

“The Context of Teams in Oceania and relationship with Church – some Trends”

Le contexte des équipes en Océanie et la relation avec l'Église – quelques tendances

Phil Billington – Team 19 (Bendigo)
Spiritual Advisor since 2009



*ÉQUIPE 19 BENDIGO
VICTORIA - AUSTRALIE*

**TEAM 19 BENDIGO
VICTORIA - AUSTRALIA**





#ME TOO



Plenary Council 2020
Listen to what the Spirit is saying...

Change of Era not Era of Change

Pope Francis

Context of SYNODALITY

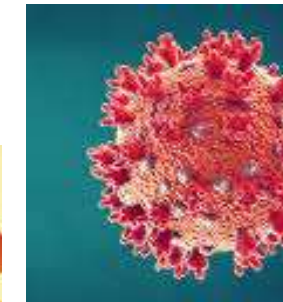
Universal Church

Synod on Synodality

Oct 23 & Oct 24

We are in transition to a
new form of Christianity...

Joan Chittister



THE CHANGING WORLD

VUCA

LE MONDE EN MUTATION

Volatility

VOLATILITE

Uncertainty

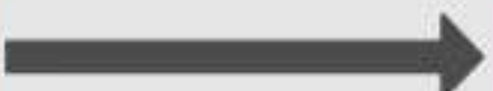
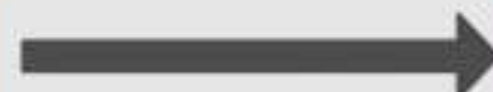
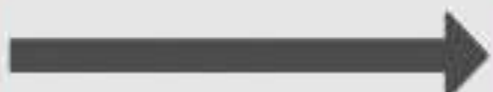
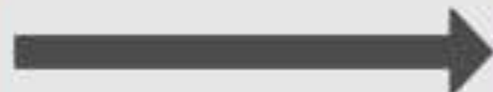
INCERTITUDE

Complexity

COMPLEXITE

Ambiguity

AMBIGUITE



Vision

VISION

Understanding

COMPREHENSION

Clarity

CLARTE

Agility

AGILITE

Insights to Australian Society – Hugh Mackay (September 2021)

Average Australian household is 2.5 persons
– single households →
33% of all households

35-40% of current marriages end in divorce

- Disruptive features of life and social fragmentation
- Birth rate is down from 2.1 → 1.7

IT Influence

- People are connected but lonely (18-25)

The erosion of social cohesion & identity
politics

Social mobility – people are moving house every 6 years

Busyness has become a badge of pride – **it is the great enemy of social cohesion**

3 Epidemics:

- **LONELINESS**
(25% Australian Adults)
- **ANXIETY**
- **DEPRESSION**

Australia Talks National Survey 2021

60,000 respondents

MARRIAGE IS OUTDATED –

AGREED: all (29%)

women (33%) men (24%)

- younger women, are more likely to think marriage is outdated (43%: 18 - 39)

Since 2019:

11% increase on belief that marriage is outdated

Marriage is outdated –
51% DISAGREED
20% neutral

74% women & 48% men ‘don’t think having children is necessary to be fulfilled’

61% women & 55% men did not think they would be happier if they had or had more children:

Australian women are having fewer children and having them later in life

Housing affordability is a contributing factor → 25 yr old woman who goes on to have children can expect to earn \$1million less over her lifetime compared with a woman without children

Impact of having children on climate change – a consideration for younger couples

REGISTERED MARRIAGES 2019 to 2021

COVID-19 continued to have an impact on marriage rates in 2021.

sources: ABS (various years) Marriages and Divorces Australia.



MARIAGES IMMATRICULES 2019 a 2021

*2019: 113,815
Mariages Immatricules*

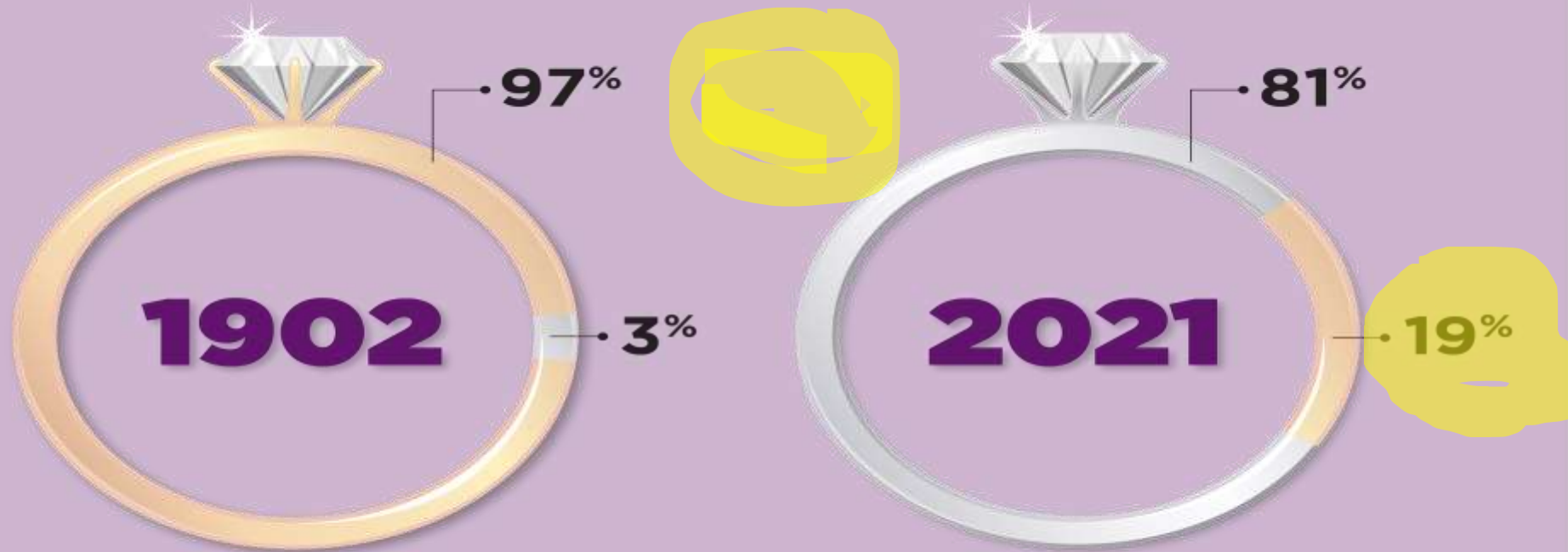
*2020: 78,989
Mariages Immatricules*



*2021: 89,164
Mariages Immatricules*

RELIGIOUS vs CIVIL WEDDINGS 1902 to 2021

Increasingly marriages are being performed by civil celebrants.

sources: ABS (various years) Marriages and Divorces Australia, Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Australian Demography Bulletin.



 Married by religious service
 Married by civil celebrant

1902

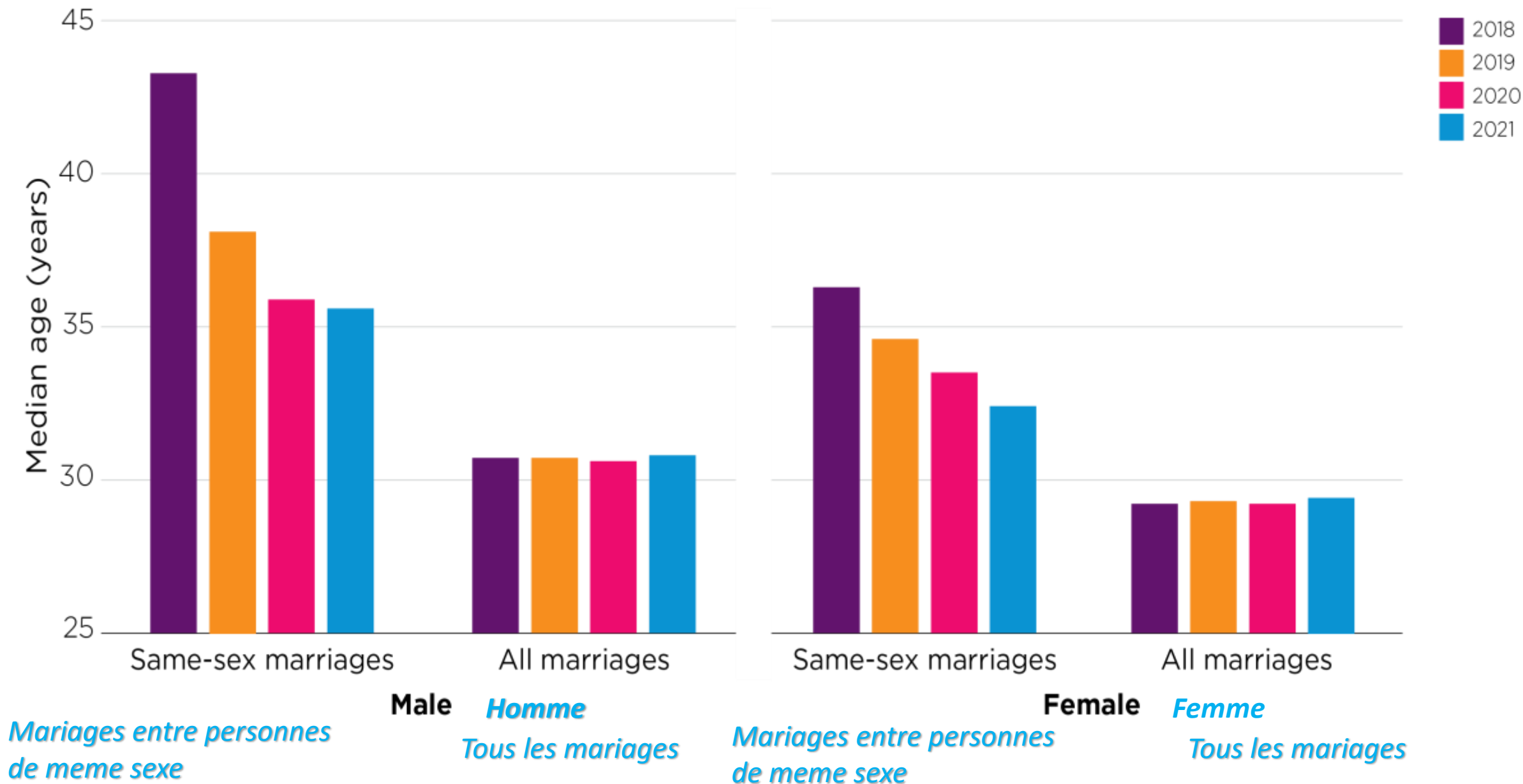
97% Mariages Religieux
3% Mariages Civils

2021

19% Mariages Religieux
81% Mariages Civils

FIGURE 8: MEDIAN AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE, SAME-SEX MARRIAGES AND ALL MARRIAGES, 2018–21

Source: ABS, (2021), Marriages and Divorces Australia 2020



Vivre ensemble avant le mariage

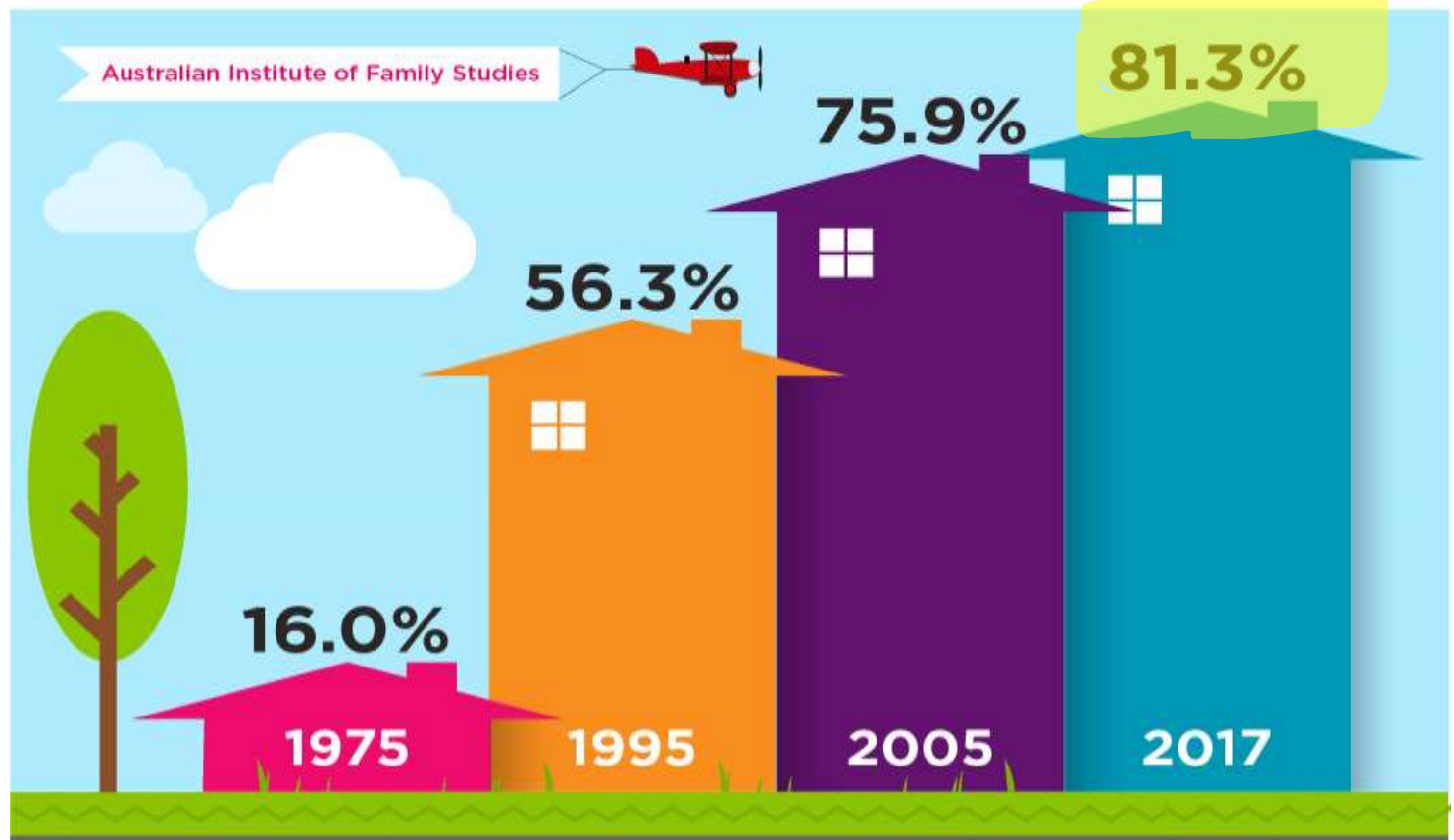
Australian
Institute of
Family
Studies 2018

LIVING TOGETHER BEFORE MARRIAGE

from 1975 to 2017

Most couples now live
together before
getting married.

sources: ABS (various years) Marriages and Divorces Australia.





Influence of Social Media and Reality Television

Influence des médias – Médias sociaux et émissions de télé-réalité

Inter-Faith & Inter-Cultural Marriages

*Mariages inter-faites
et interculturels*



Mixed Religion Marriage in Canada & Australia: A Gift for the People of God

2018 Research

Ray Temmerman

(La Croix – 27 August 2021)

- Canada: **approx. 10%** of all marriages *recorded in Catholic Church* are Mixed Religion Marriages → Australia: **approx. 9%**
- Canada: **approx. 43%** of all marriages involving a Catholic are Mixed Religion Marriages → Australia: **approx. 35%**
- **CHALLENGE & OPPORTUNITY**
- The Catholic Church in Australia and Canada, as institution, **has little connection to a large portion of marriages** taking place in which only one spouse is Catholic
- ***Couples are unknown to Catholic clergy and hence beyond the capacity of Catholic clergy to reach out to them – thus any program inviting such couples to explore, reflect on, and tell their story of gift is an opportunity of outreach for Teams.***

In Summary – Generation Z Study (% of all Australian Teenagers) is:

This worldly – *no space in their worldview for anything religious, spiritual or non-material*: **23%**

Religiously Committed:
17%

Seekers: **8%**

Spiritual but not Religious:
18%

Indifferent: **15%**

Nominally Religious:
15%

In general,
much diversity among Australian teenagers in matters of faith, spirituality and religion



SYNODALITY IN PRACTICE

• *How can we walk together as Teams?*

• *Listening...*

• *Dialogue ... conversation*

What are the opportunities for :

- *each Team?*
- *Sectors?*
- *Regionally?*
- *Universally?*

