinery Operators & Drivers	605	648	688	1,091	943	194	4,169
Labourers	2,897	2,419	2,089	3,066	3,476	1,101	15,048
ID / NS / NA ¹	22,135	11,869	15,079	17,169	28,395	106,811	201,458
Total	60,408	62,585	69,311	78,200	74,349	118,417	463,270
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	15.1	51.5	51.6	42.1	33.5	32.6	40.0
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	12.8	10.7	9.2	10.6	13.0	14.4	11.3
All Catholics							
Managers	2,397	10,533	19,369	22,510	14,532	4,074	73,415
Professionals	7,545	32,994	32,173	27,756	18,878	6,035	125,381
Technicians & Trade Workers	10,237	14,673	13,316	13,970	10,740	2,889	65,825
Community & Personal Service Workers	12,886	10,162	9,060	11,345	9,372	2,202	55,027
Clerical & Administrative Workers	6,739	12,187	15,216	19,812	17,118	4,837	75,909
Sales Workers	20,891	6,228	5,881	7,677	6,559	2,022	49,258
Machinery Operators & Drivers	2,838	4,041	4,748	7,037	7,022	1,911	27,597
Labourers	10,636	7,331	6,263	8,221	8,277	2,952	43,680
ID / NS / NA ¹	48,452	19,916	23,205	28,244	46,116	181,473	347,406
Total	122,621	118,065	129,231	146,572	138,614	208,395	863,498
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	13.4	44.3	48.6	42.5	36.1	37.5	38.5
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	32.0	26.5	22.9	24.7	28.2	28.8	26.6

Notes:

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

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



Occupation

Occupation is one of the many indicators of socioeconomic status.

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

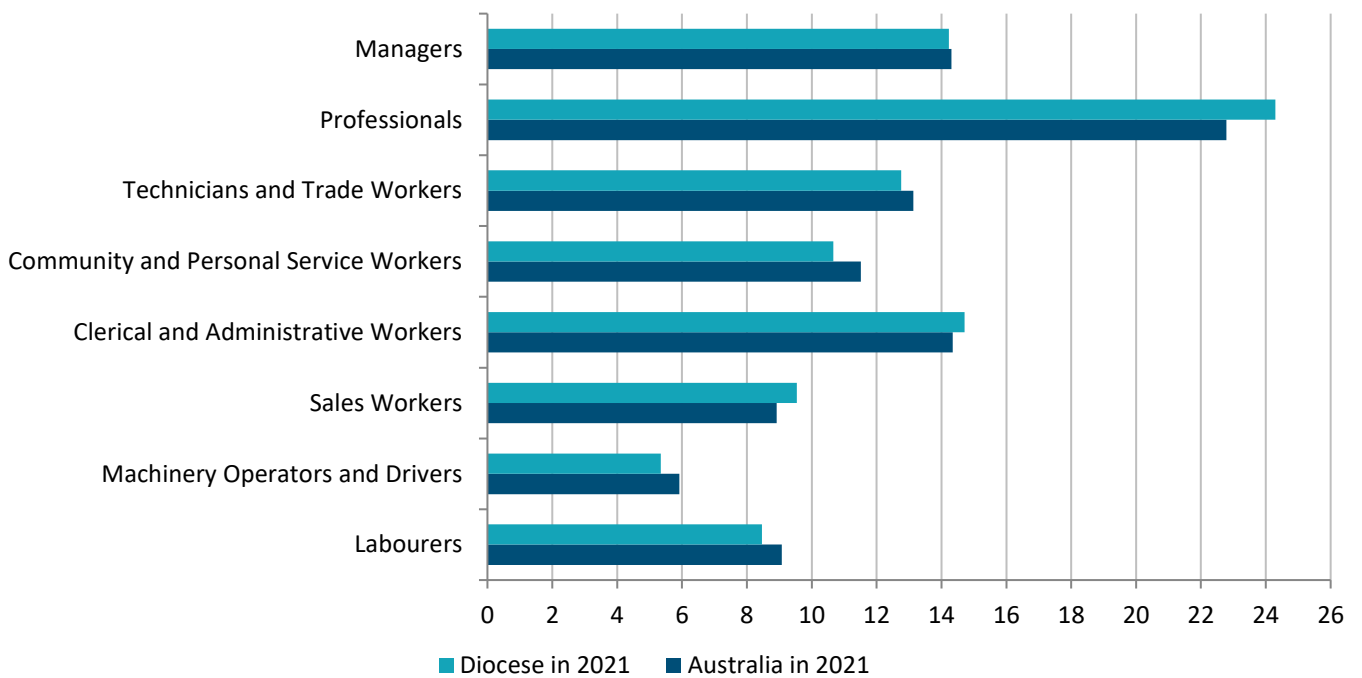
Table 27: Occupation by religious affiliation¹ (%)

	Catholic	Non-Catholic
All persons aged 15+ with an occupation		
Managers	14.2	14.2
Professionals	24.3	28.7
Technicians & Trade Workers	12.8	12.1
Community & Personal Service Workers	10.7	10.8
Clerical & Administrative Workers	14.7	12.5
Sales Workers	9.5	8.1
Machinery Operators & Drivers	5.3	5.8
Labourers	8.5	7.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Note:

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

Occupation
(Catholics aged 15+ with an occupation)



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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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