



DIOCESAN SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census

Diocese of Wollongong



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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: 834,977

Catholic Population: 197,844

Catholics make up 23.7 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 41 years

Total Catholic families: 79,500

16,148 Catholics live alone

43,406 Catholics were born overseas

3,736 Catholics do not speak English well

13,873 Catholics need assistance with core activities

69,318 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	168,331	178,752	179,447	186,841	189,834	197,844
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	26.3	24.6	22.3	20.9	20.3	19.4
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	9.3	10.9	12.8	14.5	16.9	19.3
Catholics born in NESC ² (%)	17.4	16.2	15.6	15.2	15.5	17.6
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	2.7	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9
Catholic families	61,289	66,767	68,280	71,575	73,854	79,500
Catholics living alone	9,422	11,611	12,971	14,367	14,398	16,148
Catholic students attending Catholic schools (%)	44.7	45.3	47.2	48.0	50.9	52.5
Catholics with university degree (%)	7.0	8.6	10.7	12.5	15.1	19.0
Catholic males in labour force (%)	71.0	62.6	67.5	67.0	66.9	64.3
Catholic females in labour force (%)	51.3	50.2	54.3	55.7	58.0	57.4
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	70.9	72.5	74.3	74.2	74.5	75.6

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	834,977	724,241	25,422,788	23,401,892	8	8
Catholic population	197,844	189,834	5,075,910	5,291,834	8	8
Per cent Catholic	23.7	26.2	20.0	22.6	5	6
At same address since previous Census (%)	58.0	57.8	59.4	57.3	18	10
Median age ⁴ (years)	41	40	43	40	20	14
Aged 0-14 (%)	19.4	20.3	17.9	19.8	11	16
Aged 65+ (%)	19.3	16.9	19.9	16.6	20	15
Males per 100 females	90.1	91.3	89.1	90.6	12	15

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

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

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

Table 2: Disability	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Need assistance with core activities (%)	7.0	6.5	6.7	5.8	9	5
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability ⁵ (% of Catholics aged 15+)	13.2	13.5	13.5	12.5	17	6

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)	32.2	28.5	37.1	34.1	18	23
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations ² (% of those recording an occupation)	31.6	33.6	28.1	29.6	15	13
Men, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	64.3	66.9	66.5	69.7	21	18
Women, employed or seeking work ³ (%)	57.4	58.0	59.7	60.6	21	22
Unemployed at time of Census ⁴ (%)	3.8	5.3	4.2	5.8	18	18
Youth unemployed at time of Census ⁵ (%)	8.3	11.7	8.9	12.2	12	15

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

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

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

Table 4: Birthplace, Indigenous Status & Language	Diocese 2021	Diocese 2016	Australia 2021	Australia 2016	Diocese 2021 Rank	Diocese 2016 Rank
Born overseas in English-speaking country ⁶	4.3	4.5	5.5	5.6	12	10
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	17.6	15.5	21.4	19.1	9	9
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries & arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	1,696	1,594	97,457	106,428	10	10
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	6,657	5,784	135,686	133,528	6	8
Speak language other than English at home (%)	17.5	15.8	21.5	20.4	10	10
Not proficient in English ^{7, 8} (%)	1.9	1.9	2.7	2.6	8	7

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 (%)	19.0	15.1	24.6	20.6	10	10
Catholics attending an educational institution (% of all Catholics in each age group)						
Aged 15-17	92.1	90.2	94.9	92.2	17	16
Aged 18-19	64.7	61.2	67.2	62.9	10	8
Aged 20-24	38.8	34.7	43.4	38.2	11	9
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools (%)	49.3	47.1	55.5	53.1	24	19
Catholic primary students attending Government schools (%)	45.1	48.2	38.4	41.0	7	8
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools (%)	56.3	55.8	55.3	54.5	9	8
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools (%)	35.4	38.3	33.4	35.1	16	14
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ¹ (%)	25.1	18.4	36.6	28.1	27	27
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic ¹ (%)	38.0	34.0	41.3	35.7	22	19

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 (%)	31.3	31.6	32.9	33.3	18	20
Married (%)	50.8	50.8	49.3	49.7	7	7
Divorced or Separated (%)	12.0	11.7	11.7	11.2	14	11
Widowed (%)	5.9	5.9	6.1	5.8	18	13

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	79,500	73,813	1,995,658	1,997,833	8	8
One-parent families	9,559	9,260	225,180	231,370	7	7
One-parent families (% of all families)	12.0	12.5	11.3	11.6	4	4
Couples of mixed religions ² (%)	58.4	57.4	58.1	55.9	22	20
De facto couples (%)	16.6	15.6	17.7	17.7	25	25
Median annual family income ³ (\$)	116,748	102,318	120,943	100,270	10	9

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	97,018	89,559	2,567,362	2,548,354	8	8
Persons living alone (aged under 35)	1,298	1,228	51,145	53,499	8	10
Persons living alone (aged 35+)	14,850	13,170	442,080	407,684	8	10
Persons living alone (total)	16,148	14,398	493,225	461,183	8	10
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	8.2	7.6	9.7	8.7	25	24
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	75.6	74.5	73.0	71.2	8	9
Median monthly housing loan repayment ⁵ (\$)	2,193	1,969	1,948	1,873	5	7

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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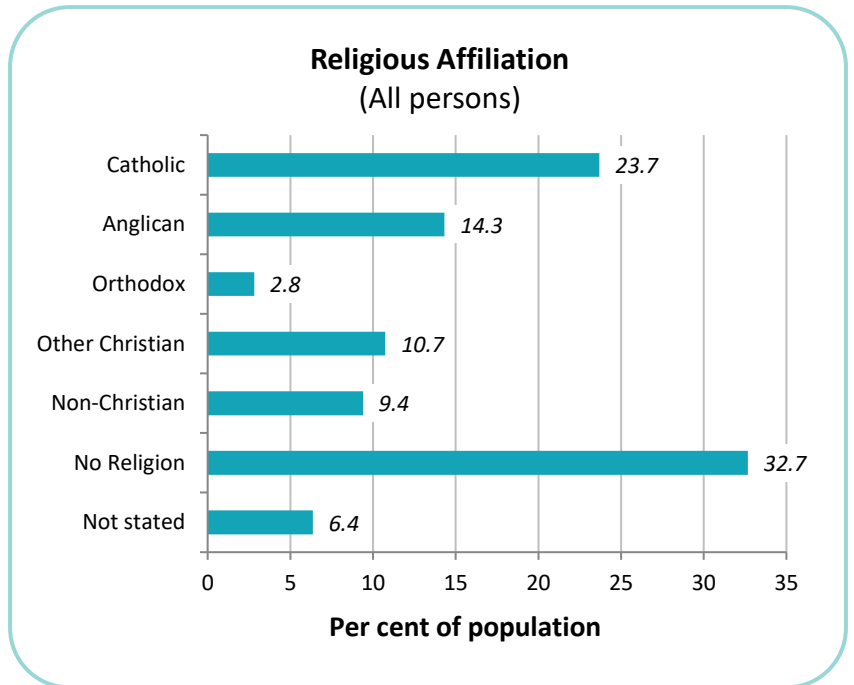
Religious Affiliation

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	23,849	26,315	21,100	23,536	24,231	25,793	24,089	17,371	9,398	195,682
Maronite Catholic	167	174	128	149	153	109	104	42	18	1,044
Melkite Catholic	20	5	13	14	6	9	5	-	-	72
Ukrainian Catholic	3	-	3	8	3	-	13	5	-	35
Chaldean Catholic	68	52	70	69	33	41	22	14	5	374
Syro-Malabar Catholic	154	144	32	95	132	50	13	5	-	625
Total Catholic	24,261	26,690	21,346	23,871	24,558	26,002	24,246	17,437	9,421	197,832
Per cent Catholic (of total population in age group)	21.9	25.4	20.7	20.9	23.6	26.3	25.9	25.4	25.8	23.7
Anglican	8,532	11,533	8,091	10,026	14,697	17,742	20,291	18,525	10,156	119,593
Orthodox	2,935	2,851	2,622	3,075	3,290	3,142	2,536	1,959	1,118	23,528
Other Christian	8,967	9,983	8,423	9,914	10,531	11,835	13,313	10,773	5,989	89,728
Non-Christian	14,917	10,114	10,108	17,428	12,108	6,700	4,342	2,083	640	78,440
No Religion	44,012	37,290	45,484	42,628	32,564	27,955	23,925	13,623	5,279	272,760
Not Stated	7,228	6,451	6,827	7,537	6,406	5,370	5,036	4,249	3,961	53,065
Total Population	110,852	104,912	102,901	114,479	104,154	98,746	93,689	68,649	36,564	834,946

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	922	991	1,913	1,928
1	1,088	1,018	2,106	2,173
2	1,169	1,114	2,283	2,379
3	1,221	1,173	2,394	2,418
4	1,216	1,155	2,371	2,509
5	1,321	1,220	2,541	2,483
6	1,293	1,309	2,602	2,757
7	1,365	1,305	2,670	2,746
8	1,328	1,323	2,651	2,731
9	1,413	1,339	2,752	2,837
10	1,357	1,337	2,694	2,782
11	1,418	1,425	2,843	2,628
12	1,444	1,391	2,835	2,781
13	1,438	1,381	2,819	2,667
14	1,472	1,345	2,817	2,721
15	1,433	1,311	2,744	2,700
16	1,289	1,271	2,560	2,729
17	1,321	1,241	2,562	2,653
18	1,270	1,167	2,437	2,604
19	1,203	1,185	2,388	2,437
20-24	5,531	5,422	10,953	11,507
25-29	4,852	5,556	10,408	10,635
30-34	5,288	6,388	11,676	10,986
35-39	5,615	6,579	12,194	11,134
40-44	5,511	6,384	11,895	12,379
45-49	6,044	6,621	12,665	12,330
50-54	5,873	6,708	12,581	13,304
55-59	6,197	7,220	13,417	12,715
60-64	5,934	7,041	12,975	11,037
65-69	5,033	6,231	11,264	10,368
70-74	4,696	5,602	10,298	7,727
75-79	3,188	3,948	7,136	6,028
80+	4,038	5,377	9,415	8,038
Total	93,781	104,078	197,859	189,851

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?

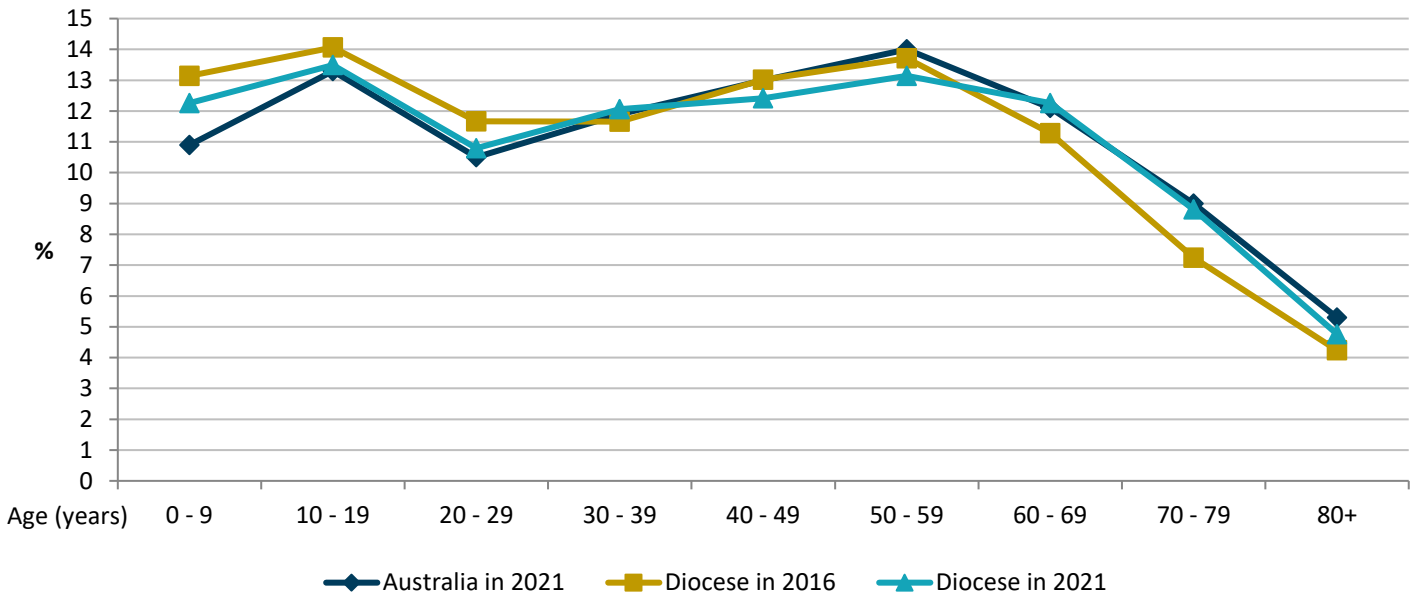
Does this data suggest any new challenges for the diocese?

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.

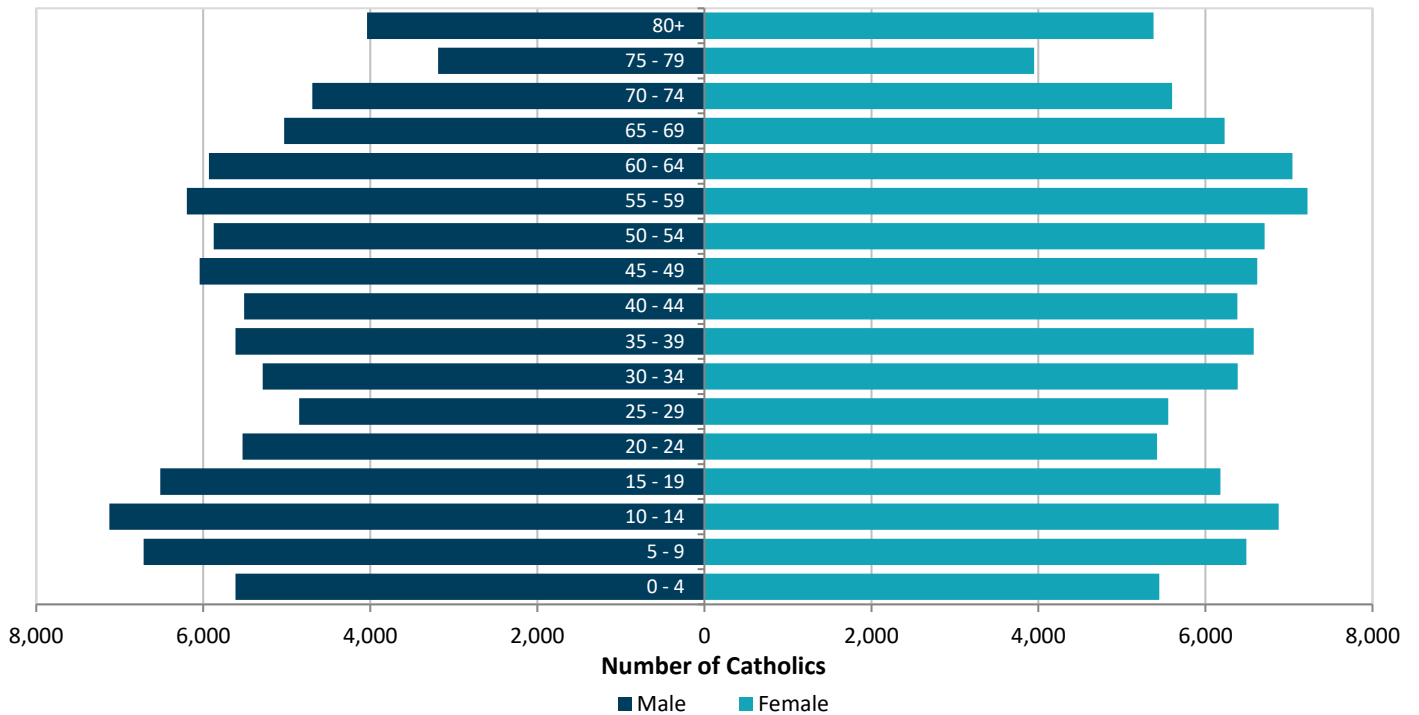


Age and Sex

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	973	937	803	815	825	504	4,857
Females	488	705	1,039	918	1,035	692	4,877
Lone Persons:							
Males	-	68	178	126	164	175	711
Females	-	58	227	248	497	520	1,550
Other non-family members or persons not present in a household on Census night³							
Males	14	75	131	117	171	212	720
Females	10	67	175	138	290	478	1,158
Total							
Males	987	1,080	1,112	1,058	1,160	891	6,288
Females	498	830	1,441	1,304	1,822	1,690	7,585

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	539	642	1,100	1,650	1,900	2,099	7,930
Females	746	1,205	2,147	2,920	3,305	2,831	13,154

Notes:

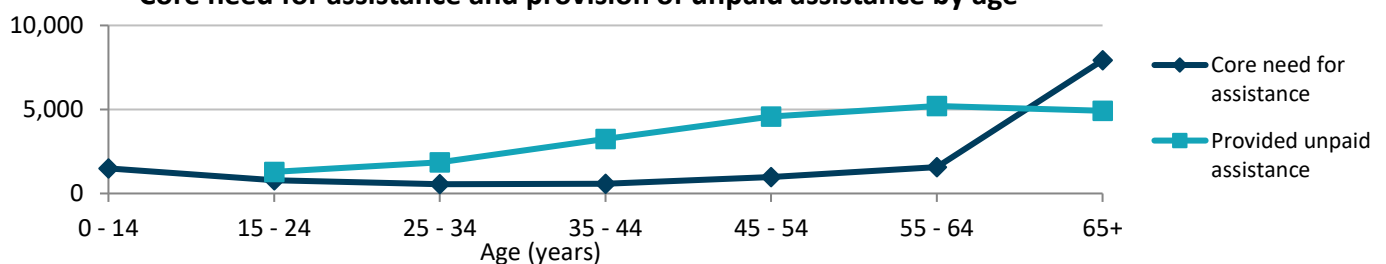
1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006. *Census Dictionary Australia 2006*. Catalogue No. 2901.0.

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	11,974	6,260	2,917	2,173	1,569	636	300	25,829
Married	66	3,609	7,192	7,810	8,174	7,036	4,932	38,819
Divorced or Separated	4	256	1,004	1,854	2,168	1,622	768	7,676
Widowed	3	8	12	79	221	434	1,229	1,986
Total	12,047	10,133	11,125	11,916	12,132	9,728	7,229	74,310
Females								
Never married	11,438	6,086	2,726	1,905	1,229	527	263	24,174
Married	137	5,272	8,542	8,501	9,023	7,203	3,504	42,182
Divorced or Separated	12	568	1,625	2,685	3,215	2,357	960	11,422
Widowed	4	15	72	239	789	1,747	4,602	7,468
Total	11,591	11,941	12,965	13,330	14,256	11,834	9,329	85,246

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

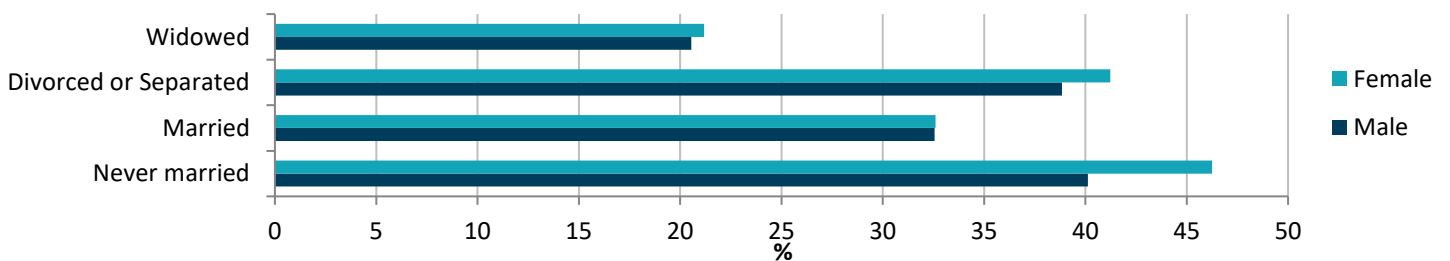


Table 13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status

	In a registered marriage	In a de facto marriage	Total couples	% couples in de facto marriages
Both persons Catholic	23,489	2,957	26,446	11.2
One person Catholic, the other non-Catholic Christian	19,220	3,361	22,581	14.9
One Catholic, the other non-Christian, not stated or temporarily absent	12,269	4,648	16,917	27.5
Total	54,978	10,966	65,944	16.6



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	153	212	641	2,218	4,420	3,196	3,523	748	15,111	2,895
One parent Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	70	130	433	1,666	3,156	2,601	2,868	600	11,524	3,002
One parent Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	70	126	381	1,447	2,755	2,031	2,002	460	9,272	2,864
Couples with no children living at home:										
Both partners Catholic	960	2,000	1,947	2,223	2,145	1,024	766	266	11,331	1,461
One partner Catholic, the other Christian, but not Catholic	726	1,717	2,011	2,445	2,175	1,039	700	253	11,066	1,542
One partner Catholic, the other Non-Christian, No Religion or Not stated	293	548	787	1,309	1,879	962	726	137	6,641	2,167
One-parent families:										
Parent is Catholic	798	1,322	2,070	2,380	1,527	491	297	674	9,559	1,329
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	176	272	627	871	893	478	457	222	3,996	1,949
Other: Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	-
Total	3,246	6,327	8,897	14,559	18,950	11,822	11,339	4,360	79,500	2,239

Notes:

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



Families

Table 15: Weekly family income by number of dependent children

	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more dependent children	Total
Less than \$500	2,305	495	312	127	36	3,275
\$500-\$799	4,735	674	576	240	87	6,312
\$800-\$1,249	6,340	1,058	959	414	153	8,924
\$1,250-\$1,999	8,607	2,256	2,323	1,003	366	14,555
\$2,000-\$2,999	9,357	3,317	4,184	1,637	457	18,952
\$3,000-\$3,999	5,091	2,281	3,138	1,052	265	11,827
\$4,000 or more	4,645	2,277	2,945	1,208	246	11,321
Income not fully stated	2,445	755	708	304	121	4,333
Total Families	43,525	13,113	15,145	5,985	1,731	79,499
Median Family Income (\$)	1,873	2,511	2,728	2,645	2,356	2,239

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)**

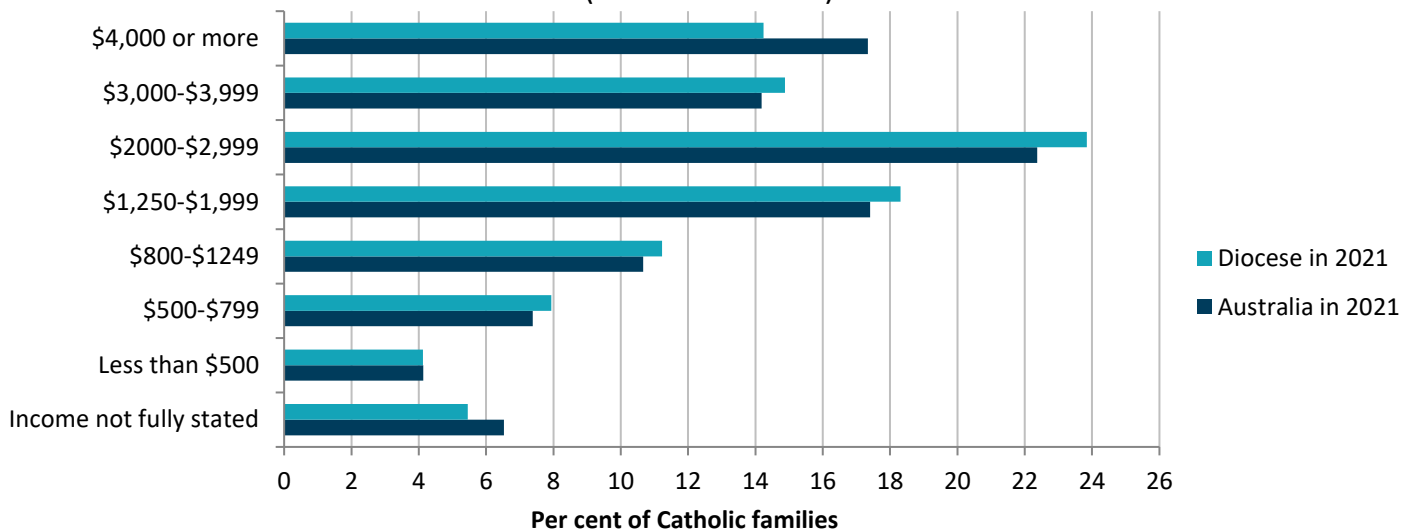


Table 16: Social marital status by number of dependent children

	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)	31,154	7,693	10,695	4,336	1,095	54,973
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	6,610	1,930	1,556	623	253	10,972
One parent family, parent Catholic	4,062	2,655	1,934	683	229	9,563
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	1,702	851	948	353	141	3,995
Total families	43,528	13,129	15,133	5,995	1,718	79,503



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	61,670	1,974	13,695	1,027	78,366	78.7
Lone person aged under 35 years	583	43	622	50	1,298	44.9
Lone person aged 35 years or over	10,089	1,354	2,834	573	14,850	67.9
Group households	1,009	113	1,301	81	2,504	40.3
Total households	73,351	3,484	18,452	1,731	97,018	75.6

	\$1-\$599	\$600-\$999	\$1,000-1,599	\$1,600-\$2,199	\$2,200-\$2,799	\$2,800 or more	Median monthly household loan payment
Family households	1,299	1,676	4,846	8,286	6,802	10,350	2,246
Lone person aged under 35 years	7	18	76	169	94	85	2,038
Lone person aged 35 years or over	206	276	503	542	237	278	1,639
Group households	28	46	73	104	63	63	1,839
Total households	1,540	2,016	5,498	9,101	7,196	10,776	2,193

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.



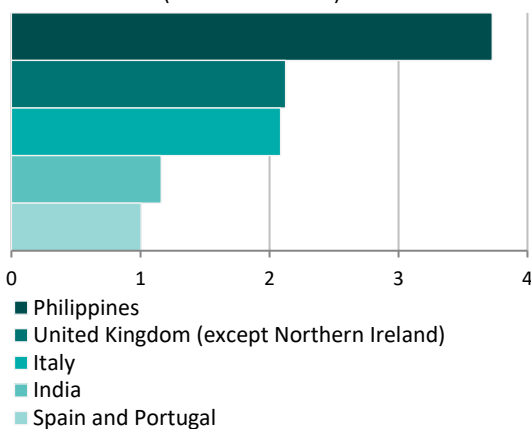
Birthplace

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)

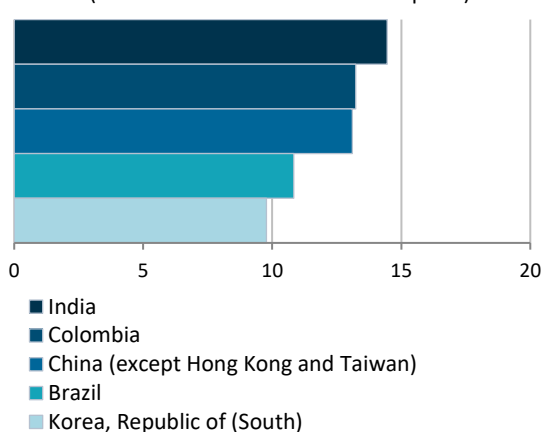


Table 19: Birthplace

	All Catholics	% of Catholics	% recent arrivals ¹
Australia	152,619	77.1	-
New Zealand	1,756	0.9	4.4
Other Oceania	1,125	0.6	8.9
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	4,205	2.1	1.6
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	1,518	0.8	2.4
Italy	4,128	2.1	0.6
Malta	1,553	0.8	0.6
Spain and Portugal	1,989	1.0	0.3
France	237	0.1	1.3
Netherlands	599	0.3	0.5
Germany	943	0.5	1.5
Austria	347	0.2	-
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	1,982	1.0	0.4
Poland	1,042	0.5	1.2
Hungary	269	0.1	1.5
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	652	0.3	0.6
Other Europe NEC	159	0.1	1.9
Vietnam	761	0.4	5.1
Philippines	7,374	3.7	9.7
Indonesia	431	0.2	5.6
Malaysia	232	0.1	8.6
Singapore	137	0.1	6.6
South East Asia NEC	317	0.2	2.8
India	2,297	1.2	14.5
Sri Lanka	335	0.2	9.6
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	145	0.1	13.1
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	118	0.1	4.2
Korea, Republic of (South)	133	0.1	9.8
Egypt	240	0.1	-
Lebanon	745	0.4	1.3
Iraq	1,087	0.5	7.0
Sudan (including South Sudan)	101	0.1	4.0
Middle East and North Africa NEC	452	0.2	6.2
South Africa	440	0.2	6.8
Mauritius	599	0.3	-
United States of America	400	0.2	7.3
Canada	228	0.1	8.3
Argentina	428	0.2	5.4
Brazil	240	0.1	10.8
Colombia	272	0.1	13.2
Chile	1,254	0.6	0.4
Central America and South America NEC	1,322	0.7	3.0
Other countries	814	0.4	4.8
Inadequately described/Not stated	1,836	0.9	-
Total	197,861	100.0	1.0

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	161,500	477,701	639,201	25.3
Italian	5,469	929	6,398	85.5
Maltese	1,143	75	1,218	93.8
Spanish	4,475	3,412	7,887	56.7
Croatian	2,329	267	2,596	89.7
Polish	1,117	256	1,373	81.4
Dutch	153	490	643	23.8
French	646	700	1,346	48.0
German	460	1,298	1,758	26.2
Portuguese	1,456	547	2,003	72.7
Hungarian	275	182	457	60.2
Ukrainian	61	86	147	41.5
Vietnamese	1,138	3,122	4,260	26.7
Filipino languages	5,949	1,686	7,635	77.9
Chinese languages	509	9,393	9,902	5.1
Malayalam	1,716	1,565	3,281	52.3
Sinhalese	145	878	1,023	14.2
Korean	132	728	860	15.3
Indonesian & Malay	400	1,475	1,875	21.3
Arabic	2,223	12,773	14,996	14.8
Assyrian and Chaldean	964	1,176	2,140	45.0
Oceanic and Papuan languages	1,329	5,649	6,978	19.0
Australian Indigenous Languages	58	335	393	14.8
Other European languages NEC	819	18,642	19,461	4.2
Other Asian languages NEC	1,027	44,198	45,225	2.3
Other languages NEC	594	6,950	7,544	7.9
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/Not stated	1,778	42,619	44,397	4.0
Total	197,865	637,132	834,997	23.7

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	9,525	16,709	18,975	18,302	37,853	31,562	28,574	161,500	-
Italian	86	124	132	244	983	1,389	2,514	5,472	12.8
Maltese	15	24	29	47	192	230	605	1,142	6.0
Spanish	192	249	232	308	1,299	924	1,273	4,477	13.4
Croatian	102	121	112	152	554	430	858	2,329	11.0
Polish	43	58	55	58	269	208	428	1,119	11.4
Dutch	-	-	5	7	13	27	93	145	2.6
French	18	12	24	25	123	158	296	656	3.1
German	22	22	13	15	76	79	227	454	2.4
Portuguese	46	62	50	61	406	369	460	1,454	21.4
Hungarian	6	8	10	12	59	54	133	282	5.8
Ukrainian	6	-	-	3	17	8	29	63	10.9
Vietnamese	75	86	87	159	398	229	106	1,140	22.8
Filipino languages	170	205	372	577	2,407	1,391	834	5,956	3.5
Chinese languages	33	47	33	39	144	92	110	498	17.3
Malayalam	140	255	198	205	760	132	27	1,717	5.5
Sinhalese	6	7	11	15	61	34	8	142	6.0
Korean	4	21	14	7	54	21	10	131	17.3
Indonesian & Malay	26	46	18	38	165	60	51	404	7.8
Arabic	89	125	200	311	751	456	289	2,221	11.1
Assyrian and Chaldean	72	94	100	185	311	147	55	964	14.3
Oceanic and Papuan languages	84	97	134	250	393	274	98	1,330	8.7
Australian Indigenous Languages	8	12	3	-	20	8	-	51	5.1
Other European languages NEC	36	59	40	58	178	152	302	825	7.4
Other Asian languages NEC	58	108	97	114	382	190	83	1,032	8.3
Other languages NEC	26	52	56	74	237	99	54	598	11.4
Inadequately described/Non-verbal/ Not stated	205	141	148	100	317	267	598	1,776	10.3
Total	11,093	18,744	21,148	21,366	48,422	38,990	38,115	197,878	1.9

Notes:

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

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



Attendance at Educational Institutions

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

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

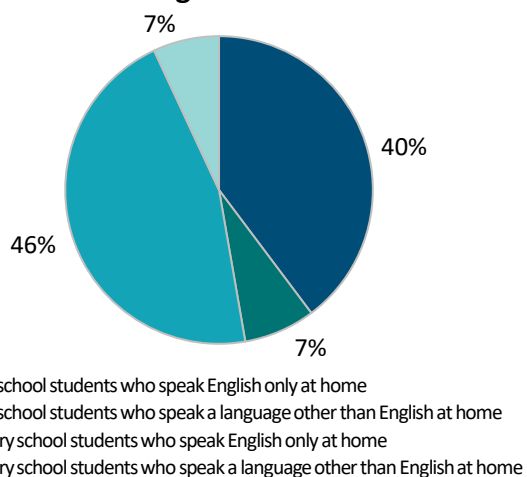
How does the diocese connect with Catholic students at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, especially those not attending Catholic schools?

Table 22: Type of educational institution attending by religious affiliation

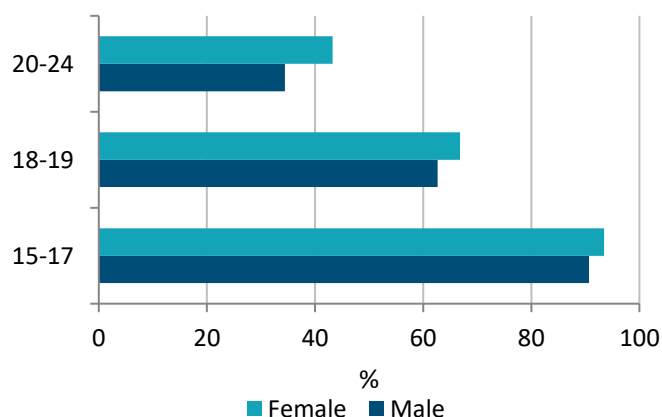
	Catholic	Not Catholic or not stated	All persons	% Catholic
Infants/Primary – Government	8,291	43,264	51,555	16.1
Infants/Primary – Catholic	9,068	3,046	12,114	74.9
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	1,028	7,440	8,468	12.1
Secondary – Government	5,275	27,707	32,982	16.0
Secondary – Catholic	8,388	5,145	13,533	62.0
Secondary – Other Non-Government	1,230	6,989	8,219	15.0
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	4,920	16,187	21,107	23.3
University or other Tertiary Institutions	6,926	25,654	32,580	21.3
Other (including pre-school)	5,911	19,566	25,477	23.2
Not stated/Not applicable ¹	146,807	482,135	628,942	23.3
Total	197,844	637,133	834,977	23.7

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

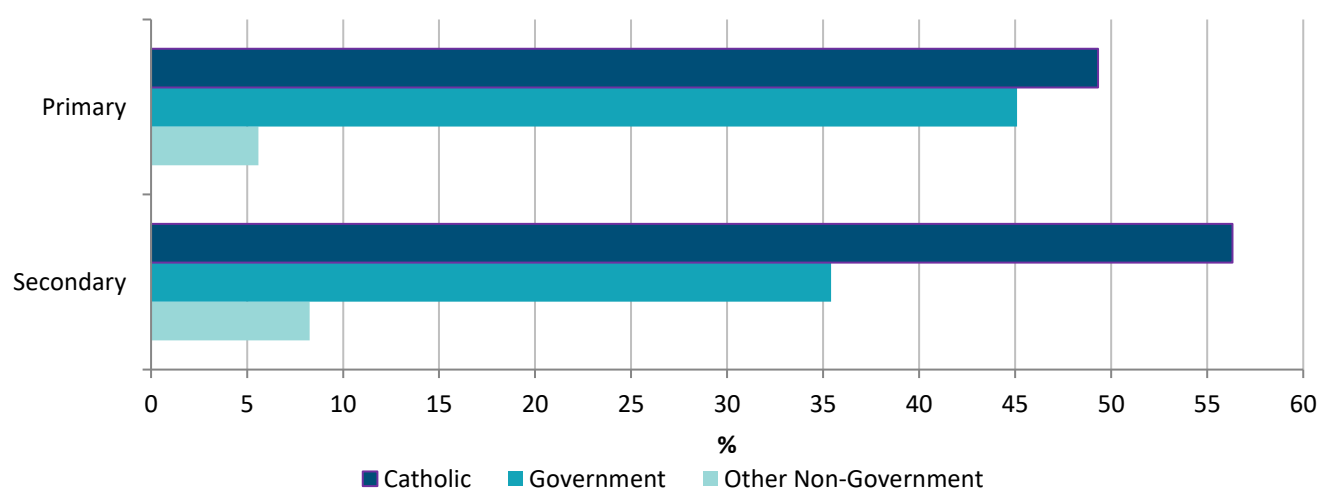
Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family¹

	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	288	561	784	1,536	2,280	1,254	997	8,083	119,824
Infants/Primary – Catholic	157	252	542	1,245	2,400	1,993	2,052	8,935	150,432
Infants/Primary – Other Non-Government	18	20	41	102	217	167	368	1,011	177,807
Secondary – Government	163	296	574	967	1,313	787	566	4,987	117,478
Secondary – Catholic	123	203	424	1,015	1,969	1,749	2,206	8,167	159,714
Secondary – Other Non-Government	22	28	44	128	217	202	472	1,186	186,724
TAFE, University or other Tertiary institution	33	57	125	378	676	674	1,160	3,339	178,276
Other (including pre-school)	30	49	79	199	333	232	180	1,134	134,633
Not stated or not applicable	46	41	50	103	92	39	41	463	91,354
Total	880	1,507	2,663	5,673	9,497	7,097	8,042	37,305	142,454

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	15	451	585	529	481	505	2,566
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	545	1,894	1,929	1,679	1,346	1,485	8,878
Advanced diploma or diploma level	231	813	1,307	1,419	1,149	997	5,916
Certificate level	1,965	4,033	4,137	4,488	4,714	5,354	24,691
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	9,286	2,941	3,171	3,800	4,446	8,618	32,262
Total	12,042	10,132	11,129	11,915	12,136	16,959	74,313
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>22.6</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>15.1</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>15.4</i>
Females							
Postgraduate degree	66	904	899	644	466	377	3,356
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	1,000	3,884	3,868	2,809	2,051	1,891	15,503
Advanced diploma or diploma level	592	1,792	2,042	2,082	1,768	1,671	9,947
Certificate level	1,581	2,732	3,086	3,192	3,206	2,312	16,109
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	8,354	2,630	3,075	4,606	6,764	14,919	40,348
Total	11,593	11,942	12,970	13,333	14,255	21,170	85,263
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>40.1</i>	<i>36.8</i>	<i>25.9</i>	<i>17.7</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>22.1</i>
All Catholics							
Postgraduate degree	81	1,355	1,484	1,173	947	882	5,922
Graduate diploma / bachelor degree	1,545	5,778	5,797	4,488	3,397	3,376	24,381
Advanced diploma or diploma level	823	2,605	3,349	3,501	2,917	2,668	15,863
Certificate level	3,546	6,765	7,223	7,680	7,920	7,666	40,800
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	17,640	5,571	6,246	8,406	11,210	23,537	72,610
Total	23,635	22,074	24,099	25,248	26,391	38,129	159,576
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>32.3</i>	<i>30.2</i>	<i>22.4</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>11.2</i>	<i>19.0</i>

Note:

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



Employment

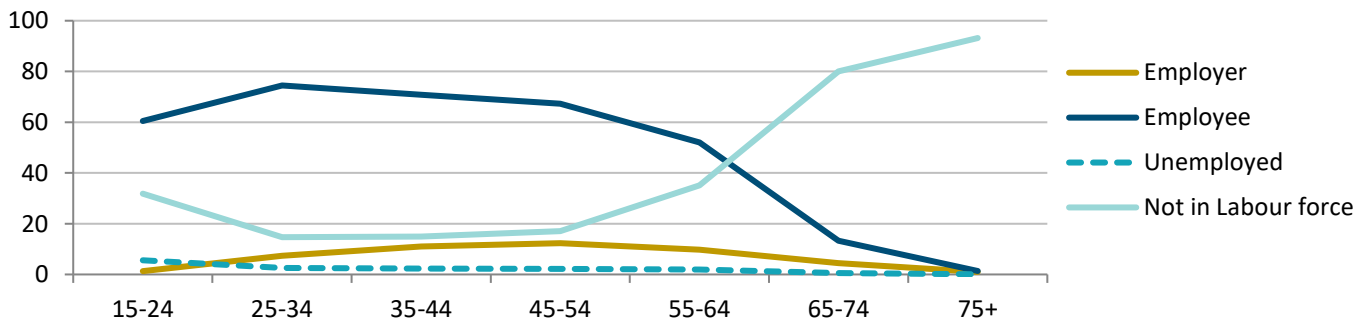
In recent years there have been many changes in society and the workplace that have affected Australian workers. One major change has been the increase in the percentages of workers, especially young people and women, in part-time jobs. Another has been the rise in participation in the labour force by women. A third major change has been the rise in participation in the labour force by older workers, following the removal of incentives to early retirement and resulting in the continuing availability of their skills, experience and maturity in the workplace.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	210	2,782	3,855	775	7,622
Employee	7,087	15,363	14,206	1,558	38,214
Unemployed	716	579	557	78	1,930
Not in the labour force	3,928	2,315	5,119	14,096	25,458
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	104	221	302	455	1,082
Total	12,045	21,260	24,039	16,962	74,306
<i>Per cent in labour force²</i>	66.5	88.1	77.4	14.2	64.3
<i>Per cent unemployed³</i>	8.9	3.1	3.0	3.2	4.0
Females					
Employer	112	1,510	1,827	356	3,805
Employee	7,204	18,149	16,511	1,533	43,397
Unemployed	601	555	534	52	1,742
Not in the labour force	3,591	4,516	8,464	18,587	35,158
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	82	187	260	639	1,168
Total	11,590	24,917	27,596	21,167	85,270
<i>Per cent in labour force²</i>	68.3	81.1	68.4	9.2	57.4
<i>Per cent unemployed³</i>	7.6	2.7	2.8	2.7	3.6

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	251	1,015	1,731	1,925	1,497	444	6,863
Professionals	372	1,482	1,574	1,348	1,089	463	6,328
Technicians & Trade Workers	2,624	2,675	2,308	2,214	1,726	372	11,919
Community & Personal Service Workers	598	624	594	607	434	114	2,971
Clerical & Administrative Workers	303	474	602	654	553	152	2,738
Sales Workers	946	411	432	467	427	146	2,829
Machinery Operators & Drivers	551	972	1,285	1,522	1,467	335	6,132
Labourers	1,563	866	872	1,002	980	299	5,582
ID / NS / NA ¹	4,834	1,620	1,719	2,178	3,969	14,632	28,952
Total	12,042	10,139	11,117	11,917	12,142	16,957	74,314
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	8.6	29.3	35.2	33.6	31.6	39.0	29.1
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	65.7	53.0	47.5	48.6	51.1	43.3	52.1
Females							
Managers	257	1,012	1,313	1,210	770	193	4,755
Professionals	856	3,315	3,128	2,477	1,601	393	11,770
Technicians & Trade Workers	321	439	401	345	246	62	1,814
Community & Personal Service Workers	1,958	1,457	1,488	1,706	1,382	273	8,264
Clerical & Administrative Workers	971	1,924	2,492	2,769	2,327	586	11,069
Sales Workers	2,145	716	739	899	795	168	5,462
Machinery Operators & Drivers	110	162	130	181	165	36	784
Labourers	615	307	422	611	740	176	2,871
ID / NS / NA ¹	4,362	2,608	2,855	3,132	6,245	19,277	38,479
Total	11,595	11,940	12,968	13,330	14,271	21,164	85,268
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	15.4	46.4	43.9	36.2	29.5	31.1	35.3
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	14.5	9.7	9.4	11.1	14.3	14.5	11.7
All Catholics							
Managers	508	2,027	3,044	3,135	2,267	637	11,618
Professionals	1,228	4,797	4,702	3,825	2,690	856	18,098
Technicians & Trade Workers	2,945	3,114	2,709	2,559	1,972	434	13,733
Community & Personal Service Workers	2,556	2,081	2,082	2,313	1,816	387	11,235
Clerical & Administrative Workers	1,274	2,398	3,094	3,423	2,880	738	13,807
Sales Workers	3,091	1,127	1,171	1,366	1,222	314	8,291
Machinery Operators & Drivers	661	1,134	1,415	1,703	1,632	371	6,916
Labourers	2,178	1,173	1,294	1,613	1,720	475	8,453
ID / NS / NA ¹	9,196	4,228	4,574	5,310	10,214	33,909	67,431
Total	23,637	22,079	24,085	25,247	26,413	38,121	159,582
<i>Per cent Managers & Professionals²</i>	12.0	38.2	39.7	34.9	30.6	35.4	32.2
<i>Per cent ‘blue collar workers’²</i>	40.1	30.4	27.8	29.5	32.9	30.4	31.6

Notes:

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

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



Occupation

Occupation is one of the many indicators of socioeconomic status.

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

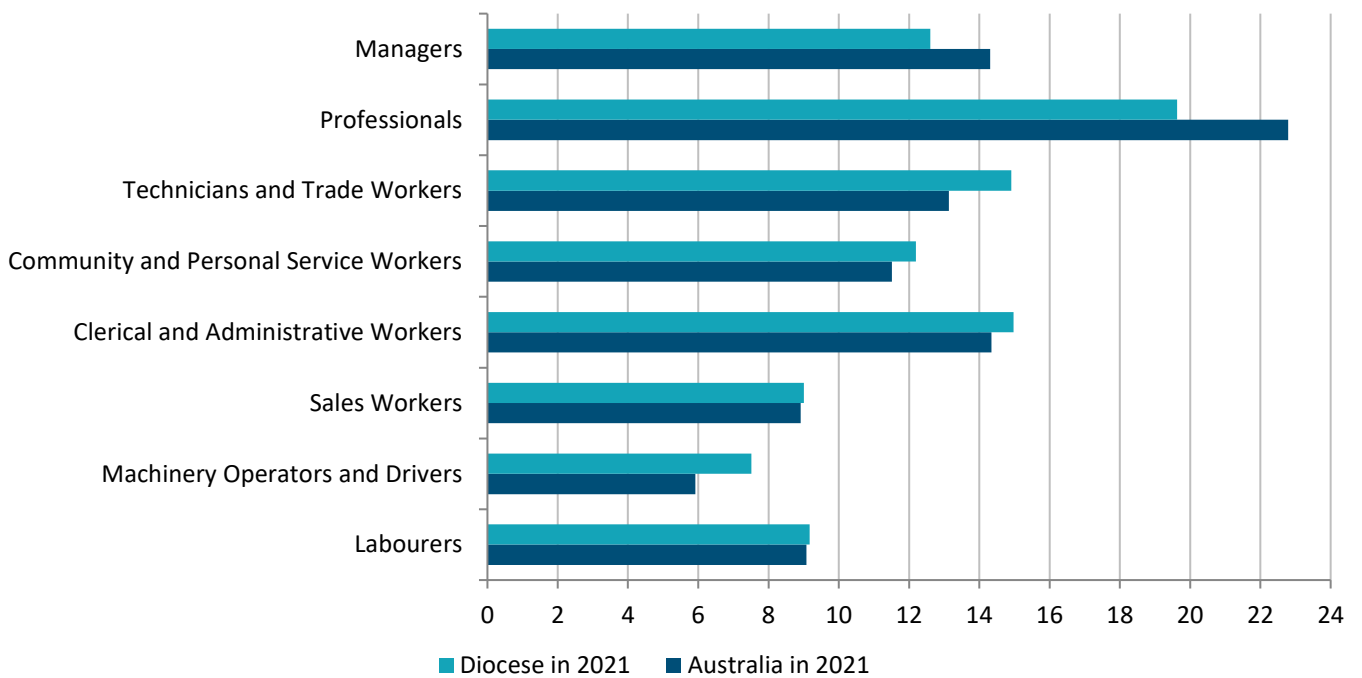
Table 27: Occupation by religious affiliation¹ (%)

	Catholic	Non-Catholic
All persons aged 15+ with an occupation		
Managers	12.6	12.1
Professionals	19.6	21.7
Technicians & Trade Workers	14.9	14.8
Community & Personal Service Workers	12.2	12.7
Clerical & Administrative Workers	15.0	13.1
Sales Workers	9.0	8.5
Machinery Operators & Drivers	7.5	7.9
Labourers	9.2	9.3
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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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.

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