

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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SOCIAL STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA

NO. 5 : DIVORCE, YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. This bulletin presents divorce statistics for the year 1961 and comparisons with previous years.
 2. In 1959, the Commonwealth Parliament passed the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959, which came into operation on 1st February, 1961. This Act established uniform grounds throughout the whole of the Commonwealth for the termination of marriage, and superseded the matrimonial causes laws of the States and Territories except in so far as the transitional provisions of the Act keep them in force for the purpose of completing pending proceedings.
 3. Until the operation of the Commonwealth Matrimonial Causes Act 1959 (on 1st February, 1961) the grounds for dissolution of marriage varied between each State and Territory. For example: -
 - (i) Insanity was not a ground in New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory;
 - (ii) in New South Wales and the Australia Capital Territory a suit for dissolution of marriage could be instituted forthwith against a respondent who failed to comply with an order for restitution of conjugal rights;
 - (iii) separation for over five years was a ground only in Western Australia;
 - (iv) separation for over five years under a decree of judicial separation or an order granting relief from co-habitation was a ground only in South Australia; and
 - (v) impotence was a ground for dissolution of marriage in Western Australia, but a ground for nullity of marriage in each other State and Territory.
 4. In addition, some dissolutions granted under previous Commonwealth legislation in a particular State could be on grounds not provided for in that State's legislation.
 5. The grounds on which dissolutions and nullities of marriage and judicial separations were granted in each State and Territory are shown in Table 9. The proportions of marriages dissolved in each State and Territory on these grounds are shown in Table 10.
 6. Of the 9,504 petitions lodged (for dissolution) in the year ended 31st December, 1961, 1,045 were under the old legislation (i.e. in January). Of the 6,673 decrees absolute for dissolution granted during the period, 942 were from petitions lodged under new legislation.
 7. Table 5 is included for the first time in this issue..
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I. PETITIONS FILED

TABLE 1. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

Petition for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>Dissolution of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	1,833	1,107	533	406	305	154	23	33	4,394
Wife Petitioner	2,382	1,182	551	459	315	167	17	37	5,110
<u>Total</u>	4,215	2,289	1,084	865	620	321	40	70	9,504
<u>Nullity of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	6	2	4	1	..	..	..	..	13
Wife Petitioner	22	8	5	8	..	1	..	..	44
<u>Total</u>	28	10	9	9	..	1	..	..	57
<u>Dissolution or Nullity -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Wife Petitioner	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
<u>Total</u>	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
<u>Judicial Separation -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	4	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	9
<u>Total</u>	4	..	2	3	2	..	..	..	11
<u>Total Petitions -</u>									
Husband Petitioner No.	1,839	1,112	537	407	307	154	23	33	4,412
Per cent.	43	48	49	46	49	48	58	47	46
Wife Petitioner No.	2,408	1,194	558	470	315	168	17	37	5,167
Per cent.	57	52	51	54	51	52	42	53	54
<u>Total</u>	4,247	2,306	1,095	877	622	322	40	70	9,579

TABLE 2. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : AUSTRALIA

Petition for -	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961				
						Quarter ended -				Year
						31st March	30th June	30th Sept.	31st Dec.	
<u>Dissolution of Marriage -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	3,719	3,671	3,833	3,843	3,709	1,044	1,176	1,141	1,033	4,394
Wife Petitioner	4,557	4,228	4,570	4,465	4,385	1,176	1,260	1,377	1,297	5,110
<u>Total</u>	8,276	7,899	8,403	8,308	8,094	2,220	2,436	2,518	2,330	9,504
<u>Nullity of Marriage -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	28	40	40	22	23	3	1	6	3	13
Wife Petitioner	52	56	35	43	32	13	10	15	6	44
<u>Total</u>	80	96	75	65	55	16	11	21	9	57
<u>Dissolution or Nullity -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	3
Wife Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	4
<u>Total</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	1	7
<u>Judicial Separation -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	6	6	13	7	7	2	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	41	26	36	24	31	2	3	2	2	9
<u>Total</u>	47	32	49	31	38	4	3	2	2	11
<u>Total Petitions -</u>										
Husband Petitioner No.	3,753	3,717	3,886	3,872	3,739	1,049	1,179	1,148	1,036	4,412
Per cent.	45	46	46	46	46	47	48	45	44	46
Wife Petitioner No.	4,650	4,310	4,641	4,532	4,448	1,191	1,273	1,397	1,306	5,167
Per cent.	55	54	54	54	54	53	53	55	56	54
<u>Total</u>	8,403	8,027	8,527	8,404	8,187	2,240	2,452	2,545	2,342	9,579

TABLE 3. - GROUNDS ON WHICH PETITIONS WERE FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

Grounds	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'd.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>Petitions for Dissolution of Marriage</u>									
<u>Single Grounds -</u>									
Adultery	864	348	179	188	211	68	8	23	1,889
Cruelty	155	17	15	98	5	6	4	7	307
Desertion	1,968	1,012	551	331	195	129	20	25	4,231
Drunkenness	70	6	5	4	3	7	..	4	99
Failure to comply with restitution decree	87	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
Failure to pay maintenance	4	..	..	1	16	..	..	..	21
Frequent convictions	16	5	..	..	1	..	..	..	22
Insanity	50	1	3	2	..	..	..	..	56
Presumption of death	..	..	2	..	3	3	..	..	8
Refusal to consummate	15	12	..	3	2	2	1	..	35
Separation	605	395	170	158	157	82	6	5	1,578
Other single grounds	7	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	12
<u>Dual Grounds -</u>									
Adultery and cruelty	6	4	3	2	..	..	..	..	15
Adultery and desertion	47	86	13	14	7	6	..	..	173
Adultery and drunkenness	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2
Adultery and separation	4	9	..	1	2	..	..	1	17
Cruelty and drunkenness	82	5	8	7	..	4	..	1	107
Desertion and cruelty	32	26	6	19	2	..	..	1	86
Desertion and drunkenness	19	5	3	1	..	1	..	..	29
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	4	14	3	..	2	..	..	..	23
Desertion and separation	134	273	112	30	9	11	1	2	572
Desertion and other grounds	9	9	3	..	..	..	..	..	21
Drunkenness and intoxication	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Insanity and separation	5	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	11
Other dual grounds	..	4	1	2	..	..	..	..	7
<u>Multiple Grounds (a)</u>	30	54	4	3	1	1	..	..	93
<u>Total</u>	4,215	2,289	1,084	865	620	321	40	70	9,504
<u>Petitions for Nullity of Marriage</u>									
Bigamy	9	3	2	5	..	..	..	..	19
Incapacity to consummate	17	7	7	3	..	..	..	..	34
Other	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	4
<u>Total</u>	28	10	9	9	..	1	..	..	57
<u>Petitions for Dissolution or Nullity of Marriage</u>									
Refusal or incapacity to consummate	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
<u>Total</u>	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
<u>Petitions for Judicial Separation</u>									
Adultery	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	4
Desertion	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Other	2	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	5
<u>Total</u>	4	..	2	3	2	..	..	..	11

(a) Three grounds or more.

TABLE 4. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Year - 1956	3,943	1,747	837	754	652	273	26	44	8,276
1957	3,824	1,654	672	767	623	291	19	49	7,899
1958	4,102	1,579	952	791	644	267	31	37	8,403
1959	3,884	1,650	976	789	671	283	12	43	8,308
1960	3,746	1,798	863	781	560	274	26	46	8,094
1961	4,215	2,289	1,084	865	620	321	40	70	9,504
Quarter ended -									
31st March, 1961	1,060	467	227	216	139	83	8	20	2,220
30th June, 1961	1,046	649	305	182	146	89	5	14	2,436
30th September, 1961	1,098	610	298	226	179	78	16	13	2,518
31st December, 1961	1,011	563	254	241	156	71	11	23	2,330

NOTE: The table above excludes petitions filed for nullity of marriage and judicial separation.

TABLE 5. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PETITIONER

AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN (a) : AUSTRALIA

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

Petition for -	Dissolution of Marriage with -							Total Petitions	Total Number of Children (a)
	No Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	6 Children and over		
<u>Dissolution of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	1,953	1,080	777	377	137	48	22	4,394	4,700
Wife Petitioner	1,802	1,369	1,165	486	191	56	41	5,110	6,464
<u>Total</u>	3,755	2,449	1,942	863	328	104	63	9,504	11,164
<u>Nullity of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	12	..	1	..	..	..	..	13	2
Wife Petitioner	33	5	5	1	..	..	..	44	18
<u>Total</u>	45	5	6	1	..	..	..	57	20
<u>Dissolution or Nullity -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
Wife Petitioner	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	2
<u>Total</u>	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	7	3
<u>Judicial Separation -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	4
Wife Petitioner	2	..	2	2	1	2	..	9	24
<u>Total</u>	2	..	4	2	1	2	..	11	28
<u>Total Petitions -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	1,967	1,081	780	377	137	48	22	4,412	4,707
Wife Petitioner	1,840	1,374	1,173	489	192	58	41	5,167	6,508
<u>Total</u>	3,807	2,455	1,953	866	329	106	63	9,579	11,215

(a) This refers to living children under 21 at time of petition.

II. DISSOLUTIONS, ETC. GRANTED : NUMBER

TABLE 6. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED : YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

Decree for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>Dissolution of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	1,419	594	362	288	224	124	15	23	3,049
Wife Petitioner	1,737	654	417	390	242	162	8	13	3,623
Petition by Both	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	3,156	1,248	779	679	466	286	23	36	6,673
<u>Nullity of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	6	5	..	3	..	..	..	..	14
Wife Petitioner	12	4	2	3	..	..	..	1	22
<u>Total</u>	18	9	2	6	..	..	..	1	36
<u>Judicial Separation -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
<u>Total</u>	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
<u>Total Decrees -</u>									
Husband Petitioner No.	1,425	599	362	291	224	124	15	23	3,063
Per cent.	45	48	46	43	48	43	65	64	46
Wife Petitioner No.	1,750	658	419	393	243	162	8	14	3,647
Per cent.	55	52	54	57	52	57	35	36	54
Petition by Both No.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	3,175	1,257	781	685	467	286	23	37	6,711

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 7. - DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED : AUSTRALIA

Decree for -	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961				
						Quarter ended -				Year
						31st March	30th June	30th Sept.	31st Dec.	
<u>Dissolution of Marriage -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	2,942	2,875	3,225	3,291	3,078	781	622	913	733	3,049
Wife Petitioner	3,493	3,423	3,695	4,024	3,555	939	777	1,069	838	3,623
<u>Total</u>	6,435	6,298	6,920	7,315	6,633	1,721(b)	1,399	1,982	1,571	6,673(b)
<u>Nullity of Marriage -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	14	24	25	21	26	4	2	4	4	14
Wife Petitioner	32	40	36	32	37	5	4	6	7	22
<u>Total</u>	46	64	61	53	63	9	6	10	11	36
<u>Judicial Separation -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	4	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	7	10	11	2	11	1	..	..	1	2
<u>Total</u>	11	12	13	2	13	1	..	..	1	2
<u>Total Decrees -</u>										
Husband Petitioner No.	2,960	2,901	3,252	3,312	3,106	785	624	917	737	3,063
Per cent.	46	46	46	45	46	45	44	46	47	46
Wife Petitioner No.	3,532	3,473	3,742	4,058	3,603	945	781	1,075	846	3,647
Per cent.	54	54	54	55	54	55	56	54	53	54
<u>Total</u>	6,492	6,374	6,994	7,370	6,709	1,731(b)	1,405	1,992	1,583	6,711(b)

(a) Decree absolute. For 1956 the Victorian component of figures for dissolutions and nullities of marriage represents decrees nisi.

(b) Includes one petition by both.

TABLE 8. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Year - 1956	3,125	(b) 1,255	703	567	544	196	25	20	6,435
1957	2,975	1,345	682	529	541	179	18	29	6,298
1958	3,217	1,698	759	483	536	176	15	36	6,920
1959	3,363	1,861	739	503	584	222	14	29	7,315
1960	3,243	1,296	696	610	540	210	5	33	6,633
1961	3,156	1,248	779	679	466	286	23	36	6,673
Quarter ended -									
31st March, 1961	726	403	201	188	132	61	2	8	1,721
30th June, 1961	740	178	165	126	98	80	3	9	1,399
30th September, 1961	1,031	329	200	240	103	61	11	7	1,982
31st December, 1961	659	338	213	125	133	84	7	12	1,571

(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) Decrees nisi.

NOTE: The table above excludes nullities of marriage and judicial separations.

TABLE 9. - GROUNDS ON WHICH DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS WERE GRANTED : STATES, YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

Grounds	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>Dissolution of Marriage</u>									
<u>Single Grounds</u>									
Adultery	797	306	188	221	196	81	8	14	1,811
Cruelty	79	8	4	133	..	4	2	1	231
Desertion	1,669	816	509	275	145	163	9	14	3,600
Drunkenness	41	1	..	6	2	1	..	2	53
Failure to comply with restitution decree	296	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	296
Failure to pay maintenance	..	..	..	3	15	..	..	..	18
Frequent convictions	9	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	12
Imprisonment	7	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	9
Insanity	2	3	2	3	1	..	..	1	12
Refusal to consummate	3	2	..	..	2	..	1	..	8
Separation	121	34	36	20	95	31	1	4	342
Other Single Grounds	..	..	3	1	2	..	..	..	6
<u>Dual Grounds</u>									
Adultery and bigamy	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Adultery and cruelty	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Adultery and desertion	17	55	8	8	2	2	1	..	93
Adultery and separation	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	3
Cruelty and drunkenness	90	1	2	1	1	2	..	..	97
Desertion and cruelty	7	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	9
Desertion and separation	5	8	20	1	2	..	..	..	36
Other Dual Grounds	6	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	12
<u>Multiple Grounds (b)</u>	2	4	4	3	1	1	..	..	15
<u>Total</u>	3,156	1,248	779	679	466	286	23	36	6,673
<u>Nullity of Marriage</u>									
Bigamy	4	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	9
Incapacity to consummate	14	6	1	2	..	..	..	1	24
Invalid Marriage	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Want of consent	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	18	9	2	6	..	..	..	1	36
<u>Judicial Separation</u>									
Adultery	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Cruelty	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2

(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) Three grounds or more.

TABLE 10. - PERCENTAGES OF DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) GRANTED ON VARIOUS GROUNDS

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

Grounds	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Adultery	25	25	24	33	42	28	35	39	27
Desertion (b)	67	73	74	45	53	69	52	50	66
Other	8	2	2	22	5	3	13	11	7
<u>Total</u>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) Includes adultery and desertion, separation, and non-compliance with an order for restitution of conjugal rights.

III. DISSOLUTIONS GRANTED : AGES OF PARTIES

TABLE 11. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO

AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE (a) : AUSTRALIA

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

Age of Husband (Years)	Age of Wife (Years)										Total Husbands	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not Stated	No.	Per cent.
Under 20	332	95	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	433	7
20 - 24	1,258	1,546	208	31	8	1	..	..	..	1	3,053	46
25 - 29	369	859	405	108	15	2	2	..	..	1	1,761	26
30 - 34	74	228	192	128	41	14	4	..	1	1	683	10
35 - 39	13	85	75	68	61	23	6	..	..	..	331	5
40 - 44	3	23	24	37	41	24	3	1	..	..	156	2
45 - 49	1	7	9	17	15	12	14	4	2	..	81	1
50 - 54	..	1	2	5	8	10	10	10	..	..	46	1
55 and over	..	1	1	1	3	9	5	13	18	..	51	1
Not Stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	78	78	1
Total Wives (No. %)	2,050 31	2,845 43	922 14	395 6	192 3	95 1	44 1	28 ..	21 ..	81 1	6,673 ..	100

(a) Marriages for which decrees absolute for dissolution were granted.

TABLE 12. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO

AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION (a) : AUSTRALIA

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

Age of Husband (Years)	Age of Wife (Years)										Total Husbands	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not Stated	No.	Per cent.
Under 20	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
20 - 24	7	108	16	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	133	2
25 - 29	6	300	435	59	8	3	..	..	..	1	812	12
30 - 34	..	80	566	576	118	12	1	2	..	1	1,356	20
35 - 39	..	17	162	500	494	99	19	3	..	..	1,294	19
40 - 44	..	4	36	139	343	361	76	17	1	..	977	15
45 - 49	..	..	9	38	136	289	276	51	15	..	814	12
50 - 54	..	..	4	16	45	101	211	155	35	1	568	9
55 and over	..	..	..	7	12	45	101	137	335	..	637	10
Not Stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80	80	1
Total Wives (No. %)	14 ..	510 8	1,228 18	1,337 20	1,156 17	910 14	684 10	365 6	386 6	83 1	6,673 ..	100

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 13. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO

AGE (a) OF HUSBAND : AUSTRALIA

Period	Under 25 Years	25-29 Years	30-34 Years	35-39 Years	40-44 Years	45-49 Years	50-54 Years	55 Years and over	Not Stated	Total
Year - 1953	177	1,266	1,598	1,554	1,247	879	592	602	47	7,962
1954	157	1,009	1,380	1,168	990	729	477	490	57	6,457
1955	158	995	1,435	1,189	1,059	793	503	509	83	6,724
1956	122	961	1,434	1,130	1,007	738	447	529	67	6,435
1957	119	866	1,334	1,171	988	737	495	477	111	6,298
1958	110	940	1,528	1,372	1,026	775	545	495	129	6,920
1959	131	929	1,626	1,494	1,075	852	586	550	72	7,315
1960	143	931	1,377	1,324	989	822	473	503	71	6,633
1961	135	812	1,356	1,294	977	814	568	637	80	6,673

(a) At time of decree absolute.

TABLE 14. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO

AGE (a) OF WIFE : AUSTRALIA

Period	Under 25 Years	25-29 Years	30-34 Years	35-39 Years	40-44 Years	45-49 Years	50-54 Years	55 Years and over	Not Stated	Total
Year - 1953	655	1,692	1,743	1,465	1,033	634	379	311	50	7,962
1954	557	1,420	1,336	1,130	887	516	289	267	55	6,457
1955	571	1,433	1,410	1,139	944	608	272	268	79	6,724
1956	482	1,378	1,379	1,112	882	567	284	288	63	6,435
1957	475	1,263	1,371	1,082	874	601	290	234	108	6,298
1958	492	1,401	1,556	1,239	875	634	318	279	126	6,920
1959	539	1,425	1,679	1,322	986	678	369	245	72	7,315
1960	582	1,261	1,439	1,210	865	652	300	253	71	6,633
1961	524	1,228	1,337	1,156	910	684	365	386	83	6,673

(a) At time of decree absolute.

IV. DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND NUMBER AND AGE OF CHILDREN

TABLE 15. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO

DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN (b) : AUSTRALIA

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961

Duration of Marriage (Years)	Dissolutions of Marriage with -							Total Marriages Dissolved		Total Number of Child- ren (b)
	No Child- ren	1 Child	2 Child- ren	3 Child- ren	4 Child- ren	5 Child- ren	6 Child- ren and over	No.	Per cent.	
Under 5	327	124	25	2	3	..	..	481	7	192
5 - 9	887	608	322	86	19	4	2	1,928	29	1,620
10 - 14	548	429	424	202	63	21	6	1,693	25	2,277
15 - 19	207	252	302	180	55	24	12	1,032	15	1,815
20 - 24	193	180	225	113	41	18	13	783	12	1,312
25 - 29	160	82	71	33	14	6	5	371	6	441
30 and over	266	42	29	25	9	6	7	384	6	288
Not Stated	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Total Marriages Dissolved	No. 39	2,589	1,717	1,398	641	204	79	45	6,673	..
	%	39	26	21	9	3	1	1	..	..
Total Number of Children (b)	..	1,717	2,796	1,923	816	395	298	..	..	7,945

(a) Decrees absolute. (b) At time of petition. The term "children" used in the Commonwealth legislation refers to living "children of the marriage" under 21 years. However, as the majority of dissolutions in this period were granted to petitions lodged under old legislation, it has not been possible to make the data in the table above conform exactly to this definition. For instance, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia included children whether living or dead; and only Queensland included adopted children.

**TABLE 16. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO
DURATION OF MARRIAGE : AUSTRALIA**

Period	Number of Marriages Dissolved whose Duration was -								Total Marriages Dissolved
	Under 5 Years	5-9 Years	10-14 Years	15-19 Years	20-24 Years	25-29 Years	30 Years and over	Not Stated	
Year - 1953	676	2,594	1,993	1,139	694	447	419	..	7,962
1954	576	2,129	1,557	941	582	363	306	3	6,457
1955	556	2,282	1,572	968	602	424	311	9	6,724
1956	486	2,202	1,523	989	564	339	323	9	6,435
1957	452	2,098	1,503	1,044	589	328	279	5	6,298
1958	475	2,207	1,830	1,125	621	357	303	2	6,920
1959	489	2,275	1,978	1,236	667	384	283	3	7,315
1960	533	2,016	1,804	991	682	354	252	1	6,633
1961	481	1,928	1,693	1,032	783	371	384	1	6,673

(a) Decrees absolute.

**TABLE 17. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO
TO NUMBER OF CHILDREN (b) : AUSTRALIA**

Period	Dissolutions of Marriage with -								Total Marriages Dissolved	Total Number of Children
	No Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	6 Children and over	Not Stated		
Year - 1953	2,730	2,404	1,581	701	302	116	128	..	7,962	10,353
1954	2,246	1,885	1,353	563	239	95	76	..	6,457	8,239
1955	2,239	1,957	1,451	600	250	110	115	2	6,724	8,995
1956	2,286	1,773	1,381	556	248	97	89	5	6,435	8,306
1957	2,195	1,737	1,391	584	232	77	78	4	6,298	8,127
1958	2,387	1,882	1,477	687	291	107	88	1	6,920	9,197
1959	2,510	1,927	1,627	741	330	92	88	..	7,315	9,797
1960	2,213	1,733	1,452	719	291	120	105	..	6,633	9,302
1961	2,589	1,717	1,398	641	204	79	45	..	6,673	(b) 7,945

(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) At time of petition. The figures shown for periods until 1960 inclusive are based on the definition of children set down in the legislation of the various States. For 1961, a uniform definition of children has been used. See note (b) to Table 15.

**TABLE 18. - CHILDREN OF DISSOLVED MARRIAGES (a)
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE : AUSTRALIA
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1961**

Petitioner	Age of Children at Time of Petition -																		Total Number of Children
	Under 12 mths.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 yrs.	6 yrs.	7 yrs.	8 yrs.	9 yrs.	10 yrs.	11 yrs.	12 yrs.	13 yrs.	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16-20 yrs.	Not Stated	
Husband	19	20	56	92	98	149	151	172	155	160	153	130	116	131	102	92	345	1,153	3,294
Wife	19	51	73	120	184	202	234	209	209	218	173	198	167	177	168	128	428	1,691	4,649
Both	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Total	38	71	129	212	282	351	386	381	364	378	326	328	283	309	270	220	773	(b) 2,844	7,945

(a) This table refers to children under 21 years at time of petition, of marriages for which decrees absolute for dissolution have been granted in 1961.

(b) Includes mainly children in respect of petitions for dissolution of marriage lodged under the superseded matrimonial causes laws of the States which did not, in all cases, require this information to be supplied. Most of the not stated cases refer to dissolutions in New South Wales.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 29TH AUGUST, 1962.

K.M. ARCHER
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics can be made in Canberra by telephoning UO413 Extension 473 or, in State Capitals, by telephoning the offices of the Deputy Commonwealth Statisticians.