

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

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SOCIAL STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA

NO. 12 : DIVORCE

QUARTER ENDED MARCH, 1963 AND YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1962

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. This bulletin contains statistics of divorce for the quarter ended March, 1963, and for previous periods. Additional statistics relating to the year 1962 are also shown in Part V. For further details in respect of past periods, see previous bulletins in this series and the annual issues of the bulletin "Demography".

2. In 1959, the Commonwealth Parliament passed the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959, which came into operation on 1st February, 1961. This Act provided 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of dissolution, nullity and judicial separation granted since that date include decrees made on petitions under the superseded laws, and are to that extent not uniformly based.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 2,036 decrees absolute for dissolution granted during the quarter ended March, 1963, 1,945 were from petitions under the new legislation. In the year 1962, 5,769 (80 per cent.) of the 7,220 decrees granted for dissolution were from petitions under the new legislation; the remainder, 1,451, were lodged under the superseded legislation.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 The matrimonial relief available under the superseded legislation differed extensively from State to State.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.

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. Because of these differences in legislation and also some variations from State to State in the bases of collection of divorce statistics, 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, 17, 26 and 27.

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 (a false claim to be a 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.

## I. PETITIONS FILED

TABLE 1. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,  
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : QUARTER ENDED MARCH, 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	452	224	111	110	70	30	7	10	1,014
Wife Petitioner	602	233	138	163	74	33	5	10	1,258
Total	1,054	457	249	273	144	63	12	20	2,272
Nullity of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5
Total	4	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	7
Dissolution or Nullity -									
Husband Petitioner	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wife Petitioner	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Total	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Judicial Separation -									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	7
Total	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	7
Dissolution or Judicial Separation									
Husband Petitioner	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total Petitions -									
Husband Petitioner No.	452	226	111	110	72	30	7	10	1,018
Per cent.	42	49	45	40	49	47	58	48	44
Wife Petitioner No.	613	234	138	163	75	34	5	11	1,273
Per cent.	58	51	55	60	51	53	42	52	56
Total	1,065	460	249	273	147	64	12	21	2,291

TABLE 2. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,  
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : AUSTRALIA

Petition for -	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	Quarter ended -				
						March, 1962	June, 1962	Sept., 1962	Dec., 1962	March, 1963
Dissolution of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	3,833	3,843	3,709	4,394	4,072	1,003	1,068	1,029	972	1,014
Wife Petitioner	4,570	4,465	4,385	5,110	5,176	1,180	1,315	1,408	1,273	1,258
Total	8,403	8,308	8,094	9,504	9,248	2,183	2,383	2,437	2,245	2,272
Nullity of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	40	22	23	13	15	3	3	4	5	2
Wife Petitioner	35	43	32	44	35	6	10	13	6	5
Total	75	65	55	57	50	9	13	17	11	7
Dissolution or Nullity -										
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	3	6	2	1	1	2	1
Wife Petitioner	..	..	..	4	5	1	2	..	2	3
Total	..	..	..	7	11	3	3	1	4	4
Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	13	7	7	2	2	1	1	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	36	24	31	9	18	6	6	1	5	7
Total	49	31	38	11	20	7	7	1	5	7
Dissolution or Judicial Separation										
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total Petitions -										
Husband Petitioner No.	3,886	3,872	3,739	4,412	4,095	1,009	1,073	1,034	979	1,018
Per cent.	46	46	46	46	44	46	45	42	43	44
Wife Petitioner No.	4,641	4,532	4,448	5,167	5,234	1,193	1,333	1,422	1,286	1,273
Per cent.	54	54	54	54	56	54	55	58	57	56
Total	8,527	8,404	8,187	9,579	9,329	2,202	2,406	2,456	2,265	2,291

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

## NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION :

QUARTER ENDED MARCH, 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	413	165	106	92	41	31	1	4	853
Adultery	255	84	44	67	48	14	5	8	525
Separation	154	78	43	56	40	12	4	1	388
Cruelty	54	3	4	30	2	2	..	2	97
Drunkenness	8	1	..	2	1	..	..	1	13
Non-compliance with restitution decree	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Insanity	2	..	4	1	..	1	..	..	8
Refusal to consummate	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other single grounds	3	..	1	1	2	1	..	..	8
Dual Grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	21	22	4	4	4	..	2	2	59
Desertion and separation	68	71	33	10	4	..	..	2	188
Desertion and cruelty	13	5	1	..	1	..	..	..	20
Desertion and drunkenness	4	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	6
Desertion and frequent convictions	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Adultery and separation	3	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	5
Adultery and cruelty	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	4
Cruelty and drunkenness	24	6	3	2	..	..	..	..	35
Other dual grounds	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Three grounds or more	17	16	4	4	..	1	..	..	42
Total	1,054	457	249	273	144	63	12	20	2,272
Petitions for Nullity of Marriage									
Bigamy	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Incapacity to consummate	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
Other grounds	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Total	4	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	7
Petitions for Dissolution or Nullity of Marriage									
Desertion or bigamy	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Refusal or incapacity to consummate	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Adultery, desertion and bigamy	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Petitions for Judicial Separation									
Adultery	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Desertion and cruelty	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other grounds	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Total	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	7
Petitions for Dissolution or Judicial Separation									
Adultery	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

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.
Year - 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
1962	4,093	2,148	1,083	910	651	276	39	48	9,248
Quarter ended -									
March, 1962	1,032	455	255	197	160	63	8	13	2,183
June, 1962	1,012	586	267	233	187	71	15	12	2,383
September, 1962	1,070	548	292	244	186	74	10	13	2,437
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

(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 MARCH, 1963

Decree for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<b>Dissolution of Marriage -</b>									
Husband Petitioner	353	192	148	92	83	29	3	4	904
Wife Petitioner	454	237	158	127	108	37	5	6	1,132
Total	807	429	306	219	191	66	8	10	2,036
<b>Nullity of Marriage -</b>									
Husband Petitioner	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	1	3	1	3	..	..	..	..	8
Total	1	4	2	3	..	..	..	..	10
<b>Total Decrees -</b>									
Husband Petitioner No.	353	193	149	92	83	29	3	4	906
Per cent.	44	45	48	41	43	44	37	40	44
Wife Petitioner No.	455	240	159	130	108	37	5	6	1,140
Per cent.	56	55	52	59	57	56	63	60	56
Total	808	433	308	222	191	66	8	10	2,046

(a) Decrees absolute.

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

Decree for	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	Quarter ended -				
						March, 1962	June, 1962	Sept., 1962	Dec., 1962	March, 1963
<b>Dissolution of Marriage -</b>										
Husband Petitioner	3,225	3,291	3,078	3,049	3,295	815	590	916	974	904
Wife Petitioner	3,695	4,024	3,555	3,623	3,923	951	775	1,045	1,152	1,132
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,920</b>	<b>7,315</b>	<b>6,633</b>	<b>6,673(b)</b>	<b>7,220(c)</b>	<b>1,766</b>	<b>1,365</b>	<b>1,962(b)</b>	<b>2,127(b)</b>	<b>2,036</b>
<b>Nullity of Marriage -</b>										
Husband Petitioner	25	21	26	14	12	2	5	3	2	2
Wife Petitioner	36	32	37	22	28	8	8	3	9	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Judicial Separation -</b>										
Husband Petitioner	2	..	2	..	2	..	..	1	1	..
Wife Petitioner	11	2	11	2	3	1	1	..	1	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>Total Decrees -</b>										
Husband Petitioner No.	3,252	3,312	3,106	3,063	3,309	817	595	920	977	906
Per cent.	46	45	46	46	46	46	43	47	46	44
Wife Petitioner No.	3,742	4,058	3,603	3,647	3,954	960	784	1,048	1,162	1,140
Per cent.	54	55	54	54	54	54	57	53	54	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,994</b>	<b>7,370</b>	<b>6,709</b>	<b>6,711(b)</b>	<b>7,265(c)</b>	<b>1,777</b>	<b>1,379</b>	<b>1,969(b)</b>	<b>2,140(b)</b>	<b>2,046</b>

(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.

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.
<b>Year -</b>									
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
1962	3,113	1,615	920	660	582	248	38	44	7,220
<b>Quarter ended -</b>									
March, 1962	639	442	289	146	163	65	9	13	1,766
June, 1962	664	292	151	101	84	61	7	5	1,365
September, 1962	847	461	232	146	177	66	14	19	1,962
December, 1962	963	420	248	267	158	56	8	7	2,127
March, 1963	807	429	306	219	191	66	8	10	2,036

(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 MARCH, 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	432	180	165	87	53	24	3	4	948
Adultery	162	66	56	59	70	14	1	4	432
Separation	124	63	55	46	44	16	3	..	351
Cruelty	20	6	6	20	..	..	..	1	53
Drunkenness	12	3	2	..	3	3	..	..	23
Non-compliance with restitution decree	12	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	14
Failure to pay maintenance	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	3
Frequent convictions	2	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	5
Insanity	2	1	1	2	..	1	..	..	7
Refusal to consummate	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	3
Other single grounds	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	3
Dual Grounds									
Desertion and adultery	6	18	6	1	1	2	..	1	35
Desertion and separation	9	66	9	..	6	2	..	..	92
Desertion and cruelty	5	5	4	..	1	..	..	..	15
Desertion and Drunkenness	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Adultery and Separation	..	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	5
Separation and failure to pay maintenance	..	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	5
Cruelty and Drunkenness	9	1	2	1	..	1	1	..	15
Other dual grounds	3	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	8
Three Grounds or more									
	2	9	..	..	2	..	..	..	13
Total	807	429	306	219	191	66	8	10	2,036

Nullity of Marriage

Bigamy	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	3
Incapacity to consummate	1	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	6
Invalid Marriage	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	1	4	2	3	..	..	..	..	10

(a) Decrees absolute.

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

Ground (a)	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	Quarter ended				
						March, 1962	June, 1962	Sept., 1962	Dec., 1962	March, 1963
Dissolution of Marriage										
Single Grounds -										
Desertion	4,257	4,492	3,873	3,600	3,505	842	640	984	1,039	948
Adultery	1,988	2,124	2,103	1,811	1,490	396	275	382	437	432
Separation (b)	114	136	133	342	1,159	269	235	303	352	351
Cruelty	208	209	216	231	204	46	47	56	55	53
Drunkenness	64	77	56	53	74	12	15	24	23	23
Frequent convictions	..	..	..	12	18	7	4	3	4	5
Imprisonment	25	25	19	9	3	..	1	..	2	1
Failure to pay maintenance	20	24	23	18	17	4	3	3	7	3
Non-compliance with restitution decree (c)	..	..	..	296	57	20	20	10	7	14
Insanity	17	19	12	12	36	8	3	14	11	7
Refusal to consummate (d)	..	1	5	8	16	2	3	5	6	3
Other single grounds	9	3	1	6	6	3	1	..	2	2
Dual Grounds -										
Desertion and adultery	84	87	71	93	104	27	19	26	32	35
Desertion and separation (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	36	312	85	46	93	88	92
Desertion and cruelty (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	9	35	8	7	8	12	15
Desertion and drunkenness (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	5	22	3	8	6	5	6
Desertion and frequent convictions (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	3	12	3	1	3	5	..
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	1	13	3	3	5	2	2
Adultery and separation (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	3	8	1	1	3	3	5
Adultery and cruelty (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	4	6	2	..	2	2	1
Adultery and bigamy (f)	2	1	1	6	2	..	1	1	..	..
Separation and insanity (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	1	4	..	1	1	2	..
Separation and failure to pay maintenance ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Cruelty and drunkenness	132	117	120	97	63	13	18	14	18	15
Other dual grounds (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	2	16	3	3	8	2	5
Three Grounds or more (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	15	38	9	10	8	11	13
Total	6,920	7,315	6,633	6,673	7,220	1,766	1,365	1,962	2,127	2,036
Nullity of Marriage										
Bigamy	19	15	24	9	14	1	5	4	4	3
Invalid Marriage	3	4	6	2	2	1	..	..	1	1
Incapacity to consummate	34	28	31	24	24	8	8	2	6	6
Consanguinity	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other grounds	2	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Not stated	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	61	53	63	36	40	10	13	6	11	10
Judicial Separation										
Desertion	4	..	10	..	2	..	..	..	2	..
Adultery	1	1	3	1	2	..	1	1	..	..
Cruelty	8	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other grounds	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Total	13	2	13	2	5	1	1	1	2	..

(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 before that 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

(Continued next page)

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 MARCH, 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	89	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114	6
20-24	390	487	70	7	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	959	47
25-29	106	292	115	31	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	551	27
30-34	20	68	61	31	9	5	1	..	..	..	..	195	10
35-39	9	32	22	20	11	4	..	..	..	..	..	98	5
40-44	..	2	8	15	12	7	2	1	..	..	..	47	2
45-49	..	..	5	1	6	12	2	3	..	..	..	29	2
50-54	2	1	1	2	4	5	4	1	1	..	..	21	1
55-59	..	..	..	1	2	2	1	2	..	..	..	8	..
60 and over	..	..	2	1	..	2	..	2	3	1	..	11	..
Not Stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..
Total (No. Wives (%)	616 (30)	907 (45)	284 (14)	109 (5)	52 (3)	39 (2)	12 (1)	9 (..)	4 (..)	1 (..)	3 (..)	2,036 (..)	.. (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 MARCH, 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	2	32	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44	2
25-29	3	82	124	13	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	226	11
30-34	..	18	168	162	28	4	..	..	..	..	..	380	19
35-39	..	3	42	155	141	33	10	5	1	..	..	390	19
40-44	..	4	9	50	135	126	19	6	1	..	..	350	17
45-49	..	..	2	12	32	96	77	21	..	1	..	241	12
50-54	..	..	..	3	14	26	64	42	11	1	..	161	8
55-59	..	..	1	..	4	11	30	44	27	11	..	128	6
60 and over	..	..	..	2	4	3	12	14	35	43	..	113	6
Not Stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..
Total (No. Wives (%)	5 (..)	139 (7)	355 (17)	398 (20)	360 (18)	301 (15)	212 (10)	132 (6)	75 (4)	56 (3)	3 (..)	2,036 (..)	.. (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 - 1958	110	940	1,528	1,372	1,026	775	545	285	210	129	6,920
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
Quarter ended -											
March, 1962	26	193	317	351	292	221	150	101	101	14	1,766
June, 1962	24	134	244	264	201	194	122	90	82	10	1,365
September, 1962	40	234	343	371	310	249	193	112	105	5	1,962
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

(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 - 1958	492	1,401	1,556	1,239	875	634	318	170	109	126	6,920
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
Quarter ended -											
March, 1962	122	273	332	358	246	177	115	65	62	16	1,766
June, 1962	86	206	250	264	196	162	83	48	60	10	1,365
September, 1962	155	315	391	345	275	225	134	46	71	5	1,962
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

(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 MARCH, 1963

Duration of Marriage	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 Child- ren & over	No.	Per cent.	
Under 5	82	37	12	1	1	..	..	133	7	68
5 - 9	244	166	99	36	8	1	..	554	27	509
10 - 14	131	121	124	50	21	3	..	450	22	618
15 - 19	74	90	120	54	31	9	8	386	19	711
20 - 24	62	49	80	38	18	4	2	253	12	431
25 - 29	69	30	13	6	2	..	1	121	6	88
30 and over	112	14	7	4	..	2	..	139	7	50
Total (No. Marriages Dissolved)	774	507	455	189	81	19	11	2,036	..	..
Total Number of Children (b)	..	507	910	567	324	95	72	..	..	2,475

(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	
Year - 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
1962	448	1,889	1,798	1,226	883	458	518	..	7,220
Quarter ended -									
March, 1962	89	453	451	333	207	100	133	..	1,766
June, 1962	63	353	373	229	149	91	107	..	1,365
September, 1962	143	510	450	332	272	130	125	..	1,962
December, 1962	153	573	524	332	255	137	153	..	2,127
March, 1963	133	554	450	386	253	121	139	..	2,036

(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 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	6 Children and over	Number of Children Not Stated		
Year - 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	7,945
1962	r2,873	r1,897	r1,421	r664	r243	72	r50	..	7,220	8,384
Quarter ended -										
March, 1962	700	454	358	172	50	20	12	..	1,766	2,061
June, 1962	558	338	266	129	48	15	11	..	1,365	1,599
September, 1962	r761	r539	r386	r176	r72	18	r10	..	1,962	r2,281
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

(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. Since 1961 a uniform definition of children has been used but see note (b) to Table 14.

(r) Revised. See footnote (a) to Table 17.

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

QUARTER ENDED MARCH, 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	8	15	23	47	59	64	65	68	69	67	63	55	59	64	60	54	165	4	1,009
Wife	9	31	46	72	97	101	93	94	87	100	91	100	87	77	87	78	215	1	1,466
Total	17	46	69	119	156	165	158	162	156	167	154	155	146	141	147	132	380	5	2,475

(a) See note (b) to Table 14. The corresponding table for the quarter ended September, 1962 (appearing in Social Statistics, No. 9 issued 20th December, 1962) has been revised as follows:- Wife Petitioner, Ages of children 9 years, 79; 14 years, 62; 15 years, 66; 16-20 years, 183; Not stated, 137; with consequent changes to totals.

## V. YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1962

TABLE 18. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,  
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION, 1962

Petition for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	1,724	1,005	508	368	296	127	25	19	4,072
Wife Petitioner	2,369	1,143	575	542	355	149	14	29	5,176
Total	4,093	2,148	1,083	910	651	276	39	48	9,248
Nullity of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	8	3	2	1	1	..	..	..	15
Wife Petitioner	13	10	5	3	2	2	..	..	35
Total	21	13	7	4	3	2	..	..	50
Dissolution or Nullity -									
Husband Petitioner	..	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	6
Wife Petitioner	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Total	..	9	1	1	..	..	..	..	11
Judicial Separation -									
Husband Petitioner	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	9	4	2	1	..	2	..	..	18
Total	10	4	3	1	..	2	..	..	20
Total Petitions -									
Husband Petitioner No.	1,733	1,012	512	370	297	127	25	19	4,095
Per cent.	42	47	47	40	45	45	64	40	44
Wife Petitioner No.	2,391	1,162	582	546	357	153	14	29	5,234
Per cent.	58	53	53	60	55	55	36	60	56
Total	4,124	2,174	1,094	916	654	280	39	48	9,329

TABLE 19. - GROUNDS ON WHICH PETITIONS WERE FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,  
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION, 1962

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	1,688	837	474	270	198	102	18	13	3,600
Adultery	915	399	193	227	217	73	10	17	2,051
Separation	570	321	161	185	163	60	6	1	1,467
Cruelty	228	29	26	117	8	5	..	9	422
Drunkenness	57	8	4	8	8	8	1	2	96
Frequent convictions	13	1	1	1	1	2	..	..	19
Failure to pay maintenance	1	2	..	2	13	1	..	..	19
Non compliance with restitution decree	31	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	34
Insanity	18	4	3	5	2	1	..	..	33
Sodomy	5	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	6
Refusal to consummate	10	2	2	2	1	..	..	..	17
Other single grounds	1	2	2	1	..	2	..	..	8
Dual Grounds -									
Desertion and Adultery	35	85	18	11	3	4	1	2	159
Desertion and separation	266	340	159	38	15	10	..	1	829
Desertion and cruelty	54	20	7	9	1	..	1	1	93
Desertion and drunkenness	18	7	6	2	1	1	..	1	36
Desertion and frequent convictions	3	4	..	1	1	..	..	..	9
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	9	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	19
Desertion and refusal to consummate	7	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	11
Adultery and separation	3	7	1	2	5	..	..	..	18
Adultery and cruelty	12	10	..	4	1	..	..	..	27
Separation and failure to pay maintenance	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	5
Separation and insanity	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
Cruelty and drunkenness	91	10	7	10	1	3	1	..	123
Other dual grounds	4	2	3	2	2	..	..	..	13
Three Grounds or more	52	49	10	11	3	4	..	1	130
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,093</b>	<b>2,148</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>9,248</b>
Petitions for Nullity of Marriage									
Bigamy	10	3	3	1	..	2	..	..	19
Incapacity to consummate	10	9	4	2	..	..	..	..	25
Invalid Marriage	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	4
Other grounds	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>50</b>
Petitions for Dissolution or Nullity of Marriage									
Refusal or incapacity to consummate	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other grounds	..	6	..	1	..	..	..	..	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>11</b>
Petitions for Judicial Separation									
Adultery	8	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	12
Cruelty	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	4
Other grounds	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>20</b>

**TABLE 20. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NULLITY OF MARRIAGE  
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PETITIONER  
AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN (a) : AUSTRALIA, 1962**

Petition for -	Dissolution of Marriage with -							Total Petitions	Total Number of Chil- dren (a)
	No Chil- dren	1 Child	2 Chil- dren	3 Chil- dren	4 Chil- dren	5 Chil- dren	6 Chil- dren and over		
Dissolution of Marriage - Husband Petitioner	1,744	944	807	375	137	44	21	4,072	4,562
Wife Petitioner	1,710	1,400	1,168	562	223	66	47	5,176	6,950
Total	3,454	2,344	1,975	937	360	110	68	9,248	11,512
Nullity of Marriage - Husband Petitioner	13	1	1	..	..	..	..	15	3
Wife Petitioner	23	8	1	2	..	1	..	35	21
Total	36	9	2	2	..	1	..	50	24
Dissolution or Nullity - Husband Petitioner	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	6	1
Wife Petitioner	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	5	4
Total	8	2	..	1	..	..	..	11	5
Judicial Separation - Husband Petitioner	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	4
Wife Petitioner	5	2	4	4	..	1	2	18	39
Total	5	3	4	5	..	1	2	20	43
Total Petitions - Husband Petitioner	1,762	947	808	376	137	44	21	4,095	4,570
Wife Petitioner	1,741	1,411	1,173	569	223	68	49	5,234	7,014
Total	3,503	2,358	1,981	945	360	112	70	9,329	11,584

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

**TABLE 21. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE  
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED, 1962**

Decree for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage - Husband Petitioner	1,389	738	422	301	283	125	19	18	3,295
Wife Petitioner	1,724	877	498	358	299	123	18	26	3,923
Petition by Both	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Total	3,113	1,615	920	660	582	248	38	44	7,220
Nullity of Marriage - Husband Petitioner	4	4	2	2	..	..	..	..	12
Wife Petitioner	14	4	3	4	2	1	..	..	28
Total	18	8	5	6	2	1	..	..	40
Judicial Separation - Husband Petitioner	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	3
Total	..	..	3	1	1	..	..	..	5
Total Decrees - Husband Petitioner	No. 1,393	742	425	303	284	125	19	18	3,309
Per cent.	44	46	46	46	49	50	50	41	46
Wife Petitioner	No. 1,738	881	503	363	301	124	18	26	3,954
Per cent.	56	54	54	54	51	50	47	59	54
Petition by Both	No. ..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Per cent.	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Total	3,131	1,623	928	667	585	249	38	44	7,265

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 22. - GROUNDS ON WHICH DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE  
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS WERE GRANTED, 1962

Ground	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage									
Single Grounds -									
Desertion	1,593	794	504	295	176	114	16	13	3,505
Adultery	645	248	155	166	196	56	11	13	1,490
Separation	414	245	158	122	155	59	4	2	1,159
Cruelty	114	5	10	58	4	3	3	7	204
Drunkenness	46	4	5	3	5	7	1	3	74
Frequent convictions	13	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	18
Failure to pay maintenance	1	..	..	1	14	1	..	..	17
Non-compliance with restitution decree	57	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Insanity	30	..	..	4	2	..	..	..	36
Refusal to consummate	8	4	1	2	..	1	..	..	16
Other single grounds	3	..	2	..	4	..	..	..	9
Dual Grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	30	56	7	..	6	4	..	1	104
Desertion and separation	57	179	62	1	9	1	2	1	312
Desertion and cruelty	14	14	2	4	1	..	..	..	35
Desertion and drunkenness	13	3	4	..	..	1	..	1	22
Desertion and frequent convictions	4	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	12
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	1	8	1	..	3	..	..	..	13
Adultery and separation	1	4	..	..	3	..	..	..	8
Adultery and cruelty	2	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	6
Separation and insanity	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cruelty and drunkenness	53	3	2	1	2	1	..	1	63
Other dual grounds	3	11	..	..	2	..	1	1	18
Three Grounds or more	10	25	2	..	..	..	..	1	38
Total	3,113	1,615	920	660	582	248	38	44	7,220
Nullity of Marriage									
Bigamy	7	2	2	3	..	..	..	..	14
Incapacity to consummate	11	6	3	2	1	1	..	..	24
Other grounds	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2
Total	18	8	5	6	2	1	..	..	40
Judicial Separation									
Desertion	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
Adultery	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other grounds	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Total	..	..	3	1	1	..	..	..	5

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 23. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) : NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE  
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS - MONTH IN WHICH GRANTED, 1962

Month	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage									
January	171	139	103	31	42	24	1	2	513
February	226	150	97	78	50	21	1	4	627
March	242	153	89	37	71	20	7	7	626
April	117	5	5	15	5	4	..	1	152
May	263	102	59	23	6	29	1	3	486
June	284	185	87	63	73	28	6	1	727
July	217	120	57	26	55	21	6	8	510
August	361	233	92	73	56	21	5	5	846
September	269	108	83	47	66	24	3	6	606
October	202	92	70	52	53	10	3	2	484
November	342	146	93	69	49	20	3	1	723
December	419	182	85	146	56	26	2	4	920
Total	3,113	1,615	920	660	582	248	38	44	7,220
Nullity of Marriage									
January	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2
February	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	3
March	2	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	5
April	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
May	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
June	5	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	8
July	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
August	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
September	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
October	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
November	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	6
December	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Total	18	8	5	6	2	1	..	..	40
Judicial Separation									
January	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
February	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
March	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
April	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
May	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
June	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
July	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
August	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
September	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
October	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
November	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
December	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
Total	..	..	3	1	1	..	..	..	5

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 24. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO  
AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE (a) : AUSTRALIA, 1962

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	332	100	8	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	442	6
20 - 24	1,330	1,662	241	34	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	3,272	46
25 - 29	373	942	480	118	25	4	2	..	..	..	2	1,946	27
30 - 34	81	281	200	123	42	12	..	1	..	..	1	741	10
35 - 39	22	78	89	98	59	31	2	1	..	..	..	380	5
40 - 44	2	22	30	51	43	38	13	..	1	..	..	200	3
45 - 49	2	8	7	13	18	24	14	5	..	..	..	91	1
50 - 54	1	2	4	7	13	5	13	7	3	..	..	55	1
55 - 59	1	..	2	1	1	7	5	9	1	1	..	28	..
60 and over	..	..	1	..	..	2	3	7	5	9	..	27	..
Not Stated	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	36	38	1
Total (No. Wives %)	2,144 30	3,095 43	1,063 15	446 6	206 3	125 2	52 1	30 ..	10 ..	10 ..	39 ..	7,220 ..	.. 100

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

TABLE 25. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO  
AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION (a) : AUSTRALIA, 1962

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	12	106	17	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	137	2
25 - 29	5	298	444	55	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	813	11
30 - 34	..	94	494	579	88	12	4	..	..	..	..	1,271	17
35 - 39	..	20	149	524	548	115	20	6	..	..	1	1,383	19
40 - 44	..	3	32	141	465	389	86	15	2	1	..	1,134	16
45 - 49	..	..	9	45	152	328	308	65	9	4	1	921	13
50 - 54	..	1	4	9	57	125	253	182	40	6	1	678	9
55 - 59	..	..	..	8	11	39	98	149	112	36	..	453	6
60 and over	..	..	1	1	6	9	27	58	77	213	..	392	6
Not Stated	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	36	38	1
Total (No. Wives %)	17 ..	522 7	1,150 16	1,365 19	1,337 18	1,019 14	796 11	475 7	240 3	260 4	39 1	7,220 ..	.. 100

(a) Decrees absolute.

**TABLE 26. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN (b) : AUSTRALIA, 1962**

Duration of Marriage (Years)	Dissolutions of Marriage with -							Total Marriages Dissolved		Total Number of Children (b)	
	No Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	6 Children and over	No.	Per cent.		
Under 5	298	119	25	4	1	1	..	448	6	190	
5 - 9	844	643	298	78	21	4	1	1,889	26	1,584	
10 - 14	569	477	466	190	68	19	9	1,798	25	2,401	
15 - 19	276	282	318	220	89	23	18	1,226	17	2,166	
20 - 24	239	204	227	132	50	15	16	883	12	1,432	
25 - 29	235	113	64	28	8	6	4	458	7	412	
30 and over	412	59	23	12	6	4	2	518	7	199	
Not Stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total Marriages Dissolved	No.	2,873	1,897	1,421	664	243	72	50	7,220	..	..
	%	40	26	20	9	3	1	1	..	100	..
Total Number of Children (b)	..	1,897	2,842	1,992	972	360	321	..	..	8,384	

(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 some of dissolutions in this period were granted to petitions filed 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; only Queensland included adopted children.

**TABLE 27. - CHILDREN OF DISSOLVED MARRIAGES (a) CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE : AUSTRALIA, 1962**

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 (b)	
Husband	17	60	91	149	197	214	216	216	216	232	220	166	203	145	186	154	532	409	3,623
Wife	26	56	113	224	242	250	310	303	305	292	286	266	256	230	255	218	645	481	4,758
Both	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Total	43	116	204	373	439	464	526	519	522	525	507	432	459	375	441	372	1,777	890	8,384

(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 1962.

(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.

8TH AUGUST, 1963

K.M. ARCHER  
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

**NOTE:** Inquiries concerning these statistics can be made in Canberra by telephoning 70413 Extension 342 or, in each State Capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.