Introduction

This chapter contains information about population density, components of population increase, population projections and age distribution. Also included are vital statistics on births, deaths, life expectancy, marriages and divorces, as well as data on the Indigenous population.

Statistics in this chapter are derived from data compiled or collected by the ABS, including Estimated Resident Population (ERP), which is compiled according to place of usual residence.

Data on overseas arrivals and departures are compiled from information supplied by the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA). DIMIA uses passengers cards completed by persons arriving in and departing from Australia, together with other information available to the Department. DIMIA has recently automated the processing of passenger cards and at January 2002, the ABS had yet to receive the relevant data. In the absence of these data, a preliminary estimate of net overseas migration at 30 June 2001 has been made using the medium net overseas migration assumption included in *Population Projections, Australia, 1999–2021* (Cat. no. 3222.0). As net overseas migration is assumed, the resident population at 30 June 2001 is a projection. Further information can be found in the Demography *Working Paper (2001/7) — Statistical Requirements for Overseas Arrivals and Departures Data at September 2001*, available from the ABS web site at <www.abs.gov.au>.

Interstate migration data are estimated on the basis of changes to Medicare registration information. Births, deaths, and marriages statistics are compiled by the ABS from data supplied by the Victorian Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and divorce statistics are compiled from statistical reports completed by the Family Court of Australia.

Population statistics underpin discussions pertaining to a wide range of issues including immigration, cultural and linguistic diversity, ageing, and population sustainability. The changing size and distribution of Victoria's population has implications for service provision and delivery in areas such as health, education, housing and the labour market.

The ABS publishes two types of data on resident population in Australia: counts from the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing and annual intercensal estimates of population. ERP is an official estimate of resident population for a given area. It adjusts the census count (by place of usual residence) for census undercount, interstate and overseas migration, births and deaths.

Population

At June 2001, the population of Victoria was over 4.8 million (table 4.1). The Victorian population accounted for 24.9% of the Australian total, which was over 19 million. The rate of population increase in Victoria between June 2000 and June 2001 was 1.3%, which was similiar to that for Australia. Victoria is the most densely populated State, averaging 21.2 persons per square kilometre, compared with the Australian average of 2.5 persons per square kilometre.

An estimated 3,466,025 persons lived in the Melbourne Statistical Division at June 2000, representing 72.7% of the Victorian population.

4.1 AREA, ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION AND POPULATION DENSITY(a)

	Unit	Victoria	Australia
Area	km²	227 416	7 692 024
Estimated resident population at 30 June			
1996	'000	4 560.2	18 310.7
2000	'000	4 766.8	19 157.1
2001	'000	4 829.0	19 386.7
Increase in population from 2000 to 2001	%	1.3	1.2
Persons per square kilometre, 30 June 2001	no.	21.2	2.5
Victorian population as a proportion of Australian population, 30 June 2001	%	24.9	n.a.

⁽a) See chapter introduction, paragraph 3.

Source: AUSLIG, 100K Coastline Database; Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0).

Population increase

Population increases are comprised of two main components: natural increase (number by which live births exceed deaths in State of usual residence), and net migration (from interstate and overseas). In recent years, the rate of natural increase in Victoria has been falling steadily and in 2000–01, natural increase declined to 26,602 (table 4.2). Since the mid 1990s the decline in net migration has been reversed and in 2000-01, Victoria recorded a net migration gain of over 35,000 persons. 1997–98 was the first time positive net interstate migration was experienced by Victoria since 1971.

4.2 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION INCREASE(a)

		Net migration				
	Natural increase	Overseas(b)	Interstate	Total	Total population increase	
1995–96	28 497	25 692	-12 800	12 892	42 768	
1996-97	28 662	21 080	-4 687	16 393	45 055	
1997–98	27 720	20 801	1 206	22 007	49 727	
1998–99	27 076	21 602	3 975	25 577	52 653	
1999–2000	27 741	24 752	6 713	31 465	59 206	
2000–01	26 602	27 645	7 925	35 570	62 172	

⁽a) See chapter introduction, paragraph 3. (b) Comprises permanent and long-term migration, plus an adjustment for the net effect of category jumping.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0).

In the year to 30 June 2000, Victoria had an overall net interstate migration gain of 6,713 persons, with about 36.0% from New South Wales and 25.7% from Queensland (table 4.3). The net interstate migration loss from Victoria was primarily to New South Wales (35.6%) and Queensland (29.3%).

4.3	INTERSTATE	MIGRATION
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	12 months ended					
		June 1999		June 2000		
	Arrivals to Victoria	Departures from Victoria	Arrivals to Victoria	Departures from Victoria		
New South Wales	24 322	22 384	25 844	23 144		
Queensland	18 098	19 232	18 413	19 034		
South Australia	8 925	7 462	9 506	7 419		
Western Australia	7 488	7 258	8 108	7 458		
Tasmania	4 410	3 085	4 566	3 045		
Northern Territory	2 353	2 379	2 542	2 413		
Australian Capital Territory	2 488	2 309	2 716	2 469		
Total	68 084	64 109	71 695	64 982		

Source: Migration, Australia (Cat. no. 3412.0).

Arrivals from overseas

In 1999–2000, 19,110 of permanent arrivals to Australia intended to settle in Victoria (table 4.4). This comprises persons who state an intention to settle permanently, as well as returning Australian residents who have lived overseas for more than 12 months. These arrivals represented an increase of 10.5% on the 1998–99 figure of 17,290. Overall, 20.9% of permanent settler arrivals to Australia in 1999–2000 intended to live in Victoria.

4.4 PERMANENT SETTLER ARRIVALS, State of Intended Residence Victoria(a)

			Victoria	Australia
	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	1999–2000
	1551 56	1330 33	1333 2000	1333 2000
Country of origin	no.	no.	no.	no.
New Zealand	2 840	3 800	5 700	31 750
China	900	1 340	1 280	4 980
United Kingdom	1 220	1 040	1 060	7 560
India	730	520	990	3 220
South Africa	480	430	650	5 620
Indonesia	340	500	640	2 900
Malaysia	260	450	630	2 010
Viet Nam	790	820	540	1 330
Phillippines	520	510	530	2 870
Former Yugoslav Republic of				
Serbia and Montenegro	630	480	430	1 500
Singapore	220	410	430	1 730
Germany	290	550	390	1 340
Hong Kong	640	420	320	1 910
Other(b)	6 370	6 020	5 520	22 680
Total permanent arrivals	16 230	17 290	19 110	91 400

(a) Graduated random rounding has been used on all cells in this table. (b) Comprises less significant contributions from a large number of countries.

Source: ABS data available on request, Overseas Arrivals and Departures.

Departures from Victoria

The number of permanent departures from Victoria to other countries has increased over the past three years (table 4.5). In 1999–2000, 7,840 persons previously resident in Victoria left Australia on a permanent basis. This represents a 14.0% increase on the 1998–99 figure of 6,880. In 1999–2000, Victorian residents comprised 19.1% of Australians departing permanently.

4.5 PERMANENT DEPARTURES, Previous State of Residence Victoria(a)

			Victoria	Australia
	1997–98	1998–99	1999–2000	1999–2000
Country of destination	no.	no.	no.	no.
New Zealand	1 430	1 260	1 480	8 960
United Kingdom	1 130	1 230	1 320	7 470
United States of America	610	980	1 140	5 080
Hong Kong	420	520	570	3 180
Singapore	160	290	330	1 560
China	200	200	270	1 680
Canada	140	180	190	950
Other(b)	2 180	2 220	2 540	12 200
Total permanent				
departures	6 270	6 880	7 840	41 080

⁽a) Graduated random rounding has been used on all cells in this table. (b) Comprises less significant contributions from a large number of countries.

Source: ABS data available on request, Overseas Arrivals and Departures.

Population projections

There are a variety of assumptions used when calculating population projections, allowing for different levels of births, deaths and migration. The ABS produces three main series of projections, based on differing levels of these variables.

The projections which follow are based on a model that assumes a fertility rate only slightly lower than the current rate, a lower overseas migration gain and medium interstate migration losses. Using these assumptions, the Victorian population is expected to reach 5.0 million by 2011, and grow to 5.2 million by 2021, at which time the population of the Melbourne Statistical Division is expected to reach 3.9 million. In comparison, Australia's population is expected to be 21.3 million by 2011, and reach 23.1 million by 2021.

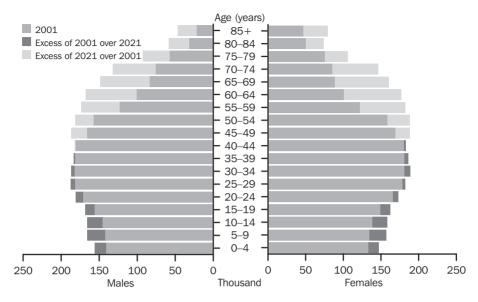
Age distribution

In 2001, 19.6% of Victorians were aged under 15 years, and 12.8% were 65 years or over (graph 4.6 and table 4.7).

Using the model assumed for population projections, in 2021 these proportions are expected to be 15.4% and 19.3% respectively. In numerical terms, the growth in the population aged 65 years and over is expected to be substantial. In 2001, there were 619,031 persons in this age group, but by 2021 they are expected to number around 1,044,700.

By 2051, the ageing of the population is expected to be more pronounced based on the model. The proportion of the population aged under 15 years is expected to be 13.5% compared to 27.8% for those aged 65 years and over.

4.6 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION 2001(a) AND PROJECTED POPULATION



(a) See chapter introduction, paragraph 3.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0) and Population Projections (Cat. no. 3222.0).

4.7 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a), By Age — 30 June 2001

				-,		
		Males		Females		Persons
Age group						
(years)	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
0–4	155 369	6.5	146 617	6.0	301 986	6.3
5–9	165 358	6.9	156 966	6.4	322 324	6.7
10–14	165 803	6.9	158 134	6.5	323 937	6.7
15–19	168 465	7.0	161 908	6.7	330 373	6.8
20–24	180 855	7.6	172 985	7.1	353 840	7.3
25-29	187 389	7.8	182 243	7.5	369 632	7.7
30-34	186 885	7.8	188 851	7.8	375 736	7.8
35–39	183 230	7.7	185 905	7.6	369 135	7.6
40–44	180 841	7.6	183 212	7.5	364 053	7.5
45-49	166 211	6.9	169 197	6.9	335 408	6.9
50-54	157 302	6.6	158 630	6.5	315 932	6.5
55–59	123 604	5.2	122 294	5.0	245 898	5.1
60–64	100 477	4.2	101 206	4.2	201 683	4.2
65–69	83 720	3.5	88 932	3.7	172 652	3.6
70–74	76 042	3.2	85 814	3.5	161 856	3.4
75–79	57 124	2.4	75 901	3.1	133 025	2.8
80–84	32 096	1.3	50 551	2.1	82 647	1.7
85 and ove	er 21 642	0.9	47 209	1.9	68 851	1.4
Total	2 392 413	100.0	2 436 555	100.0	4 828 968	100.0

(a) See chapter introduction, paragraph 3.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0).

Vital statistics

In 2000, most rates for vital events in Victoria were lower than those for Australia (table 4.8). The death and divorce rates in Victoria were the same as those for Australia.

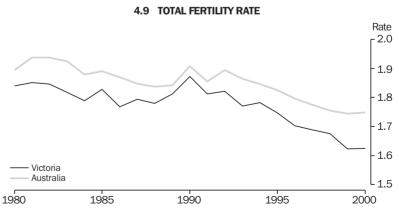
4.8 SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS — 2000

	Victoria	Australia
Live births		
Males	30 326	128 190
Females	28 845	121 446
Persons		
Number	59 171	249 636
Rate(a)	12.4	13.0
Deaths		
Males	16 368	66 817
Females	15 650	61 474
Persons		
Number	32 018	128 291
Rate(a)	6.7	6.7
Infant deaths	268	1 290
Perinatal deaths(b)		
Number	472	2 076
Rate(c)	7.9	8.3
Marriages		
Number	26 852	113 429
Rate(a)	5.6	5.9
Divorces		
Number	12 401	49 906
Rate(a)	2.6	2.6

⁽a) Number per 1,000 of the 30 June 1999 estimated resident population. (b) Perinatal deaths comprise neonatal and fetal deaths. (c) The number of perinatal deaths per 1,000 live and still births.

Births

In 2000, the total fertility rate of women resident in Victoria continued the steady decline experienced since 1990 (graph 4.9). The Victorian rate has been consistently lower than the national rate for the past two decades. In 2000, the Victorian rate was the lowest of all the States and Territories (the same as the ACT).



Source: Births, Australia (Cat. no. 3301.0)

Source: Demography, Victoria (Cat. no. 3311.2); Births, Australia (Cat. no. 3301.0); Deaths, Australia (Cat. no. 3302.0).

There were about 59,200 live births registered to women resident in Victoria during 2000, a slight increase on 1999 registrations (table 4.10). However, due to changes in administrative processes at the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, the number of registered births in 1999 for Victoria was understated to some extent. The Victorian figure represented 23.7% of total Australian births.

The proportion of ex-nuptial births has doubled in the past fifteen years, with 23.8% of births classified as ex-nuptial in 2000, compared to 21.8% recorded in 1995 (table 4.10) and 11.5% recorded in 1985. The median age of mothers giving birth (all confinements) has been increasing in recent years, being 30.5 years in 2000 compared to 27.8 years in 1985. The median marriage duration of 2.6 years before first confinement is the first change in this figure since it increased to 2.7 years in 1993.

4.10 SUMMARY OF BIRTHS AND CONFINEMENTS

	Unit	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Live births							
Males	no.	32 108	31 587	31 248	31 303	30 101	30 326
Females	no.	30 483	29 556	29 484	29 189	28 774	28 845
Persons	no.	62 591	61 143	60 732	60 492	58 875	59 171
Sex ratio(a)	ratio	105.3	106.9	106.0	107.2	104.6	105.1
Fertility Rate(b)	rate	1.754	1.707	1.69	1.679	1.623	1.625
Birth rate(c)	rate	13.9	13.5	13.2	13.0	12.5	12.4
Nuptial births	no.	48 962	47 933	47 191	46 391	45 106	45 075
Ex-nuptial births	no.	13 629	13 210	13 541	14 101	13 769	14 096
Ex-nuptial births as proportion							
of total live births	%	21.8	21.6	22.3	23.3	23.4	23.8
Confinements	no.	61 685	60 294	59 804	59 531	57 891	58 226
Median age of mother for all confinements	years	29.7	29.9	30.0	30.2	30.4	30.5
Median duration of marriage							
for nuptial first confinements	years	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.6

⁽a) Number of male live births per 100 female live births. (b) Number of children one woman would expect to bear during her childbearing lifetime. (c) Number of live births registered during calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of the calendar year.

Source: Demography, Victoria (Cat. no. 3311.2).

Each year a number of births are made possible through assisted reproduction techniques. The Infertility Treatment Authority (ITA) is responsible for monitoring activities in this area. The ITA is established under the *Infertility Treatment Act 1995* as an independent, statutory authority, whose role is to regulate the performance of assisted reproductive technology in Victoria. The *Infertility Treatment Act 1995* came into effect on 1 January 1998 and replaced the *Infertility (Medical Procedures) Act 1984*.

The 2001 annual report of the ITA records 4,614 women as having received treatment in Victoria during 2000, resulting in the birth of 571 babies. A similar number of women (4,471) were treated in 1999. In Vitro Fertilisation was the most common method of treatment (table 4.11). Women aged 30–39 years accounted for about two-thirds of the total number of women treated.

4.11 TREATMENT PROCEDURES, All Licenced Places — 2000

	Women treated	Clinical pregnancies	Confirnements	Babies Born	Ongoing pregnancies
Procedure	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
DI (Donor Insemination)	199	42	19	20	18
GIFT (Gamete Intra-Fallopian Transfer)	187	17	7	9	5
IVF (In Vitro Fertilisation)	3 594	704	287	354	316
Thaw Cycle(a)	2 177	447	164	188	218
Total(b)	4 614	1 210	477	571	557

⁽a) A thaw cycle commences with the removal of frozen embryos from storage in order to be thawed and then transferred. (b) Variations in totals may be caused by attendance in the same year at more than one Licensed Place and/or treatment under more than one procedure.

Source: Infertility Treatment Authority, Annual Report, 2001.

Deaths

There were about 32,000 deaths of Victorian residents registered in 2000, of which 16,400 were male and 15,700 were female. This represents a slight increase over the total number of deaths in 1999 (table 4.12). The standardised death rate was 5.5 deaths per 1,000 of the standard population, compared to a rate of 6.4 in 1995 and 8.0 in 1985. The median age at death was 75.8 years for males and 82.0 years for females. The infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) decreased from 5.6 in 1999 to 4.5 in 2000. The infant mortality rate for 2000 reverts to the trend of the previous decade where both numbers and rates of infant deaths have generally declined.

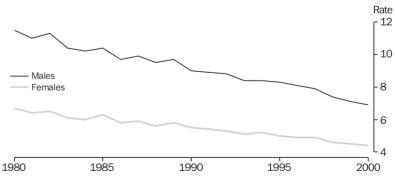
4.12 SUMMARY OF DEATHS

1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
16 960	17 009	17 122	16 407	16 433	16 368
15 465	15 717	16 139	15 600	15 485	15 650
32 425	32 726	33 261	32 007	31 918	32 018
109.7	108.2	106.1	105.2	106.1	104.6
8.3	8.1	7.9	7.4	7.1	6.9
5.0	4.9	4.9	4.6	4.5	4.4
6.4	6.3	6.2	5.8	5.7	5.5
7.6	7.6	7.5	7.1	7.1	6.9
6.8	6.9	7.0	6.6	6.5	6.5
7.2	7.2	7.3	6.9	6.8	6.7
161	179	158	152	186	150
147	129	142	131	142	118
308	308	300	283	328	268
4.9	5.0	4.9	4.7	5.6	4.5
331	312	287	244	299	255
251	230	235	226	244	217
582	542	522	470	543	472
9.2	8.8	8.6	7.7	9.2	7.9
73.9	74.7	74.7	75.0	75.2	75.8
					82.0
	16 960 15 465 32 425 109.7 8.3 5.0 6.4 7.6 6.8 7.2 161 147 308 4.9	16 960	16 960 17 009 17 122 15 465 15 717 16 139 32 425 32 726 33 261 109.7 108.2 106.1 8.3 8.1 7.9 5.0 4.9 4.9 6.4 6.3 6.2 7.6 7.6 7.5 6.8 6.9 7.0 7.2 7.2 7.3 161 179 158 147 129 142 308 308 300 4.9 5.0 4.9 331 312 287 251 230 235 582 542 522 9.2 8.8 8.6 73.9 74.7 74.7	16 960 17 009 17 122 16 407 15 465 15 717 16 139 15 600 32 425 32 726 33 261 32 007 109.7 108.2 106.1 105.2 8.3 8.1 7.9 7.4 5.0 4.9 4.9 4.6 6.4 6.3 6.2 5.8 7.6 7.6 7.5 7.1 6.8 6.9 7.0 6.6 7.2 7.2 7.3 6.9 161 179 158 152 147 129 142 131 308 308 300 283 4.9 5.0 4.9 4.7 331 312 287 244 251 230 235 226 582 542 522 470 9.2 8.8 8.6 7.7 73.9 74.7 74.7 74.7 75.0	16 960 17 009 17 122 16 407 16 433 15 465 15 717 16 139 15 600 15 485 32 425 32 726 33 261 32 007 31 918 109.7 108.2 106.1 105.2 106.1 8.3 8.1 7.9 7.4 7.1 5.0 4.9 4.9 4.6 4.5 6.4 6.3 6.2 5.8 5.7 7.6 7.6 7.5 7.1 7.1 6.8 6.9 7.0 6.6 6.5 7.2 7.2 7.3 6.9 6.8 161 179 158 152 186 147 129 142 131 142 308 308 300 283 328 4.9 5.0 4.9 4.7 5.6 331 312 287 244 299 251 230 235 226 244 582 542 522 470 543 9.2 8.8

(a) Number of male deaths per 100 female deaths. (b) The overall death rate that would have prevailed in the standard population if it had experienced at each age the death rates of the population under study. The current standard population is all persons in the 1991 Australian population. (c) Number of deaths registered during calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of the calendar year. (d) Deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. (e) Prior to 1997, perinatal deaths data have been based upon the World Health Organisation definition. This definition included all fetuses and infants delivered weighing at least 500 grams or of gestational age 22 weeks. From 1997, the ABS has increased the coverage of perinatal deaths by including fetal and neonatal deaths with a birthweight of at least 400 grams or having a gestational age of 20 weeks. Perinatal deaths data prior to 1998 have been revised according to this new definition. (f) Still births (fetal) and neonatal deaths (within 28 days of birth) per 1,000 live births plus still births combined.

Source: Demography, Victoria (Cat. no. 3311.2).





(a) Per 1,000 of the standard population.

Source: Deaths, Australia (Cat. no. 3302.0).

Life expectancy

Life expectancy refers to the average number of years in addition to their current age, a person of given age and sex might expect to live, if the age-specific death rates of the given year were to continue throughout his or her lifetime. A child born during 1998–2000 to a mother resident in Victoria has a life expectancy of 82.3 years if female and 77.1 years if male (table 4.14). A woman aged 40 in 1998–2000 has a life expectancy of a further 43.5 years, and a man of the same age, 39.1 years.

4.14	LIFE EXPECTANC	Y — 1998–2000(a))
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	Males	Females
Age (years)	years	years
0	77.1	82.3
5	72.6	77.7
10	67.6	72.8
15	62.7	67.8
20	57.9	62.9
25	53.2	58.0
30	48.5	53.2
35	43.8	48.3
40	39.1	43.5
45	34.4	38.7
50	29.8	34.0
55	25.3	29.3
60	21.0	24.9
65	17.1	20.5
70	13.5	16.4
75	10.3	12.7
80	7.7	9.4
85	5.6	6.6
90	4.1	4.7
95	3.4	3.5

⁽a) Life tables are based on three years worth of data in order to reduce the impact of year-to-year statistical variations.

Source: Demography, Victoria (Cat. no. 3311.2).

Marriages

In 2000, there were about 26,900 marriages registered in Victoria, a slight decrease over the 1999 figure (table 4.15). The historical trend for marriages registered in Victoria was a general increase until 1988 and then a decline each year until 1997. The decrease in the number of marriages registered for 2000 reverts to this trend and is also reflected in the crude marriage rate (marriages per 1,000 population) which decreased from 5.8 in 1999 to 5.6 in 2000. Of total marriages, 68.9% were first marriages for both partners, 17.7% the first for one partner, and 13.3% a second marriage for both partners.

4.15 SUMMARY OF MARRIAGES

	Unit	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
First marriage both partners	no.	18 752	18 026	17 666	18 221	18 847	18 511
First marriage one partner	no.	4 458	4 546	4 485	4 573	4 878	4 766
Remarriage both partners	no.	3 397	3 502	3 305	3 578	3 527	3 575
Total marriages	no.	26 607	26 074	25 456	26 372	27 252	26 852
Crude marriage(a)	rate	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.7	5.8	5.6
Performed by ministers of religion							
Marriages	no.	n.a.	14 415	14 004	13 803	13 725	12 975
Proportion of all marriages	%	n.a.	55.3	55.0	52.3	50.4	48.3

⁽a) Number of marriages registered during calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of the calendar year. Source: Demography, Victoria (Cat. no. 3311.2).

Divorces

There were about 12,400 divorces granted in Victoria during 2000, a decrease of 2.7% on the number granted in 1999 (table 4.16). There were 2.6 divorces per 1,000 population, with a median interval of 8.4 years between marriage and separation. The median duration of marriages was 11.6 years. Divorces involving children decreased by 4.7% from 1999 to 2000, and represented 52.8% of total divorces granted in 2000. Since 1990, the proportion of divorces involving children has fluctuated from a high of 55% in 1990 to a low of 51% in 1998.

4.16 SUMMARY OF DIVORCES

	Unit	1995(a)	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Divorces granted	no.	11 838	12 491	12 463	12 307	12 742	12 401
Crude divorce rate(b)	rate	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.6
Median duration of marriage(c)	years	10.9	10.8	11.0	10.9	11.5	11.6
Median interval between marriage and separation	years	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.8	8.1	8.4
Divorces of persons involving children							
Divorces	no.	n.a.	6 482	6 661	6 280	6 871	6 547
Proportion of total divorces	%	n.a.	51.9	53.4	51.0	53.9	52.8
Average number of children	no.	n.a.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9

⁽a) A number of data items, including details of children aged under 18 years, were not processed in 1995. (b) Number of divorces granted during calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of the calendar year. (c) The interval measured in completed years between the date of marriage and the date of divorce.

Source: Demography, Victoria (Cat. no. 3311.2).

Indigenous population

Indigenous population data have been collected in every census since Federation, but prior to the 1967 repeal of section 127 of the Constitution, only those deemed to be of less than half Aboriginal origin were included in official population figures for States and Territories. Since then, the ABS has made considerable efforts to collect data on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population, through the Census of Population and Housing, and a range of surveys.

As at 30 June 1996, the estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Victoria was 22,598 (table 4.17). Indigenous people comprised 0.5% of Victoria's total population, the lowest proportion of any State or Territory.

The age structure of the Indigenous population differs markedly from that of the total population. At 30 June 1996, 38.7% of Victoria's Indigenous population were aged under 15 years and 3.2% were aged over 65 years. This compared with 20.8% and 12.5% respectively for the total Victorian population. These figures reflect the relatively high fertility and, to a lesser extent, the high mortality of the Indigenous population.

The median age of the Indigenous population was 21.3 years which was much younger than that of the total population, which was 34.3 years.

		(,			
	Indigenous	population	Total population		
Age group (years)	no.	%	no.	%	
0–14	8 735	38.7	947 358	20.8	
15–24	4 129	18.3	662 381	14.5	
25–44	6 513	28.8	1 418 984	31.1	
45–64	2 502	11.1	961 966	21.1	
65 and over	719	3.2	569 466	12.5	
Total	22 598	100.0	4 560 155	100.0	

4.17 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION(a) — 30 June 1996

Source: Census of Population and Housing: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, Victoria (Cat. no. 2034.2).

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⁽a) Experimental estimates.