



DIOCESAN SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census

Archdiocese of Perth



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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: 2,114,911

Catholic Population: 411,173

Catholics make up 19.4 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 42 years

Total Catholic families: 161,722

39,110 Catholics live alone

154,363 Catholics were born overseas

8,631 Catholics do not speak English well

22,176 Catholics need assistance with core activities

137,775 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	346,419	363,362	379,329	426,872	429,715	411,173
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	22.3	21.6	20.2	20.3	19.9	18.4
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	10.2	11.3	12.6	12.8	14.9	18.7
Catholics born in NESC ² (%)	23.1	21.7	21.1	21.8	23.8	25.9
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	3.2	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.1
Catholic families	123,956	134,503	142,999	160,355	164,553	161,722
Catholics living alone	26,454	31,945	34,463	36,488	36,081	39,110
Catholic students attending Catholic schools (%)	52.1	54.5	57.1	56.8	54.8	54.7
Catholics with university degree (%)	10.4	12.8	16.0	19.4	23.1	26.5
Catholic males in labour force (%)	73.0	63.1	72.3	73.9	73.0	71.7
Catholic females in labour force (%)	55.2	52.9	58.0	60.7	62.7	62.9
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	72.6	74.3	75.3	74.1	75.0	77.2

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	2,114,911	1,948,734	25,422,788	23,401,892	4	4
Catholic population	411,173	429,715	5,075,910	5,291,834	4	4
Per cent Catholic	19.4	22.1	20.0	22.6	17	17
At same address since previous Census (%)	60.5	54.2	59.4	57.3	10	20
Median age ⁴ (years)	42	38	43	40	17	21
Aged 0-14 (%)	18.4	19.9	17.9	19.8	16	21
Aged 65+ (%)	18.7	14.9	19.9	16.6	21	22
Males per 100 females	88.8	91.2	89.1	90.6	19	16

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 (%)	5.4	4.4	6.7	5.8	25	25
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability ⁵ (% of Catholics aged 15+)	12.4	11.1	13.5	12.5	24	26

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)	36.0	33.7	37.1	34.1	7	7
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations ² (% of those recording an occupation)	29.6	30.9	28.1	29.6	19	21
Men, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	71.7	73.0	66.5	69.7	2	4
Women, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	62.9	62.7	59.7	60.6	7	6
Unemployed at time of Census ⁴ (%)	4.5	7.0	4.2	5.8	5	3
Youth unemployed at time of Census ⁵ (%)	9.8	14.0	8.9	12.2	4	3

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	11.7	12.2	5.5	5.6	1	1
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	25.9	23.8	21.4	19.1	4	4
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries & arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	7,680	12,868	97,457	106,428	4	3
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	6,760	6,836	135,686	133,528	5	4
Speak language other than English at home (%)	22.9	22.1	21.5	20.4	7	6
Not proficient in English ^{7, 8} (%)	2.1	2.3	2.7	2.6	6	6

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 (%)	26.5	23.1	24.6	20.6	5	5
Catholics attending an educational institution (% of all Catholics in each age group)						
Aged 15-17	96.2	93.6	94.9	92.2	4	5
Aged 18-19	66.9	64.9	67.2	62.9	6	6
Aged 20-24	46.0	38.8	43.4	38.2	5	6
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)	53.5	53.0	55.5	53.1	15	12
Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)	41.1	41.6	38.4	41.0	13	17
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)	56.0	57.1	55.3	54.5	11	7
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)	34.1	32.3	33.4	35.1	18	24
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ¹ (%)	32.0	22.2	36.6	28.1	22	25
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ¹ (%)	38.8	33.3	41.3	35.7	21	21

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



Overview

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

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

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

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

Table 6: Marital Status of Catholics aged 15+

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Never married (%)	32.4	33.5	32.9	33.3	13	10
Married (%)	51.0	51.0	49.3	49.7	5	6
Divorced or Separated (%)	11.2	10.6	11.7	11.2	22	22
Widowed (%)	5.4	4.9	6.1	5.8	24	24

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	161,722	164,533	1,995,658	1,997,833	4	4
One-parent families	16,928	17,044	225,180	231,370	4	4
One-parent families (% of all families)	10.5	10.4	11.3	11.6	20	25
Couples of mixed religions ² (%)	56.4	54.5	58.1	55.9	23	23
De facto couples (%)	17.0	17.5	17.7	17.7	24	18
Median annual family income ³ (\$)	129,366	112,562	120,943	100,270	5	6

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	207,288	208,411	2,567,362	2,548,354	4	4
Persons living alone (aged under 35)	4,565	4,998	51,145	53,499	4	4
Persons living alone (aged 35+)	34,545	31,083	442,080	407,684	4	4
Persons living alone (total)	39,110	36,081	493,225	461,183	4	4
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	9.5	8.4	9.7	8.7	20	19
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	77.2	75.0	73.0	71.2	5	4
Median monthly housing loan repayment ⁵ (\$)	1,979	2,052	1,948	1,873	9	6

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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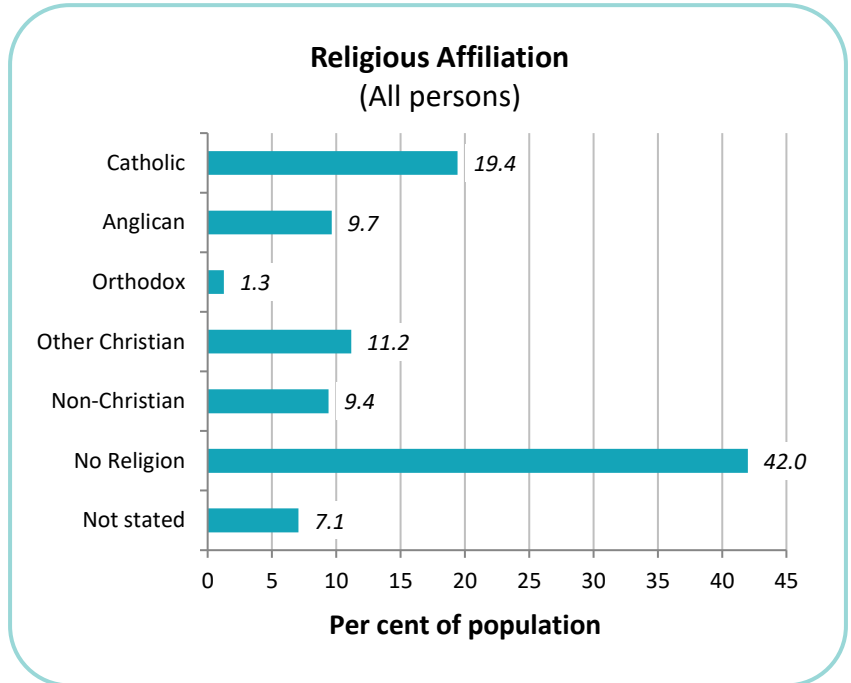
Religious Affiliation

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	45,993	55,379	42,919	51,436	55,420	56,597	47,717	33,980	20,391	409,832
Maronite Catholic	18	14	9	20	13	10	14	9	-	107
Melkite Catholic	-	9	6	3	3	3	5	5	-	34
Ukrainian Catholic	11	21	17	29	21	20	48	35	10	212
Chaldean Catholic	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Syro-Malabar Catholic	196	267	48	102	244	98	7	5	-	967
Total Catholic	46,218	55,690	42,999	51,594	55,701	56,728	47,791	34,034	20,401	411,156
Per cent Catholic (of total population in age group)	17.3	21.7	15.5	15.8	19.6	21.5	22.2	23.4	25.5	19.4
Anglican	9,963	16,748	11,070	13,242	23,507	36,331	37,944	34,714	20,696	204,215
Orthodox	2,923	3,163	2,564	3,518	3,978	3,777	3,272	2,141	1,588	26,924
Other Christian	26,163	28,491	23,849	29,514	31,357	31,866	29,693	22,567	12,427	235,927
Non-Christian	31,796	22,382	30,625	44,917	29,659	17,919	12,862	6,403	2,289	198,852
No Religion	133,916	116,418	144,611	156,522	118,082	98,451	70,009	36,185	14,090	888,284
Not Stated	15,439	14,251	22,375	26,371	21,221	18,364	13,692	9,437	8,370	149,520
Total Population	266,418	257,143	278,093	325,678	283,505	263,436	215,263	145,481	79,861	2,114,878

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	1,748	1,708	3,456	4,374
1	1,905	1,801	3,706	4,899
2	2,036	1,977	4,013	5,331
3	2,180	2,041	4,221	5,427
4	2,375	2,227	4,602	5,550
5	2,551	2,459	5,010	5,799
6	2,592	2,363	4,955	5,913
7	2,613	2,610	5,223	6,055
8	2,796	2,687	5,483	6,284
9	2,765	2,780	5,545	6,227
10	2,877	2,842	5,719	6,211
11	2,935	2,827	5,762	5,916
12	3,092	2,836	5,928	6,060
13	3,080	3,001	6,081	5,900
14	2,981	2,837	5,818	5,773
15	2,895	2,801	5,696	5,849
16	2,767	2,621	5,388	5,936
17	2,803	2,583	5,386	5,728
18	2,518	2,525	5,043	5,587
19	2,492	2,359	4,851	5,488
20-24	11,284	11,370	22,654	25,503
25-29	9,375	10,971	20,346	27,264
30-34	10,693	13,304	23,997	30,109
35-39	12,600	14,997	27,597	28,982
40-44	12,501	14,694	27,195	30,373
45-49	13,275	15,242	28,517	30,841
50-54	13,569	15,474	29,043	29,243
55-59	12,990	14,710	27,700	26,352
60-64	11,520	13,840	25,360	22,816
65-69	9,923	12,505	22,428	20,782
70-74	9,157	11,104	20,261	14,713
75-79	6,280	7,494	13,774	12,105
80+	8,203	12,201	20,404	16,333
Total	193,371	217,791	411,162	429,723

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?

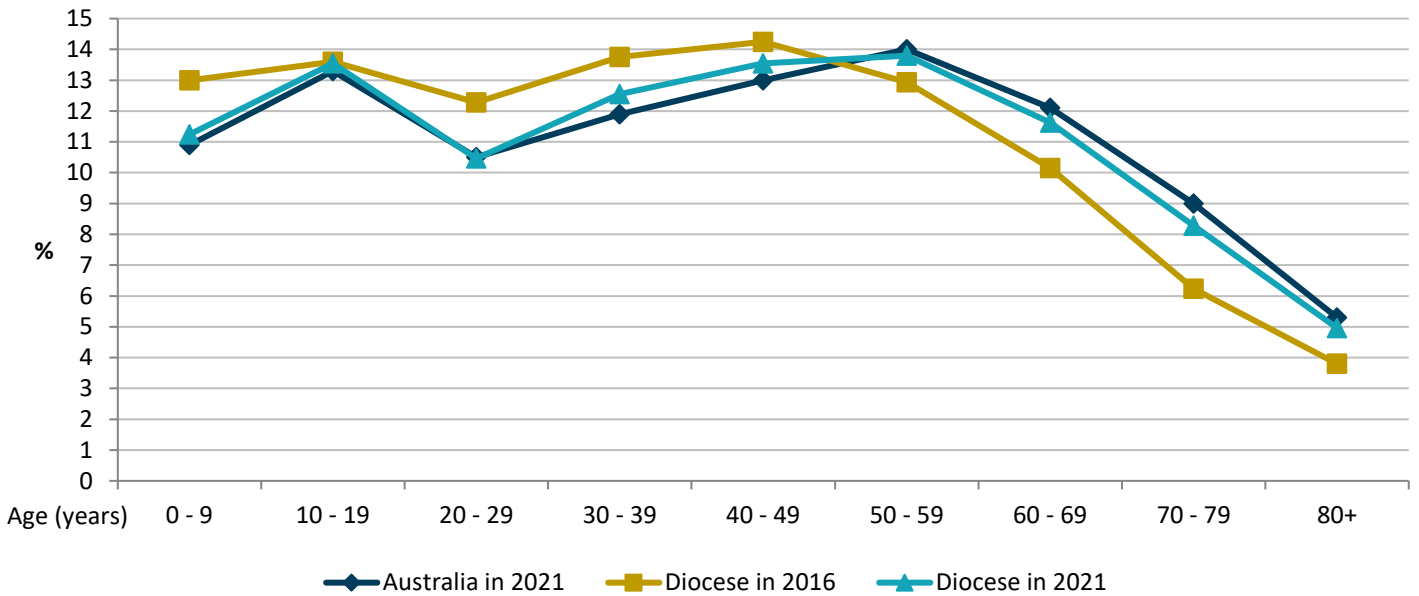
Does this data suggest any new challenges for the diocese?

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.

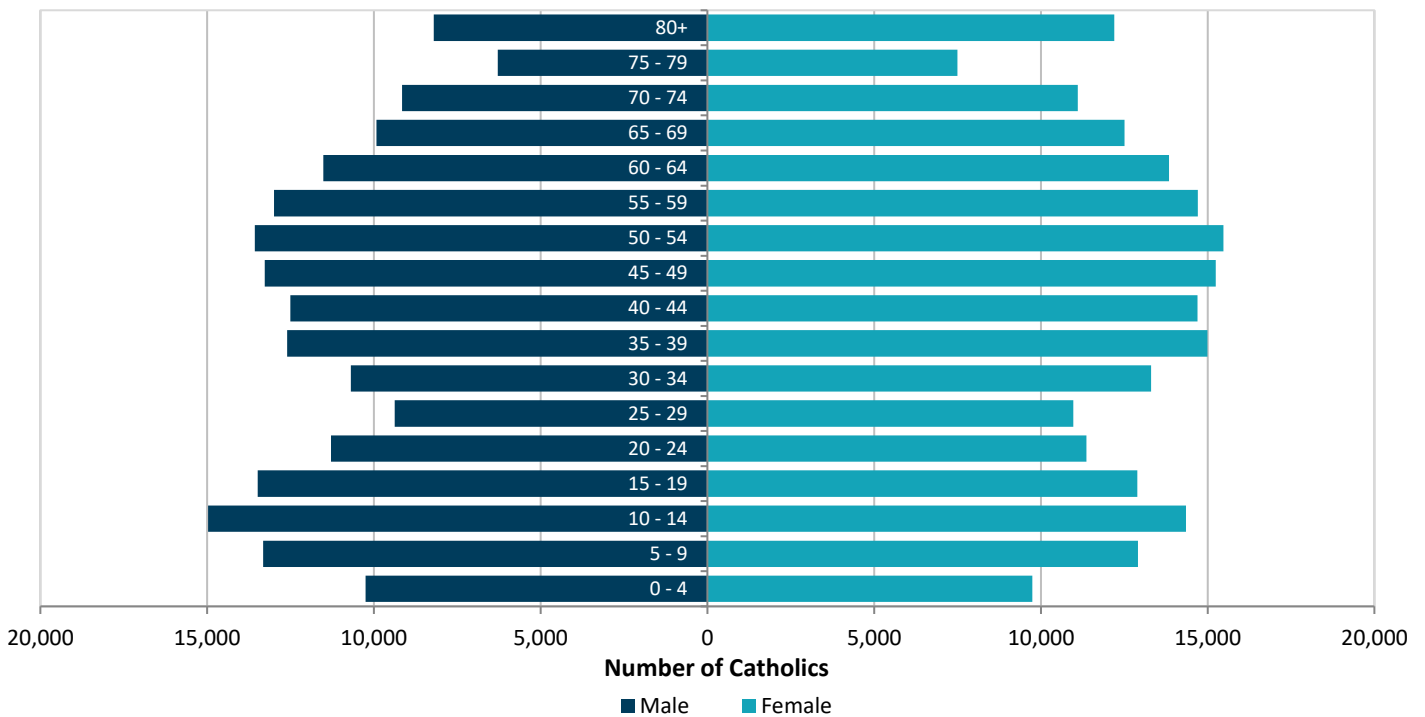


Age and Sex

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	1,370	1,170	965	979	1,369	923	6,776
Females	724	992	1,354	1,234	1,692	1,168	7,164
Lone Persons:							
Males	-	118	297	214	282	327	1,238
Females	-	92	360	377	951	1,226	3,006
Other non-family members or persons not present in a household on Census night³							
Males	27	134	293	191	361	469	1,475
Females	12	136	243	232	587	1,307	2,517
Total							
Males	1,397	1,422	1,555	1,384	2,012	1,719	9,489
Females	736	1,220	1,957	1,843	3,230	3,701	12,687

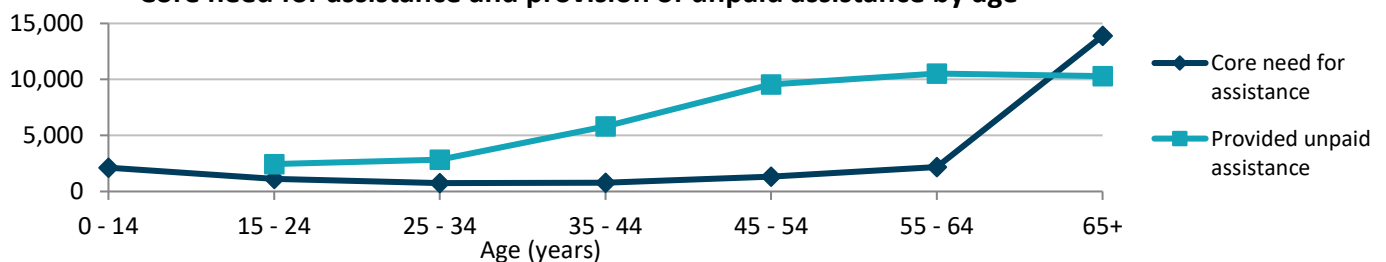
Table 11b: Provision of unpaid assistance by age

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability⁴							
Males	1,111	1,084	2,005	3,341	3,645	4,038	15,224
Females	1,337	1,750	3,818	6,198	6,880	6,262	26,245

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	24,627	14,005	7,113	4,895	3,142	1,344	663	55,789
Married	112	5,602	15,962	18,181	16,737	13,742	10,220	80,556
Divorced or Separated	22	449	1,992	3,641	4,269	3,308	1,558	15,239
Widowed	5	13	43	127	368	689	2,037	3,282
Total	24,766	20,069	25,110	26,844	24,516	19,083	14,478	154,866
Females								
Never married	23,983	13,878	6,415	4,290	2,509	1,173	785	53,033
Married	240	9,421	19,904	20,578	18,638	14,443	7,315	90,539
Divorced or Separated	35	943	3,217	5,386	6,068	4,672	2,156	22,477
Widowed	4	37	153	457	1,338	3,318	9,445	14,752
Total	24,262	24,279	29,689	30,711	28,553	23,606	19,701	180,801

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

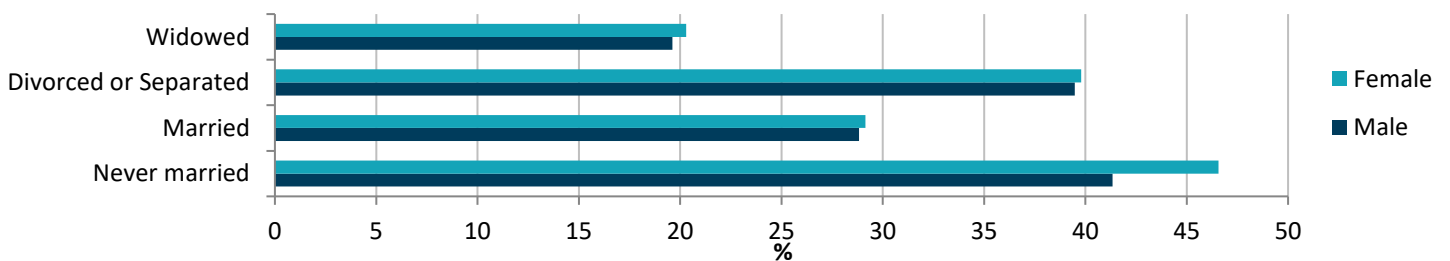


Table 13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status

	In a registered marriage	In a de facto marriage	Total couples	% couples in de facto marriages
Both persons Catholic	47,368	5,560	52,928	10.5
One person Catholic, the other non-Catholic Christian	29,754	4,898	34,652	14.1
One Catholic, the other non-Christian, not stated or temporarily absent	36,351	12,759	49,110	26.0
Total	113,473	23,217	136,690	17.0



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	263	386	1,201	4,098	8,061	6,243	8,472	1,756	30,480	3,056
One parent Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	114	159	496	1,763	3,883	3,464	5,859	1,056	16,794	3,419
One parent Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	172	265	815	2,942	6,286	5,325	7,448	1,198	24,451	3,215
Couples with no children living at home:										
Both partners Catholic	1,941	3,562	3,489	3,980	4,191	2,330	2,405	542	22,440	1,618
One partner Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	1,083	2,356	2,874	3,560	3,475	1,969	2,201	343	17,861	1,765
One partner Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	738	1,258	1,756	3,071	4,748	3,000	2,974	368	17,913	2,410
One-parent families:										
Parent is Catholic	1,502	2,060	3,352	3,986	2,837	901	756	1,534	16,928	1,397
Other families where at least one person is Catholic										
Other: Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,734	6,734	-
Total	6,257	10,549	15,062	25,075	35,162	24,260	31,399	13,958	161,722	2,481

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	4,469	912	614	200	71	6,266
\$500-\$799	8,028	1,195	895	308	122	10,548
\$800-\$1,249	10,709	1,978	1,589	561	226	15,063
\$1,250-\$1,999	14,794	4,216	4,212	1,408	441	25,071
\$2,000-\$2,999	17,395	6,534	7,913	2,720	591	35,153
\$3,000-\$3,999	10,649	4,745	6,423	2,035	403	24,255
\$4,000 or more	12,550	6,187	8,911	3,140	625	31,413
Income not fully stated	7,116	2,645	2,765	1,100	324	13,950
Total Families	85,710	28,412	33,322	11,472	2,803	161,719
Median Family Income (\$)	2,074	2,701	3,002	2,995	2,642	2,481

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)**

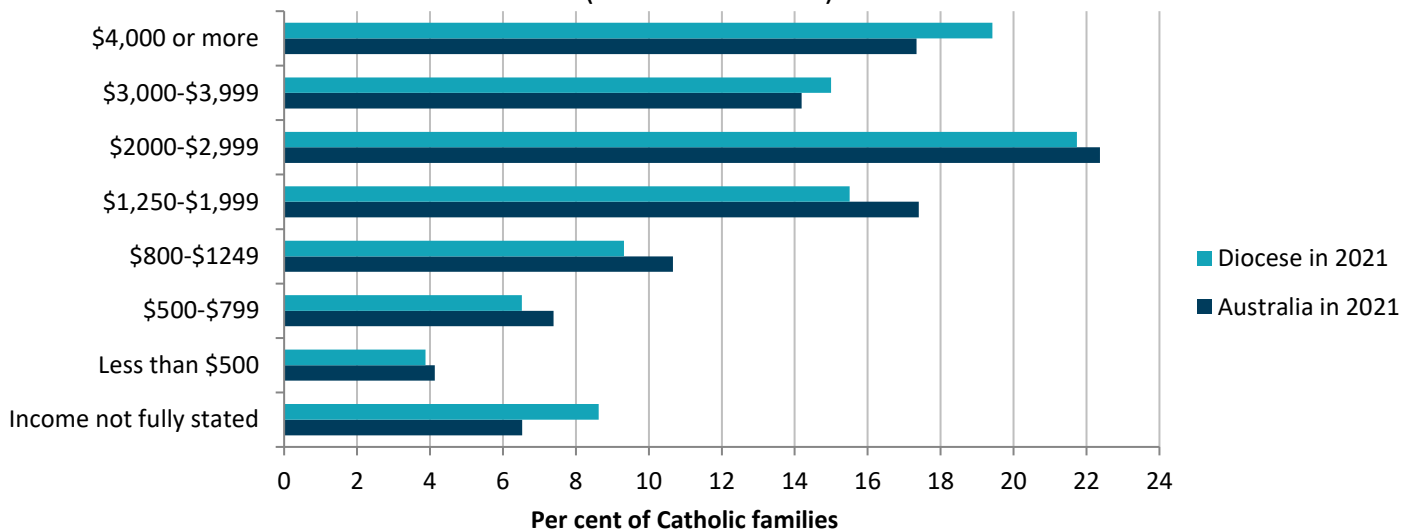


Table 16: Social marital status by number of dependent children

	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)	60,402	17,669	24,770	8,737	1,897	113,475
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	14,779	3,889	3,166	996	377	23,207
One parent family, parent Catholic	7,007	5,139	3,429	1,042	303	16,920
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	3,536	1,739	1,933	701	197	8,106
Total families	85,724	28,436	33,298	11,476	2,774	161,708



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	130,765	1,876	26,799	2,127	161,567	80.9
Lone person aged under 35 years	2,317	72	1,963	213	4,565	50.8
Lone person aged 35 years or over	24,577	2,149	6,411	1,408	34,545	71.1
Group households	2,466	156	3,769	220	6,611	37.3
Total households	160,125	4,253	38,942	3,968	207,288	77.2

	\$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	3,029	4,047	13,980	22,151	12,402	18,112	2,028
Lone person aged under 35 years	46	117	695	635	142	134	1,625
Lone person aged 35 years or over	640	764	1,923	1,804	637	733	1,576
Group households	77	154	370	389	150	146	1,664
Total households	3,792	5,082	16,968	24,979	13,331	19,125	1,979

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.



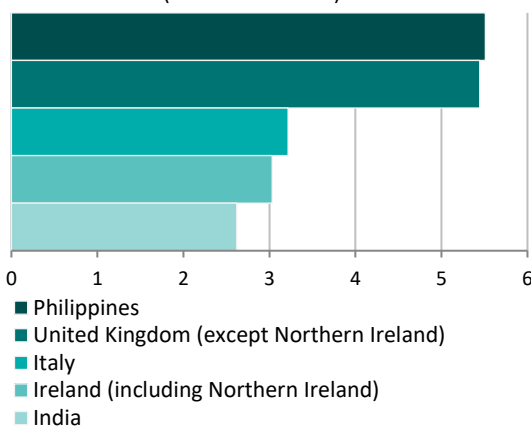
Birthplace

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)

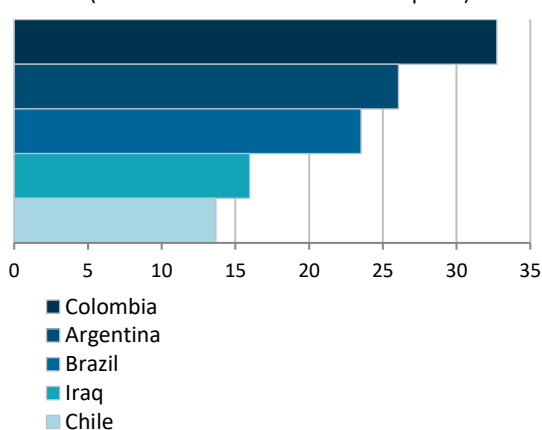


Table 19: Birthplace

	All Catholics	% of Catholics	% recent arrivals ¹
Australia	253,793	61.7	-
New Zealand	6,402	1.6	4.0
Other Oceania	746	0.2	6.6
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	22,387	5.4	2.6
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	12,466	3.0	6.6
Italy	13,227	3.2	1.9
Malta	538	0.1	1.5
Spain and Portugal	2,643	0.6	2.6
France	1,165	0.3	7.6
Netherlands	1,573	0.4	1.4
Germany	2,171	0.5	4.4
Austria	469	0.1	1.7
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	3,551	0.9	0.5
Poland	3,705	0.9	2.2
Hungary	483	0.1	2.9
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	1,457	0.4	3.6
Other Europe NEC	731	0.2	6.7
Vietnam	3,790	0.9	6.5
Philippines	22,655	5.5	11.5
Indonesia	3,073	0.7	9.2
Malaysia	4,778	1.2	6.8
Singapore	3,429	0.8	4.8
South East Asia NEC	3,710	0.9	2.3
India	10,771	2.6	6.3
Sri Lanka	1,502	0.4	9.6
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	651	0.2	8.4
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	651	0.2	10.6
Korea, Republic of (South)	793	0.2	8.3
Egypt	358	0.1	1.4
Lebanon	209	0.1	6.7
Iraq	119	0.0	16.0
Sudan (including South Sudan)	813	0.2	1.7
Middle East and North Africa NEC	1,158	0.3	8.0
South Africa	4,632	1.1	4.8
Mauritius	2,423	0.6	4.5
United States of America	1,377	0.3	12.9
Canada	702	0.2	8.4
Argentina	472	0.1	26.1
Brazil	1,892	0.5	23.5
Colombia	1,552	0.4	32.7
Chile	819	0.2	13.7
Central America and South America NEC	2,446	0.6	9.8
Other countries	5,874	1.4	7.9
Inadequately described/Not stated	2,994	0.7	0.2
Total	411,150	100.0	2.4

Notes:

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

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



Language

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

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

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

Table 20: Language spoken at home by religious affiliation

	Catholic	Not Catholic (or not stated)	All persons	% Catholics among speakers ²
English	312,881	1,240,836	1,553,717	20.1
Italian	18,660	4,475	23,135	80.7
Maltese	228	45	273	83.5
Spanish	6,075	5,776	11,851	51.3
Croatian	3,926	971	4,897	80.2
Polish	3,880	1,413	5,293	73.3
Dutch	684	2,760	3,444	19.9
French	3,139	5,419	8,558	36.7
German	1,495	5,720	7,215	20.7
Portuguese	4,390	3,308	7,698	57.0
Hungarian	517	620	1,137	45.5
Ukrainian	211	245	456	46.3
Vietnamese	5,473	16,220	21,693	25.2
Filipino languages	19,361	6,939	26,300	73.6
Chinese languages	4,549	68,368	72,917	6.2
Malayalam	4,630	4,348	8,978	51.6
Sinhalese	781	5,180	5,961	13.1
Korean	892	5,665	6,557	13.6
Indonesian & Malay	3,225	14,098	17,323	18.6
Arabic	1,128	14,407	15,535	7.3
Assyrian and Chaldean	74	99	173	42.8
Oceanic and Papuan languages	666	4,432	5,098	13.1
Australian Indigenous Languages	347	1,933	2,280	15.2
Other European languages NEC	2,178	38,964	41,142	5.3
Other Asian languages NEC	4,228	96,710	100,938	4.2
Other languages NEC	3,241	35,890	39,131	8.3
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/Not stated	4,337	118,892	123,229	3.5
Total	411,196	1,703,733	2,114,929	19.4

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	15,893	31,400	36,971	33,366	75,831	64,110	55,301	312,872	-
Italian	381	490	452	771	3,326	4,463	8,776	18,659	10.6
Maltese	-	5	3	14	35	48	127	232	1.8
Spanish	351	456	367	705	2,496	877	823	6,075	9.5
Croatian	77	128	125	189	791	792	1,827	3,929	11.1
Polish	126	176	156	168	971	832	1,442	3,871	9.2
Dutch	22	25	23	13	123	147	331	684	2.1
French	171	213	184	311	975	532	752	3,138	3.3
German	57	125	98	101	374	315	436	1,506	2.3
Portuguese	227	296	144	308	1,713	771	925	4,384	11.4
Hungarian	22	34	29	24	144	111	154	518	8.9
Ukrainian	9	17	13	10	63	32	71	215	6.3
Vietnamese	295	448	612	858	1,669	1,046	536	5,464	26.4
Filipino languages	551	991	2,379	3,021	8,252	3,262	910	19,366	3.0
Chinese languages	202	384	283	455	1,412	819	995	4,550	9.3
Malayalam	319	818	663	414	1,912	422	86	4,634	5.3
Sinhalese	37	48	52	129	297	128	98	789	4.4
Korean	68	137	48	63	447	93	33	889	22.4
Indonesian & Malay	143	215	216	363	1,248	536	503	3,224	8.3
Arabic	32	57	104	154	389	223	176	1,135	8.3
Assyrian and Chaldean	6	10	16	5	21	7	6	71	25.0
Oceanic and Papuan languages	33	35	51	90	275	135	47	666	5.4
Australian Indigenous Languages	22	40	92	49	78	55	20	356	2.6
Other European languages NEC	129	156	106	173	727	423	457	2,171	6.3
Other Asian languages NEC	184	348	306	387	1,363	835	797	4,220	8.9
Other languages NEC	156	335	372	516	1,395	363	106	3,243	8.3
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/ Not stated	507	322	352	349	971	710	1,129	4,340	10.3
Total	20,020	37,709	44,217	43,006	107,298	82,087	76,864	411,201	2.1

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.

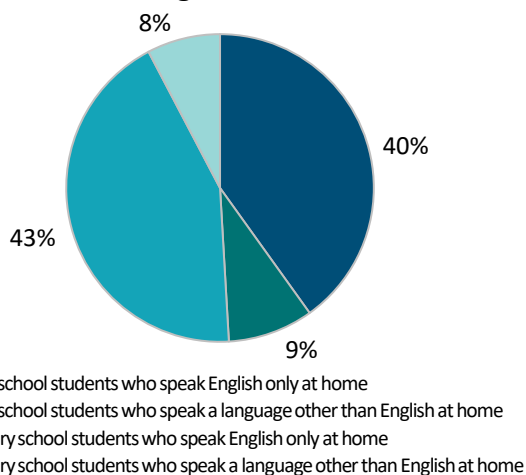
How does the diocese connect with Catholic students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, especially those not attending Catholic schools?

Table 22: Type of educational institution attending by religious affiliation

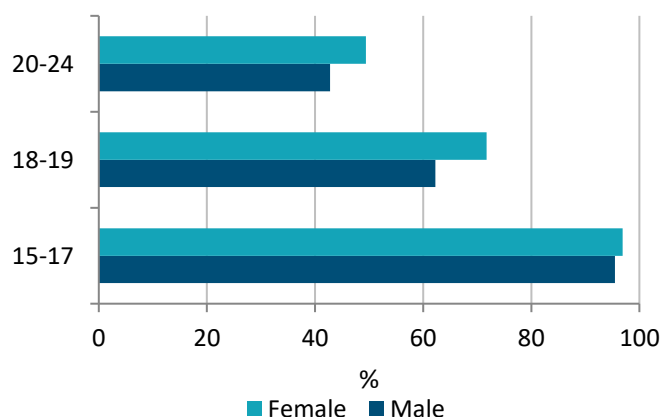
	Catholic	Not Catholic or not stated	All persons	% Catholic
Infants/Primary – Government	15,184	109,346	124,530	12.2
Infants/Primary – Catholic	19,773	9,312	29,085	68.0
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	1,983	21,881	23,864	8.3
Secondary – Government	11,254	68,773	80,027	14.1
Secondary – Catholic	18,468	11,698	30,166	61.2
Secondary – Other Non-Government	3,283	27,910	31,193	10.5
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	8,293	40,581	48,874	17.0
University or other Tertiary Institutions	19,678	83,565	103,243	19.1
Other (including pre-school)	10,178	47,668	57,846	17.6
Not stated/Not applicable ¹	303,079	1,283,004	1,586,083	19.1
Total	411,173	1,703,738	2,114,911	19.4

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

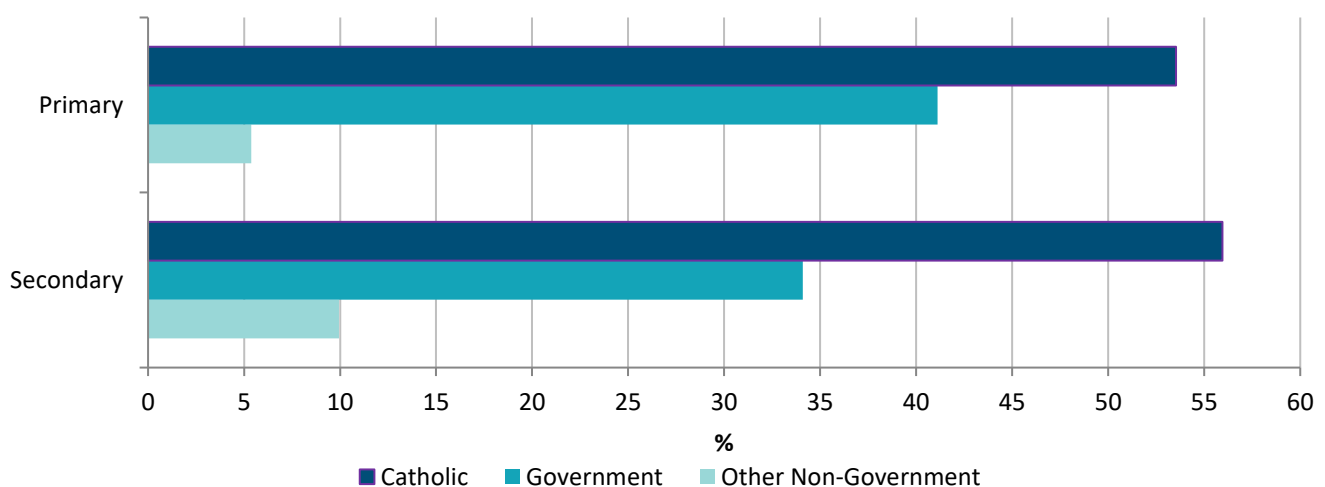
Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family¹

	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	428	684	1,040	2,218	3,647	2,339	2,698	14,519	135,102
Infants/Primary – Catholic	329	440	950	2,231	4,395	3,806	5,418	18,972	162,425
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	36	42	77	196	372	276	748	1,936	184,846
Secondary – Government	328	462	838	1,742	2,587	1,832	1,676	10,668	131,713
Secondary – Catholic	287	367	905	1,800	3,641	3,410	5,745	17,839	172,854
Secondary – Other Non-Government	41	71	122	251	521	462	1,259	3,082	196,735
TAFE, University or other Tertiary institution	94	134	340	911	1,796	1,745	3,597	9,770	187,297
Other (including pre-school)	50	72	133	304	563	378	445	2,119	142,559
Not stated or not applicable	64	68	70	125	188	112	137	899	119,511
Total	1,657	2,340	4,475	9,778	17,710	14,360	21,723	79,804	156,637

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	130	1,285	1,998	1,863	1,330	1,169	7,775
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	1,823	5,573	6,761	6,148	4,265	3,964	28,534
Advanced diploma or diploma level	636	1,780	2,924	3,080	2,617	2,979	14,016
Certificate level	3,968	6,509	7,675	7,826	7,639	8,626	42,243
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	18,201	4,923	5,744	7,921	8,660	16,823	62,272
Total	24,758	20,070	25,102	26,838	24,511	33,561	154,840
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>34.2</i>	<i>34.9</i>	<i>29.8</i>	<i>22.8</i>	<i>15.3</i>	<i>23.4</i>
Females							
Postgraduate degree	144	1,890	2,613	1,986	1,186	794	8,613
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	2,683	10,143	11,666	9,064	5,554	4,840	43,950
Advanced diploma or diploma level	1,020	2,840	3,908	4,270	3,833	3,632	19,503
Certificate level	3,632	4,375	5,122	5,680	4,754	3,859	27,422
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	16,783	5,033	6,374	9,713	13,221	30,176	81,300
Total	24,262	24,281	29,683	30,713	28,548	43,301	180,788
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>49.6</i>	<i>48.1</i>	<i>36.0</i>	<i>23.6</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>29.1</i>
All Catholics							
Postgraduate degree	274	3,175	4,611	3,849	2,516	1,963	16,388
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	4,506	15,716	18,427	15,212	9,819	8,804	72,484
Advanced diploma or diploma level	1,656	4,620	6,832	7,350	6,450	6,611	33,519
Certificate level	7,600	10,884	12,797	13,506	12,393	12,485	69,665
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	34,984	9,956	12,118	17,634	21,881	46,999	143,572
Total	49,020	44,351	54,785	57,551	53,059	76,862	335,628
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>42.6</i>	<i>42.1</i>	<i>33.1</i>	<i>23.2</i>	<i>14.0</i>	<i>26.5</i>

Note:

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



Employment

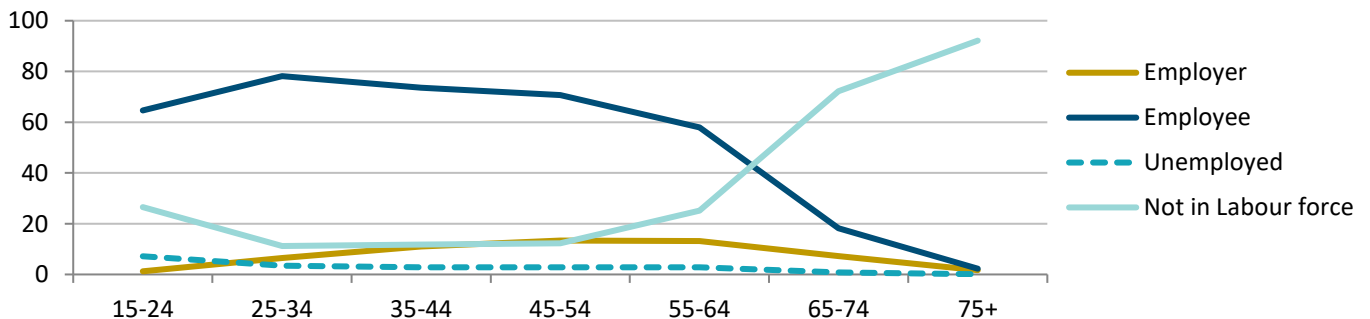
In recent years there have been many changes in society and the workplace that have affected Australian workers. One major change has been the increase in the percentages of workers, especially young people and women, in part-time jobs. Another has been the rise in participation in the labour force by 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	365	5,541	9,694	2,650	18,250
Employee	15,473	35,031	32,835	4,206	87,545
Unemployed	1,934	1,409	1,576	242	5,161
Not in the labour force	6,863	2,775	6,689	25,688	42,015
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	121	416	554	773	1,864
Total	24,756	45,172	51,348	33,559	154,835
<i>Per cent in labour force²</i>	71.8	92.9	85.9	21.2	71.7
<i>Per cent unemployed³</i>	10.9	3.4	3.6	3.4	4.7
Females					
Employer	240	3,387	5,003	1,009	9,639
Employee	16,220	39,970	38,611	4,370	99,171
Unemployed	1,574	1,631	1,584	126	4,915
Not in the labour force	6,128	8,650	13,659	36,627	65,064
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	105	319	407	1,168	1,999
Total	24,267	53,957	59,264	43,300	180,788
<i>Per cent in labour force²</i>	74.3	83.4	76.3	12.7	62.9
<i>Per cent unemployed³</i>	8.7	3.6	3.5	2.3	4.3

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
Catholics aged 15+							
Males							
Managers	404	1,804	4,190	4,947	3,864	1,409	16,618
Professionals	1,271	4,157	4,984	4,655	3,339	1,354	19,760
Technicians & Trade Workers	3,384	5,303	6,408	5,785	4,195	1,198	26,273
Community & Personal Service Workers	1,933	1,170	1,088	1,173	960	297	6,621
Clerical & Administrative Workers	690	1,036	1,272	1,415	1,312	514	6,239
Sales Workers	2,922	802	765	903	856	465	6,713
Machinery Operators & Drivers	1,345	1,571	2,194	2,671	2,683	808	11,272
Labourers	3,698	1,736	1,603	1,763	1,599	760	11,159
ID / NS / NA ¹	9,118	2,493	2,600	3,535	5,709	26,746	50,201
Total	24,765	20,072	25,104	26,847	24,517	33,551	154,856
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>33.9</i>	<i>40.8</i>	<i>41.2</i>	<i>38.3</i>	<i>40.6</i>	<i>34.8</i>
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	<i>53.9</i>	<i>49.0</i>	<i>45.3</i>	<i>43.8</i>	<i>45.1</i>	<i>40.6</i>	<i>46.5</i>
Females							
Managers	496	1,820	2,853	2,990	1,933	545	10,637
Professionals	1,807	7,436	8,091	6,833	4,248	1,158	29,573
Technicians & Trade Workers	758	1,172	1,173	1,110	729	194	5,136
Community & Personal Service Workers	4,483	3,177	3,452	3,822	2,979	787	18,700
Clerical & Administrative Workers	1,835	3,491	4,862	5,971	5,211	1,531	22,901
Sales Workers	5,284	1,212	1,313	1,821	1,709	555	11,894
Machinery Operators & Drivers	245	285	322	365	301	97	1,615
Labourers	1,391	941	1,313	1,753	1,535	492	7,425
ID / NS / NA ¹	7,959	4,742	6,295	6,059	9,900	37,948	72,903
Total	24,258	24,276	29,674	30,724	28,545	43,307	180,784
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	<i>14.1</i>	<i>47.4</i>	<i>46.8</i>	<i>39.8</i>	<i>33.2</i>	<i>31.8</i>	<i>37.3</i>
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	<i>14.7</i>	<i>12.3</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>14.6</i>	<i>13.1</i>
All Catholics							
Managers	900	3,624	7,043	7,937	5,797	1,954	27,255
Professionals	3,078	11,593	13,075	11,488	7,587	2,512	49,333
Technicians & Trade Workers	4,142	6,475	7,581	6,895	4,924	1,392	31,409
Community & Personal Service Workers	6,416	4,347	4,540	4,995	3,939	1,084	25,321
Clerical & Administrative Workers	2,525	4,527	6,134	7,386	6,523	2,045	29,140
Sales Workers	8,206	2,014	2,078	2,724	2,565	1,020	18,607
Machinery Operators & Drivers	1,590	1,856	2,516	3,036	2,984	905	12,887
Labourers	5,089	2,677	2,916	3,516	3,134	1,252	18,584
ID / NS / NA ¹	17,077	7,235	8,895	9,594	15,609	64,694	123,104
Total	49,023	44,348	54,778	57,571	53,062	76,858	335,640
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>41.0</i>	<i>43.8</i>	<i>40.5</i>	<i>35.7</i>	<i>36.7</i>	<i>36.0</i>
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	<i>33.9</i>	<i>29.7</i>	<i>28.4</i>	<i>28.0</i>	<i>29.5</i>	<i>29.2</i>	<i>29.6</i>

Notes:

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

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



Occupation

Occupation is one of the many indicators of socioeconomic status.

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

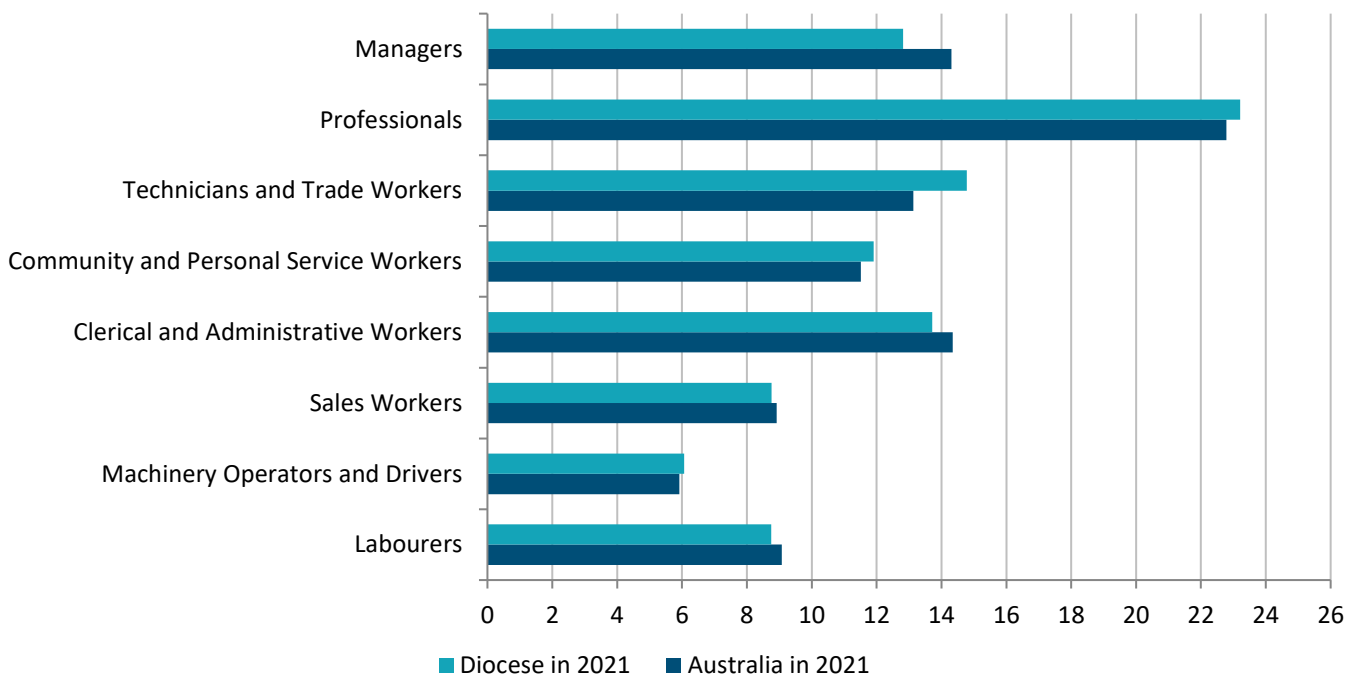
Table 27: Occupation by religious affiliation¹ (%)

	Catholic	Non-Catholic
All persons aged 15+ with an occupation		
Managers	12.8	12.2
Professionals	23.2	24.2
Technicians & Trade Workers	14.8	14.9
Community & Personal Service Workers	11.9	12.1
Clerical & Administrative Workers	13.7	12.4
Sales Workers	8.8	7.7
Machinery Operators & Drivers	6.1	7.5
Labourers	8.7	8.9
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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