

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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SOCIAL STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA

NO. 20 : DIVORCE

QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1963

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bulletin contains statistics of divorce for the quarter ended December, 1963, for the year 1963, and for previous periods. For further details in respect of past periods, see previous bulletins in this series and the annual issues of the bulletin "Demography".

2. The Commonwealth Matrimonial Causes Act 1959 came into operation on 1st February, 1961. This Act provides a uniform law throughout Australia with respect to divorce and other matrimonial causes, and supersedes 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. Therefore statistics of petitions filed since February, 1961, are on a uniform basis for all States and Territories, but statistics of decrees of dissolution, nullity and judicial separation granted since that date include decrees made on petitions under the superseded laws and are to that extent not uniformly based. Of the 2,026 decrees absolute for dissolution granted during the quarter ended December, 1963, 1,940 (96 per cent.) were from petitions under the new legislation. For 1963 as a whole, 95 per cent. of decrees granted for dissolution were from petitions under the new legislation.

3. The matrimonial relief available under the superseded legislation differed extensively from State to State. For instance, some important variations in the grounds for dissolution of marriage were as follows:-

- (i) Insanity was a ground for dissolution in all States except in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory;
- (ii) in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory a suit for dissolution of marriage might 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.

Because of these differences in legislation and also some variations from State to State in the bases of compilation of divorce statistics prior to the introduction of the uniform system, the figures for 1961 and subsequent years are not strictly comparable with those for earlier years. See especially the footnotes to tables 9, 14, 16 and 17.

4. Under the new legislation a court may grant decrees of dissolution of marriage (commonly known as divorce), judicial separation, nullity of marriage, restitution of conjugal rights and jactitation of marriage (i.e. that a person has falsely claimed to be another person's wife or husband). Orders may be made for the custody of children, the provision of maintenance, damages and the settlement of marriage property.

5. The statistics in this bulletin refer only to petitions filed and final decrees granted for dissolution, nullity and judicial separation. Statistics of petitions filed relate only to the original petition in a suit, i.e. a cross-petition contained in an answer by the respondent is not taken as a separate petition, nor are the grounds cited in a cross-petition included in table 3.

I. PETITIONS FILED

TABLE 1. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1963

Petition for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	405	238	127	94	74	34	7	13	992
Wife Petitioner	642	316	135	164	73	40	5	15	1,390
Total	1,047	554	262	258	147	74	12	28	2,382
Nullity of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	3	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	6
Wife Petitioner	2	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	6
Total	5	2	..	3	1	1	..	..	12
Dissolution or Nullity -									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Total	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Judicial Separation -									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wife Petitioner	..	2	..	2	1	..	..	1	6
Total	..	2	1	2	1	..	..	1	7
Total Petitions -									
Husband Petitioner No.	408	238	128	96	74	35	7	13	999
Per cent.	39	42	49	37	50	47	58	45	42
Wife Petitioner No.	645	323	135	167	75	40	5	16	1,406
Per cent.	61	58	51	63	50	53	42	55	58
Total	1,053	561	263	263	149	75	12	29	2,405

TABLE 2. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : AUSTRALIA

Petition for -	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	Quarter ended -				
						Dec., 1962	March, 1963	June, 1963	Sept., 1963	Dec., 1963
Dissolution of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	3,843	3,709	4,394	4,072	4,001	972	1,014	1,008	987	992
Wife Petitioner	4,465	4,385	5,110	5,176	5,602	1,273	1,258	1,471	1,483	1,390
Total	8,308	8,094	9,504	9,248	9,603	2,245	2,272	2,479	2,470	2,382
Nullity of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	22	23	13	15	11	5	2	1	2	6
Wife Petitioner	43	32	44	35	28	6	5	11	6	6
Total	65	55	57	50	39	11	7	12	8	12
Dissolution or Nullity -										
Husband Petitioner	..	..	3	6	5	2	1	2	2	..
Wife Petitioner	..	..	4	5	10	2	3	1	2	4
Total	..	..	7	11	15	4	4	3	4	4
Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	7	7	2	2	3	..	..	..	2	1
Wife Petitioner	24	31	9	18	26	5	7	11	2	6
Total	31	38	11	20	29	5	7	11	4	7
Dissolution or Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Total Petitions -										
Husband Petitioner No.	3,872	3,739	4,412	4,095	4,021	979	1,018	1,011	993	999
Per cent.	46	46	46	44	42	43	44	40	40	42
Wife Petitioner No.	4,532	4,448	5,167	5,234	5,666	1,286	1,273	1,494	1,493	1,406
Per cent.	54	54	54	56	58	57	56	60	60	58
Total	8,404	8,187	9,579	9,329	9,687	2,265	2,291	2,505	2,486	2,405

TABLE 3. - GROUNDS ON WHICH PETITIONS WERE FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION :

QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1963

Ground	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Petitions for Dissolution of Marriage									
Single grounds -									
Desertion	407	202	114	83	30	36	4	6	882
Adultery	227	122	46	55	59	15	4	9	537
Separation	162	82	36	56	42	13	1	2	394
Cruelty	73	9	10	29	..	2	1	3	127
Drunkenness	11	3	1	3	1	..	1	2	22
Non-compliance with restitution decree	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	3
Refusal to consummate	3	3	..	..	1	..	1	1	9
Insanity	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	4
Frequent convictions	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Other single grounds	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	14	21	3	6	3	2	..	..	49
Desertion and separation	77	85	37	12	5	4	..	2	222
Desertion and cruelty	16	7	2	2	..	..	..	1	28
Desertion and drunkenness	3	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	6
Adultery and separation	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Adultery and cruelty	7	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	11
Cruelty and drunkenness	21	4	2	5	1	1	..	1	35
Other dual grounds	8	1	1	1	2	..	..	1	14
Three grounds or more	11	9	5	1	1	1	..	..	28
Total Petitions for Dissolution	1,047	554	262	258	147	74	12	28	2,382
Other Petitions									
Petitions for nullity of marriage -									
Bigamy	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	5
Incapacity to consummate	1	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	5
Other	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
Total petitions for nullity	5	2	..	3	1	1	..	..	12
Petitions for dissolution or nullity of marriage	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Petitions for judicial separation	..	2	1	2	1	..	..	1	7
Total Petitions other than for Dissolution of Marriage	6	7	1	5	2	1	..	1	23

TABLE 4. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
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
1962	4,093	2,148	1,083	910	651	276	39	48	9,248
1963	4,339	2,163	1,061	1,005	624	271	50	90	9,603
Quarter ended -									
December, 1962	979	559	269	236	118	68	6	10	2,245
March, 1963	1,054	457	249	273	144	63	12	20	2,272
June, 1963	1,134	594	254	231	165	63	16	22	2,479
September, 1963	1,104	558	296	243	168	71	10	20	2,470
December, 1963	1,047	554	262	258	147	74	12	28	2,382

(a) This table excludes petitions filed for nullity of marriage, judicial separations and any petitions for two or more alternative types of relief.

II. DISSOLUTIONS, ETC. GRANTED : NUMBER

TABLE 5. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a),

NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED :

QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1963

Decree for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	365	203	84	82	61	30	12	7	844
Wife Petitioner	551	227	152	111	75	49	5	9	1,179
Petition by Both	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3
Total	916	430	236	193	139	79	17	16	2,026
Nullity of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	2	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	5
Total	3	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	7
Judicial Separation -									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total Decrees -									
Husband Petitioner No.	366	203	85	82	61	30	12	7	846
Per cent.	40	47	35	42	44	38	71	44	42
Wife Petitioner No.	553	227	155	111	76	49	5	9	1,185
Per cent.	60	53	65	58	54	62	29	56	58
Petition by Both No.	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3
Per cent.	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Total	919	430	240	193	140	79	17	16	2,034

(a) Decrees absolute.

**TABLE 6. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED : AUSTRALIA**

Decree for	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	Quarter ended -				
						Dec., 1962	March, 1963	June, 1963	Sept., 1963	Dec., 1963
Dissolution of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	3,291	3,078	3,049	3,295	3,226	974	904	607	871	844
Wife Petitioner	4,024	3,555	3,623	3,923	4,180	1,152	1,132	787	1,082	1,179
Total	7,315	6,633	6,673(b)	7,220(c)	7,409(d)	2,127(b)	2,036	1,394	1,953	2,026(d)
Nullity of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	21	26	14	12	6	2	2	..	2	2
Wife Petitioner	32	37	22	28	24	9	8	7	4	5
Total	53	63	36	40	30	11	10	7	6	7
Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	..	2	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	2	11	2	3	7	1	..	2	4	1
Total	2	13	2	5	7	2	..	2	4	1
Total Decrees -										
Husband Petitioner										
No.	3,312	3,106	3,063	3,309	3,232	977	906	607	873	846
Per cent.	45	46	46	46	43	46	44	43	44	42
Wife Petitioner										
No.	4,058	3,603	3,647	3,954	4,211	1,162	1,140	796	1,090	1,185
Per cent.	55	54	54	54	57	54	56	57	56	58
Total	7,370	6,709	6,711(b)	7,265(c)	7,446(d)	2,140(b)	2,046	1,403	1,963	2,034(d)

(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) Includes one dissolution granted on petitions by both parties, and not shown against husband or wife.

(c) Includes two dissolutions granted on petitions by both parties, and not shown against husband or wife.

(d) Includes three dissolutions granted on petitions by both parties, and not shown against husband or wife.

TABLE 7. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
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
1962	3,113	1,615	920	660	582	248	38	44	7,220
1963	3,293	1,616	910	698	553	260	38	41	7,409
Quarter ended -									
December, 1962	963	420	248	267	158	56	8	7	2,127
March, 1963	807	429	306	219	191	66	8	10	2,036
June, 1963	720	321	128	82	65	62	9	7	1,394
September, 1963	850	436	240	204	158	53	4	8	1,953
December, 1963	916	430	236	193	139	79	17	16	2,026

(a) Decrees absolute. This table excludes nullities of marriage and judicial separations.

TABLE 8. - GROUNDS ON WHICH DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS WERE GRANTED : QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1963

Ground	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage									
Single grounds -									
Desertion	466	160	120	64	34	35	5	7	891
Adultery	206	84	44	50	53	13	5	5	460
Separation	142	67	48	46	38	24	3	..	368
Cruelty	43	3	6	20	..	1	..	1	74
Drunkenness	12	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	16
Non-compliance with restitution decree	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Refusal to consummate	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Insanity	3	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	5
Other single grounds	2	1	..	..	3	2	..	..	8
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	7	16	5	2	3	..	1	1	35
Desertion and separation	5	69	5	5	3	3	2	..	92
Desertion and cruelty	7	4	..	1	1	..	1	2	16
Desertion and drunkenness	2	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	7
Adultery and separation	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3
Cruelty and drunkenness	8	5	4	1	..	..	..	..	18
Other dual grounds	2	4	..	1	2	..	..	..	9
Three grounds or more	1	12	..	..	1	..	..	..	14
Total	916	430	236	193	139	79	17	16	2,026
Nullity of Marriage									
Bigamy	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Incapacity to consummate	3	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	5
Total	3	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	7
Judicial Separation									
Desertion and Cruelty	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 9. - GROUNDS ON WHICH DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS WERE GRANTED : AUSTRALIA

Ground (a)	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	Quarter ended				
						Dec., 1962	March, 1963	June, 1963	Sept., 1963	Dec., 1963
Dissolution of Marriage										
Single grounds -										
Desertion	4,492	3,873	3,600	3,505	3,324	1,039	948	617	868	891
Adultery	2,124	2,103	1,811	1,490	1,611	437	432	292	427	460
Separation (b)	136	133	342	1,159	1,342	352	351	261	362	368
Cruelty	209	216	231	204	240	55	53	47	66	74
Drunkenness	77	56	53	74	73	23	23	13	21	16
Frequent convictions	..	..	12	18	13	4	5	2	4	2
Imprisonment	25	19	9	3	3	2	1	..	1	1
Failure to pay maintenance	24	23	18	17	10	7	3	5	..	2
Non-compliance with restitution decree(c)	..	..	296	57	40	7	14	14	6	6
Insanity	19	12	12	36	21	11	7	5	4	5
Refusal to consummate (d)	1	5	8	16	14	6	3	2	5	4
Other single grounds	3	1	6	6	7	2	2	1	1	3
Dual grounds -										
Desertion and adultery	87	71	93	104	115	32	35	19	26	35
Desertion and separation	(e)	(e)	36	312	369	88	92	73	112	92
Desertion and cruelty	(e)	(e)	9	35	51	12	15	9	11	16
Desertion and drunkenness	(e)	(e)	5	22	18	5	6	1	4	7
Desertion and frequent convictions	(e)	(e)	3	12	2	5	..	..	..	2
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	(e)	(e)	1	13	6	2	2	..	2	2
Adultery and separation	(e)	(e)	3	8	13	3	5	1	4	3
Adultery and cruelty	(e)	(e)	4	6	6	2	1	..	3	2
Adultery and bigamy (f)	1	1	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Separation and insanity	(e)	(e)	1	4	..	2	..	..	..	..
Separation and failure to pay maintenance	..	..	..	..	7	..	5	..	1	1
Cruelty and drunkenness	117	120	97	63	65	18	15	19	13	18
Other dual grounds	(e)	(e)	2	16	17	2	5	7	3	2
Three grounds or more	(e)	(e)	15	38	42	11	13	6	9	14
Total	7,315	6,633	6,673	7,220	7,409	2,127	2,036	1,394	1,953	2,026
Nullity of Marriage										
Bigamy	15	24	9	14	8	4	3	3	..	2
Invalid marriage	4	6	2	2	1	1	1	..	..	..
Incapacity to consummate	28	31	24	24	21	6	6	4	6	5
Consanguinity	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other grounds	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Not stated	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	53	63	36	40	30	11	10	7	6	7
Judicial Separation										
Desertion	..	10	..	2	2	2	..	1	1	..
Adultery	1	3	1	2	2	..	..	..	2	..
Cruelty	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	1	1	..
Other grounds	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Total	2	13	2	5	7	2	..	2	4	1

(a) Statistics in respect of dissolutions of marriage for which petitions were lodged in or after February, 1961 are on a uniform basis in all States. Petitions lodged
(Continued next page)

before that date were dealt with under the various, now superseded, State laws even if they were heard in 1961 or later years. Furthermore, there were changes made in some States regarding the way in which divorce statistics were compiled. For instance, dissolutions made on more than one ground were allocated to the more important ground in earlier years. For these reasons, comparisons from year to year of the figures shown in the above table should be made with caution. See also Explanatory Notes, page 2.

- (b) Separation was a ground for dissolution in only two States under the old legislation.
- (c) This was a ground in one State only under the old legislation. Separate figures were not compiled before 1961, the dissolutions on this ground being included with desertion.
- (d) This was a ground for dissolution in only one State under the old legislation.
- (e) Not separately compiled before 1961. See note (a) above.
- (f) "Adultery and Bigamy" is not a ground for dissolution under the new Commonwealth legislation.

III. DISSOLUTIONS GRANTED - AGES OF PARTIES

TABLE 10. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE (a),
AUSTRALIA, QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1963

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	55-59	60 and over	Not Stated	No.	Per cent.
Under 20	107	32	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	142	7
20-24	401	461	58	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	929	46
25-29	93	298	107	26	7	3	1	..	..	..	2	537	26
30-34	19	81	56	27	22	3	..	1	..	..	..	209	10
35-39	4	24	22	21	9	6	1	1	..	..	..	88	4
40-44	2	9	8	15	12	3	1	1	..	..	..	51	3
45-49	..	6	7	5	6	1	4	1	..	1	..	31	2
50-54	..	..	1	3	2	2	1	5	..	..	..	14	1
55-59	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	5	..
60 and over	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	..	1	..	5	..
Not stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	15	1
Total Wives {													
(No.	626	912	261	107	60	18	10	11	..	3	18	2,026	..
(%)	31	45	12	5	3	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	100

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

TABLE 11. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION
OF MARRIAGE (a), AUSTRALIA, QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1963

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	55-59	60 and over	Not Stated	No.	Per cent.
Under 20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20-24	4	43	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	55	3
25-29	..	91	139	14	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	246	12
30-34	..	30	172	148	26	8	2	..	..	..	..	386	19
35-39	..	6	39	155	141	26	5	2	..	..	1	375	18
40-44	..	..	9	39	110	126	17	4	3	..	1	309	15
45-49	..	..	4	11	24	100	75	22	1	1	..	238	12
50-54	..	..	3	4	14	42	71	50	7	4	1	196	10
55-59	..	..	..	2	6	9	20	35	28	5	..	105	5
60 and over	..	..	..	..	2	7	11	18	20	43	..	101	5
Not stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	15	1
Total Wives {													
(No.	4	170	374	373	325	318	201	131	59	53	18	2,026	..
(%)	..	8	19	18	16	16	10	6	3	3	1	..	100

(a) Decree absolute.

TABLE 12. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE :
AGE OF HUSBAND AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (a), AUSTRALIA

Period	Age of Husband (Years)										Total
	Under 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	Not Stated	
Year - 1959	131	929	1,626	1,494	1,075	852	586	321	229	72	7,315
1960	143	931	1,377	1,324	989	822	473	291	212	71	6,633
1961	135	812	1,356	1,294	977	814	568	324	313	80	6,673
1962	137	813	1,271	1,383	1,134	921	678	453	392	38	7,220
1963	154	841	1,358	1,414	1,192	893	687	442	400	28	7,409
Quarter ended -											
December, 1962	47	252	367	397	331	257	213	150	104	9	2,127
March, 1963	44	226	380	390	350	241	161	128	113	3	2,036
June, 1963	21	156	246	288	221	176	122	80	82	2	1,394
September, 1963	34	213	346	361	312	238	208	129	104	8	1,953
December, 1963	55	246	386	375	309	238	196	105	101	15	2,026

(a) Decree absolute.

TABLE 13. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE :
AGE OF WIFE AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (a), AUSTRALIA

Period	Age of Wife (Years)										Total
	Under 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	Not Stated	
Year - 1959	539	1,425	1,679	1,322	986	678	369	148	97	72	7,315
1960	582	1,261	1,439	1,210	865	652	300	145	108	71	6,633
1961	524	1,228	1,337	1,156	910	684	365	195	191	83	6,673
1962	539	1,150	1,365	1,337	1,019	796	475	241	259	39	7,220
1963	546	1,294	1,411	1,266	1,103	767	509	260	224	29	7,409
Quarter ended -											
December, 1962	176	356	392	370	302	232	143	82	66	8	2,127
March, 1963	144	355	398	360	301	212	132	75	56	3	2,036
June, 1963	102	229	281	253	196	145	79	50	57	2	1,394
September, 1963	126	336	359	328	288	208	168	76	58	6	1,953
December, 1963	174	374	373	325	318	202	130	59	53	18	2,026

(a) Decree absolute.

IV. DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND NUMBER AND AGE OF CHILDREN

TABLE 14. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) : DURATION OF MARRIAGE
AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN (b), AUSTRALIA, QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1963

Duration of Marriage (Years)	Dissolutions of Marriage with -							Total Marriages Dissolved		Total Number of Children (b)
	No Child- ren	1 Child	2 Child- ren	3 Child- ren	4 Child- ren	5 Child- ren	6 Children and over	No.	Per cent.	
Under 5	99	47	18	2	1	..	..	167	8	93
5 - 9	229	165	105	29	8	..	..	536	26	494
10 - 14	121	111	139	61	28	3	1	464	23	705
15 - 19	63	81	107	59	24	7	3	344	17	622
20 - 24	72	65	69	31	16	3	6	262	13	420
25 - 29	66	40	27	4	1	1	..	139	7	115
30 and over	99	9	4	2	..	..	..	114	6	23
Total (No.)	749	518	469	188	78	14	10	2,026	..	..
Marriages Dissolved (%)	37	26	23	9	4	1	..	..	100	..
Total Number of Children (b)	..	518	938	564	312	70	70	..	..	2,472

(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; but the table above includes a small number of dissolutions granted to petitions filed under old legislation in which the term "children" was used differently.

TABLE 15. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) : DURATION OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of Marriages Dissolved whose Duration was (Years) -								Total Marriages Dissolved
	Under 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over	Not stated	
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
1962	448	1,889	1,798	1,226	883	458	518	..	7,220
1963	500	1,994	1,660	1,346	905	509	495	..	7,409
Quarter ended -									
December, 1962	153	573	524	332	255	137	153	..	2,127
March, 1963	133	554	450	386	253	121	139	..	2,036
June, 1963	78	380	319	260	147	107	103	..	1,394
September, 1963	122	524	427	356	243	142	139	..	1,953
December, 1963	167	536	464	344	262	139	114	..	2,026

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 16. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) : NUMBER OF CHILDREN (b), AUSTRALIA

Period	Dissolutions of Marriage with -							Total Marriages Dissolved	Total Number of Children
	No Child-ren	1 Child	2 Child-ren	3 Child-ren	4 Child-ren	5 Child-ren	6 Children and over		
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	7,945
1962	2,873	1,897	1,421	664	243	72	50	7,220	8,384
1963	2,890	1,866	1,596	668	281	69	39	7,409	8,785
Quarter ended -									
December, 1962	854	566	411	187	73	19	17	2,127	2,443
March, 1963	774	507	455	189	81	19	11	2,036	2,475
June, 1963	566	367	280	113	50	12	6	1,394	1,564
September, 1963	801	474	392	178	72	24	12	1,953	2,274
December, 1963	749	518	469	188	78	14	10	2,026	2,472

(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) At time of petition. The figures shown for periods until 1960 inclusive are based on the definitions of children set down in the legislation of the various States. Since 1961 a uniform definition of children has been used, but see note (b) to Table 14.

TABLE 17. - CHILDREN OF DISSOLVED MARRIAGES (a) : AUSTRALIA

QUARTER ENDED DECEMBER, 1963

Petitioner	Ages of Children at Time of Petition - (Years)																		Total Number of Children
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16-20	Not Stated	
Husband	3	18	32	56	59	54	67	68	79	46	54	54	51	51	40	44	161	..	937
Wife	8	24	71	90	92	101	87	105	101	95	101	87	96	85	85	76	229	..	1,533
By Both	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Total	11	42	103	146	151	155	154	173	180	142	155	141	147	136	126	120	390	..	2,472

(a) See note (b) to Table 14.

K. M. ARCHER
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

4TH MAY, 1964.

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 41971 Extension 71 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.