

SUPPLEMENT

CONSTITUTION AND PARLIAMENT

Pages 106-7

Members of the Victorian Parliament

A by-election for North Eastern Province was held on 24 June 1978 due to the retirement of the Hon. Archibald Keith Bradbury on 12 April 1978. William Robert Baxter was declared elected as the new member for North Eastern Province.

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Victorian representation in the Commonwealth Parliament

Senate

The following table lists the Senators for Victoria at 1 July 1978 together with the party affiliation and year of retirement of each Senator. Political party affiliations are indicated thus :

- (AD) Australian Democrats
- (ALP) Australian Labor Party
- (LP) Liberal Party of Australia
- (NCP) National Country Party of Australia

AUSTRALIA—SENATE : VICTORIAN MEMBERS AT 1 JULY 1978

Senator	Retires
Button, John Norman (ALP)	1984
Chipp, Hon. Donald Leslie (AD) (a)	1984
Evans, Gareth John (ALP) (a)	1984
Guilfoyle, Hon. Margaret Georgina Constance (LP)	1981
Hamer, David John D.S.C. (LP) (a)	1984
Lewis, Austin William (NCP)	1981
Melzer, Jean Isabel (ALP)	1981
Missen, Alan Joseph (LP)	1984
Primmer, Cyril Graham (ALP)	1981
Webster, Hon. James Joseph (NCP)	1981

(a) Elected on 10 December 1977. Term of service commenced on 1 July 1978.

House of Representatives

The following table lists the Victorian members of the House of Representatives elected on 10 December 1977 together with the party affiliation and electorate of each member :

AUSTRALIA—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES : VICTORIAN
MEMBERS ELECTED ON 10 DECEMBER 1977

Member	Division
Aldred, Kenneth James (<i>LP</i>)	Henty
Baillieu, Marshall (<i>LP</i>)	La Trobe
Bourchier, John William (<i>LP</i>)	Bendigo
Brown, Neil Anthony (<i>LP</i>)	Diamond Valley
Bryant, Hon. Gordon Munro, E.D. (<i>ALP</i>)	Wills
Burns, William George (<i>LP</i>)	Isaacs
Cameron, Ewen Colin (<i>LP</i>)	Indi
Cass, Hon. Dr. Moses Henry (<i>ALP</i>)	Maribyrnong
Falconer, Peter David (<i>LP</i>)	Casey
Fisher, Peter Stanley (<i>NCP</i>)	Mallee
Fraser, Rt. Hon. John Malcolm, C.H. (<i>LP</i>)	Wannon
Holding, Allan Clyde (<i>LP</i>)	Melbourne Ports
Howe, Brian Leslie (<i>ALP</i>)	Batman
Innes, Urquhart Edward (<i>ALP</i>)	Melbourne
Jarman, Alan William (<i>LP</i>)	Deakin
Jenkins, Dr Henry Alfred (<i>ALP</i>)	Scullin
Johnson, Leonard Keith (<i>ALP</i>)	Burke
Johnston, James Rodger (<i>LP</i>)	Hotham
Jones, Barry Owen (<i>ALP</i>)	Lalor
Lloyd, Bruce (<i>NCP</i>)	Murray
Lynch, Rt. Hon. Phillip Reginald (<i>LP</i>)	Flinders
Macphee, Hon. Ian Malcolm (<i>LP</i>)	Balaclava
Nixon, Hon. Peter James (<i>NCP</i>)	Gippsland
Peacock, Hon. Andrew Sharp (<i>LP</i>)	Kooyong
Scholes, Gordon Glen Denton (<i>ALP</i>)	Corio
Shipton, Roger Francis (<i>LP</i>)	Higgins
Short, James Robert (<i>LP</i>)	Ballaarat
Simon, Barry Douglas (<i>LP</i>)	McMillan
Snedden, Rt. Hon. Sir Billy Mackie, K.C.M.G., Q.C. (<i>LP</i>)	Bruce
Staley, Hon. Anthony Allan (<i>LP</i>)	Chisholm
Street, Hon. Anthony Austin (<i>LP</i>)	Corangamite
Willis, Ralph (<i>ALP</i>)	Gellibrand
Yates, William (<i>LP</i>)	Holt

VITAL STATISTICS

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Divorce

The Commonwealth *Family Law Act* 1975 came into operation throughout Australia on 5 January 1976, repealing the previous Matrimonial Causes legislation which had been operative since 1 February 1961. A Family Court of Australia was established to administer Family Law, including applications for dissolution of marriage and nullity of marriage. Under this new Act, there is only one ground for divorce—that of irretrievable breakdown of a marriage (i.e., irretrievable breakdown of a marriage is established under the law if the husband and wife have separated and have lived apart from each other for a continuous period of not less than twelve months immediately preceding the date of the filing of the application for dissolution of marriage and there is no reasonable likelihood of reconciliation). The adoption of a single ground for dissolution of marriage (where fault is no longer taken into account) contrasts strongly with the previous Matrimonial Causes legislation which provided that a dissolution could be granted on one or more of fourteen grounds (e.g., adultery, desertion, cruelty, etc.).

The Act provides that all applications for nullity of marriage shall be based on the ground that the marriage is void. A void marriage is invalid because of failure to meet a legal requirement, for example, the requirement that parties must not be lawfully married to another person. The Family Law

Act makes no provisions for applications for nullity of voidable marriage, as did the Matrimonial Causes legislation.

Successful applicants for decrees of dissolution of marriage are, in the first instance, awarded a decree nisi. A decree nisi becomes absolute at the expiration of a period of one month from the making of the decree, unless it is rescinded, appealed against, or the court is not satisfied that proper arrangements have been made for the welfare of children of the marriage. Decrees nisi are not awarded in respect of proceedings for nullity of marriage.

At the commencement of the Family Law Act in January 1976, there were a significant number of pending applications for dissolution or nullity of marriage which had been submitted under the previous Matrimonial Causes legislation. Family Law legislation provided that such applications could be dealt with under either the new or the old legislation.

During 1976, 3,712 decrees were granted under Matrimonial Causes legislation and 12,919 decrees were granted under Family Law legislation in Victoria. The total figure for 1976 shows a marked increase over figures for previous years. However, caution should be used in interpreting this figure, since part of the increase may be due to deferment of applications for divorces pending the introduction of the new legislation. As well, statistics of divorces granted on an annual basis do not necessarily indicate precise trends in divorce rates as the figures may be affected from year to year by various administrative factors, for example, the occurrence of law vacations, and the availability of courts or judges (i.e., a rise in one year may be due wholly or in part to the clearing of a backlog of cases from an earlier period).

As the number of divorces granted under the Matrimonial Causes legislation in 1976 represents a considerable proportion of all divorces granted in 1976, the following tables show data separately for the two legislations.

**VICTORIA—DIVORCE : DECREES GRANTED :
DISSOLUTION AND NULLITY OF MARRIAGE, 1976**

Decrees granted		<i>Matrimonial Causes Act 1959</i>	<i>Family Law Act 1975</i>	Total
Dissolution	..	3,706	12,919	16,625
Nullity	..	6	2	8
Total	..	3,712	12,921	16,633

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : DECREES GRANTED
(MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT 1959) : AGES OF PARTIES
(AT DATE OF DECREE), 1976**

Ages of husbands (years)	Ages of wives (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	
Under 20
20-24	2	76	15	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96
25-29	..	170	416	36	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	623
30-34	..	27	369	387	37	3	..	..	..	..	..	826
35-39	..	3	55	307	238	27	3	..	1	..	..	634
40-44	12	58	214	155	33	9	1	1	..	483
45-49	3	17	45	151	154	30	7	1	..	408
50-54	3	16	28	102	117	14	7	..	287
55-59	2	2	10	35	69	45	17	..	180
60 and over	1	1	2	6	11	25	46	77	..	169
Not stated
Total wives	2	276	871	814	555	380	341	250	114	103	..	3,706

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : DECREES GRANTED
(FAMILY LAW ACT 1975) : AGES OF PARTIES (AT DATE OF DECREE), 1976**

Ages of husbands (years)	Ages of wives (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	
Under 20	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	17	1	33
20-24	32	572	67	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	676
25-29	11	1,009	1,654	166	12	6	1	..	..	..	3	2,862
30-34	..	143	1,209	1,014	98	10	3	..	..	1	1	2,482
35-39	2	29	205	789	678	78	12	5	1	3	3	1,805
40-44	..	6	27	210	580	461	90	19	5	1	2	1,401
45-49	..	2	11	61	199	447	467	97	23	10	2	1,319
50-54	..	1	6	15	51	170	360	342	87	24	2	1,058
55-59	..	1	2	5	17	31	103	234	182	59	3	637
60 and over	5	..	2	2	6	11	39	113	160	282	3	623
Not stated	..	3	9	3	..	..	2	3	..	..	3	23
Total wives	59	1,767	3,192	2,267	1,642	1,214	1,077	820	459	397	25	12,919

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : DECREES GRANTED
(MATRIMONIAL CAUSES ACT 1959) : DURATION OF MARRIAGE
AND ISSUE, 1976**

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children							Total dis- solutions	Total children
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over		
1	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	5	2
2	26	3	1	..	1	..	..	31	9
3	26	13	2	..	..	..	..	41	17
4	77	34	6	1	2	..	..	120	57
5	92	77	29	4	..	2	..	204	157
6	97	93	41	4	..	1	..	236	192
7	75	95	64	15	1	1	..	251	277
8	53	94	72	14	6	..	..	239	304
9	39	69	76	18	12	..	..	214	323
10	34	45	72	31	5	3	..	190	317
11	22	47	79	28	14	2	1	193	361
12	16	22	60	39	16	8	..	161	363
13	12	31	59	39	13	3	..	157	333
14	12	19	45	42	8	5	3	134	310
15-19	55	67	170	160	72	29	14	567	1,408
20-24	52	61	111	86	50	20	12	392	921
25-29	131	75	58	28	12	5	3	312	367
30 and over	200	41	9	7	1	..	1	259	90
Not stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total dissolutions of marriage	1,023	886	955	516	213	79	34	3,706	..
Total children	..	886	1,910	1,548	852	395	217	..	5,808

NOTE : Children are those living and under 21 at the time of petition. Includes children deemed to be children of the marriage in accordance with Section 6 of the Commonwealth *Matrimonial Causes Act* 1959.

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : DECREES GRANTED
(FAMILY LAW ACT 1975) : DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1976**

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children							Total dissolutions	Total children
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over		
1	59	6	..	1	..	..	..	66	9
2	311	76	8	1	..	..	..	396	95
3	560	184	36	3	1	..	..	784	269
4	559	298	73	7	5	..	3	945	503
5	478	350	130	12	4	..	..	974	662
6	413	293	167	19	3	1	..	896	701
7	282	258	194	44	6	1	1	786	813
8	193	207	242	60	9	2	..	713	917
9	122	149	225	72	11	2	1	582	875
10	108	130	225	68	21	3	..	555	883
11	76	107	196	94	19	3	2	497	884
12	65	70	145	84	31	6	..	401	766
13	47	57	164	93	39	9	3	412	884
14	40	39	125	75	36	13	6	334	759
15-19	186	226	467	394	209	59	41	1,582	3,726
20-24	372	338	286	133	53	27	4	1,213	1,682
25-29	623	207	84	23	13	..	2	952	508
30 and over	737	73	16	4	..	..	..	830	117
Not stated	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Total dissolutions of marriage	5,232	3,068	2,783	1,187	460	126	63	12,919	..
Total children	..	3,068	5,566	3,561	1,840	630	388	..	15,053

NOTE : Children are those living and under 18 at the time of the petition. Includes children deemed to be children of the marriage in accordance with Section 5 of the Commonwealth *Family Law Act 1975*.

INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS

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National Wage Cases, 1977-78

The increase in the Consumer Price Index for the September quarter 1977 was 2.0 per cent. After taking into consideration the state of the economy together with the economic effects of stoppages and price increases attributable to devaluation, the December national wage decision was that all award wages and salaries should be increased by 1.5 per cent.

The increase in the Consumer Price Index for the December quarter 1977 was 2.3 per cent. After discounting increased petrol prices to avoid countering Commonwealth Government fuels policy and taking into account lower income taxes, the February national wage decision awarded an increase of 1.5 per cent to all award wages and salaries up to \$170 per week which was approximately the median weekly earnings for all full-time adult employees. The increase above this level was a flat \$2.60 per week.

The March quarter 1978 Consumer Price Index increased by 1.3 per cent. The June national wage decision was to increase all award wages and salaries by the full 1.3 per cent since this increase was consistent with the continued slowing down of the rate of inflation and was the smallest percentage increase since indexation began in April 1975. It was also decided that a review of the wage fixation procedures would be held before the next national wage case i.e., before the consideration of the June quarter 1978 Consumer Price Index.

YEAR BOOK INDEX

The full index to this book appears on pages 833-86, preceding the Supplement.