

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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SOCIAL STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA

NO. 26 : DIVORCE

QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1964

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bulletin contains statistics of divorce for the quarter ended September, 1964, and for previous periods. For further details in respect of past periods, see previous issues in this series and the annual 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dissolution, nullity and judicial separation granted since that date include some decrees made on petitions under the superseded laws and are to that extent not uniformly based. Of the 2,135 decrees for dissolution granted during the quarter ended September, 1964, 2,072 (97 per cent.) were from petitions under the new legislation.

3. Because of 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 and 16.

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, 1964

Petition for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	422	232	142	121	70	42	8	14	1,051
Wife Petitioner	736	371	191	178	94	53	5	27	1,655
Total	1,158	603	333	299	164	95	13	41	2,706
Nullity of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Wife Petitioner	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	6
Total	6	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	11
Dissolution or Nullity -									
Husband Petitioner	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	5
Total	3	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	7
Judicial Separation -									
Wife Petitioner	2	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	5
Total Petitions -									
Husband Petitioner No.	427	233	142	122	70	42	8	14	1,058
Per cent.	37	38	42	40	43	44	62	33	39
Wife Petitioner No.	742	374	194	180	94	54	5	28	1,671
Per cent.	63	62	58	60	57	56	38	67	61
Total	1,169	607	336	302	164	96	13	42	2,729

TABLE 2. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : AUSTRALIA

Petition for -	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	Quarter ended -				
						Sept., 1963	Dec., 1963	March, 1964	June, 1964	Sept., 1964
Dissolution of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	3,843	3,709	4,394	4,072	4,000	987	991	954	1,115	1,051
Wife Petitioner	4,465	4,385	5,110	5,176	5,602	1,483	1,390	1,271	1,509	1,655
Total	8,308	8,094	9,504	9,248	9,602	2,470	2,381	2,225	2,624	2,706
Nullity of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	22	23	13	15	11	2	6	..	5	5
Wife Petitioner	43	32	44	35	28	6	6	8	6	6
Total	65	55	57	50	39	8	12	8	11	11
Dissolution or Nullity -										
Husband Petitioner	..	..	3	6	5	2	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	..	..	4	5	10	2	4	3	1	5
Total	..	..	7	11	15	4	4	3	1	7
Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	7	7	2	2	3	2	1	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	24	31	9	18	26	2	6	12	8	5
Total	31	38	11	20	29	4	7	12	8	5
Dissolution or Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Total	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Total Petitions -										
Husband Petitioner No.	3,872	3,739	4,412	4,095	4,020	993	998	954	1,120	1,058
Per cent.	46	46	46	44	42	40	42	42	42	39
Wife Petitioner No.	4,532	4,448	5,167	5,234	5,666	1,493	1,406	1,294	1,525	1,671
Per cent.	54	54	54	56	58	60	58	58	58	61
Total	8,404	8,187	9,579	9,329	9,686	2,486	2,404	2,248	2,645	2,729

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

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION :

QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1964

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	459	216	124	87	40	30	3	10	969
Adultery	245	116	63	58	62	33	5	12	594
Separation	193	82	50	65	43	17	3	1	454
Cruelty	85	10	12	42	1	3	..	4	157
Drunkenness	14	2	5	2	2	4	..	4	33
Failure to pay maintenance	..	..	..	1	4	..	..	..	5
Non-compliance with restitution decree	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Refusal to consummate	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
Insanity	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	5
Frequent convictions	3	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	8
Imprisonment	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other single grounds	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	3
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	8	29	11	6	2	3	1	1	61
Desertion and separation	62	105	48	16	6	4	..	1	242
Desertion and cruelty	15	8	2	5	..	1	..	1	32
Desertion and drunkenness	5	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	9
Adultery and cruelty	1	1	3	4	..	..	..	..	9
Adultery and drunkenness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cruelty and drunkenness	32	6	3	5	2	..	..	6	54
Other dual grounds	9	4	2	1	..	..	..	..	16
Three grounds or more	15	18	5	5	..	..	..	..	43
Total Petitions for Dissolution	1,158	603	333	299	164	95	13	41	2,706
Other Petitions									
Petitions for nullity of marriage -									
Bigamy	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	5
Consent under duress or by fraud	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Incapacity to consummate	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Total Petitions for Nullity	6	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	11
Petitions for dissolution or nullity of marriage	3	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	7
Petitions for judicial separation	2	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	5
Total Petitions other than for Dissolution of Marriage	11	4	3	3	..	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	623	271	50	90	9,602
Quarter ended -									
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
March, 1964	1,020	467	261	231	143	68	7	28	2,225
June, 1964	1,146	642	255	256	190	87	20	28	2,624
September, 1964	1,158	603	333	299	164	95	13	41	2,706

(a) This table excludes petitions filed for nullity of marriage, judicial separation 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, 1964

Decree for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	308	345	118	53	59	38	5	10	936
Wife Petitioner	488	384	141	60	75	31	5	14	1,198
Petition by Both	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Total	796	729	259	114	134	69	10	24	2,135
Nullity of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	3	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Total	4	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Total Decrees -									
Husband Petitioner No.	309	346	118	53	59	38	5	10	938
Per cent.	39	47	46	46	44	55	50	42	44
Wife Petitioner No.	491	391	141	60	75	31	5	14	1,208
Per cent.	61	53	54	53	56	45	50	58	56
Petition by Both No.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Per cent.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Total	800	737	259	114	134	69	10	24	2,147

(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 -				
						Sept., 1963	Dec. 1963	March, 1964	June, 1964	Sept., 1964
Dissolution of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	3,291	3,078	3,049	3,295	3,226	871	844	860	560	936
Wife Petitioner	4,024	3,555	3,623	3,923	4,180	1,082	1,179	1,116	740	1,198
Total	7,315	6,633	6,673(b)	7,220(c)	7,409(d)	1,953	2,026(d)	1,976	1,301(b)	2,135(b)
Nullity of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	21	26	14	12	7	3	2	3	2	2
Wife Petitioner	32	37	22	28	25	5	5	6	7	10
Total	53	63	36	40	32	8	7	9	9	12
Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	2	11	2	3	7	4	1	1	2	..
Total	2	13	2	5	7	4	1	1	2	..
Total Decrees -										
Husband Petitioner										
No.	3,312	3,106	3,063	3,309	3,233	874	846	863	562	938
Per cent.	45	46	46	46	43	44	42	43	43	44
Wife Petitioner										
No.	4,058	3,603	3,647	3,954	4,212	1,091	1,185	1,123	749	1,208
Per cent.	55	54	54	54	57	56	58	57	57	56
Total	7,370	6,709	6,711(b)	7,265(c)	7,448(d)	1,965	2,034(d)	1,986	1,312(b)	2,147(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.

(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 -									
September, 1963	850	436	240	204	158	53	4	8	1,953
December, 1963	916	430	236	193	139	79	17	16	2,026
March, 1964	746	440	337	211	168	48	4	22	1,976
June, 1964	523	282	129	180	98	62	11	16	1,301
September, 1964	796	729	259	114	134	69	10	24	2,135

(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, 1964

Ground	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage									
Single grounds -									
Desertion	355	279	133	27	35	26	3	6	864
Adultery	167	132	48	38	55	22	3	3	468
Separation	135	116	64	24	36	6	1	4	386
Cruelty	44	9	6	12	1	3	1	2	78
Drunkenness	9	3	1	2	..	2	2	5	24
Failure to pay maintenance	..	2	..	..	3	..	..	..	5
Non-compliance with restitution decree	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Refusal to consummate	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Other single grounds	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	7	29	2	1	2	4	..	..	45
Desertion and separation	28	118	2	7	2	2	..	2	161
Desertion and cruelty	10	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	16
Desertion and drunkenness	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Desertion and frequent convictions	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Adultery and separation	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Separation and refusal to consummate	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Cruelty and drunkenness	10	3	..	1	..	3	..	1	18
Other dual grounds	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
Three grounds or more	6	22	1	1	..	1	..	1	32
Total	796	729	259	114	134	69	10	24	2,135

Nullity of Marriage

Bigamy	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Invalid marriage	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Incapacity to consummate	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Total	4	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

(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				
						Sept., 1963	Dec., 1963	March, 1964	June, 1964	Sept., 1964
Dissolution of Marriage										
Single grounds -										
Desertion	4,492	3,873	3,600	3,505	3,324	868	891	861	512	864
Adultery	2,124	2,103	1,811	1,490	1,611	427	460	409	299	468
Separation (b)	136	133	342	1,159	1,342	362	368	406	253	386
Cruelty	209	216	231	204	240	66	74	60	56	78
Drunkenness	77	56	53	74	73	21	16	11	13	24
Frequent convictions	..	..	12	18	13	4	2	4	1	1
Imprisonment	25	19	9	3	3	1	1	..	..	1
Failure to pay maintenance	24	23	18	17	10	..	2	2	2	5
Non-compliance with restitution decree (c)	..	..	296	57	40	6	6	4	3	6
Refusal to consummate(d)	1	5	8	16	14	5	4	9	5	4
Insanity	19	12	12	36	21	4	5	3	3	2
Other single grounds	3	1	6	6	7	1	3	1	2	2
Dual grounds -										
Desertion and adultery	87	71	93	104	115	26	35	32	26	45
Desertion and separation (e)	(e)	(e)	36	312	369	112	92	108	75	161
Desertion and cruelty (e)	(e)	(e)	9	35	51	11	16	14	8	16
Desertion and drunkenness (e)	(e)	(e)	5	22	18	4	7	4	1	4
Desertion and frequent convictions (e)	(e)	(e)	3	12	2	..	2	1	1	3
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance (e)	(e)	(e)	1	13	6	2	2	2	..	4
Adultery and separation (e)	(e)	(e)	3	8	13	4	3	6	..	3
Adultery and cruelty (e)	(e)	(e)	4	6	6	3	2	4	5	..
Adultery and bigamy (f)	1	1	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Separation and insanity (e)	(e)	(e)	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Separation and failure to pay maintenance	..	..	..	..	7	1	1	..	..	..
Cruelty and drunkenness	117	120	97	63	65	13	18	16	17	18
Other dual grounds (e)	(e)	(e)	2	16	17	3	2	8	6	8
Three grounds or more (e)	(e)	(e)	15	38	42	9	14	11	13	32
Total	7,315	6,633	6,673	7,220	7,409	1,953	2,026	1,976	1,301	2,135
Nullity of Marriage										
Bigamy	15	24	9	14	10	2	2	1	3	5
Invalid marriage	4	6	2	2	1	..	..	1	..	1
Incapacity to consummate	28	31	24	24	21	6	5	7	5	6
Consanguinity	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other grounds	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Not stated	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	53	63	36	40	32	8	7	9	9	12
Judicial Separation										
Desertion	..	10	..	2	2	1	..	..	1	..
Adultery	1	3	1	2	2	2	..	..	..	..
Cruelty	1	..	1	..	2	1	..	1	..	..
Other grounds	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	..
Total	2	13	2	5	7	4	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 date were dealt with under the various, now superseded, State laws
(Continued next page)

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 THE TIME OF MARRIAGE (a),
 AUSTRALIA, QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1964

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	117	19	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	139	7
20-24	425	509	61	11	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	1,010	47
25-29	112	289	88	26	9	2	1	..	..	..	..	527	25
30-34	28	94	69	30	7	3	2	1	..	..	..	234	11
35-39	3	25	19	24	25	12	1	..	..	..	..	109	5
40-44	1	7	10	15	15	4	3	2	1	..	..	58	3
45-49	..	2	6	5	5	4	5	1	..	..	..	28	1
50-54	..	..	1	..	..	2	1	1	3	..	..	8	..
55-59	..	..	..	1	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	6	..
60 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	7	2	..	11	1
Not stated	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	5	..
Total Wives	(No. 686 % 32)	945 44	257 12	112 5	67 3	28 1	14 1	9 1	11 1	2 ..	4 ..	2,135 ..	.. 100

(a) Marriage 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, 1964

Age of Husband (Years)	Age of Wife (Years)											Total Husband	
	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.
20-24	2	39	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44	2
25-29	..	82	145	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	244	12
30-34	1	18	165	133	27	1	..	2	..	..	..	347	16
35-39	..	8	46	160	126	40	4	..	1	..	..	385	18
40-44	..	4	9	37	130	134	23	8	1	..	..	346	16
45-49	..	1	1	15	43	112	83	17	1	5	..	278	13
50-54	..	..	..	5	9	42	74	68	15	5	1	219	10
55-59	..	..	..	..	4	5	30	39	39	5	..	122	6
60 and over	..	..	..	..	1	6	15	22	39	62	..	145	7
Not stated	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	3	5	..
Total Wives	(No. 3 % ..)	152 7	369 17	367 17	340 16	341 16	229 11	157 7	96 5	77 4	4 ..	2,135 ..	.. 100

(a) Decrees 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	840	1,358	1,414	1,193	893	687	442	400	28	7,409
Quarter ended -											
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
March, 1964	28	227	326	353	304	259	204	138	134	3	1,976
June, 1964	28	142	214	223	206	188	135	82	80	3	1,301
September, 1964	44	244	347	385	346	278	209	122	145	5	2,135

(a) Decreases 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	1,293	1,409	1,267	1,104	766	511	260	224	29	7,409
Quarter ended -											
September, 1963	126	336	359	328	288	208	168	76	58	6	1,953
December, 1963	174	374	372	325	318	201	132	59	53	18	2,026
March, 1964	135	302	348	327	308	262	139	74	78	3	1,976
June, 1964	103	200	204	243	204	155	86	56	46	4	1,301
September, 1964	155	369	367	340	341	229	157	96	77	4	2,135

(a) Decreases 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, 1964**

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 or more Children	No.	Per cent.	
Under 5	83	34	7	1	..	..	..	125	6	51
5 - 9	235	164	113	36	9	..	..	557	26	534
10 - 14	123	106	123	43	27	5	4	431	20	639
15 - 19	99	87	113	59	37	7	4	406	19	702
20 - 24	73	62	67	43	18	8	6	277	13	474
25 - 29	88	48	21	11	4	1	1	174	8	151
30 and over	128	26	8	2	1	..	..	165	8	52
Total Marriages Dissolved (No.)	829	527	452	195	96	21	15	2,135	..	..
Total Marriages Dissolved (%)	39	25	21	9	4	1	1	..	100	..
Total Number of Children (b)	..	527	904	585	384	105	98	..	..	2,603

(a) Decreases 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	501	1,994	1,660	1,346	906	510	492	..	7,409
Quarter ended -									
September, 1963	123	524	427	356	243	142	138	..	1,953
December, 1963	167	536	464	344	262	139	114	..	2,026
March, 1964	120	454	472	343	245	177	165	..	1,976
June, 1964	81	314	283	258	163	95	107	..	1,301
September, 1964	125	557	431	406	277	174	165	..	2,135

(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 or more Children		
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	1,865	1,596	668	281	69	40	7,409	8,795
Quarter ended -									
September, 1963	801	473	392	178	72	24	13	1,953	2,284
December, 1963	749	518	469	188	78	14	10	2,026	2,472
March, 1964	773	470	429	191	68	29	16	1,976	2,421
June, 1964	442	367	274	138	46	24	10	1,301	1,703
September, 1964	829	527	452	195	96	21	15	2,135	2,603

(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

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	
Husband	7	25	48	47	61	63	66	70	57	68	66	50	49	70	46	46	186	1,025
Wife	12	24	58	81	93	109	100	122	99	99	91	94	96	78	71	73	275	1,575
Both	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Total	19	49	106	128	154	172	166	192	156	168	158	144	146	148	117	119	461	2,603

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

K. M. ARCHER
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 19TH JANUARY, 1965

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.