

Engaging with your PARISH SOCIAL PROFILE

Based on the 2021 Australian Census



Households

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. 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.

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 parish? 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 parish's pastoral strategies relate to housing issues?

	Fully owned or being purchased	Rented from State or Territory Housing Authority	Rented from other landlord, or landlord not stated	Other households	Total households	Per cent owned or being purchased
Family households	1,190	4	656	20	1,850	64.3
Lone person aged under 35 years	11	54	77	7	149	7.2
Lone person aged 35 years or over	209	18	77	10	314	66.2
Group households	22	-	84	-	106	20.3
Total households	1,432	22	851	37	2,342	60.7

	\$1-\$599	\$600-\$999	\$1,000-\$1,599	\$1,600-\$2,199	\$2,200-\$2,799	\$2,800 or more	Median monthly household loan repayment (\$)
Family households	27	-	21	57	84	74	245
Lone person aged under 35 years	-	-	-	3	8	9	3
Lone person aged 35 years or over	-	-	21	3	92	83	255
Group households	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total households	27	-	21	60	92	83	255

Birthplace

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

What are the major groups of overseas-born Catholics in your parish?

What difference does their presence make to the life of Catholics in your parish?

How might the parish better connect with those who have only recently arrived?

Country	% of Catholics	% of total population
Australia	55.0	72.0
New Zealand	1.0	1.0
Other Oceania	0.5	0.5
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	1.5	1.5
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	1.5	1.5
Italy	1.5	1.5
Spain and Portugal	1.5	1.5
France	1.5	1.5
Netherlands	1.5	1.5
Germany	1.5	1.5
Switzerland	1.5	1.5
Canada and other former European colonies	1.5	1.5
Poland	1.5	1.5
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation	1.5	1.5
Ukraine	1.5	1.5
Other Eastern Europe and Balkans	1.5	1.5
Other European	1.5	1.5
Vietnam	1.5	1.5
Philippines	1.5	1.5
Indonesia	1.5	1.5
Malaysia	1.5	1.5
Singapore	1.5	1.5
South East Asia (incl. Timor)	1.5	1.5
India	1.5	1.5
Sri Lanka	1.5	1.5
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	1.5	1.5
Hong Kong (incl. of China)	1.5	1.5
Korea, Republic of (incl. of South Korea)	1.5	1.5
Egypt	1.5	1.5
Libanon	1.5	1.5
Iran	1.5	1.5
Sudan (including South Sudan)	1.5	1.5
Sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania	1.5	1.5
South Africa	1.5	1.5
Mexico	1.5	1.5
United States of America	1.5	1.5
Canada	1.5	1.5
Argentina	1.5	1.5
Brazil	1.5	1.5
Colombia	1.5	1.5

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

Birthplace	% of all Catholics
Italy	1.5
Philippines	1.5
Korea, Republic of (South)	1.5
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	1.5
Colombia	1.5

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

Birthplace	% of all Catholics from that birthplace
Italy	1.5
Philippines	1.5
Korea, Republic of (South)	1.5
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	1.5
Colombia	1.5

Notes: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021. Census of Population and Housing: Census Divisions. For census purposes, a Catholic household is any household in which at least one person is Catholic.

About the Social Profiles

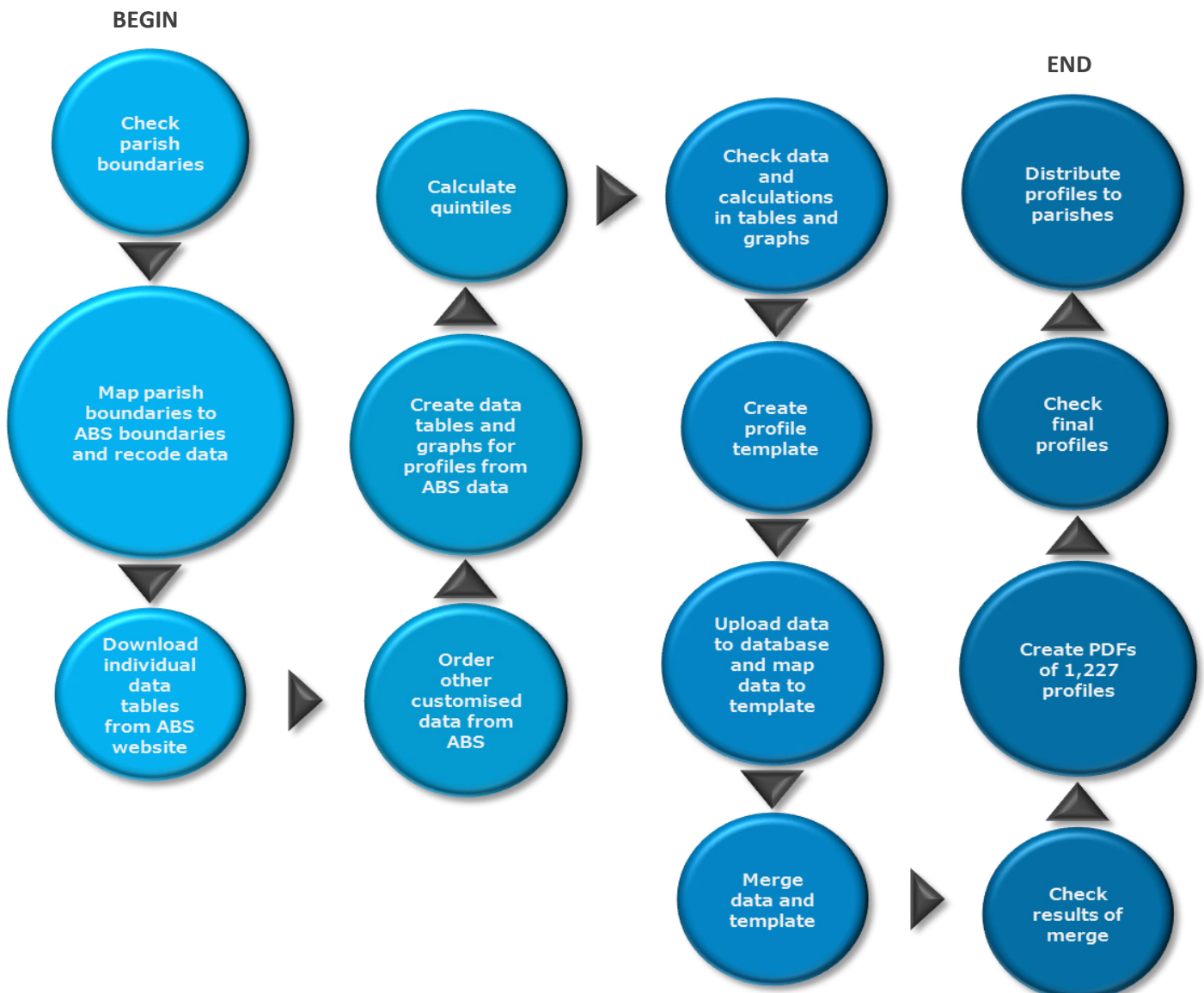
History

The National Catholic Census Project was established in the early 1990s for analysis of 1991 Census data. The project had its origins in the Census work of various agencies in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, particularly the Catholic Education Office (CEOM) and the Catholic Research Office for Pastoral Planning (CROPP). It began as a joint collaboration between the two offices, but in 1996, the newly established ACBC Pastoral Projects Office (now the National Centre for Pastoral Research, previously the Pastoral Research Office) was given responsibility for the project, where it has remained. However, both offices have continued to work collaboratively on the various aspects of the project.

The information contained in the profiles are mostly for Catholics, that is, those who ticked the box 'Catholic' on the Census questionnaire. A key foundation of



STEPS IN CREATING THE 2021 PARISH SOCIAL PROFILES

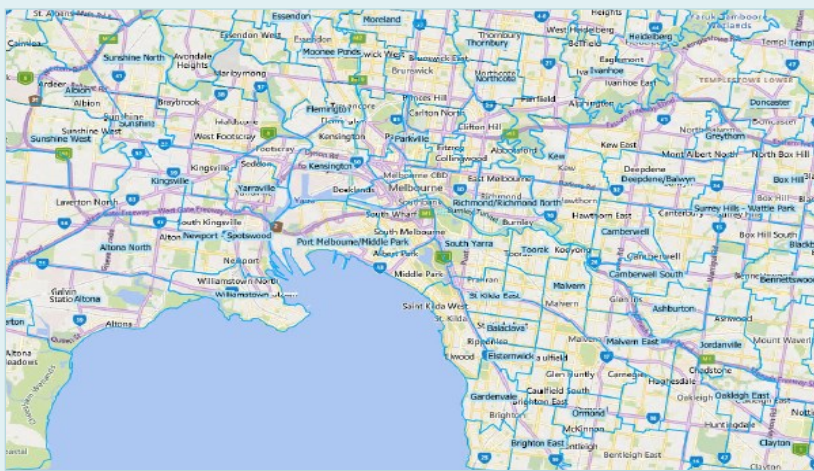


About the Social Profiles

the project was – and continues to be – the analysis and dissemination of Census data for pastoral planning purposes for use by personnel in Catholic parishes, dioceses, education offices and other Catholic organisations. The data has always been distributed free of charge by the ACBC. The Australian Census is conducted every five years, meaning the 2021 Census was the seventh Census covered by the project, representing 30 years' worth of comprehensive Census data on the Catholic population in Australia.

Geography

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is responsible for the Australian Census, and much Census data and other statistical information is accessible freely from their website. However, as Catholic parishes and dioceses have their



own unique geography, the National Centre for Pastoral Research (NCP) utilises customised data based on parish boundaries. The process of checking and updating boundaries every five years involves the NCP working with a key contact in every diocese to ensure any boundary changes are accounted for. While there are different practical definitions of what constitutes a parish, there were 1,227 parishes identified for the 2021 Census.

The key and time-consuming component of the boundary-checking process is ensuring all 61,844 Census statistical areas (called SA1s, which cover the entirety of Australia) are allocated correctly into the 1,227 parishes. The allocation is done on a 'best fit' scenario, and many SA1s overlap two or sometimes even three or four parishes. Rarely will a parish's canonical boundaries fit precisely with the ABS's boundaries. The process itself is a bit like piecing together a huge jigsaw puzzle with two layers.

Confidentiality

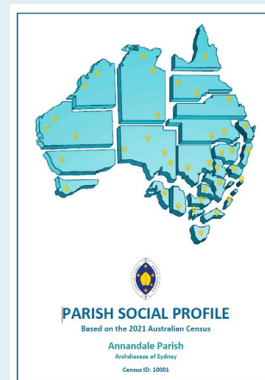
The ABS uses a number of different processes on Census data to carry out its statutory obligation to protect the confidentiality of Australians. A technique has been developed to randomly adjust cell values, which is considered to be the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of information that may be used to identify an individual, family, household, dwelling or business. The technique – also known as 'perturbation' – randomly adjusts cell values to prevent identifiable information. In summary, these 'introduced random error' adjustments may result in tables not adding up. Most ABS tables reporting basic statistics will not show significant discrepancies due to random perturbation, and the technique allows very large tables to be produced even though they contain numbers of very small cells.

During the production of the Social Profiles, part of the process in creating customised tables for individual parishes is similar to 'reversing' the perturbation process by ensuring that the cells in each table add to the totals. This means that occasionally different tables in the Profiles, where you would expect the same figures, will show different totals. However, through each of these processes, the information value of the tables are not impaired, because Census data is intended to be an instrument that paints a broad picture rather than a precise measurement of the demographics of a particular locality.

Unpacking your 2021 Parish Social Profile

What's included in your profile?

Your Parish Social Profile has a number of resources to help your pastoral ministry. This article highlights some key features provided in your profile. Download a copy of your parish profile from our website: <https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/2021-parish-social-profiles/>



AT A GLANCE (pages 2 and 3)

These pages provide a brief sketch of some key demographic indicators for your parish. Some important features include *A Snapshot of your Parish in 2021* and *What has changed in your parish since 2016?*

Your Parish Community

A SNAPSHOT OF YOUR PARISH (2021)

- Total Population: 8,698
- Catholic Population: 1,642
- Catholics make up 18.9 per cent of the total population
- Median age of Catholics is 41 years
- Total Catholic families: 623
- 204 Catholics live alone
- 465 Catholics were born overseas
- 42 Catholics do not speak English well
- 95 Catholics need assistance with core activities
- 698 Catholics have changed address since 2016

What has changed in your parish since 2016?

	Parish in 2016	Parish in 2021
Catholic population	1,864	1,642
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	20.2	19.5
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	14.4	17.1
Catholics born in NESCS ¹ (%)	19.5	19.2
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	1.9	2.1
Catholic families	652	623
Catholics living alone	201	204
Catholic students attending Catholic schools ² (%)	58.0	52.4
Catholics with university degree (%)	42.7	48.7
Catholic males in labour force (%)	73.7	72.4
Catholic females in labour force (%)	70.7	69.0
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	61.0	66.4

PARISH OVERVIEW (pages 4-7)

The Parish Overview pages provide a broad summary of the Catholic community within your parish boundaries and how it is changing. Within these tables, comparisons are provided to 2016 parish data and to 2021 data for your diocese and Australia as a whole. Parishes are also given a group ranking of 1 to 5 to help assess how your parish compares with others in your diocese and nationally as well. Some examples of important tables in this section are:

	Parish 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group ²	Australian Group ²
Total population ³	8,698	8,752	2,582,298	25,422,788	5	4
Catholic population	1,642	1,864	590,175	5,075,910	5	4
Per cent Catholic	18.9	21.3	22.9	20.0	4	3
At same address since previous Census (%)	57.5	51.9	58.9	59.4	3	4
Median age ⁴ (years)	41	39	40	43	3	4
Aged 0-14 (%)	19.5	20.2	17.3	17.9	2	2
Aged 65+ (%)	17.1	14.4	18.1	19.9	4	4
Males per 100 females	85.6	81.9	91.2	89.1	5	4

Table 1: This table provides figures for the Catholic and total population living within parish boundaries. It also shows the proportion of usual residents and has key figures for age and sex.

Table 4: This table provides figures of the birthplace of Catholics, including those born in non-English-speaking countries. Catholics of Australian Indigenous origin are also shown here, along with important figures of those for whom English is not their primary language.

	Parish 2021	Parish 2016	Diocese 2021	Australia 2021	Diocesan Group	Australian Group
Born overseas in English-speaking country ⁶ (%)	8.8	6.6	5.4	5.5	2	1
Born overseas in non-English-speaking country (%)	19.2	19.5	33.5	21.4	5	2
Immigrants from non-English-speaking countries arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	24	48	20,093	97,457	5	4
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	19	15	6,364	135,686	4	4
Speak language other than English at home (%)	17.7	20.0	38.0	21.5	5	3
Not proficient in English ⁷ (%)	2.1	1.9	6.5	2.7	4	2

Unpacking your 2021 Parish Social Profile

PARISH DETAILS (pages 9-25)

A major section of your profile consists of parish details—pages that explore the summary features provided in the earlier sections in greater depth. These tables and graphs allow for deeper analysis of your Catholic community as you plan particular areas of ministry. Some examples of important information provided in these pages are:

Religious Affiliation (Graph on Page 9) (shown right): This graph provides figures for Catholics and those belonging to other religious groups living within the parish boundaries.

Age Profile (Graph on Page 11) (shown below): This graph is an age profile of Catholics, grouped in 10-year intervals. Along with the 2021 figures, comparisons are also made to Catholics in the parish in 2016 and to your diocese in 2021.

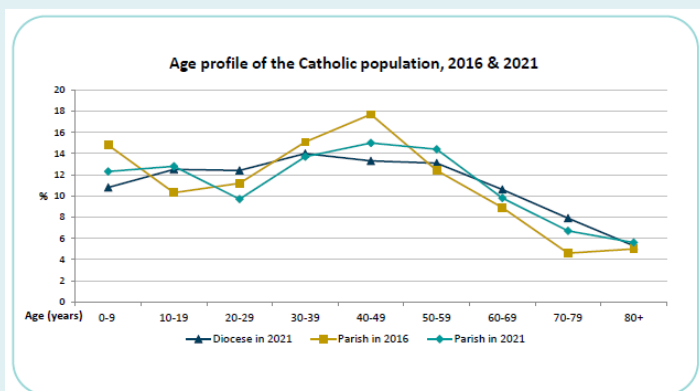
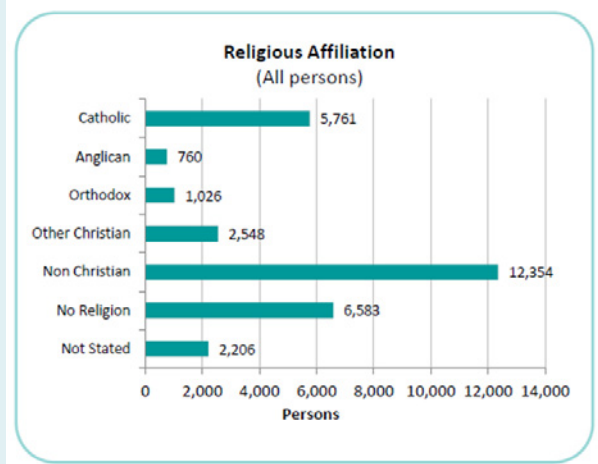


Table 13 (shown below): This table provides figures of the religious affiliation of couples in your parish by their social marital status. The table provides figures of both de facto and registered marriages for Catholic couples, those in mixed marriages and for Catholics who are married to a non-Christian person or someone whose religious affiliation is not known.

	In a registered marriage	In a de facto marriage	Total couples	% couples in de facto marriages
Both persons Catholic	142	32	174	18.4
One person Catholic, the other non-Catholic Christian	115	24	139	17.3
One Catholic, the other not Christian, not stated or temporarily absent	158	53	211	25.1
Total	415	109	524	20.8

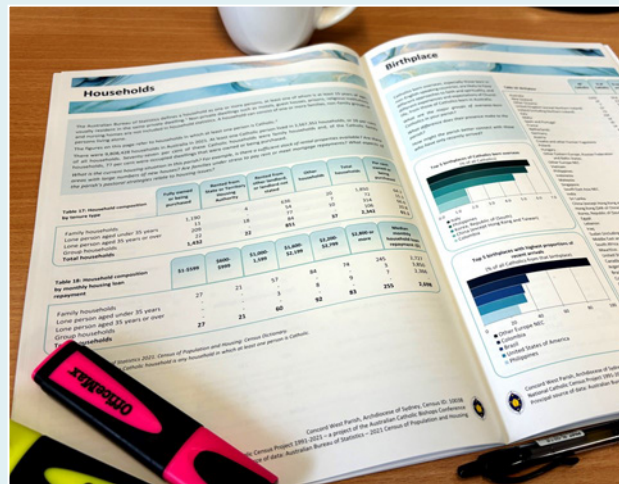
Table 17 (shown below): This table provides figures of the household composition of individuals and families in your parish. A family is defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de 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. The figures in this table show the number of households that are fully owned or being purchased, those that are rented and those that are of another status. The table also indicates how many people live alone, below and above age 35. The number of group households in the parish are also shown in this table.

	Fully owned or being purchased	Rented from State or Territory Housing Authority	Rented from other landlord, or landlord not stated	Other households	Total households	Per cent owned or being purchased
Family households	465	5	145	7	622	74.8
Lone person aged under 35 years	5	-	26	5	36	13.9
Lone person aged 35 years or over	92	12	52	12	168	54.8
Group households	6	-	24	-	30	20.0
Total households	568	17	247	24	856	66.4

Reflecting on your 2021 Parish Social Profile

Reflective Questions

Reflective questions encourage us to look deeper at the demographic data reported in various tables and graphs in the 2021 Parish Social Profile. Throughout your profile, you will find these questions included in the commentary on each page. These questions are offered as a guide to help pastoral leaders identify and respond to the challenges and needs of their parish communities. Below are further questions related to key variables of age, place of birth, families, educational qualifications, income and employment and occupations to help you ponder the data provided in your profile.



You will need your parish profile to help you work through these questions.

Download a copy here:

2021: <https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/2021-parish-social-profiles/>

2016: <https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/2016-parish-social-profiles/>

- ◆ **Age:** Refer to the Age profile chart on Page 11. How has the age profile of the parish population changed over the last five years?

Of the demographic figures reported in Table 1: Population (Page 4), which ones do you think have been particularly significant for the life of the parish? How does the median age of your parish compare with those reported for your diocese and with Australia as a whole?

- ◆ **Families:** Refer to Table 18 on page 16 (Household composition by monthly housing loan repayment). Are there a significant number of families under stress to meet mortgage repayments? How might this have changed with the current cost-of-living crisis? What impact will this have on the usual monetary contributions these families have made to your parish in the past?

Refer to Table 14 on page 14 (Family composition by weekly family income). Are there a significant number of one-parent families in your parish? What types of pastoral support does your parish provide for such families? Has the number of one-parent families in the lowest income bracket increased since 2016? (*You will need to look at the same table in your 2016 parish profile.*)

- ◆ **Birthplace:** For Birthplace figures, refer to Table 19 on Page 17. How is the chart showing the top 5 birthplaces of recent arrivals reported in 2021 different from 2016 (*You will need to check your 2016 profile as well*)? What are some new pastoral strategies that might need to be put in place to respond to this change?
- ◆ **Income:** Refer to Table 23 on page 21 (Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family). For some families, sending their children to a Catholic school is a choice, while for other families, their level of income restricts any choice they may have. Some parishes, particularly those in rural areas, do not have a Catholic school located within their boundaries so Catholic parents have further limited choices. Which groups have the highest reported figures? How might the parish be able to support students at non-Catholic schools?

Reflecting on your 2021 Parish Social Profile

- ◆ **Educational Qualifications:** Refer to Table 24 on page 22 (Highest qualification attained by age and sex). Have the number of Catholic females with a university education increased since 2016 (*You will need to check your 2016 profile as well*)? What challenges and opportunities are presented to the parish as a result of this change? How would you compare this information with the profile of men and women involved in your parish ministries?
- ◆ **Occupation and Employment:** Refer to Table 3 on page 5 and Tables 25 to 27 on pages 23-25. How have the changes in the employment or occupation status of Catholics (by sex, age groups and family composition) over the last five years affected the life in your parish or your parishioners' involvement in pastoral activities?

Social changes, such as a shift in the number of people with higher educational qualifications, a greater number of females entering the workforce or the increased pressure of financial obligations of families, forcing both partners into employment, can considerably affect the level of parishioner involvement and the ways in which people engage with their parish community. Keeping abreast of these shifting patterns in your community and the changing needs of individuals and families is critical in order to ensure the ongoing effectiveness of pastoral programs and activities. These changes also present leaders with new opportunities to refine current pastoral initiatives or develop new ones to ensure that the parish continues to remain vital well into the future.

PARISH SOCIAL PROFILES BY NUMBERS

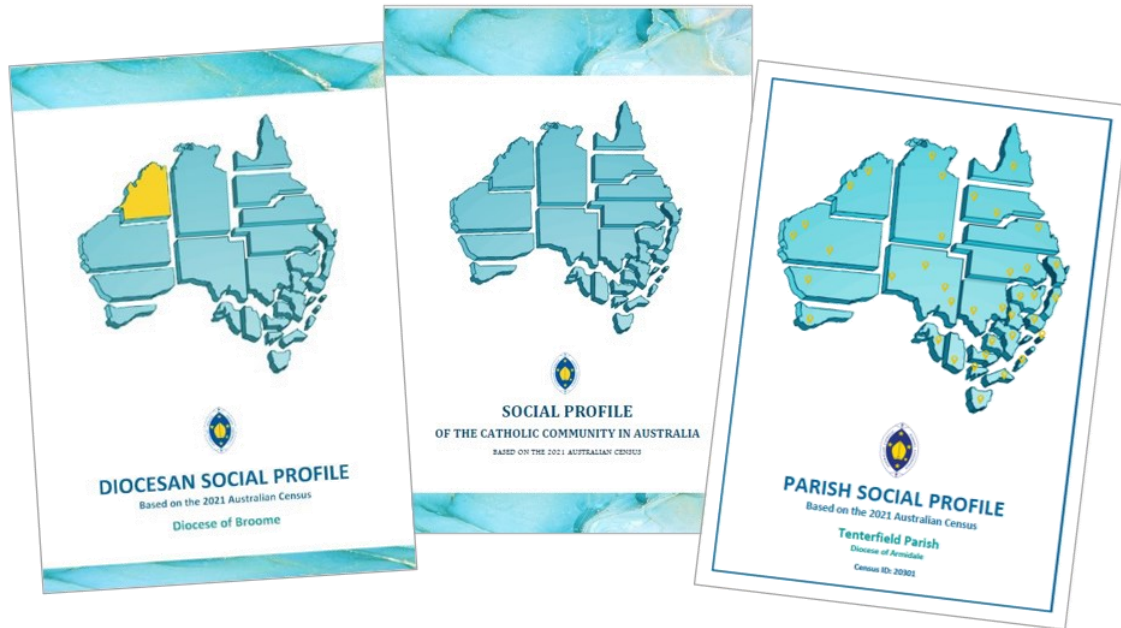
8	Number of people directly involved in the production of the Parish Social Profiles
13	Number of graphs in each Profile
30	Number of tables in each Profile
1,227	Number of Parish Social Profiles
2,342	Number of individual items of Census data in each Profile
10,600	Approximate number of words in each Profile
39,264	Total number of A4 pages created
52,761	Total number of customised tables and graphs created
2,873,634	Total number of individual items of Census data in all 1,227 Profiles

Looking for more?

We remain committed to assisting you and your parish team in unpacking the results included in your profile. For a nominal charge, you may wish to arrange an online consultation or have a member of our staff visit your parish and discuss the profile with you, your parish pastoral council, or at a meeting of the whole parish. Please contact our Centre for more details if you would like to avail yourself of this service.

How can I contact the NCPR?

Please email to: ncpr@catholic.org.au or call us on (02) 6201 9812.



A complete set of the 2021 Social Profiles are available at <https://ncpr.catholic.org.au/2021-catholic-social-profiles/>



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