



# DIOCESAN SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census

Diocese of Rockhampton



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

Telephone: +61 (02) 6201 9812

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

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

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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: 465,676

Catholic Population: 93,451

Catholics make up 20.1 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 41 years

Total Catholic families: 38,735

8,964 Catholics live alone

11,437 Catholics were born overseas

540 Catholics do not speak English well

5,913 Catholics need assistance with core activities

34,881 Catholics have changed address since 2016



# What has changed in the diocesan community since 1996?

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

## RANDOMISATION OF CENSUS DATA

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

	Diocese in 1996	Diocese in 2001	Diocese in 2006	Diocese in 2011	Diocese in 2016	Diocese in 2021 <sup>1</sup>
Catholic population	93,981	94,829	97,847	107,707	108,566	<b>93,451</b>
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	26.9	25.6	24.1	23.1	23.1	<b>20.3</b>
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	8.9	10.2	10.7	11.2	13.0	<b>17.7</b>
Catholics born in NESC <sup>2</sup> (%)	5.2	5.0	5.3	6.5	7.3	<b>8.9</b>
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	<b>0.6</b>
Catholic families	33,212	34,764	38,199	41,858	42,108	<b>38,735</b>
Catholics living alone	5,991	7,232	7,291	8,134	8,984	<b>8,964</b>
Catholic students attending Catholic schools (%)	41.2	41.4	42.9	45.3	44.6	<b>51.7</b>
Catholics with university degree (%)	6.8	8.2	9.8	11.3	12.6	<b>15.1</b>
Catholic males in labour force (%)	75.3	65.9	73.7	75.4	74.0	<b>70.6</b>
Catholic females in labour force (%)	52.8	50.5	57.8	61.2	62.6	<b>63.4</b>
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	62.6	64.8	68.3	66.7	66.5	<b>71.3</b>

### Notes:

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



# Overview

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

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

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

Table 1: Population <sup>1</sup>	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank <sup>2</sup>	Diocese 2016 Rank <sup>2</sup>
Total population <sup>3</sup>	<b>465,676</b>	445,776	25,422,788	23,401,892	14	14
Catholic population	<b>93,451</b>	108,566	5,075,910	5,291,834	13	12
Per cent Catholic	<b>20.1</b>	24.4	20.0	22.6	15	7
At same address since previous Census (%)	<b>55.9</b>	51.0	59.4	57.3	24	25
Median age <sup>4</sup> (years)	<b>41</b>	36	43	40	21	25
Aged 0-14 (%)	<b>20.3</b>	23.1	17.9	19.8	5	2
Aged 65+ (%)	<b>17.7</b>	13.0	19.9	16.6	23	25
Males per 100 females	<b>91.4</b>	96.0	89.1	90.6	5	4

**Table 2: Disability** (for more detail on Disability and Carers see page 12).

Table 2 shows the percentage of Catholics who are disabled to the extent that they require assistance for some core activities (i.e. they need help or assistance with self-care, communication or mobility). It also shows the percentage of Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with some form of disability.

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

Table 2: Disability	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Need assistance with core activities (%)	<b>6.3</b>	5.0	6.7	5.8	18	23
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability <sup>5</sup> (% of Catholics aged 15+)	<b>12.8</b>	11.2	13.5	12.5	22	25

**Notes:**

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





# Overview

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

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

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

Table 3: Employment	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Managers and Professionals <sup>1</sup> (% of those recording an occupation)	<b>28.0</b>	26.3	37.1	34.1	27	27
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations <sup>2</sup> (% of those recording an occupation)	<b>40.0</b>	42.3	28.1	29.6	2	2
Men, employed or seeking work <sup>3</sup> (%)	<b>70.6</b>	74.0	66.5	69.7	4	3
Women, employed or seeking work <sup>3</sup> (%)	<b>63.4</b>	62.6	59.7	60.6	6	7
Unemployed at time of Census <sup>4</sup> (%)	<b>3.9</b>	7.3	4.2	5.8	16	2
Youth unemployed at time of Census <sup>5</sup> (%)	<b>7.9</b>	13.1	8.9	12.2	16	9

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

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

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

Table 4: Birthplace, Indigenous Status & Language	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Born overseas in English-speaking country <sup>6</sup>	<b>3.3</b>	3.4	5.5	5.6	21	19
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	<b>8.9</b>	7.3	21.4	19.1	19	19
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries & arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	<b>1,032</b>	1,417	97,457	106,428	14	12
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	<b>5,188</b>	5,351	135,686	133,528	12	10
Speak language other than English at home (%)	<b>7.3</b>	6.2	21.5	20.4	21	20
Not proficient in English <sup>7, 8</sup> (%)	<b>0.6</b>	0.6	2.7	2.6	24	20

**Notes:**

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



# Overview

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table 5: Education <sup>1</sup>	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Catholics aged 15+ with bachelor degree or higher qualification (%)	<b>15.1</b>	12.6	24.6	20.6	26	26
Catholics attending an educational institution (% of all Catholics in each age group)						
Aged 15-17	<b>91.4</b>	87.5	94.9	92.2	20	22
Aged 18-19	<b>40.9</b>	34.3	67.2	62.9	25	24
Aged 20-24	<b>23.9</b>	18.6	43.4	38.2	24	23
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)	<b>51.1</b>	43.1	55.5	53.1	23	27
Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)	<b>44.3</b>	52.7	38.4	41.0	8	3
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)	<b>52.4</b>	46.7	55.3	54.5	15	20
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)	<b>40.4</b>	45.5	33.4	35.1	10	9
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic <sup>1</sup> (%)	<b>45.5</b>	37.6	36.6	28.1	9	7
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic <sup>1</sup> (%)	<b>52.6</b>	46.3	41.3	35.7	5	5

**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 (%)	31.5	33.4	32.9	33.3	16	13
Married (%)	50.4	50.4	49.3	49.7	8	10
Divorced or Separated (%)	12.3	11.3	11.7	11.2	11	16
Widowed (%)	5.7	5.0	6.1	5.8	20	23

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

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Families	38,735	42,117	1,995,658	1,997,833	13	13
One-parent families	3,990	4,365	225,180	231,370	13	13
One-parent families (% of all families)	10.3	10.4	11.3	11.6	23	24
Couples of mixed religions <sup>2</sup> (%)	63.2	59.7	58.1	55.9	11	15
De facto couples (%)	19.9	20.4	17.7	17.7	8	7
Median annual family income <sup>3</sup> (\$)	116,748	97,327	120,943	100,270	11	11

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

	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Households	49,212	53,031	2,567,362	2,548,354	13	13
Persons living alone (aged under 35)	1,151	1,513	51,145	53,499	10	8
Persons living alone (aged 35+)	7,813	7,471	442,080	407,684	16	16
Persons living alone (total)	8,964	8,984	493,225	461,183	16	16
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	9.6	8.3	9.7	8.7	19	20
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	71.3	66.5	73.0	71.2	20	23
Median monthly housing loan repayment <sup>5</sup> (\$)	1,653	1,807	1,948	1,873	19	13

**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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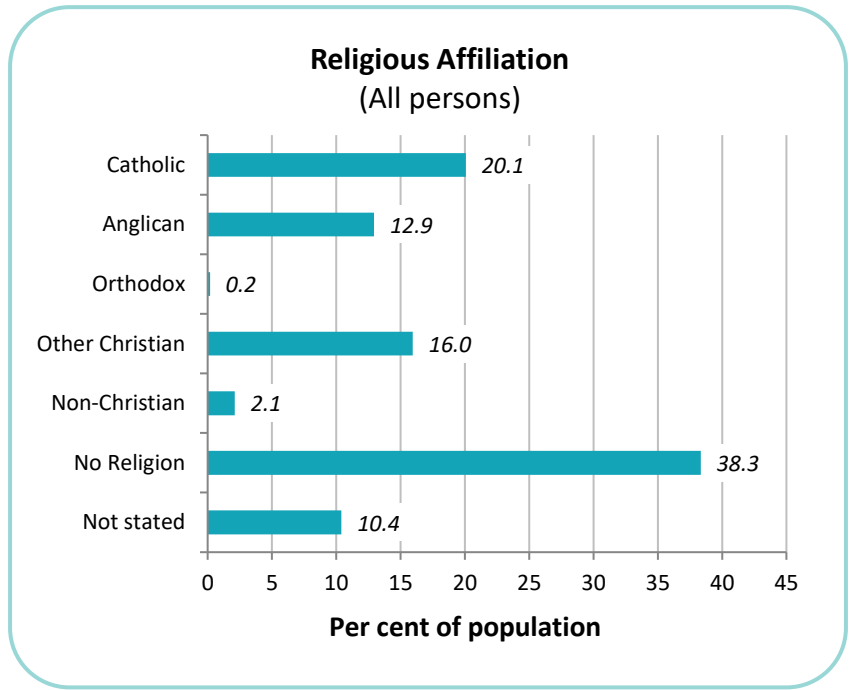
# Religious Affiliation

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	11,545	13,390	9,151	11,322	11,827	13,432	11,581	7,279	3,912	93,439
Maronite Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Melkite Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ukrainian Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chaldean Catholic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syro-Malabar Catholic	12	-	5	8	-	-	-	-	-	25
<b>Total Catholic</b>	<b>11,557</b>	<b>13,390</b>	<b>9,156</b>	<b>11,330</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>13,432</b>	<b>11,581</b>	<b>7,279</b>	<b>3,912</b>	<b>93,464</b>
<b>Per cent Catholic (of total population in age group)</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>20.1</b>
Anglican	3,878	5,587	3,487	5,121	7,558	10,352	10,882	8,675	4,700	60,240
Orthodox	73	99	65	109	120	160	105	75	44	850
Other Christian	6,530	7,924	5,231	7,147	9,190	11,826	12,349	9,195	4,902	74,294
Non-Christian	1,340	972	1,438	2,453	1,759	1,027	556	230	81	9,856
No Religion	30,885	28,023	29,033	27,242	20,985	18,521	14,033	7,188	2,614	178,524
Not Stated	5,025	5,225	6,862	7,510	6,760	6,783	5,091	3,164	2,031	48,451
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>59,288</b>	<b>61,220</b>	<b>55,272</b>	<b>60,912</b>	<b>58,199</b>	<b>62,101</b>	<b>54,597</b>	<b>35,806</b>	<b>18,284</b>	<b>465,679</b>

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



# Age and Sex

**Table 10:  
Age by sex**

	<b>Males 2021</b>	<b>Females 2021</b>	<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>Total 2016</b>
<b>Age (years)</b>				
0	425	403	<b>828</b>	1,293
1	457	449	<b>906</b>	1,483
2	480	493	<b>973</b>	1,591
3	503	463	<b>966</b>	1,561
4	589	523	<b>1,112</b>	1,713
5	642	601	<b>1,243</b>	1,722
6	670	606	<b>1,276</b>	1,776
7	716	724	<b>1,440</b>	1,823
8	679	698	<b>1,377</b>	1,841
9	703	724	<b>1,427</b>	1,848
10	752	712	<b>1,464</b>	1,733
11	748	712	<b>1,460</b>	1,685
12	751	722	<b>1,473</b>	1,635
13	763	766	<b>1,529</b>	1,667
14	781	703	<b>1,484</b>	1,680
15	782	671	<b>1,453</b>	1,688
16	678	656	<b>1,334</b>	1,595
17	616	632	<b>1,248</b>	1,575
18	547	480	<b>1,027</b>	1,272
19	493	432	<b>925</b>	1,207
20-24	2,183	2,181	<b>4,364</b>	6,342
25-29	2,186	2,605	<b>4,791</b>	6,970
30-34	2,398	2,959	<b>5,357</b>	7,481
35-39	2,668	3,304	<b>5,972</b>	6,804
40-44	2,656	3,072	<b>5,728</b>	7,094
45-49	2,903	3,203	<b>6,106</b>	7,510
50-54	3,195	3,499	<b>6,694</b>	7,536
55-59	3,192	3,543	<b>6,735</b>	6,694
60-64	2,993	3,264	<b>6,257</b>	5,656
65-69	2,518	2,807	<b>5,325</b>	4,581
70-74	1,965	2,252	<b>4,217</b>	3,500
75-79	1,394	1,667	<b>3,061</b>	2,689
80+	1,607	2,301	<b>3,908</b>	3,304
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,633</b>	<b>48,827</b>	<b>93,460</b>	108,549

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

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

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

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

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

*Which age groups have seen the greatest changes since 2016?*

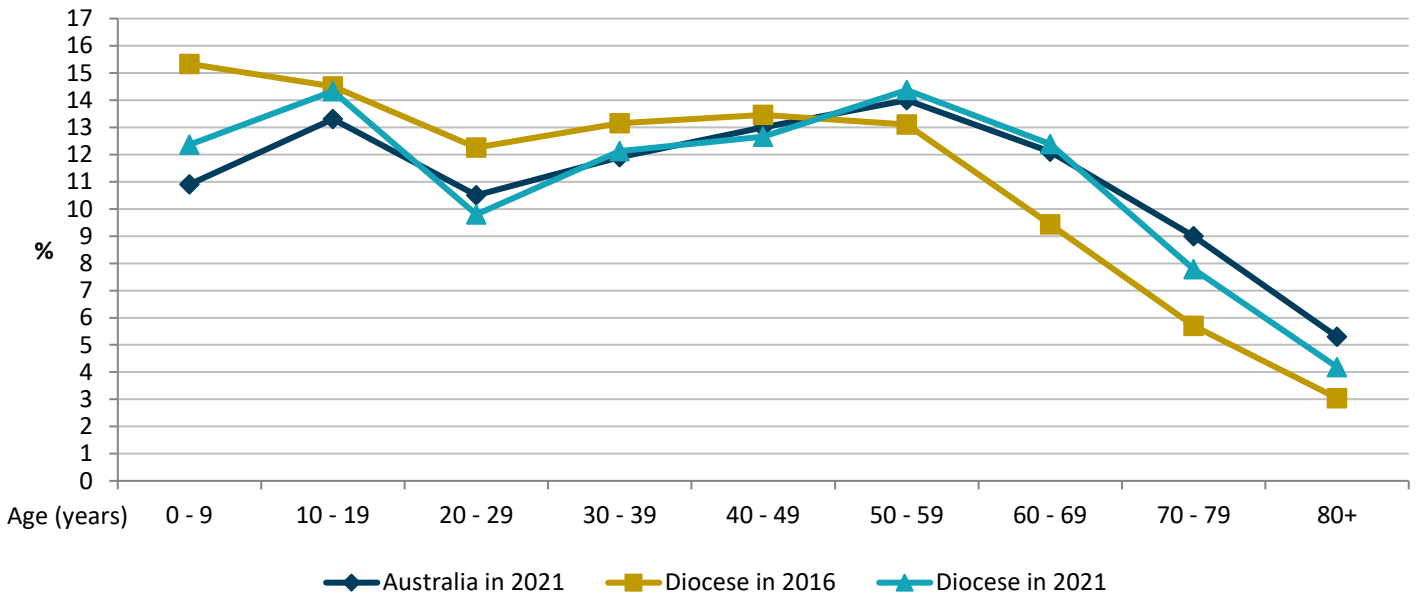
*Does this data suggest any new challenges for the diocese?*

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

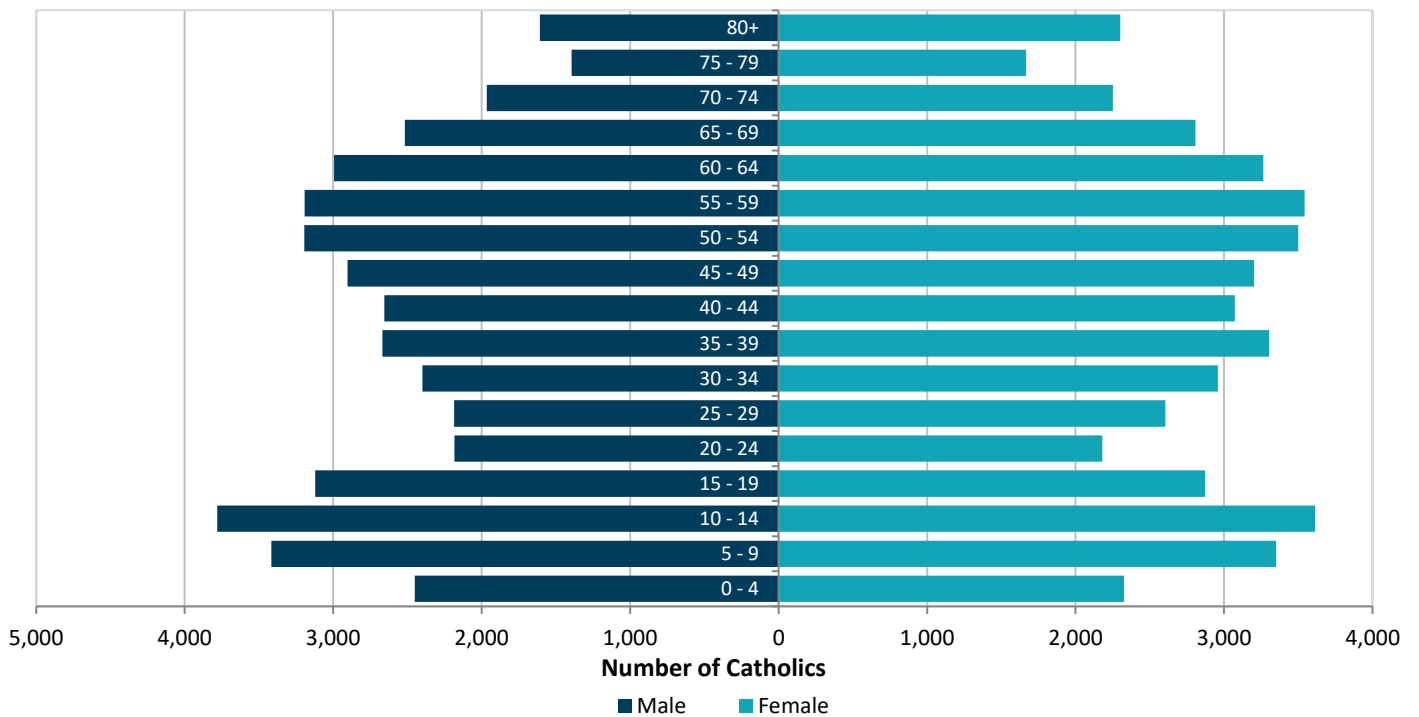


# Age and Sex

## Age profile of the Catholic population, 2016 & 2021



## Age-sex profile of the Catholic population, 2021



# Disability

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

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

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

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

	0-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75-84	85 and over	Total
<b>Catholics who have need for assistance with core activities</b>							
<b>Family members:</b>							
Males	500	405	319	338	348	166	2,076
Females	220	302	449	333	365	195	1,864
<b>Lone Persons:</b>							
Males	-	36	111	62	78	53	340
Females	-	24	101	102	198	201	626
<b>Other non-family members or persons not present in a household on Census night<sup>3</sup></b>							
Males	6	50	85	70	100	107	418
Females	6	32	74	66	163	248	589
<b>Total</b>							
Males	506	491	515	470	526	326	2,834
Females	226	358	624	501	726	644	3,079

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

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability<sup>4</sup></b>							
Males	277	300	468	727	845	859	3,476
Females	280	545	990	1354	1591	1,275	6,035

**Notes:**

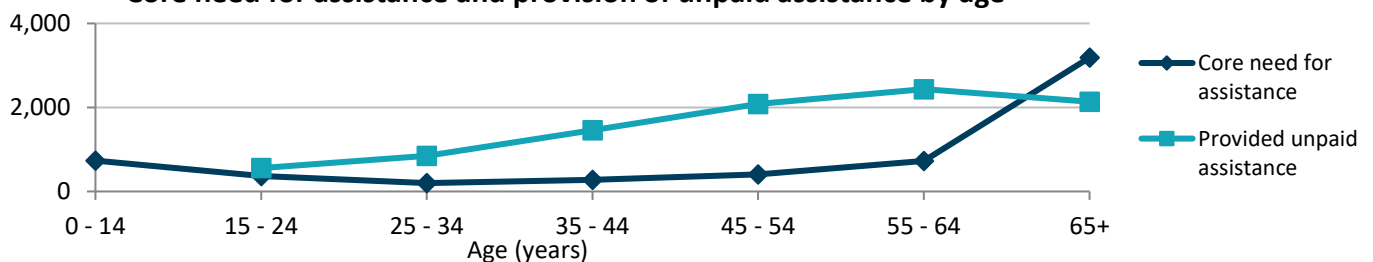
1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006. *Census Dictionary Australia 2006*. Catalogue No. 2901.0.

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

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

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

**Core need for assistance and provision of unpaid assistance by age**





# Marital Status

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

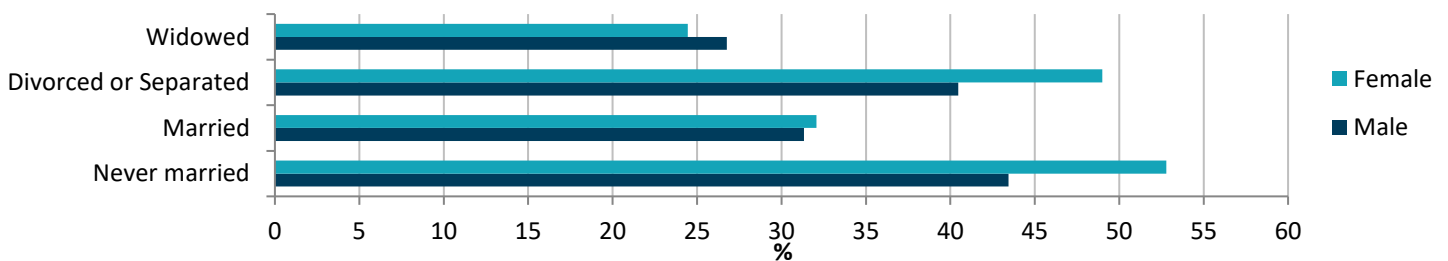
*How might changes in marital status patterns affect the life of the Church in this diocese? Do they result in the need for new pastoral services and programs?*

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

**Table 12: Registered marital status by sex and age**

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15 and over</b>								
<b>Males</b>								
Never married	5,262	2,809	1,549	1,298	874	344	179	12,315
Married	32	1,605	3,249	3,728	4,000	3,074	1,942	17,630
Divorced or Separated	-	164	514	1,000	1,213	848	376	4,115
Widowed	-	4	7	56	109	220	497	893
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,294</b>	<b>4,582</b>	<b>5,319</b>	<b>6,082</b>	<b>6,196</b>	<b>4,486</b>	<b>2,994</b>	<b>34,953</b>
<b>Females</b>								
Never married	4,930	2,823	1,476	1,002	553	224	161	11,169
Married	101	2,445	4,023	4,294	4,422	3,172	1,472	19,929
Divorced or Separated	9	290	834	1,281	1,444	827	368	5,053
Widowed	5	10	45	129	387	844	1,970	3,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,045</b>	<b>5,568</b>	<b>6,378</b>	<b>6,706</b>	<b>6,806</b>	<b>5,067</b>	<b>3,971</b>	<b>39,541</b>

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



**Table 13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status**

	In a registered marriage	In a de facto marriage	Total couples	% couples in de facto marriages
Both persons Catholic	8,609	1,494	10,103	14.8
One person Catholic, the other non-Catholic Christian	10,664	2,062	12,726	16.2
One Catholic, the other non-Christian, not stated or temporarily absent	6,966	2,971	9,937	29.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,239</b>	<b>6,527</b>	<b>32,766</b>	<b>19.9</b>



# Families

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

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

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

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

Table 14: Family composition <sup>1</sup> by weekly family income	Less than \$500	\$500 - 799	\$800 - \$1,249	\$1,250 - \$1,999	\$2,000 - \$2,999	\$3,000 - \$3,999	\$4,000 or more	Income not fully stated	Total families	Median Family Income <sup>2</sup> (\$)
<b>Two-parent families with children at home:</b>										
Both parents Catholic	42	49	208	721	1,569	1,111	1,150	414	5,264	2,895
One parent Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	44	75	210	727	1,500	1,213	1,388	468	5,625	3,018
One parent Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	26	51	175	663	1,277	960	932	250	4,334	2,882
<b>Couples with no children living at home:</b>										
Both partners Catholic	410	712	738	856	950	513	514	163	4,856	1,676
One partner Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	517	1,040	1,152	1,407	1,400	724	672	195	7,107	1,648
One partner Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	177	358	410	685	974	517	434	100	3,655	2,151
<b>One-parent families:</b>										
Parent is Catholic	377	624	942	913	540	143	94	357	3,990	1,189
<b>Other families where at least one person is Catholic</b>										
Other: Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent <sup>3</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,949	1,949	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>3,076</b>	<b>4,164</b>	<b>6,377</b>	<b>8,629</b>	<b>5,412</b>	<b>5,394</b>	<b>4,005</b>	<b>38,735</b>	<b>2,239</b>

**Notes:**

1. A family is defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. Family members who live elsewhere are not included in the Census definition. For Census purposes, a Catholic family is defined as a family in which at least one person is Catholic.
2. Median weekly family income: 50 per cent of families have a higher income, 50 per cent a lower income. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.
3. The religious affiliation of a temporarily absent spouse is not recorded, hence families in this category could belong to any one of the first six categories above.



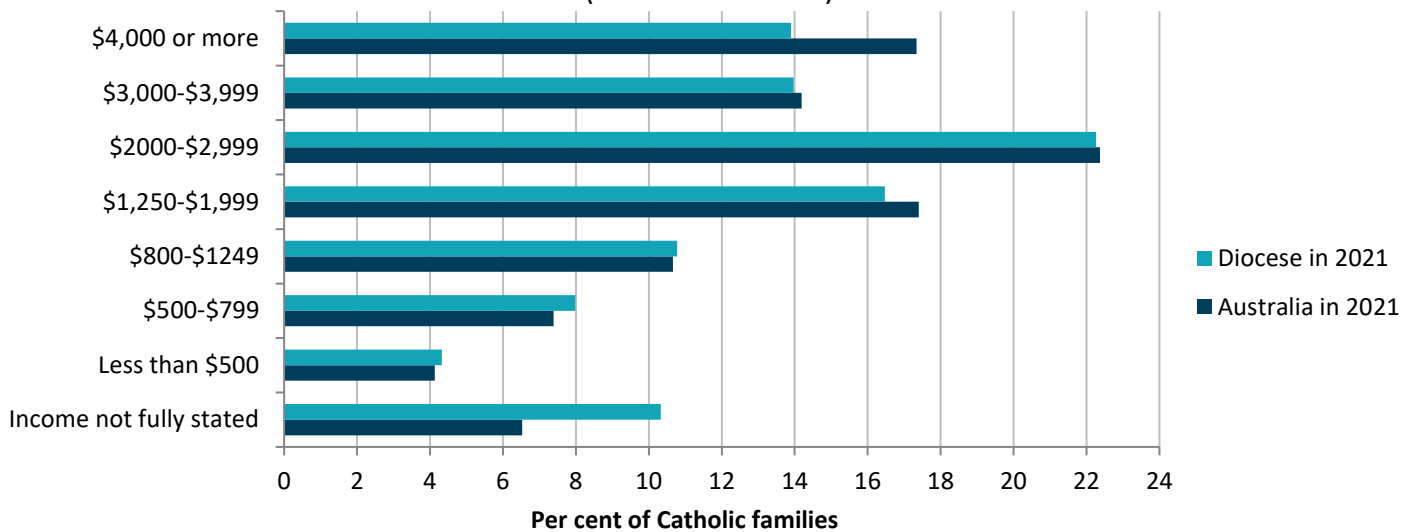
# Families

**Table 15: Weekly family income by number of dependent children**

	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more dependent children	Total
Less than \$500	1,223	231	129	64	29	1,676
\$500-\$799	2,289	352	259	139	58	3,097
\$800-\$1,249	2,969	520	411	191	87	4,178
\$1,250-\$1,999	3,862	961	980	408	178	6,389
\$2,000-\$2,999	4,299	1,363	1,917	837	221	8,637
\$3,000-\$3,999	2,378	936	1,409	539	155	5,417
\$4,000 or more	2,509	951	1,256	530	144	5,390
Income not fully stated	2,000	676	809	381	139	4,005
<b>Total Families</b>	<b>21,529</b>	<b>5,990</b>	<b>7,170</b>	<b>3,089</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>38,789</b>
<b>Median Family Income (\$)</b>	<b>1,887</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>2,731</b>	<b>2,659</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>2,239</b>

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

**Weekly Family Income  
(Catholic families)**



**Table 16: Social marital status by number of dependent children**

	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more dependent children	Total
<b>Family Composition:</b>						
Married couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	15,465	3,265	4,806	2,096	618	26,250
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	3,912	1,050	996	414	162	6,534
One parent family, parent Catholic	1,387	1,228	880	370	138	4,003
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	743	434	480	206	83	1,946
<b>Total families</b>	<b>21,507</b>	<b>5,977</b>	<b>7,162</b>	<b>3,086</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>38,733</b>



# Households

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

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

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

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

	Fully owned or being purchased	Rented from State or Territory Housing	Rented from other landlord, or landlord not stated	Other households	Total households	Per cent owned or being purchased
Family households	29,146	541	8,132	979	38,798	75.1
Lone person aged under 35 years	453	34	561	103	1,151	39.4
Lone person aged 35 years or over	4,797	437	2,081	498	7,813	61.4
Group households	668	40	682	60	1,450	46.1
<b>Total households</b>	<b>35,064</b>	<b>1,052</b>	<b>11,456</b>	<b>1,640</b>	<b>49,212</b>	<b>71.3</b>

	\$1-\$599	\$600-\$999	\$1,000-1,599	\$1,600-\$2,199	\$2,200-\$2,799	\$2,800 or more	Median monthly household loan payment
Family households	835	1,526	4,580	4,732	1,785	1,907	1,694
Lone person aged under 35 years	23	62	169	73	15	14	1,330
Lone person aged 35 years or over	141	201	382	251	74	81	1,350
Group households	29	46	125	79	16	5	1,360
<b>Total households</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>1,835</b>	<b>5,256</b>	<b>5,135</b>	<b>1,890</b>	<b>2,007</b>	<b>1,653</b>

**Notes:**

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



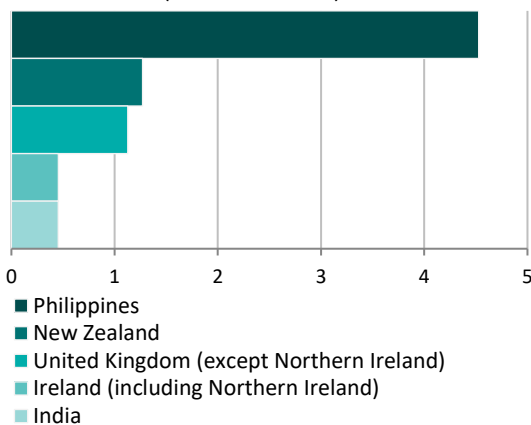
# Birthplace

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

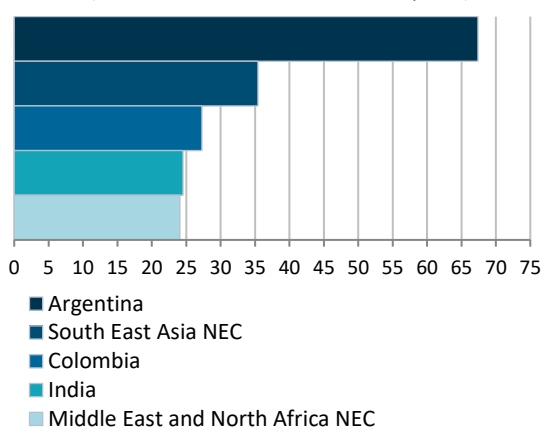
*How does the diocese support Catholics born in non-English-speaking countries in matters such as chaplaincy, education, pastoral care, and so on?*

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

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



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



**Table 19: Birthplace**

	All Catholics	% of Catholics	% recent arrivals <sup>1</sup>
Australia	81,030	86.7	-
New Zealand	1,187	1.3	4.6
Other Oceania	387	0.4	14.7
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	1,053	1.1	4.7
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	425	0.5	4.5
Italy	360	0.4	0.8
Malta	330	0.4	-
Spain and Portugal	66	0.1	19.7
France	97	0.1	6.2
Netherlands	257	0.3	1.9
Germany	241	0.3	2.9
Austria	85	0.1	-
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	99	0.1	-
Poland	104	0.1	4.8
Hungary	50	0.1	-
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	112	0.1	3.6
Other Europe NEC	79	0.1	3.8
Vietnam	197	0.2	6.6
Philippines	4,229	4.5	14.6
Indonesia	62	0.1	11.3
Malaysia	84	0.1	15.5
Singapore	30	0.0	10.0
South East Asia NEC	48	0.1	35.4
India	424	0.5	24.5
Sri Lanka	82	0.1	20.7
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	30	0.0	10.0
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	15	0.0	-
Korea, Republic of (South)	36	0.0	8.3
Egypt	9	0.0	-
Lebanon	8	0.0	-
Iraq	7	0.0	-
Sudan (including South Sudan)	9	0.0	-
Middle East and North Africa NEC	54	0.1	24.1
South Africa	233	0.2	12.9
Mauritius	23	0.0	-
United States of America	135	0.1	8.1
Canada	74	0.1	10.8
Argentina	46	0.0	67.4
Brazil	168	0.2	8.9
Colombia	66	0.1	27.3
Chile	36	0.0	22.2
Central America and South America NEC	125	0.1	8.8
Other countries	275	0.3	12.7
Inadequately described/Not stated	948	1.0	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,415</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>

Notes:

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

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



# Language

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

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

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

**Table 20: Language spoken at home by religious affiliation**

	Catholic	Not Catholic (or not stated)	All persons	% Catholics among speakers <sup>2</sup>
English	85,863	313,325	399,188	21.5
Italian	425	189	614	69.2
Maltese	280	21	301	93.0
Spanish	300	395	695	43.2
Croatian	53	42	95	55.8
Polish	99	48	147	67.3
Dutch	63	242	305	20.7
French	119	280	399	29.8
German	183	588	771	23.7
Portuguese	200	197	397	50.4
Hungarian	43	48	91	47.3
Ukrainian	-	13	13	-
Vietnamese	253	662	915	27.7
Filipino languages	3,295	1,055	4,350	75.7
Chinese languages	100	2,112	2,212	4.5
Malayalam	451	286	737	61.2
Sinhalese	35	349	384	9.1
Korean	33	343	376	8.8
Indonesian & Malay	55	343	398	13.8
Arabic	21	269	290	7.2
Assyrian and Chaldean	12	9	21	57.1
Oceanic and Papuan languages	236	1,146	1,382	17.1
Australian Indigenous Languages	99	510	609	16.3
Other European languages NEC	145	2,764	2,909	5.0
Other Asian languages NEC	181	4,975	5,156	3.5
Other languages NEC	155	1,093	1,248	12.4
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/Not stated	755	40,901	41,656	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,454</b>	<b>372,205</b>	<b>465,659</b>	<b>20.1</b>

**Notes:**

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

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

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



# Language

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

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

Table 21: Language spoken at home by age	0-4	5-11	12-19	20-29	30-39	40-59	60 and over	Total	% who do not speak English well
English	4,448	9,175	9,781	8,376	20,330	18,443	15,309	85,862	-
Italian	10	14	-	17	75	87	212	415	7.3
Maltese	-	4	8	-	37	37	190	276	7.5
Spanish	12	21	15	35	131	43	34	291	9.1
Croatian	4	9	-	4	6	15	19	57	5.7
Polish	6	9	-	6	34	24	22	101	6.3
Dutch	-	-	-	12	13	17	25	67	-
French	3	6	6	14	35	17	36	117	3.4
German	7	18	-	18	34	38	64	179	2.7
Portuguese	17	13	15	29	94	30	4	202	17.9
Hungarian	-	3	-	-	9	7	19	38	-
Ukrainian	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vietnamese	19	28	33	35	90	41	6	252	36.6
Filipino languages	77	155	371	402	1,504	587	190	3,286	3.4
Chinese languages	5	11	9	11	36	18	12	102	14.9
Malayalam	56	81	37	23	219	21	7	444	6.1
Sinhalese	-	3	-	6	13	3	3	28	15.6
Korean	3	6	6	9	13	-	-	37	9.1
Indonesian & Malay	-	4	5	11	28	10	-	58	21.8
Arabic	4	-	-	-	12	-	3	19	-
Assyrian and Chaldean	-	-	-	-	3	-	6	9	33.3
Oceanic and Papuan languages	8	20	20	45	106	31	10	240	9.0
Australian Indigenous Languages	7	12	32	11	21	16	6	105	-
Other European languages NEC	3	14	8	9	45	20	36	135	6.0
Other Asian languages NEC	7	25	22	18	85	22	7	186	14.1
Other languages NEC	11	10	21	6	70	26	12	156	15.0
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/ Not stated	64	54	61	55	134	117	276	761	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,771</b>	<b>9,695</b>	<b>10,450</b>	<b>9,152</b>	<b>23,177</b>	<b>19,670</b>	<b>16,508</b>	<b>93,423</b>	<b>0.6</b>

Notes:

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

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



# Attendance at Educational Institutions

According to the 2021 Census, more than 767,800 Australians attended Catholic schools, accounting for almost 21 per cent of all school students in Australia. In 2021, there were 847,500 Catholic students—almost one in six of all Catholics—attending Government, Catholic, and other non-Government schools. A further 326,700 Catholics were involved in some form of post-secondary education. The Church of today, not just of tomorrow, is being shaped by the attitudes, beliefs and lifestyles of these young people.

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

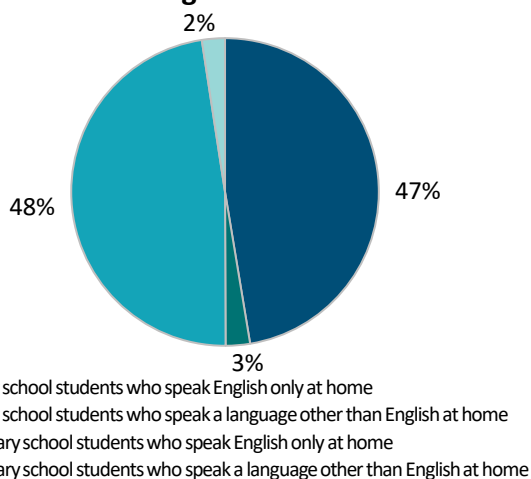
*How does the diocese connect with Catholic students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, especially those not attending Catholic schools?*

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

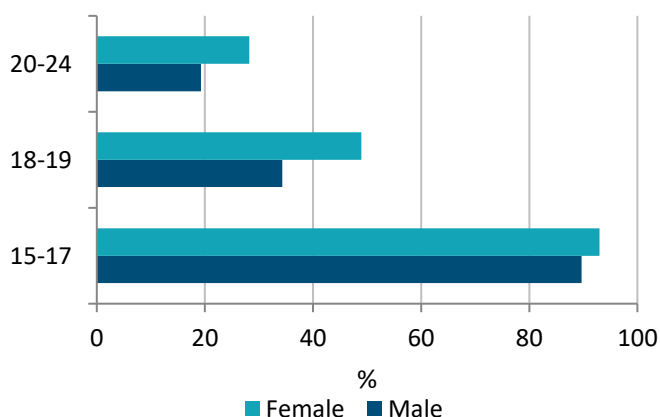
	Catholic	Not Catholic or not stated	All persons	% Catholic
Infants/Primary – Government	4,153	23,883	28,036	14.8
Infants/Primary – Catholic	4,798	4,007	8,805	54.5
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	434	3,028	3,462	12.5
Secondary – Government	3,228	16,408	19,636	16.4
Secondary – Catholic	4,184	4,638	8,822	47.4
Secondary – Other Non-Government	577	3,329	3,906	14.8
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	1,566	5,962	7,528	20.8
University or other Tertiary Institutions	2,431	8,453	10,884	22.3
Other (including pre-school)	2,099	8,396	10,495	20.0
Not stated/Not applicable <sup>1</sup>	69,981	294,121	364,102	19.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,451</b>	<b>372,225</b>	<b>465,676</b>	<b>20.1</b>

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

**Language background of all students attending Catholic schools**



**Education participation rate (Catholics aged 15-24)**





# Attendance at Educational Institutions

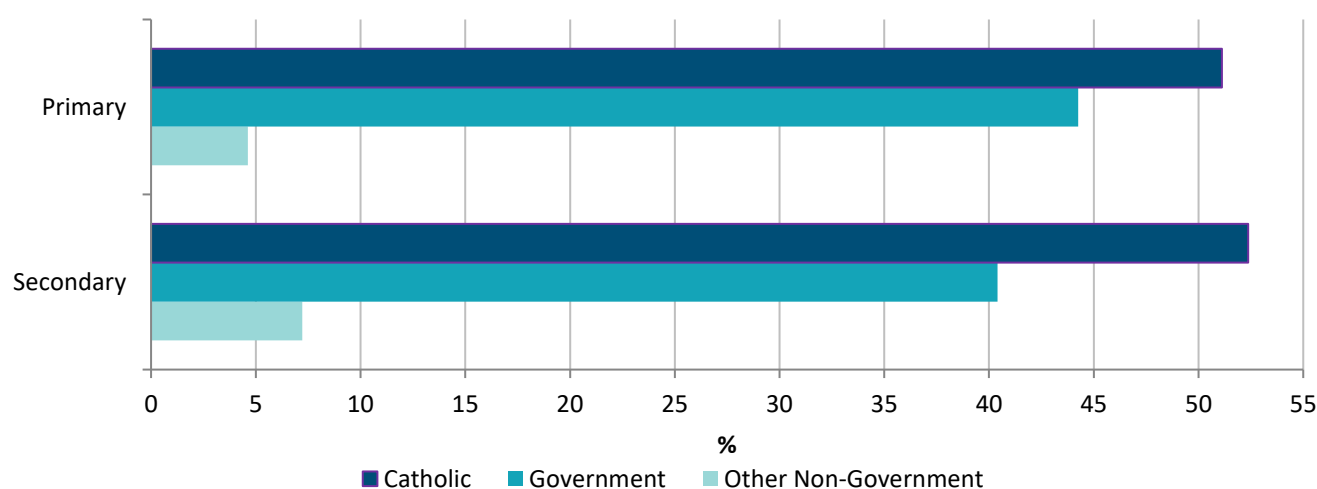
**Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family<sup>1</sup>**

	Less than \$500	\$500-\$799	\$800-\$1,249	\$1,250-\$1,999	\$2,000-\$2,999	\$3,000-\$3,999	\$4,000 or more	Total <sup>2</sup>	Median annual family income <sup>3</sup> (\$)
Infants/Primary – Government	170	253	357	632	1,100	583	477	4,077	122,014
Infants/Primary – Catholic	64	150	221	511	1,162	1,045	986	4,710	154,656
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	6	15	29	56	86	74	109	428	153,665
Secondary – Government	85	193	256	445	732	438	427	3,002	126,290
Secondary – Catholic	44	86	195	383	854	849	897	3,895	162,060
Secondary – Other Non-Government	4	18	28	67	96	88	116	503	153,978
TAFE, University or other Tertiary institution	3	4	15	43	115	102	174	528	180,936
Other (including pre-school)	3	32	26	63	106	62	49	384	127,124
Not stated or not applicable	29	25	29	40	48	22	22	266	89,112
<b>Total</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>1,156</b>	<b>2,240</b>	<b>4,299</b>	<b>3,263</b>	<b>3,257</b>	<b>17,793</b>	<b>142,089</b>

**Notes:**

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

## Type of school being attended by Catholic students



# Educational Qualifications

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

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

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

**Table 24: Highest qualification attained by age and sex**

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15+</b>							
<b>Males</b>							
Postgraduate degree	6	68	123	144	135	93	569
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	162	527	669	678	478	397	2,911
Advanced diploma or diploma level	27	187	411	532	519	365	2,041
Certificate level	1,074	2,488	2,629	2,617	2,300	2,095	13,203
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	4,040	1,308	1,492	2,122	2,757	4,530	16,249
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,309</b>	<b>4,578</b>	<b>5,324</b>	<b>6,093</b>	<b>6,189</b>	<b>7,480</b>	<b>34,973</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>3.2</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>14.9</i>	<i>13.5</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>10.0</i>
<b>Females</b>							
Postgraduate degree	12	138	185	197	142	84	758
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	380	1,571	1,855	1,459	962	794	7,021
Advanced diploma or diploma level	148	530	712	806	764	559	3,519
Certificate level	979	1,624	1,729	1,567	1,289	706	7,894
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	3,537	1,698	1,899	2,669	3,646	6,884	20,333
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,056</b>	<b>5,561</b>	<b>6,380</b>	<b>6,698</b>	<b>6,803</b>	<b>9,027</b>	<b>39,525</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>30.7</i>	<i>32.0</i>	<i>24.7</i>	<i>16.2</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>19.7</i>
<b>All Catholics</b>							
Postgraduate degree	18	206	308	341	277	177	1,327
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	542	2,098	2,524	2,137	1,440	1,191	9,932
Advanced diploma or diploma level	175	717	1,123	1,338	1,283	924	5,560
Certificate level	2,053	4,112	4,358	4,184	3,589	2,801	21,097
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	7,577	3,006	3,391	4,791	6,403	11,414	36,582
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,365</b>	<b>10,139</b>	<b>11,704</b>	<b>12,791</b>	<b>12,992</b>	<b>16,507</b>	<b>74,498</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>22.7</i>	<i>24.2</i>	<i>19.4</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>15.1</i>

Note:

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



# Employment

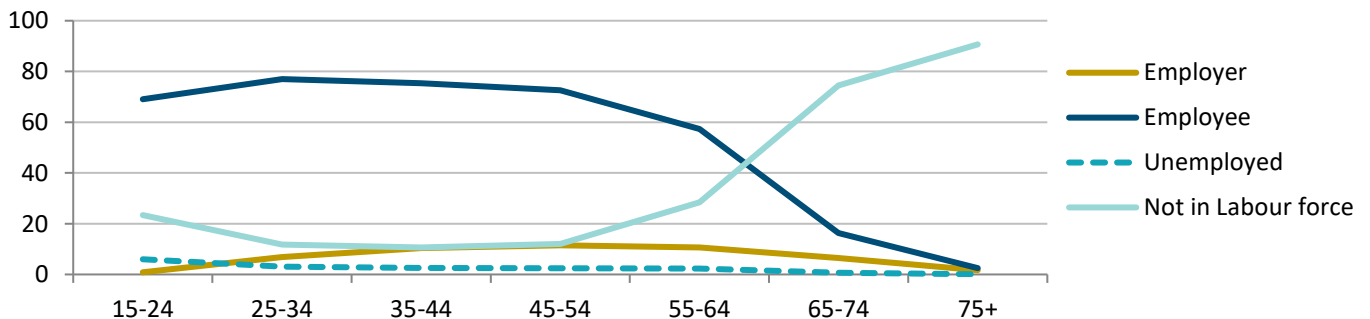
In recent years there have been many changes in society and the workplace that have affected Australian workers. One major change has been the increase in the percentages of workers, especially young people and women, in part-time jobs. Another has been the rise in participation in the labour force by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

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

**Table 25: Labour force status by age and sex**

	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15+</b>					
<b>Males</b>					
Employer	54	1,064	1,728	489	3,335
Employee	3,569	7,773	8,105	888	20,335
Unemployed	354	306	308	39	1,007
Not in the labour force	1,293	614	1,935	5,825	9,667
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	39	141	195	232	607
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,309</b>	<b>9,898</b>	<b>12,271</b>	<b>7,473</b>	<b>34,951</b>
<i>Per cent in labour force<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>74.9</i>	<i>92.4</i>	<i>82.6</i>	<i>18.9</i>	<i>70.6</i>
<i>Per cent unemployed<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>4.1</i>
<b>Females</b>					
Employer	36	839	1,119	242	2,236
Employee	3,583	8,855	8,620	845	21,903
Unemployed	269	311	307	23	910
Not in the labour force	1,136	1,832	3,298	7,605	13,871
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	32	104	166	318	620
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,056</b>	<b>11,941</b>	<b>13,510</b>	<b>9,033</b>	<b>39,540</b>
<i>Per cent in labour force<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>76.9</i>	<i>83.8</i>	<i>74.4</i>	<i>12.3</i>	<i>63.4</i>
<i>Per cent unemployed<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>3.6</i>

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



**Notes:**

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



# Occupation

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

Table 26: Occupation by age and sex	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15+</b>							
<b>Males</b>							
Managers	94	332	707	932	817	405	3,287
Professionals	161	415	527	579	494	160	2,336
Technicians & Trade Workers	1,250	1,696	1,614	1,458	1,072	232	7,322
Community & Personal Service Workers	256	221	212	245	186	44	1,164
Clerical & Administrative Workers	70	88	150	199	197	52	756
Sales Workers	585	121	127	159	154	67	1,213
Machinery Operators & Drivers	320	674	924	1,154	1,118	255	4,445
Labourers	838	470	429	492	482	172	2,883
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	1,717	570	629	876	1,660	6,110	11,562
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,291</b>	<b>4,587</b>	<b>5,319</b>	<b>6,094</b>	<b>6,180</b>	<b>7,497</b>	<b>34,968</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>7.1</i>	<i>18.6</i>	<i>26.3</i>	<i>29.0</i>	<i>29.0</i>	<i>40.7</i>	<i>24.0</i>
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>67.4</i>	<i>70.7</i>	<i>63.3</i>	<i>59.5</i>	<i>59.1</i>	<i>47.5</i>	<i>62.6</i>
<b>Females</b>							
Managers	103	358	537	635	503	219	2,355
Professionals	388	1,304	1,407	1,210	819	181	5,309
Technicians & Trade Workers	226	289	248	229	146	29	1,167
Community & Personal Service Workers	877	725	904	904	737	163	4,310
Clerical & Administrative Workers	475	906	1,138	1,298	990	240	5,047
Sales Workers	1,042	319	388	438	391	87	2,665
Machinery Operators & Drivers	113	162	142	183	118	18	736
Labourers	359	319	446	567	548	145	2,384
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	1,469	1,178	1,166	1,233	2,562	7,949	15,557
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,052</b>	<b>5,560</b>	<b>6,376</b>	<b>6,697</b>	<b>6,814</b>	<b>9,031</b>	<b>39,530</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>13.7</i>	<i>37.9</i>	<i>37.3</i>	<i>33.8</i>	<i>31.1</i>	<i>37.0</i>	<i>32.0</i>
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>19.5</i>	<i>17.6</i>	<i>16.0</i>	<i>17.9</i>	<i>19.1</i>	<i>17.7</i>	<i>17.9</i>
<b>All Catholics</b>							
Managers	197	690	1,244	1,567	1,320	624	5,642
Professionals	549	1,719	1,934	1,789	1,313	341	7,645
Technicians & Trade Workers	1,476	1,985	1,862	1,687	1,218	261	8,489
Community & Personal Service Workers	1,133	946	1,116	1,149	923	207	5,474
Clerical & Administrative Workers	545	994	1,288	1,497	1,187	292	5,803
Sales Workers	1,627	440	515	597	545	154	3,878
Machinery Operators & Drivers	433	836	1,066	1,337	1,236	273	5,181
Labourers	1,197	789	875	1,059	1,030	317	5,267
ID / NS / NA <sup>1</sup>	3,186	1,748	1,795	2,109	4,222	14,059	27,119
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,343</b>	<b>10,147</b>	<b>11,695</b>	<b>12,791</b>	<b>12,994</b>	<b>16,528</b>	<b>74,498</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>10.4</i>	<i>28.7</i>	<i>32.1</i>	<i>31.4</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>39.1</i>	<i>28.0</i>
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>43.4</i>	<i>43.0</i>	<i>38.4</i>	<i>38.2</i>	<i>39.7</i>	<i>34.5</i>	<i>40.0</i>

**Notes:**

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

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



# Occupation

Occupation is one of the many indicators of socioeconomic status.

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

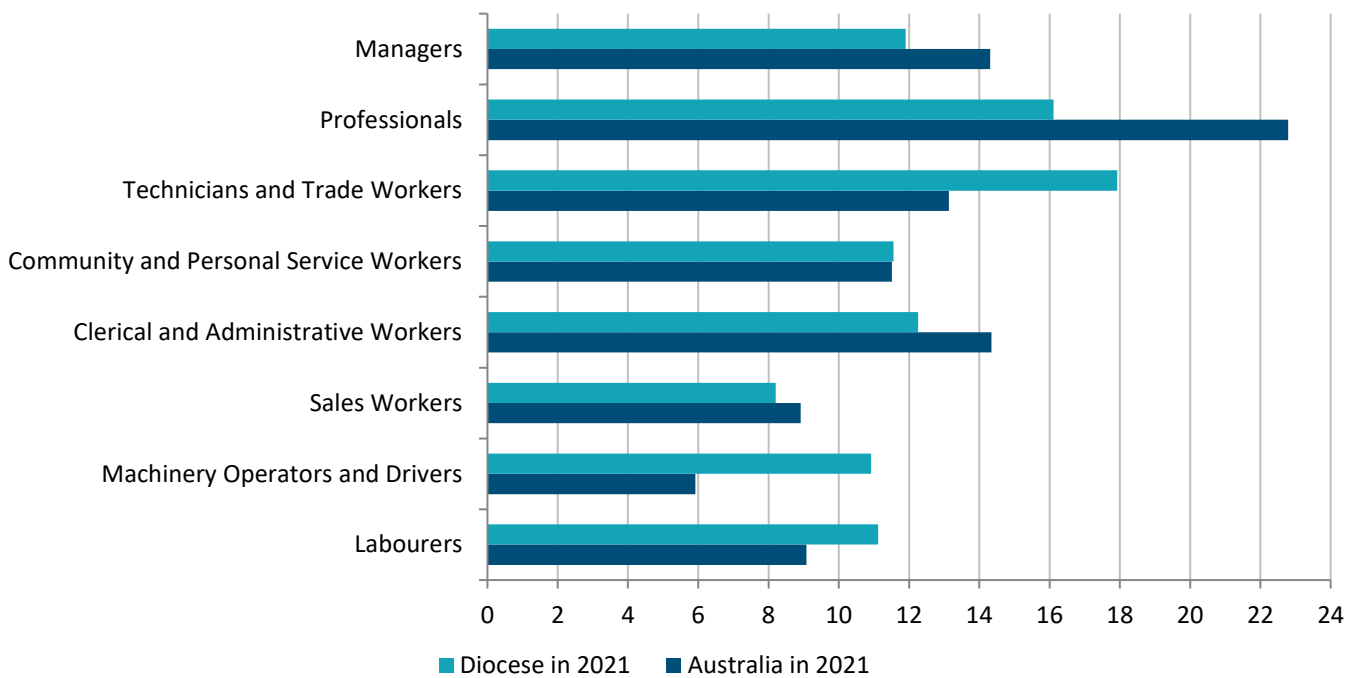
**Table 27: Occupation by religious affiliation<sup>1</sup> (%)**

	Catholic	Non-Catholic
<b>All persons aged 15+ with an occupation</b>		
Managers	11.9	10.8
Professionals	16.1	14.9
Technicians & Trade Workers	17.9	17.9
Community & Personal Service Workers	11.6	11.7
Clerical & Administrative Workers	12.3	11.2
Sales Workers	8.2	8.4
Machinery Operators & Drivers	10.9	12.4
Labourers	11.1	12.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note:

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

**Occupation**  
(Catholics aged 15+ with an occupation)



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Visit the website to obtain:

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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.

National Centre for Pastoral Research Staff:

Trudy Dantis (Director), Stephen Reid, Katherine Jelavic, Leith Dudfield, Marilyn Chee and Dragan Lancuski.

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

Phone: +61 2 6201 9812

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

  
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