

# Adoption and Special Guardianship Leadership Board

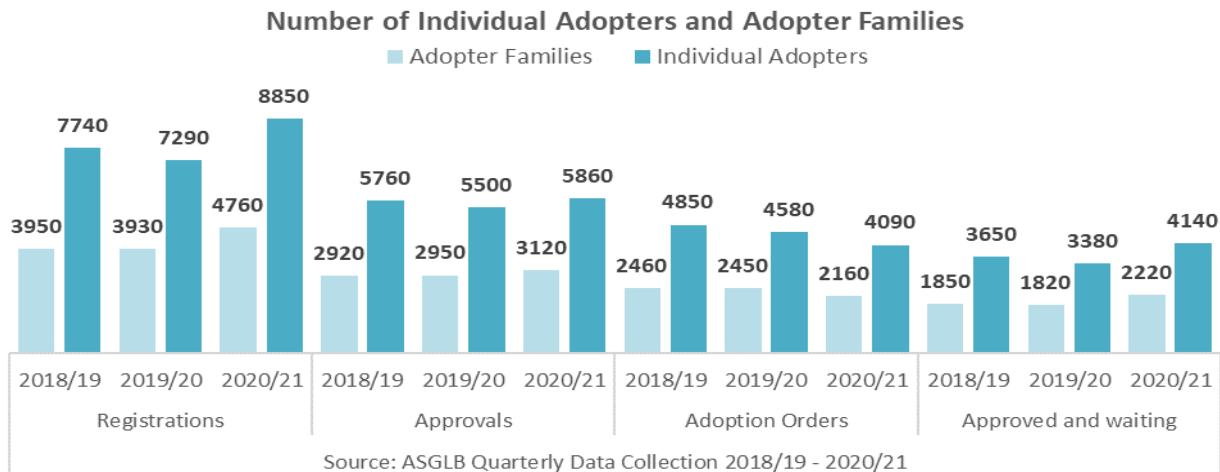
## Adopter Characteristics

**April 2022**

## INDIVIDUAL AND ADOPTER FAMILIES

Over the last three years there has been an increase in the number of, and diversity of individual adopters and adopter families. There has been an increase in the number and proportion of one-person adopter families, Ethnic Minority (*excludes White minorities*) adopters, adopters who identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, and same sex adopter families. The gender split and adopters who have a disability have remained stable. After a decline, there has been an increase in the number and proportion of adopter registrations where the adopter stated a religion.

The chart below shows the number of individual and adopter families from Registration, Approvals, Adoption Orders, and Approved and Waiting from 2018/19 to 2020/21.



In 2020/21 there were:

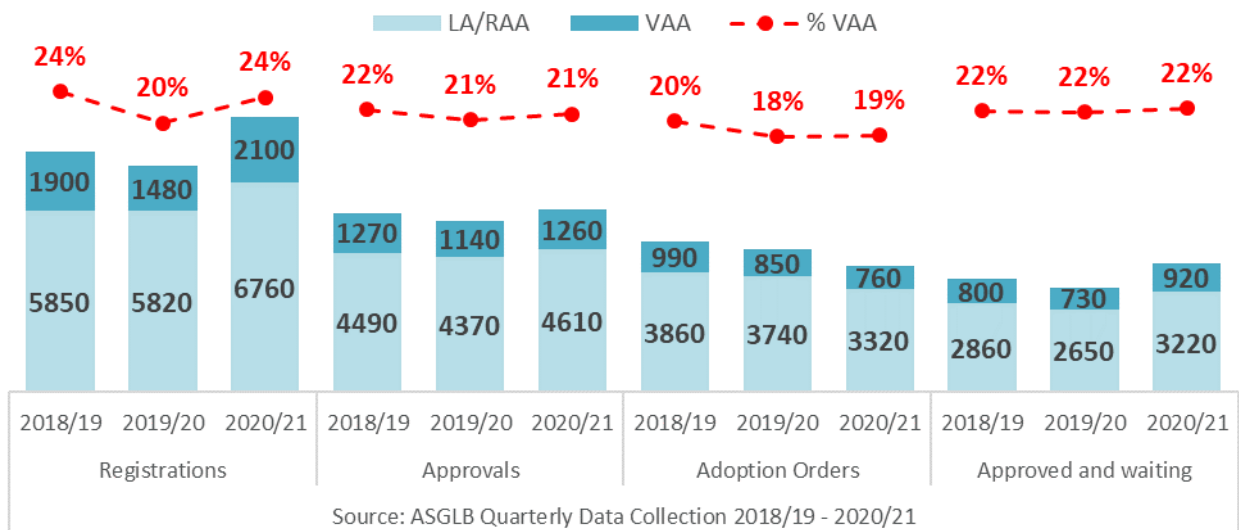
- **8850** individual adopter registrations; **4760** adopter families, a **14% (1110n)** increase in the number of individual adopters, and a **21% (810n)** increase in the number of adopter families when compared to 2018/19
- **5860** individual adopter approvals; **3120** adopter families, a **2% (100n)** increase in the number of individual adopters and a **7% (200n)** increase in the number of adopter families when compared to 2018/19
- **4090** individual adopters who had an adoption order granted; **2160** adopter families, a **16% (760n)** decrease in the number of individual adopters and a **12% (300n)** decrease in the number of adopter families when compared to 2018/19
- **4140** individual adopters approved and waiting; **2220** adopter families, a **13% (490n)** increase in the number of individual adopters and a **20% (370n)** increase in the number of adopter families when compared to 2018/19

In 2020/21 individual VAA adopters accounted for:

- **24% (2100n)** individual adopter registrations, the same when compared to 2018/19
- **21% (1260n)** individual adopter approvals, a decrease of **1** percentage point when compared to 2018/19
- **19% (760n)** individual adopters who had an adoption order granted, a decrease of **1** percentage point when compared to 2018/19
- **22% (920n)** individual adopters approved and waiting, the same when compared to 2018/19

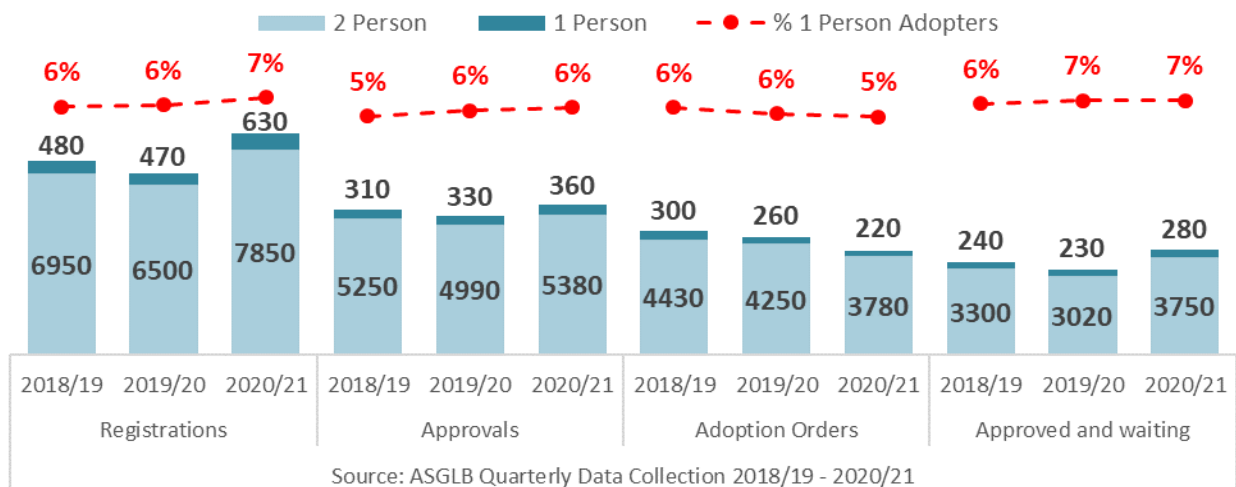
The chart below shows the number of individual adopters by LA/RAA and VAA, and the percentage of VAA adopters.

## LA/RAA Individual Adopter Split



There has been an increase in the number and proportion of one-person adopter families. The Chart below show the number and percentage of one person and two-person adopter families.

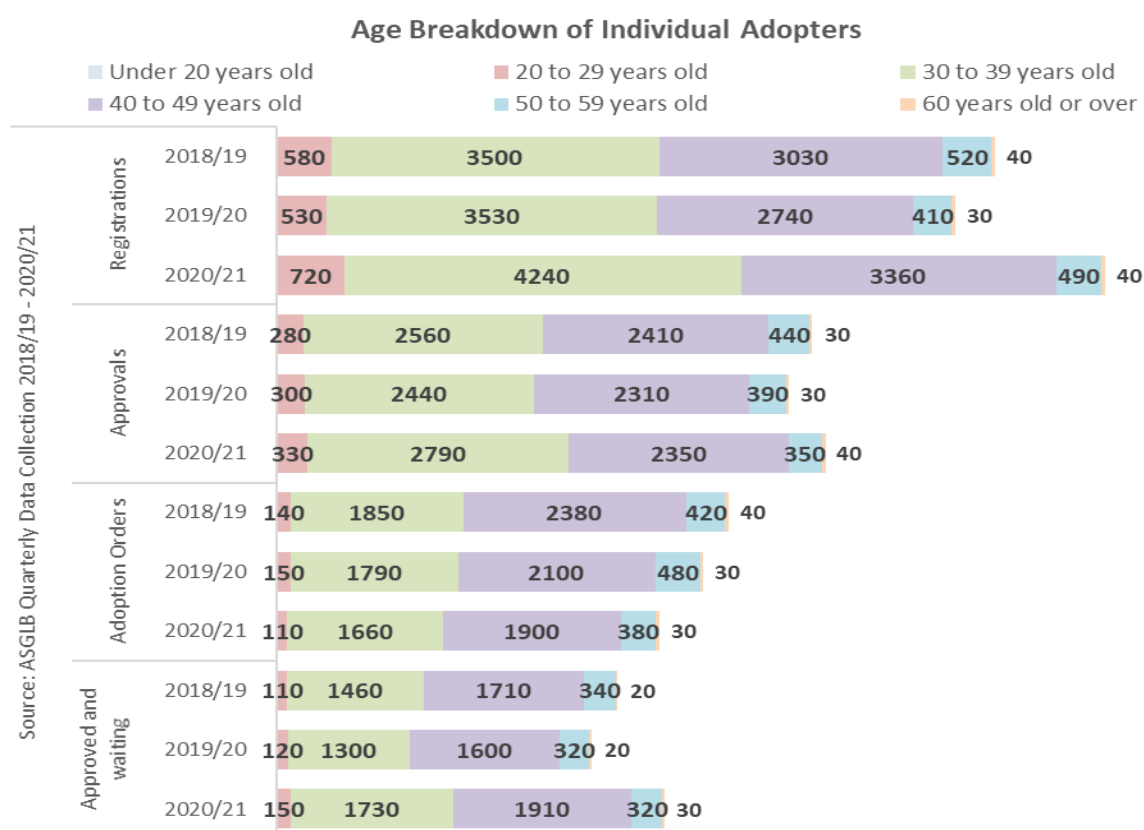
## One and Two Person Adopter Families



- One-person adopter families account for between **5%** and **7%** of all individual adopter registrations, approvals, adopters who have had an adoption order granted and adopters approved and waiting
- There has been a decrease in the number and proportion of one-person adopter families who had an adoption order granted

## INDIVIDUAL ADOPTER CHARACTERISTICS

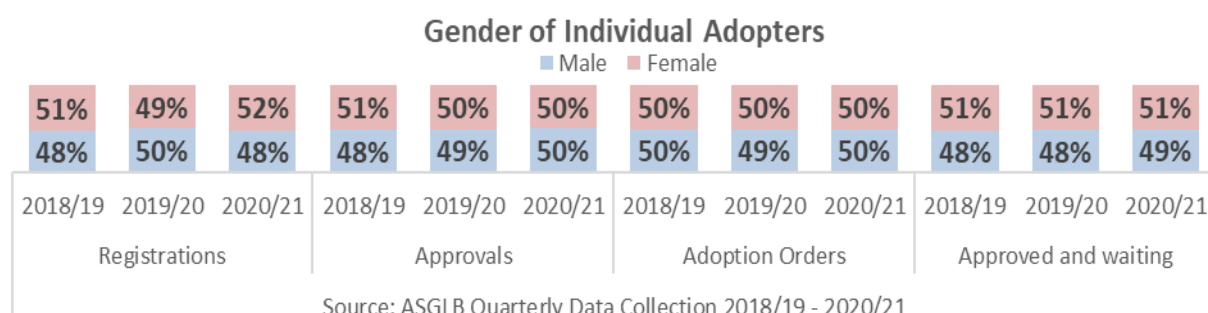
There has been an increase in the number and proportion of individual adopters aged between 20 to 29 adopters aged between 30 to 39. The chart below shows the number of individual adopters broken down by age range.



Over the last three years:

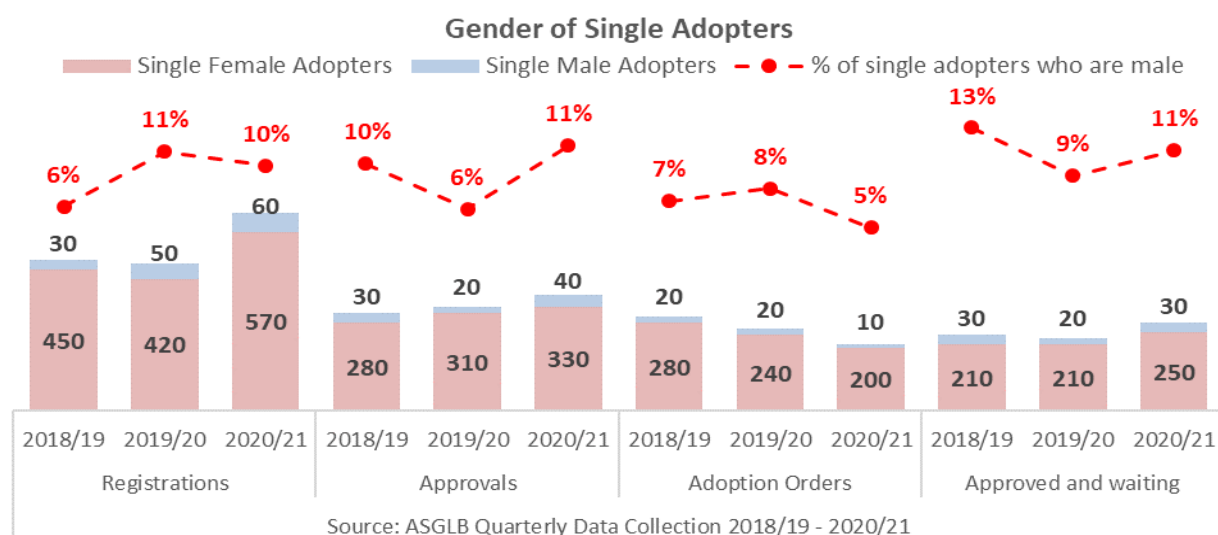
- Adopters aged between 30 to 39 accounted for the largest proportion of individual adopter registrations, **48% (4240n)** in 2020/21, an increase of **3 percentage points** when compared to 2018/19
- Adopters aged between 30 to 39 accounted for the largest proportion of individual adopter approvals, **48% (2790n)** in 2020/21, an increase of **4 percentage points** when compared to 2018/19
- Adopters aged between 40 to 49 accounted for the largest proportion of individual adopters who had an adoption order granted, **46% (1900n)**, a decrease of **3 percentage points** when compared to 2018/19
- Adopters aged between 40 to 49 accounted for the largest proportion of individual adopters approved and waiting, **46% (1910n)**, a decrease of **1 percentage point** when compared to 2018/19

The chart below shows the gender split of individual adopters.



Overall there are more female adopters than male adopters. The proportion of male and female adopters has remained stable over the last three years, with there being an increase of **1 percentage point** in the proportion of individual female adopter registrations from 2018/19 to 2020/21.

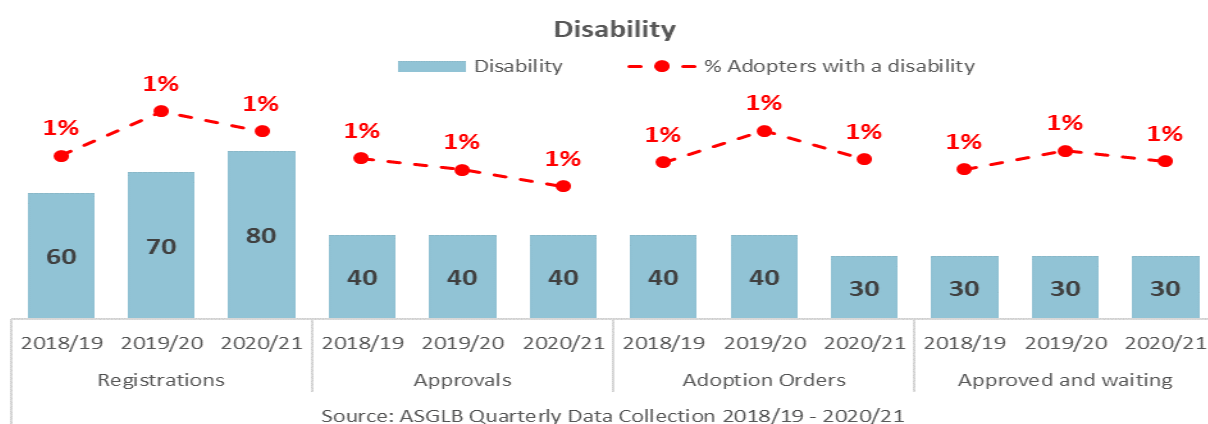
There has been an increase in single male adopter registrations, approvals, and adopters approved and waiting, but a decline in single male adopters who had an adoption order granted. The chart below shows the gender split of single adopters and the proportion of single adopters who are male.



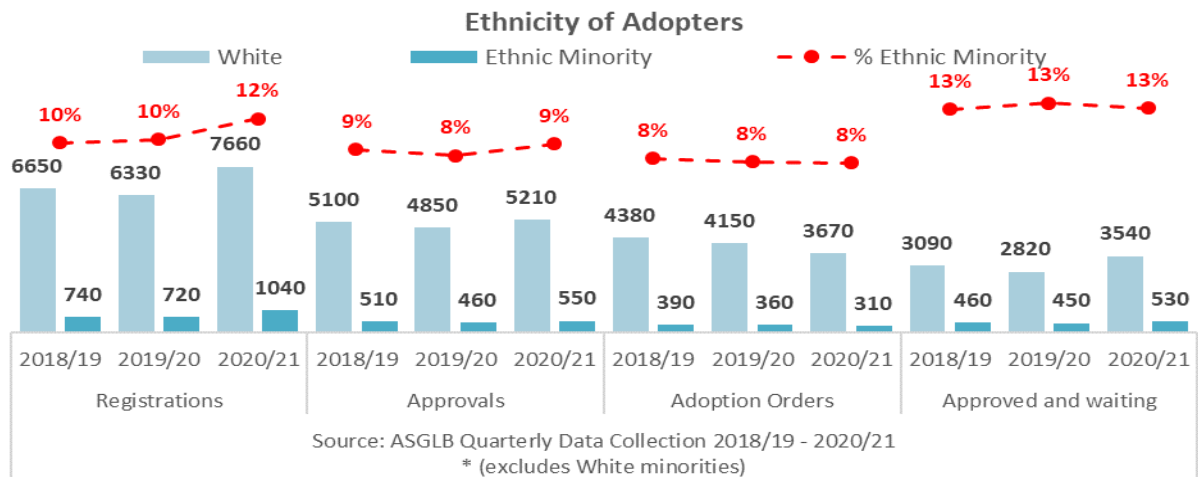
In 2020/21

- **10% (60n)** of all single adopter registrations were male, an increase of **4 percentage points** when compared to 2018/19
- **11% (40n)** of all single adopter approvals were male, an increase of **1 percentage point** when compared to 2018/19
- **5% (10n)** of all single adopters who had an adoption order granted were male, a decrease of **2 percentage points** when compared to 2018/19
- **11% (30n)** of all single approved adopters waiting were male, a decrease of **2 percentage points** when compared to 2018/19

The proportion of individual adopters with a disability has remained stable at **1%** of all adopters. The chart below shows the number and percentage of individual adopters with a disability.



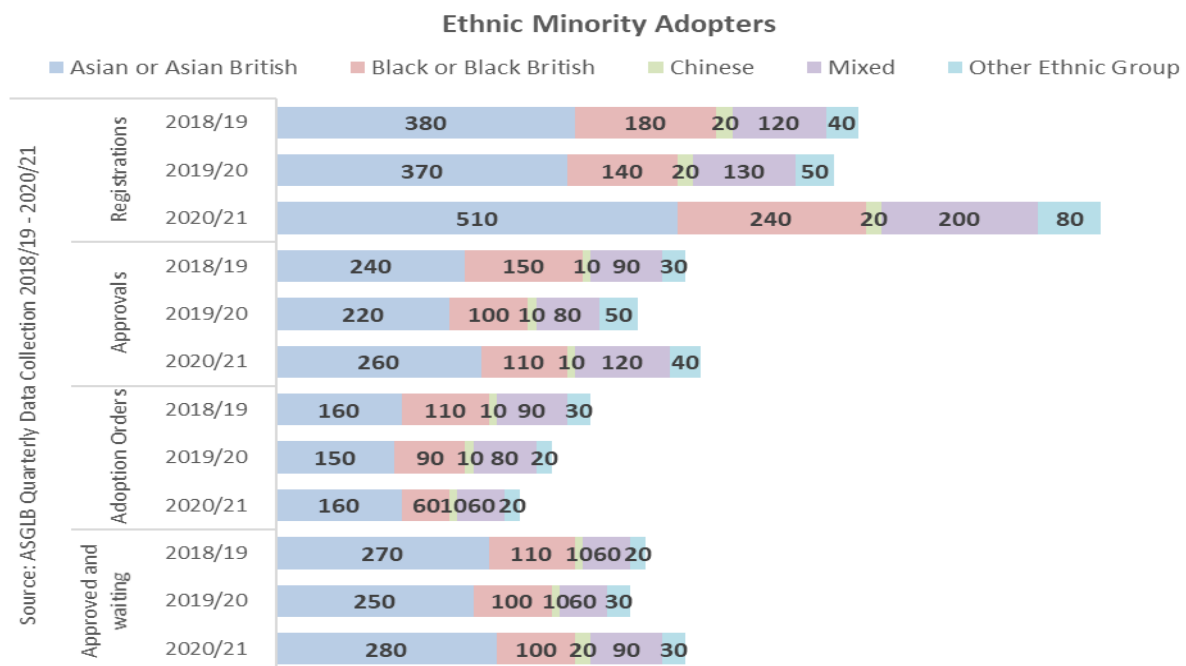
There has been an increase in the number and proportion of Ethnic Minority (*excludes White minorities*) adopter registrations and approvals. The proportion of Ethnic Minority (*excludes White minorities*) adopters which have had an adoption order granted and are approved and waiting have remained stable. The chart below shows the number and percentage of individual White and Ethnic Minority (*excludes White minorities*) individual adopters.



In 2020/21 Ethnic Minority (*excludes White minorities*) adopters accounted for:

- **12% (1040n)** of all individual adopter registrations, an increase of 2 percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **9% (550n)** of all individual adopter approvals, the same when compared to 2018/19
- **8% (310n)** of all individual adopters who had an adoption order granted, the same when compared to 2018/19
- **13% (530n)** of all individual adopters approved and waiting, the same when compared to 2018/19

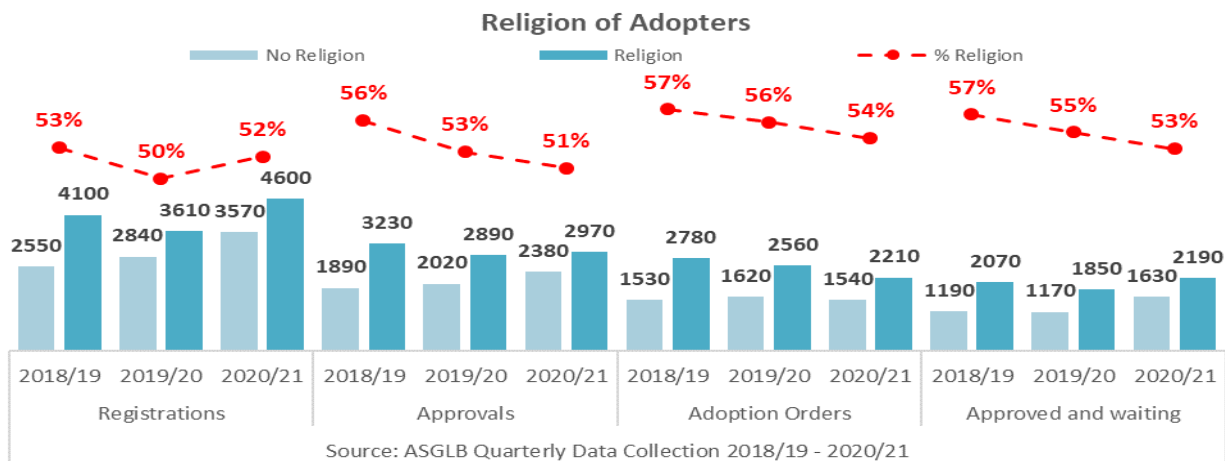
The chart below shows the ethnic breakdown of Ethnic Minority (*excludes White minorities*) adopters. Asian or Asian British is the largest represented of the ethnic groups.



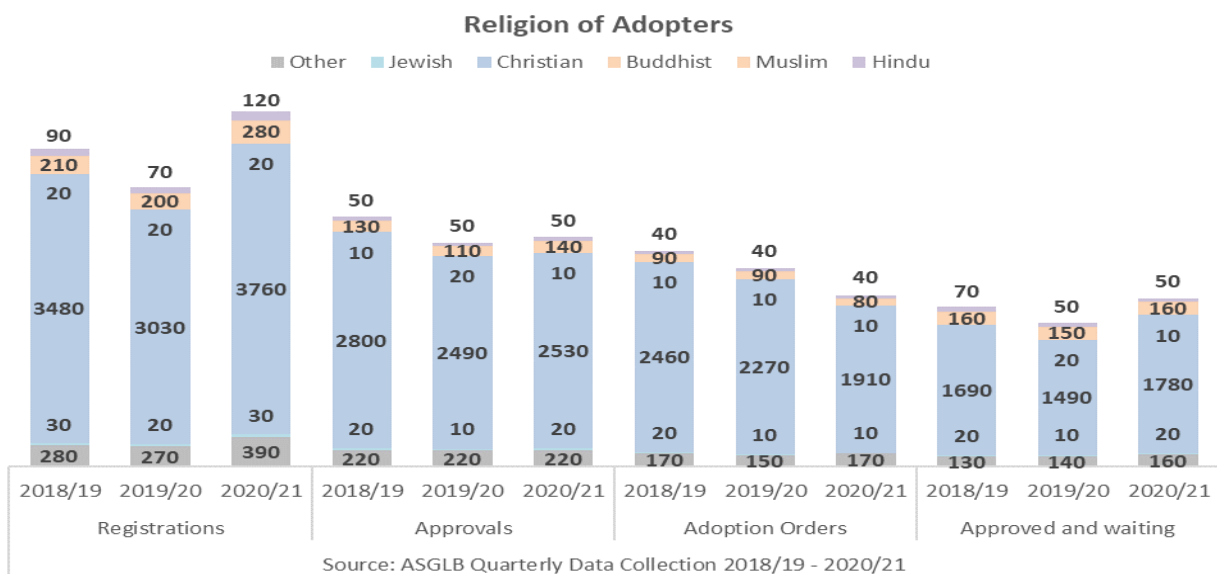
Over half of all individual adopters stated a religion. Christian is the largest represented religion.

In 2020/21

- **52% (4600n)** of adopter registrations, **51% (2970n)** adopter approvals, **54% (2210n)** adopters who had an adoption order granted and **53% (2190n)** adopters approved and waiting stated a religion. The chart below shows the number and percentage of individual adopters who have stated a religion.



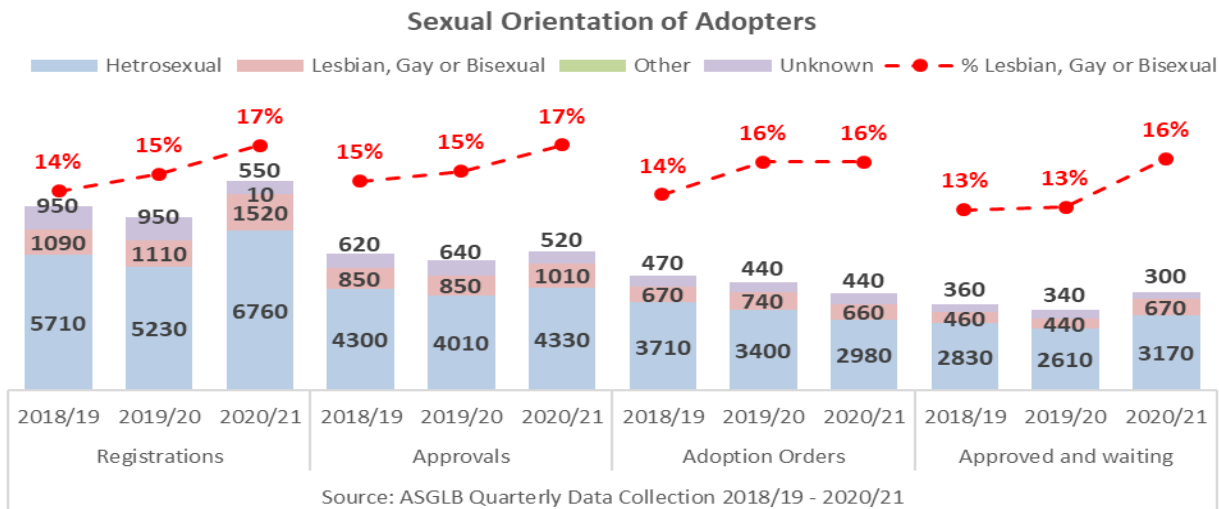
The chart below shows the breakdown of adopters by individual religions.



In 2020/21

- **43%** of adopter registrations were for adopters who identified as Christian, **4%** Other Religion, **3%** Muslim, **1%** Hindu, **0.4%** Jewish, and **0.2%** Buddhist,
- **43%** of adopter approvals were for adopters who identified as Christian, **4%** Other Religion, **2%** Muslim, **1%** Hindu, **0.3%** Jewish and **0.2%** Buddhist
- **47%** of adopters who had an adoption order granted who identified as Christian, **4%** Other Religion, **2%** Muslim, **1%** Hindu, **0.7%** Jewish and **0.2%** Buddhist
- **43%** of adopter approvals were for adopters who identified as Christian, **4%** Other Religion, **4%** Muslim, **1%** Hindu, **0.4%** Jewish and **0.3%** Buddhist

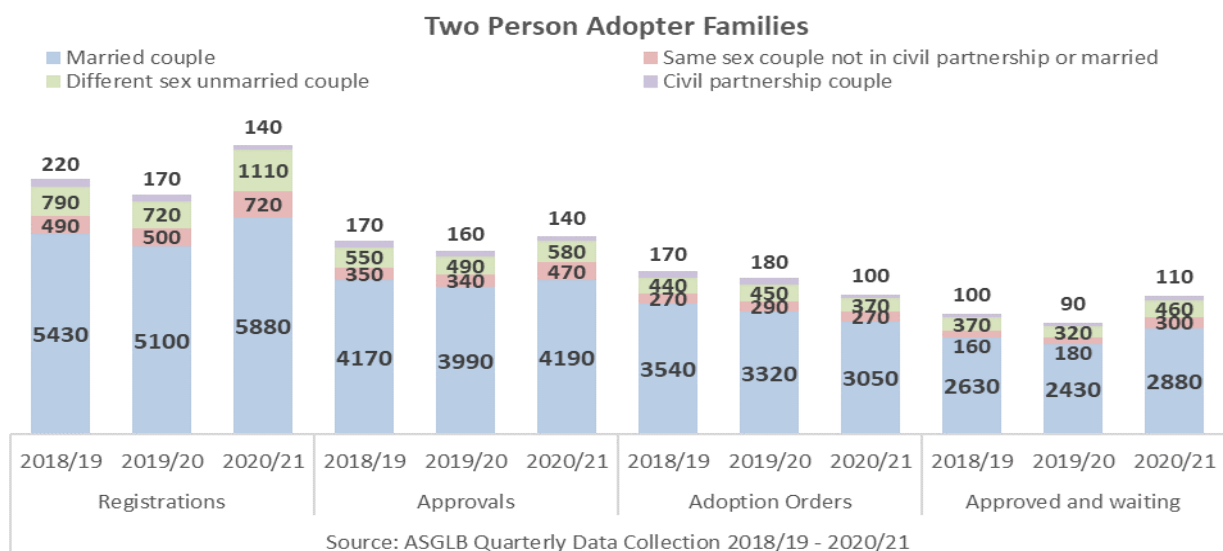
There has been an increase in the number and proportion of adopters identifying as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual. The table below shows the number and percentage of individual adopters who identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual.



In 2020/21:

- **17% (1520n)** of all individual adopter registrations identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, an increase of **3** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **17% (1010n)** of all individual adopter approvals identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, an increase of **2** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **16% (660n)** of all individual adopters who had an adoption order granted identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, an increase of **2** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **16% (670n)** of all individual adopters approved and waiting identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual, an increase of **3** percentage points when compared to 2018/19

There has been an increase in the number of, but a decline in the proportion of all individual adopters in a married two-person adopter family. There has been an increase in the number and proportion of individual adopters in a same sex couple not in civil partnership or married, and different sex unmarried couple two-person adopter families. The number and proportion of individual adopters in a civil partnership couple is declining.

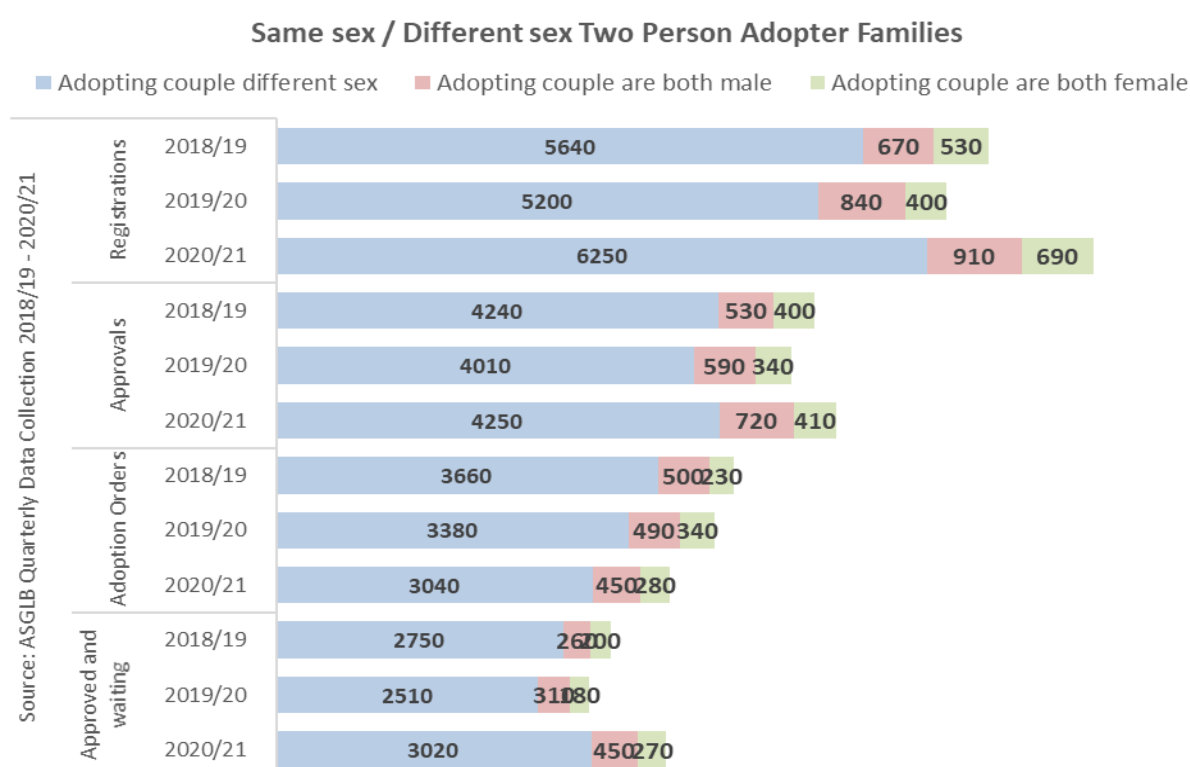




In 2020/21:

- **66% (5880n)** of all individual adopter registrations were married, a decrease of **4** percentage points, when compared to 2018/19
- **8% (720n)** of all individual adopter registrations were in a same sex couples not in civil partnership or married, an increase of **2** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **13% (1110n)** of all individual adopter registrations were in a different sex unmarried couple increase of **3** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **2% (140n)** of all individual adopter registrations were in a civil partnership couple, a decrease of **1** percentage point when compared to 2018/19

There has been a decline in the proportion of different sex two-person adopter families, and an increase in the proportion of same sex two-person adopter families. The chart below shows the breakdown of two-person adopter families.



In 2020/21

- **12%** of two-person adopter family registrations were same sex male couples, an increase of **2** percentage points, and **9%** were same sex female couples, an increase of **1** percentage point when compared to 2018/19
- **13%** of two-person adopter family approvals were same sex male couples, an increase of **3** percentage points, and same sex female couples remained the same at **8%** when compared to 2018/19
- **12%** of two-person adopter families who had an adoption order granted were same sex male couples, an increase of **1** percentage point, and **7%** were same sex female couples, an increase of **2** percentage points when compared to 2018/19
- **12%** of two-person adopter families approved and waiting were same sex male couples, an increase of **4** percentage points, and **7%** were same sex female couples, and increase of **1** percentage points when compared to 2018/19

The table below show the full breakdown of adopter characteristics for 2020/21.

| 2020/21 (31 March 2021)<br>Source: ASGLB Quarterly Data Collection |  | REGISTRATION |      | APPROVAL |      | ADOPTION<br>ORDERS<br>GRANTED |      | APPROVED<br>AND WAITING |      |
|--|--|--------------|------|----------|------|-------------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|
|  |  | n            | %    | n        | %    | n                             | %    | n                       | %    |
| ALL ADOPTERS   | INDIVIDUAL ADOPTERS                            | 8850         |      | 5860     |      | 4090                          |      | 4140                    |      |
|  | 1 Person                                       | 630          | 7%   | 360      | 6%   | 220                           | 5%   | 280                     | 7%   |
|  | 2 Person                                       | 7850         | 89%  | 5380     | 92%  | 3780                          | 92%  | 3750                    | 91%  |
|  | Unknown  | 370          | 4%   | 120      | 2%   | 90                            | 2%   | 110                     | 3%   |
|  | Number of Adopter Families                     | 4760         | 100% | 3120     | 100% | 2160                          | 100% | 2220                    | 100% |
| GENDER   | Male   | 4280         | 48%  | 2940     | 50%  | 2030                          | 50%  | 2040                    | 49%  |
|  | Female   | 4560         | 52%  | 2920     | 50%  | 2060                          | 50%  | 2090                    | 51%  |
|  | Unknown  | 10           | 0%   | c        | c    | c                             | c    | c                       | c    |
| AGE  | Under 20 years old                             | c            | c    | c        | c    | c                             | c    | c                       | c    |
|  | 20 to 29 years old                             | 720          | 8%   | 330      | 6%   | 110                           | 3%   | 150                     | 4%   |
|  | 30 to 39 years old                             | 4240         | 48%  | 2790     | 48%  | 1660                          | 41%  | 1730                    | 42%  |
|  | 40 to 49 years old                             | 3360         | 38%  | 2350     | 40%  | 1900                          | 46%  | 1910                    | 46%  |
|  | 50 to 59 years old                             | 490          | 6%   | 350      | 6%   | 380                           | 9%   | 320                     | 8%   |
|  | 60 years old or over                           | 40           | 0%   | 40       | 1%   | 30                            | 1%   | 30                      | 1%   |
|  | Unknown  | c            | c    | c        | c    | c                             | c    | c                       | c    |
| DISABILITY   | Yes  | 80           | 1%   | 40       | 1%   | 30                            | 1%   | 30                      | 1%   |
|  | No   | 8770         | 99%  | 5830     | 99%  | 4050                          | 99%  | 4110                    | 99%  |
|  | Unknown  | c            | c    | c        | c    | c                             | c    | c                       | c    |
| ETHNICITY  | WHITE  | 7660         | 87%  | 5210     | 89%  | 3670                          | 90%  | 3540                    | 86%  |
|  | WBRI   | 6930         | 78%  | 4760     | 81%  | 3350                          | 82%  | 3180                    | 77%  |
|  | WIRI   | 80           | 1%   | 70       | 1%   | 40                            | 1%   | 50                      | 1%   |
|  | WIRT   | c            | c    | c        | c    | c                             | c    | c                       | c    |
|  | WOTH   | 650          | 7%   | 380      | 6%   | 270                           | 7%   | 320                     | 8%   |
|  | WROM   | c            | c    | c        | c    | c                             | c    | c                       | c    |
|  | ASIAN OR ASIAN BRITISH                         | 510          | 6%   | 260      | 4%   | 160                           | 4%   | 280                     | 7%   |
|  | ABAN   | 30           | 0%   | 10       | 0%   | 10                            | 0%   | 20                      | 0%   |
|  | AIND   | 230          | 3%   | 120      | 2%   | 80                            | 2%   | 110                     | 3%   |
|  | AOTH   | 90           | 1%   | 50       | 1%   | 40                            | 1%   | 60                      | 1%   |
|  | APKN   | 160          | 2%   | 80       | 1%   | 40                            | 1%   | 100                     | 2%   |
|  | BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH                         | 240          | 3%   | 110      | 2%   | 60                            | 1%   | 100                     | 3%   |
|  | BAFR   | 100          | 1%   | 40       | 1%   | 30                            | 1%   | 40                      | 1%   |
|  | BCRB   | 100          | 1%   | 50       | 1%   | 20                            | 1%   | 50                      | 1%   |
|  | BOTH   | 40           | 0%   | 20       | 0%   | 10                            | 0%   | 20                      | 0%   |
|  | CHINESE  | 20           | 0%   | 10       | 0%   | 10                            | 0%   | 20                      | 0%   |
|  | CHNE   | 20           | 0%   | 10       | 0%   | 10                            | 0%   | 20                      | 0%   |
|  | MIXED  | 200          | 2%   | 120      | 2%   | 60                            | 2%   | 90                      | 2%   |
|  | MOTH   | 90           | 1%   | 50       | 1%   | 20                            | 0%   | 40                      | 1%   |
|  | MWAS   | 50           | 1%   | 30       | 0%   | 20                            | 1%   | 20                      | 1%   |
|  | MWBA   | 20           | 0%   | 10       | 0%   | c                             | c    | c                       | c    |
|  | MWBC   | 40           | 0%   | 40       | 1%   | 20                            | 0%   | 20                      | 1%   |
|  | OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS                            | 80           | 1%   | 40       | 1%   | 20                            | 1%   | 30                      | 1%   |
|  | OOBH   | 80           | 1%   | 40       | 1%   | 20                            | 1%   | 30                      | 1%   |
|  | UNKNOWN  | 150          | 2%   | 100      | 2%   | 110                           | 3%   | 70                      | 2%   |
|  | REFU   | c            | c    | c        | c    | c                             | c    | c                       | c    |
|  | NOBT   | 150          | 2%   | 100      | 2%   | 100                           | 3%   | 60                      | 2%   |
|  | ETHNIC MINORITIES (excluding White minorities) | 1040         | 12%  | 550      | 9%   | 310                           | 8%   | 530                     | 13%  |
| RELIGION   | Buddhist                                       | 20           | 0.2% | 10       | 0%   | 10                            | 0.2% | 10                      | 0.3% |
|  | Christian                                      | 3760         | 43%  | 2530     | 43%  | 1910                          | 47%  | 1780                    | 43%  |
|  | Hindu  | 120          | 1%   | 50       | 1%   | 40                            | 1%   | 50                      | 1%   |
|  | Jewish   | 30           | 0%   | 20       | 0.3% | 10                            | 0.2% | 20                      | 0.4% |
|  | Muslim   | 280          | 3%   | 140      | 2%   | 80                            | 2%   | 160                     | 4%   |
|  | None   | 3570         | 40%  | 2380     | 41%  | 1540                          | 38%  | 1630                    | 39%  |
|  | Other  | 390          | 4%   | 220      | 4%   | 170                           | 4%   | 160                     | 4%   |
|  | Unknown  | 680          | 8%   | 510      | 9%   | 340                           | 8%   | 320                     | 8%   |

|                                    |  |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |     |
|------------------------------------|--|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|
| <b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>          | Heterosexual                                     | 6760 | 76% | 4330 | 74% | 2980 | 73% | 3170 | 77% |
|                                    | Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual                         | 1520 | 17% | 1010 | 17% | 660  | 16% | 670  | 16% |
|                                    | Other  | 10   | 0%  | c    | c   | c    | c   | c    | c   |
|                                    | Unknown  | 550  | 6%  | 520  | 9%  | 440  | 11% | 300  | 7%  |
| <b>RELATIONSHIP STATUS</b>         | Single   | 630  | 7%  | 360  | 6%  | 220  | 5%  | 280  | 7%  |
|                                    | Married  | 5880 | 66% | 4190 | 71% | 3050 | 75% | 2880 | 70% |
|                                    | Civil Partnership                                | 140  | 2%  | 140  | 2%  | 100  | 2%  | 110  | 3%  |
|                                    | Male/Female Partnership                          | 1170 | 13% | 600  | 10% | 380  | 9%  | 470  | 11% |
|                                    | Same Sex Partnership                             | 670  | 8%  | 450  | 8%  | 250  | 6%  | 290  | 7%  |
|                                    | Other  | 30   | 0%  | 10   | 0%  | 20   | 0%  | 10   | 0%  |
|                                    | Information not yet obtained                     | 340  | 4%  | 110  | 2%  | 80   | 2%  | 100  | 2%  |
|                                    | Unknown  | c    | c   | c    | c   | c    | c   | c    | c   |
| <b>SINGLE ADOPTERS</b>             | Single male adopter                              | 60   | 1%  | 40   | 1%  | 10   | 0%  | 30   | 1%  |
|                                    | Single female adopter                            | 570  | 6%  | 330  | 6%  | 200  | 5%  | 250  | 6%  |
|                                    | Unknown  | c    | c   | c    | c   | c    | c   | c    | c   |
| <b>TWO PERSON ADOPTER FAMILIES</b> | Same sex couple not in civil partnership/married | 720  | 8%  | 470  | 8%  | 270  | 7%  | 300  | 7%  |
|                                    | Adopting couple are both male                    | 460  | 5%  | 320  | 5%  | 190  | 5%  | 210  | 5%  |
|                                    | Adopting couple are both female                  | 260  | 3%  | 150  | 3%  | 80   | 2%  | 90   | 2%  |
|                                    | Different sex unmarried couple                   | 1110 | 13% | 580  | 10% | 370  | 9%  | 460  | 11% |
|                                    | Civil partnership couple                         | 140  | 2%  | 140  | 2%  | 100  | 2%  | 110  | 3%  |
|                                    | Adopting couple are both male                    | 60   | 1%  | 60   | 1%  | 50   | 1%  | 40   | 1%  |
|                                    | Adopting couple are both female                  | 70   | 1%  | 60   | 1%  | 40   | 1%  | 50   | 1%  |
|                                    | Adopting couple different sex                    | 20   | 0%  | 20   | 0%  | c    | c   | 20   | 0%  |
|                                    | Married couple                                   | 5880 | 66% | 4190 | 71% | 3050 | 75% | 2880 | 70% |
|                                    | Adopting couple are both male                    | 390  | 4%  | 340  | 6%  | 210  | 5%  | 200  | 5%  |
|                                    | Adopting couple are both female                  | 360  | 4%  | 200  | 3%  | 160  | 4%  | 130  | 3%  |
|                                    | Adopting couple different sex                    | 5120 | 58% | 3650 | 62% | 2670 | 65% | 2540 | 61% |
|                                    | Unknown  | c    | c   | c    | c   | c    | c   | c    | c   |

The full breakdown for 2018/19 to 2020/21 broken down by LA/RAA and VAA can be downloaded [here](#).

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication was produced by The Children and Social Care Secretariat, delivered by Coram-i on behalf of the Department for Education.

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