



Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

## Pastoral Research Office

### E-NEWS BULLETIN

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#### Students attending Catholic schools

- ★ According to the 2011 Australian Census, around 359,000 children attend Catholic primary schools and more than 307,000 students attend Catholic secondary schools (see Table 1).
- ★ The percentage of Catholic students who go to Catholic schools is the same at both primary and secondary level: 52.8%. Another 41.2% of Catholic primary students and 37.2% of Catholic secondary students attend Government schools, while 6.0% of Catholic primary students and 10.0% of Catholic secondary students go to other private schools.
- ★ The percentage of Catholic students who attend Catholic schools is highest in the ACT (62.2%), followed by Victoria (56.5%), and lowest in the Northern Territory (33.6%) and Queensland (47.2%) (see Table 2).
- ★ Catholic school enrolments account for 21.6% of all school enrolments in Australia: 20.5% of primary school and 23.0% of secondary school enrolments.

Table 1. Type of school being attended by religion of student, 2011

Type of school being attended	Religion of student			Per cent of Catholic primary students
	Catholic	Not Catholic	Total	
Infants/Primary - Catholic	272,542	86,522	359,064	52.8
Infants/Primary - Government	212,649	969,139	1,181,788	41.2
Infants/Primary - Other Non Government	30,715	183,645	214,360	6.0
<b>Total primary students</b>	<b>515,906</b>	<b>1,239,306</b>	<b>1,755,212</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Type of school being attended	Religion of student			Per cent of Catholic secondary students
	Catholic	Not Catholic	Total	
Secondary - Catholic	210,514	96,626	307,140	52.8
Secondary - Government	148,111	625,964	774,075	37.2
Secondary - Other Non Government	39,712	215,116	254,828	10.0
<b>Total secondary students</b>	<b>398,337</b>	<b>937,706</b>	<b>1,336,043</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics - Census of Population and Housing 2011. Data obtained as part of the National Catholic Census Project.

See page 2 for a detailed Census table showing type of school being attended by Catholic students, by State and Territory, in 2011.



#### Have you seen this?

##### *Building Stronger Parishes*

A Preliminary Report of the ongoing project of vital parishes in Australia. Download a copy from the project website:

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

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#### For more information

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Each issue of our E-News Bulletin will be posted on our website as soon as possible after publication, but we are currently experiencing some technical details with uploading files.

Table 2. Type of school being attended by Catholic students, by State and Territory, 2011

Type of school being attended	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia
Infants/Primary - Catholic	92,972	72,960	51,423	16,339	27,248	4,385	1,743	5,472	272,542
Infants/Primary - Government	77,546	46,519	47,088	11,357	21,221	3,473	2,768	2,659	212,631
Infants/Primary - Other Non Government	9,592	7,269	7,598	2,219	2,736	369	388	540	30,711
<i>Total Catholic primary students</i>	<i>180,110</i>	<i>126,748</i>	<i>106,109</i>	<i>29,915</i>	<i>51,205</i>	<i>8,227</i>	<i>4,899</i>	<i>8,671</i>	<i>515,884</i>
<i>Percentage of Catholic primary students who attend Catholic schools</i>	<i>51.6</i>	<i>57.6</i>	<i>48.5</i>	<i>54.6</i>	<i>53.2</i>	<i>53.3</i>	<i>35.6</i>	<i>63.1</i>	<i>52.8</i>
Secondary - Catholic	78,787	58,685	32,506	10,798	20,875	3,282	1,021	4,560	210,514
Secondary - Government	57,163	36,375	30,273	7,567	10,581	2,214	1,713	2,221	148,107
Secondary - Other Non Government	11,856	11,183	8,896	2,185	3,762	559	582	689	39,712
<i>Total Catholic secondary students</i>	<i>147,806</i>	<i>106,243</i>	<i>71,675</i>	<i>20,550</i>	<i>35,218</i>	<i>6,055</i>	<i>3,316</i>	<i>7,470</i>	<i>398,333</i>
<i>Percentage of Catholic secondary students who attend Catholic schools</i>	<i>53.3</i>	<i>55.2</i>	<i>45.4</i>	<i>52.5</i>	<i>59.3</i>	<i>54.2</i>	<i>30.8</i>	<i>61.0</i>	<i>52.8</i>
<b>Total Catholic students</b>	<b>327,916</b>	<b>232,991</b>	<b>177,784</b>	<b>50,465</b>	<b>86,423</b>	<b>14,282</b>	<b>8,215</b>	<b>16,141</b>	<b>914,217</b>
<b>Percentage of Catholic secondary students who attend Catholic schools</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>55.7</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>62.2</b>	<b>52.8</b>

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics - Census of Population and Housing 2011. Data obtained as part of the National Catholic Census Project. Table does not include 26 students living in 'Other Territories'.

- ★ Catholic schools educate 7.0% of all non-Catholic primary school pupils and 10.3% of all non-Catholic secondary school students in Australia.
- ★ Table 3 shows that Catholic students account for 72.5% of Catholic school enrolments. Another 14.9% are from other Christian traditions, 2.6% belong to a non-Christian religion and 7.8% have no religion.

Table 3. Students attending Catholic schools by religion, 2011

Religion	Students at Catholic primary schools	Students at Catholic secondary schools	Total students	Percentage of students
Catholic	272,541	210,505	483,046	72.5
Anglican	19,758	23,116	42,874	6.4
Orthodox	10,808	9,865	20,673	3.1
Other Christian	16,302	19,211	35,513	5.3
Non-Christian	8,392	9,175	17,567	2.6
No Religion	24,004	27,713	51,717	7.8
ID/NS	7,258	7,553	14,811	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>359,063</b>	<b>307,138</b>	<b>666,201</b>	<b>100.0</b>

ID/NS: Inadequately described, Not stated

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics - Census of Population and Housing 2011. Data obtained as part of the National Catholic Census Project. Note that Census figures can vary slightly from table to table because of ABS procedures designed to protect confidentiality.

**NEXT WEEK: Students at Catholic Schools (continued)**