

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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SOCIAL STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA

NO. 16 : DIVORCE

QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1963

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. This bulletin contains statistics of divorce for the quarter ended September, 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of dissolution, nullity and judicial separation granted since that date include decrees made on petitions under the superseded laws, and are to that extent not uniformly based.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 1,953 decrees absolute for dissolution granted during the quarter ended September, 1963, 1,849 (95 per cent.) 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 The matrimonial relief available under the superseded legislation differed extensively from State to State.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 SEPTEMBER, 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	394	243	135	94	75	33	6	7	987
Wife Petitioner	710	315	161	149	93	38	4	13	1,483
Total	1,104	558	296	243	168	71	10	20	2,470
Nullity of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	6
Total	4	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	8
Dissolution or Nullity -									
Husband Petitioner	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Judicial Separation -									
Husband Petitioner	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Total	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	4
Total Petitions -									
Husband Petitioner No.	396	245	135	96	75	33	6	7	993
Per cent.	36	44	45	39	45	46	60	33	40
Wife Petitioner No.	714	318	162	150	93	38	4	14	1,493
Per cent.	64	56	55	61	55	54	40	67	60
Total	1,110	563	297	246	168	71	10	21	2,486

TABLE 2. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : AUSTRALIA

Petition for -	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	Quarter ended -				
						Sept., 1962	Dec., 1962	March, 1963	June, 1963	Sept., 1963
Dissolution of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	3,833	3,843	3,709	4,394	4,072	1,029	972	1,014	1,008	987
Wife Petitioner	4,570	4,465	4,385	5,110	5,176	1,408	1,273	1,258	1,471	1,483
Total	8,403	8,308	8,094	9,504	9,248	2,437	2,245	2,272	2,479	2,470
Nullity of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	40	22	23	13	15	4	5	2	1	2
Wife Petitioner	35	43	32	44	35	13	6	5	11	6
Total	75	65	55	57	50	17	11	7	12	8
Dissolution or Nullity -										
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	3	6	1	2	1	2	2
Wife Petitioner	..	..	..	4	5	..	2	3	1	2
Total	..	..	..	7	11	1	4	4	3	4
Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	13	7	7	2	2	..	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	36	24	31	9	18	1	5	7	11	2
Total	49	31	38	11	20	1	5	7	11	4
Dissolution or Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Total Petitions -										
Husband Petitioner No.	3,886	3,872	3,739	4,412	4,095	1,034	979	1,018	1,011	993
Per cent.	46	46	46	46	44	42	43	44	40	40
Wife Petitioner No.	4,641	4,532	4,448	5,167	5,234	1,422	1,286	1,273	1,494	1,493
Per cent.	54	54	54	54	56	58	57	56	60	60
Total	8,527	8,404	8,187	9,579	9,329	2,456	2,265	2,291	2,505	2,486

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

## NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION :

QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 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	433	198	107	72	39	33	3	4	889
Adultery	223	114	58	62	61	12	2	6	538
Separation	181	76	56	37	48	12	3	5	418
Cruelty	59	6	3	36	..	1	..	4	109
Drunkenness	19	3	1	6	1	3	..	..	33
Failure to pay maintenance	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3
Non-compliance with restitution decree	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Refusal to consummate	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Insanity	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Frequent convictions	..	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	5
Other single grounds	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	10	22	6	2	4	3	..	..	47
Desertion and separation	79	97	53	16	6	5	1	..	257
Desertion and cruelty	24	9	4	..	1	..	1	1	40
Desertion and drunkenness	4	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	8
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Desertion and frequent convictions	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Adultery and separation	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Adultery and cruelty	5	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	11
Cruelty and drunkenness	26	6	2	2	1	1	..	..	38
Other dual grounds	5	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	9
Three grounds or more	18	13	4	3	..	1	..	..	39
Total Petitions for Dissolution	1,104	558	296	243	168	71	10	20	2,470
Other Petitions									
Petitions for nullity of marriage -									
Bigamy	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Incapacity to consummate	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	4
Total petitions for nullity	4	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	8
Petitions for dissolution or nullity of marriage	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Petitions for judicial separation	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	4
Total Petitions other than for Dissolution of Marriage	6	5	1	3	..	..	..	1	16

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 -									
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
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

(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 SEPTEMBER, 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	356	205	101	97	81	23	4	4	871
Wife Petitioner	494	231	139	107	77	30	..	4	1,082
Total	850	436	240	204	158	53	4	8	1,953
Nullity of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	4
Total	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	6
Judicial Separation -									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	4
Total	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	4
Total Decrees -									
Husband Petitioner No.	357	206	101	97	81	23	4	4	873
Per cent.	42	47	42	47	51	43	100	50	44
Wife Petitioner No.	495	234	140	109	77	31	..	4	1,090
Per cent.	58	53	58	53	49	57	..	50	56
Total	852	440	241	206	158	54	4	8	1,963

(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 -				
						Sept., 1962	Dec., 1962	March, 1963	June, 1963	Sept., 1963
Dissolution of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	3,225	3,291	3,078	3,049	3,295	916	974	904	607	871
Wife Petitioner	3,695	4,024	3,555	3,623	3,923	1,045	1,152	1,132	787	1,082
Total	6,920	7,315	6,633	6,673(b)	7,220(c)	1,962(b)	2,127(b)	2,036	1,394	1,953
Nullity of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	25	21	26	14	12	3	2	2	..	2
Wife Petitioner	36	32	37	22	28	3	9	8	7	4
Total	61	53	63	36	40	6	11	10	7	6
Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	2	..	2	..	2	1	1	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	11	2	11	2	3	..	1	..	2	4
Total	13	2	13	2	5	1	2	..	2	4
Total Decrees -										
Husband Petitioner										
No.	3,252	3,312	3,106	3,063	3,309	920	977	906	607	873
Per cent.	46	45	46	46	46	47	46	44	43	44
Wife Petitioner										
No.	3,742	4,058	3,603	3,647	3,954	1,048	1,162	1,140	796	1,090
Per cent.	54	55	54	54	54	53	54	56	57	56
Total	6,994	7,370	6,709	6,711(b)	7,265(c)	1,969(b)	2,140(b)	2,046	1,403	1,963

(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.
Year - 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
Quarter ended -									
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
June, 1963	720	321	128	82	65	62	9	7	1,394
September, 1963	850	436	240	204	158	53	4	8	1,953

(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 SEPTEMBER, 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	411	176	128	68	53	28	2	2	868
Adultery	190	72	37	59	52	14	..	3	427
Separation	153	70	56	36	37	9	1	..	362
Cruelty	28	2	6	24	2	1	..	3	66
Drunkenness	16	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	21
Non-compliance with restitution decree	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Refusal to consummate	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	5
Insanity	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Frequent convictions	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Other single grounds	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	4	14	3	2	2	..	1	..	26
Desertion and separation	13	81	5	6	7	..	..	..	112
Desertion and cruelty	6	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	11
Desertion and drunkenness	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
Adultery and separation	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
Adultery and cruelty	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Cruelty and drunkenness	9	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	13
Other dual grounds	1	2	..	2	1	..	..	..	6
Three grounds or more	2	5	..	1	1	..	..	..	9
Total	850	436	240	204	158	53	4	8	1,953

Nullity of Marriage

Incapacity to consummate	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	6
Total	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	6

Judicial Separation

Desertion	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Adultery	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Cruelty	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	4

(a) Decree 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				
						Sept., 1962	Dec., 1962	March, 1963	June, 1963	Sept., 1963
Dissolution of Marriage										
Single grounds -										
Desertion	4,257	4,492	3,873	3,600	3,505	984	1,039	948	617	868
Adultery	1,988	2,124	2,103	1,811	1,490	382	437	432	292	427
Separation (b)	114	136	133	342	1,159	303	352	351	261	362
Cruelty	208	209	216	231	204	56	55	53	47	66
Drunkenness	64	77	56	53	74	24	23	23	13	21
Frequent convictions	..	..	..	12	18	3	4	5	2	4
Imprisonment	25	25	19	9	3	..	2	1	..	1
Failure to pay maintenance	20	24	23	18	17	3	7	3	5	..
Non-compliance with restitution decree (c)	..	..	..	296	57	10	7	14	14	6
Insanity	17	19	12	12	36	14	11	7	5	4
Refusal to consummate (d)	..	1	5	8	16	5	6	3	2	5
Other single grounds	9	3	1	6	6	..	2	2	1	1
Dual grounds -										
Desertion and adultery	84	87	71	93	104	26	32	35	19	26
Desertion and separation (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	36	312	93	88	92	73	112
Desertion and cruelty (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	9	35	8	12	15	9	11
Desertion and drunkenness (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	5	22	6	5	6	1	4
Desertion and frequent convictions (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	3	12	3	5	..	..	..
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	1	13	5	2	2	..	2
Adultery and separation (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	3	8	3	3	5	1	4
Adultery and cruelty (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	4	6	2	2	1	..	3
Adultery and bigamy (f)	2	1	1	6	2	1	..	..	..	..
Separation and insanity (e)	(e)	(e)	(e)	1	4	1	2	..	..	..
Separation and failure to pay maintenance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	1
Cruelty and drunkenness	132	117	120	97	63	14	18	15	19	13
Other dual grounds	(e)	(e)	(e)	2	16	8	2	5	7	3
Three grounds or more	(e)	(e)	(e)	15	38	8	11	13	6	9
Total	6,920	7,315	6,633	6,673	7,220	1,962	2,127	2,036	1,394	1,953
Nullity of Marriage										
Bigamy	19	15	24	9	14	4	4	3	3	..
Invalid marriage	3	4	6	2	2	..	1	1	..	..
Incapacity to consummate	34	28	31	24	24	2	6	6	4	6
Consanguinity	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other grounds	2	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Not stated	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	61	53	63	36	40	6	11	10	7	6
Judicial Separation										
Desertion	4	..	10	..	2	..	2	..	1	1
Adultery	1	1	3	1	2	1	..	..	..	2
Cruelty	8	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
Other grounds	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Total	13	2	13	2	5	1	2	..	2	4

(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 SEPTEMBER, 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	82	23	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	107	5
20-24	362	449	75	11	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	899	46
25-29	100	279	124	30	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	540	28
30-34	26	65	55	26	14	2	1	1	..	..	..	190	10
35-39	5	14	25	19	11	9	3	2	..	..	..	88	5
40-44	1	9	6	13	18	10	4	1	..	..	..	62	3
45-49	1	1	7	6	6	4	3	1	..	..	..	29	2
50-54	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	3	1	..	..	15	1
55-59	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	2	1	1	..	7	..
60 and over	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	2	1	..	8	..
Not stated	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	6	8	..
Total Wives (No.)	578	842	295	107	58	29	18	13	4	3	6	1,953	..
(%)	30	43	15	5	3	2	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 SEPTEMBER, 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	22	7	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	2
25-29	1	72	126	12	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	213	11
30-34	..	22	156	139	23	5	..	..	..	1	..	346	18
35-39	..	5	42	142	125	37	8	2	..	..	..	361	18
40-44	..	..	4	45	120	112	23	4	3	1	..	312	16
45-49	..	..	1	11	39	76	88	19	3	1	..	238	12
50-54	..	1	..	5	11	38	65	73	15	..	..	208	11
55-59	..	..	..	..	6	15	18	52	28	10	..	129	7
60 and over	..	1	..	1	2	5	6	18	26	45	..	104	5
Not stated	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	8	..
Total Wives (No.)	3	123	336	359	328	288	208	168	76	58	6	1,953	..
(%)	..	6	17	18	17	15	11	9	4	3	..	..	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 -											
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
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

(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 -											
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
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

(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 SEPTEMBER, 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 Child-and over	No.	Per cent.	
Under 5	77	32	8	2	3	..	..	122	6	66
5 - 9	236	161	88	31	6	2	..	524	27	464
10 - 14	138	104	113	35	22	11	4	427	22	603
15 - 19	99	72	99	61	17	3	5	356	18	566
20 - 24	69	59	48	39	19	7	2	243	13	396
25 - 29	75	29	23	8	5	1	1	142	7	130
30 and over	107	17	13	2	..	..	..	139	7	49
Total (No. Marriages Dissolved)	801	474	392	178	72	24	12	1,953	..	..
	41	24	20	9	4	1	1	..	100	..
Total Number of Children (b)	..	474	784	534	288	120	74	..	..	2,274

(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 -									
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
June, 1963	78	380	319	260	147	107	103	..	1,394
September, 1963	122	524	427	356	243	142	139	..	1,953

(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	2,873	1,897	1,421	664	243	72	50	..	7,220	8,384
Quarter ended -										
September, 1962	761	539	386	176	72	18	10	..	1,962	2,281
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
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

(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 SEPTEMBER, 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	5	18	30	43	55	73	63	48	57	49	50	55	51	54	54	48	185	..	938
Wife	12	26	65	67	66	76	96	73	93	90	89	84	81	74	64	73	207	..	1,336
Total	17	44	95	110	121	149	159	121	150	139	139	139	132	128	118	121	392	..	2,274

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

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

15TH JANUARY, 1964

K.M. ARCHER  
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

NOTE: - Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 90381 Extension 144 or, in each State Capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.