

DIVORCE, 1972

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. The *Matrimonial Causes Act 1959* came into operation on 1 February 1961. This Act established uniform matrimonial causes laws throughout Australia and superseded the matrimonial causes laws of the States and Territories except in so far as it provided for the completion of pending proceedings. Under the legislation, a court may grant decrees of dissolution of marriage (divorce), judicial separation, nullity of marriage, restitution of conjugal rights and jactitation of marriage (i.e. that a person should refrain from making the false claim that a marriage has taken place between him and another person). Orders may be made for the custody and welfare of children, maintenance, the settlement of property and damages for adultery.

2. The statistics shown hereunder 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, 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, page 5. Statistics of petitions filed since February 1961 are on a uniform basis for all States and Territories, but statistics of decrees granted for some time after that date include some decrees made on petitions under the superseded laws and to that extent are not uniformly based.

3. Statistics of decrees refer to decrees *nisi* made absolute, except for the following cases where no decrees *nisi* are granted —

- (i) decrees of judicial separation, which do not dissolve the marriage and may be discharged on resumption of co-habitation; and
- (ii) decrees of nullity of void marriage, as distinct from nullity of voidable marriage. A void marriage is invalid because of failure to meet a legal requirement, and the original decree of nullity is final. A valid marriage is voidable on proof of one or more of the grounds set out in Section 21 of the *Matrimonial Causes Act, 1959-1966*.

A decree *nisi* automatically becomes absolute after three months, unless it is rescinded, appealed against, or there are children.

4. The *divorce rate* is the number of decrees absolute per 10,000 of mean population. The *age specific divorce rate* is the number of dissolutions per 10,000 of the population in each age group. The term *children of the marriage* refers to the children of the marriage as defined in Section 6 of the *Matrimonial Causes Act 1959-1966*, living and under 21 at the time of petition.

5. For further statistics in respect of past years, see previous issues in this series and the annual bulletin *Demography* (Reference No. 4.9).

6. The following tables of decrees of dissolution showing more detail than summary tables in this bulletin are available.

- (i) Table 1. Ages of the parties at date of marriage, States and Territories.
- (ii) Table 2. Ages of the parties at date of dissolution, States and Territories.

7. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in percentages in tables are due to rounding.

The symbol ". ." denotes nil, or less than 0.05.

COMMENT

In 1972, 19,088 petitions were filed for dissolution or nullity of marriage or judicial separation, an increase of 1,201 on 1971. 15,636 decrees were granted, 2,634 more than in the previous year. The divorce rate, decrees granted per 1,000 of the mean population, was 12.03, the highest on record. The rate was 10.17 in 1971.

2. There were, in 1972, 18,970 petitions for dissolution of marriage, and another 30 for dissolution combined with nullity or judicial separation. In 11,388, or 60 per cent, the wife was the petitioner. There were 60 petitions for nullity of marriage and 24 for judicial separation. Of the decrees granted 15,584 were for dissolution of marriage, 5,948 (38 per cent) on the petition of the husband, 9,617 on the petition of the wife, and 19 were recorded as being on the petitions of both husband and wife. There were 49 nullity decrees and 52 judicial separations granted.

3. The principal single grounds on which dissolution of marriage were granted were desertion (5,814), adultery (5,088), separation (2,442), and cruelty (1,368).

4. The median age at dissolution of marriage continued to decline. In 1972 it was 37.20 years of age for husbands and 33.94 years for wives as compared with 37.94 and 34.42 years of age in 1971. The modal duration of marriage was 5-9 years, 31 per cent of all dissolutions, followed by 10-14 years 19 per cent and 15-19 years 14 per cent. Marriages which had lasted less than 5 years accounted for 10 per cent of dissolutions and marriages of 20 years or more, 26 per cent.

5. Of the husbands, 14,592 had no previous divorce, 955 had one previous divorce, 32 two and 5 three previous divorces. Of the wives, 14,541 were divorced for the first time, 1,001 for the second, 36 for the third, and 6 for the fourth time.

6. The total number of children of the dissolved marriages, living under 21 at the time of petition, were 22,061 or 1.42 children per marriage. In 33 per cent of dissolutions there were no children, in 24 per cent one child, 23 per cent two children, 12 per cent three children, and 8 per cent four or more children.

SECTION 1. PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION, NULLITY AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION

TABLE 1. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS : 1946 TO 1972

Period	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Annual averages									
1946-50	4,026	2,012	(a)878	782	783	277	11	26	8,795
1951-55	4,194	1,802	(a)735	844	638	298	25	36	8,572
1956-60	3,958	1,706	871	786	642	278	23	45	8,310
1961-65	4,393	2,318	1,134	996	660	306	49	100	9,955
1966-70	5,683	2,988	1,524	1,261	991	403	58	181	13,089
Annual totals									
1968	5,602	2,803	1,480	1,201	1,003	408	59	190	12,746
1969	5,853	3,068	1,645	1,369	1,065	429	61	200	13,690
1970	6,558	3,691	1,873	1,380	1,206	503	70	220	15,501
1971	7,692	4,271	1,923	1,668	1,454	488	110	281	17,887
1972	7,896	4,533	2,057	1,997	1,634	525	131	315	19,088

(a) Petitions heard.

TABLE 2. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION, 1972

Petition for -	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Dissolution of marriage -									
Husband petitioner	2,800	1,748	789	727	750	237	69	119	7,239
Wife petitioner	5,044	2,755	1,264	1,250	878	287	61	192	11,731
Total	7,844	4,503	2,053	1,977	1,628	524	130	311	18,970
Nullity of marriage -									
Husband petitioner	6	1	..	4	1	..	..	2	14
Wife petitioner	25	10	4	2	4	1	..	..	46
Total	31	11	4	6	5	1	..	2	60
Dissolution or nullity -									
Husband petitioner	1	5	..	3	..	..	..	..	9
Wife petitioner	6	10	..	1	..	..	..	..	17
Total	7	15	..	4	..	..	..	..	26
Judicial separation -									
Husband petitioner	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Wife petitioner	14	3	..	6	1	..	1	1	26
Total	14	4	..	6	1	..	1	2	28
Total petitions -									
Husband petitioner	2,807	1,755	789	734	751	237	69	122	7,264
Wife petitioner	5,089	2,778	1,268	(a)1,263	883	288	62	193	(a)11,824
Grand total	7,896	4,533	2,057	(a)1,997	1,634	525	131	315	(a)19,088

(a) Includes four petitions for dissolution or judicial separation.

TABLE 3. - GROUNDS ON WHICH PETITIONS WERE FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION, 1972

Ground	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
PETITIONS FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE									
Single grounds -									
Desertion	2,416	1,444	687	511	500	176	28	55	5,817
Adultery	2,268	1,629	540	753	790	209	59	124	6,372
Separation	787	510	262	189	185	90	23	25	2,071
Cruelty	1,233	105	226	313	47	8	6	69	2,007
Drunkenness	112	25	31	18	21	7	1	9	224
Refusal to consummate	13	7	..	2	6	1	1	..	30
Frequent convictions	3	6	1	..	..	2	..	..	12
Imprisonment	1	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	5
Sodomy	6	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	11
Other single grounds	9	1	2	1	4	..	..	..	17
Plural grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	131	189	50	24	19	8	4	1	426
Desertion and separation	247	376	85	44	23	12	3	2	792
Desertion and cruelty	121	30	43	24	3	..	4	4	229
Desertion and drunkenness	19	11	10	1	..	3	1	..	45
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	5	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	11
Desertion and frequent convictions	1	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Desertion and other	2	2	..	1	1	..	..	1	7
Adultery and separation	11	11	..	2	1	1	..	..	26
Adultery and cruelty	87	21	18	25	5	..	3	..	159
Adultery and drunkenness	5	2	4	..	1	..	..	..	12
Adultery and other	4	..	2	1	1	..	..	..	7
Separation and cruelty	3	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	5
Separation and other	276	45	62	58	16	4	..	17	478
Cruelty and other	9	5	3	..	1	..	..	..	18
Other dual grounds	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	6
Three grounds or more	67	67	24	7	2	2	..	..	169
Total	7,844	4,503	2,053	1,977	1,628	524	130	311	18,970
OTHER									
For nullity of marriage -									
Bigamy	7	3	2	..	1	1	..	1	15
Invalid marriage	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Incapacity to consummate	24	7	1	4	3	..	..	1	40
Other single grounds	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
Multiple grounds	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Total	31	11	4	6	5	1	..	2	60
For dissolution or nullity of marriage	7	15	..	4	..	..	..	..	26
For judicial separation -									
Desertion	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Adultery	1	3	..	5	..	..	..	1	10
Cruelty	4	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	6
Drunkenness	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Desertion and cruelty	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Adultery and cruelty	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cruelty and drunkenness	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3
Three grounds or more	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	14	4	..	6	1	..	1	2	28
For dissolution or judicial separation	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	4
Total petitions other than for dissolution of marriage	52	30	4	20	6	1	1	4	118

SECTION 2. DECREES OF DISSOLUTION, NULLITY AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION

TABLE 4. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED, 1921 TO 1972

Period	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Annual averages									
1921-1925	836	413	67	83	108	32	..	..	1,539
1926-1930	981	481	92	108	137	46	..	..	1,845
1931-1935	1,049	522	117	168	148	54	1	4	2,064
1936-1940	1,389	789	190	245	258	73	3	4	2,952
1941-1945	2,043	1,327	515	429	475	109	4	4	4,906
1946-1950	3,210	1,802	869	647	709	206	6	20	7,469
1951-1955	3,241	1,941	733	619	567	218	14	26	7,159
1956-1960	3,212	1,508	723	547	555	197	16	30	6,788
1961-1965	3,222	1,752	935	786	551	261	34	70	7,611
1966-1970	4,960	2,312	1,203	971	788	325	39	139	10,738
Annual totals									
1968	4,913	2,525	1,140	922	812	303	23	153	10,791
1969	5,144	2,235	1,243	970	873	331	44	144	10,984
1970	5,630	2,604	1,511	942	890	426	50	196	12,249
1971	5,487	3,079	1,411	1,275	1,068	432	57	193	13,002
1972	7,062	3,593	1,737	1,241	1,244	446	88	225	15,636
Average annual rates									
1921-1925	3.80	2.57	0.84	1.61	3.07	1.48	..	..	2.70
1926-1930	4.01	2.76	1.04	1.90	3.37	2.14	..	..	2.94
1931-1935	4.03	2.87	1.24	2.89	3.37	2.36	1.21	..	3.11
1936-1940	5.10	4.22	1.90	4.13	5.58	3.08	5.11	4.57	4.28
1941-1945	7.15	6.73	4.90	6.98	9.50	4.46	3.82	3.07	6.77
1946-1950	10.53	8.56	7.66	9.71	13.62	7.80	5.10	10.33	9.61
1951-1955	9.57	7.26	5.71	7.97	9.15	7.19	8.65	3.94	8.12
1956-1960	8.69	5.54	5.03	6.10	7.94	5.85	7.17	7.02	6.89
1961-1965	7.96	5.75	5.91	7.75	7.02	7.25	7.56	9.53	6.95
1966-1970	11.34	6.94	6.94	8.53	8.58	8.56	5.75	12.29	8.91
Annual rates									
1968	11.25	7.59	6.59	8.21	8.87	7.98	3.40	13.64	5.97
1969	11.56	6.60	7.05	8.51	9.14	8.60	6.02	11.84	8.94
1970	12.42	7.55	8.42	8.13	8.95	10.97	6.31	14.87	9.78
1971	11.90	8.77	7.71	10.84	10.35	11.04	6.58	13.38	10.17
1972	15.11	10.11	9.27	10.43	11.77	11.34	9.45	14.71	12.03

TABLE 5. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED, 1972

Decree for -	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Dissolution of marriage -									
Husband petitioner	2,510	1,394	650	479	571	200	47	97	5,948
Wife petitioner	4,518	2,179	1,081	756	672	242	41	128	9,617
Granted on petitions of both	8	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Total	7,036	3,584	1,731	1,235	1,243	442	88	225	15,584
Nullity of marriage -									
Husband petitioner	8	3	1	2	1	..	..	..	15
Wife petitioner	18	6	4	2	..	4	..	..	34
Total	26	9	5	4	1	4	..	..	49
Judicial separation -									
Husband petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife petitioner	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	3
Total	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	3
Total decrees -									
Husband petitioner	2,518	1,397	651	481	572	200	47	97	5,963
Wife petitioner	4,536	2,185	1,086	760	672	246	41	128	9,654
Granted on petitions of both	8	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Grand total	7,062	3,593	1,737	1,241	1,244	446	88	225	15,636

TABLE 6. - GROUNDS ON WHICH DECREES FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION WERE GRANTED, 1972

Ground	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE									
Single grounds -									
Desertion	2,605	1,437	716	430	389	164	25	48	5,814
Adultery	2,026	1,300	428	459	579	164	35	97	5,088
Separation	971	727	293	149	190	75	17	20	2,442
Cruelty	873	48	214	161	22	7	4	39	1,368
Drunkenness	99	31	27	18	11	9	3	5	203
Refusal to consummate	16	6	6	1	8	2	..	..	39
Frequent convictions	8	6	..	1	2	2	..	..	19
Imprisonment	3	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	7
Sodomy	4	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	7
Other single grounds	10	4	5	..	2	..	..	..	21
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	44	9	9	2	13	2	1	..	80
Desertion and separation	75	2	10	2	9	8	..	..	106
Desertion and cruelty	51	1	6	..	5	3	1	1	68
Desertion and drunkenness	8	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	10
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Desertion and frequent convictions	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Desertion and other	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Adultery and separation	3	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	7
Adultery and cruelty	19	..	1	..	3	..	1	2	26
Adultery and drunkenness	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	3
Adultery and other	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Separation and cruelty	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Separation and other	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Cruelty and drunkenness	189	6	11	11	6	1	..	13	237
Cruelty and other	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other dual grounds	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Three grounds or more	18	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	22
Total	7,036	3,584	1,731	1,235	1,243	442	88	225	15,384
OTHER									
For nullity of marriage -									
Bigamy	5	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	9
Invalid marriage	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Incapacity to consummate	19	5	5	1	1	3	..	..	34
Other single grounds	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Multiple grounds	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Total	26	9	5	4	1	4	..	..	49
For judicial separation -									
Desertion	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Adultery	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2
Cruelty	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Drunkenness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Desertion and cruelty	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Adultery and cruelty	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cruelty and drunkenness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Three grounds or more	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	3
Total decrees other than for dissolution of marriage	26	9	6	6	1	4	..	..	52

TABLE 7. - GROUNDS ON WHICH DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS WERE GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1972

Ground	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE					
Single grounds -					
Desertion	4,863	4,730	5,098	5,076	5,814
Adultery	2,611	2,916	3,419	3,977	5,088
Separation	1,959	1,758	2,023	2,243	2,442
Cruelty	670	750	942	983	1,368
Drunkenness	150	136	142	165	203
Intoxication by drugs	3	4	5	4	5
Non-compliance with restitution decree	5	5	2	1	3
Refusal to consummate	39	32	42	29	39
Insanity	7	7	6	3	1
Frequent convictions	18	18	25	15	19
Imprisonment	4	3	3	8	7
Other single grounds	24	15	21	20	19
Dual grounds -					
Desertion and adultery	68	102	90	87	80
Desertion and separation	88	145	96	79	106
Desertion and cruelty	44	77	59	49	68
Desertion and drunkenness	16	8	14	10	10
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	6	5	3	6	2
Desertion and frequent convictions	4	1	5	2	2
Desertion and other	1	3	2	3	1
Adultery and separation	1	3	4	3	1
Adultery and cruelty	12	16	17	14	26
Adultery and other	2	2	2	1	3
Separation and other	1	2	3	-	3
Cruelty and drunkenness	118	143	160	146	237
Cruelty and other	2	7	5	1	3
Other dual grounds	2	3	1	8	6
Three grounds or more	13	39	15	14	22
Total	10,731	10,930	12,198	12,947	15,584
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE					
Bigamy	18	12	15	23	9
Incapacity to consummate	23	28	29	15	34
Other	3	4	1	5	6
Total	44	44	45	43	49
JUDICIAL SEPARATION					
Desertion	1	..	..	1	..
Adultery	8	..	2	2	2
Cruelty	2	5	..	5	1
Other	3	..	2	4	..
Total	14	5	4	12	3

SECTION 3. DECREES OF DISSOLUTION

TABLE 8. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : AGES OF PARTIES AT DATE OF MARRIAGE
AUSTRALIA, 1972

Age of husband	Age of wife																						Total
	Under 15	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50+	Not stated	
Under 17	..	2	10	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
17	1	11	21	37	17	7	6	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104
18	5	26	109	121	128	68	35	17	8	2	3	1	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	527
19	..	9	96	209	228	195	91	49	31	12	4	5	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	933
20	2	9	91	180	305	275	218	116	55	30	20	16	5	2	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1,330
21	..	9	77	214	326	436	353	314	155	64	41	20	11	6	4	7	4	2	..	..	..	..	2,045
22	2	7	58	138	270	370	323	345	190	101	61	26	16	11	7	4	10	5	1	..	..	2	1,945
23	..	8	38	95	181	239	307	312	171	132	74	47	31	18	3	6	13	3	1	..	..	..	1,679
24	..	2	28	60	127	187	228	220	194	111	94	48	23	17	13	6	18	4	1	..	..	..	1,381
25	2	3	20	41	70	143	143	164	129	109	66	60	39	15	17	8	18	6	1	..	..	..	1,054
26	..	3	8	21	57	77	92	121	105	65	59	57	24	24	25	10	27	6	1	1	..	..	783
27	..	2	8	27	43	61	80	84	74	59	52	44	33	26	19	14	20	10	2	1	..	..	659
28	..	1	6	15	31	47	38	68	44	59	48	31	24	20	20	14	31	7	3	..	..	..	507
29	1	1	3	11	21	32	37	57	35	36	21	17	25	27	18	12	44	7	4	2	..	..	411
30-34	..	3	12	17	33	49	86	106	84	87	75	79	76	56	57	54	174	75	10	3	1	2	1,139
35-39	..	..	..	4	11	9	16	27	21	25	17	29	23	32	22	18	91	81	28	13	3	..	470
40-44	..	..	..	1	1	3	6	2	8	5	9	13	11	11	12	12	60	51	47	15	6	..	273
45-49	..	..	..	2	1	..	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	4	4	20	31	28	24	11	1	143
50 and over	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	1	5	2	1	1	3	16	15	23	39	71	..	183
Not stated	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	13	96	586	1,196	1,852	2,200	2,062	2,007	1,307	899	649	501	349	271	224	174	549	304	150	98	92	5	15,584

TABLE 9. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION: AGES OF PARTIES AT DATE OF DISSOLUTION
AUSTRALIA, 1972

Age of husband	Age of wife																											Total
	Under 20	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60+	Not stated	
Under 23	4	20	23	25	12	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	91
23	2	12	39	50	34	10	10	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	162
24	2	5	36	82	81	66	22	13	9	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	320
25	3	9	34	70	108	102	103	49	13	13	..	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	512
26	..	6	19	51	81	145	140	91	30	20	9	5	2	..	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	604
27	1	1	4	35	76	121	161	114	98	34	18	14	4	2	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	689
28	..	2	3	16	47	91	133	132	114	77	47	18	8	7	3	4	1	1	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	708
29	..	2	4	6	33	58	94	105	135	90	68	29	21	7	5	5	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	667
30	1	..	2	3	11	36	49	93	110	113	81	71	40	11	6	3	..	..	2	2	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	636
31	..	..	2	3	12	23	39	57	71	99	110	74	61	40	12	12	5	5	5	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	1	636
32	..	2	4	2	7	13	18	42	63	91	93	78	73	47	28	18	7	..	6	1	1	6	3	1	..	..	..	604
33	..	..	1	2	3	9	18	18	44	61	70	86	85	64	65	26	12	10	5	3	3	4	1	..	..	..	..	590
34	..	..	..	2	3	8	21	18	27	36	37	57	72	65	55	40	25	15	8	3	1	6	2	1	..	..	..	502
35	..	..	..	2	1	2	8	14	24	27	26	45	50	64	68	66	42	16	14	8	7	11	2	..	..	..	..	497
36	..	..	..	1	2	2	9	11	16	25	34	26	44	42	59	62	46	44	22	12	7	13	4	..	1	..	..	482
37	..	..	..	2	..	4	3	10	5	15	9	20	23	36	45	67	74	47	32	29	9	28	7	1	..	..	..	466
38	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	7	5	9	21	17	25	35	30	36	60	51	34	32	18	29	3	1	..	..	..	418
39	..	..	..	1	1	1	5	2	2	9	15	8	15	23	22	48	47	56	41	43	35	51	9	..	..	..	1	435
40-44	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	9	8	20	27	25	36	46	68	75	114	129	166	192	203	751	162	28	10	4	1	2,077
45-49	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	6	6	7	10	10	16	15	19	22	43	41	46	85	683	668	138	23	6	1	1,849
50-54	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	3	1	1	3	2	3	5	5	6	6	9	10	14	169	527	405	77	19	..	1,267
55-59	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	2	1	2	3	3	1	1	4	3	57	132	266	182	48	..	709
60 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	3	3	2	4	23	50	122	179	272	..	662
Not stated	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	13	60	171	353	513	697	844	791	785	751	674	591	577	510	490	492	471	428	392	390	392	1,838	1,572	963	472	349	5	15,584

TABLE 10. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : MEDIAN AGES OF PARTIES AT DATE OF DISSOLUTION : AUSTRALIA, 1946 TO 1972

Period	Husband	Wife
Average annual median age		
1946-1950	37.05	33.78
1951-1955	37.81	34.60
1956-1960	37.99	34.90
1961-1965	39.77	36.86
1966-1970	39.51	36.16
Annual median age		
1968	39.62	36.36
1969	39.03	35.56
1970	38.20	34.55
1971	37.94	34.42
1972	37.20	33.94

TABLE 11. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : AGES OF PARTIES AT DATE OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1972

Year of dissolution	Age group										Total	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over		Not stated
	HUSBAND											
1968	940	5,279	2,569	953	437	234	145	78	49	47	..	10,731
1969	1,072	5,451	2,525	894	465	247	126	77	34	38	1	10,930
1970	1,166	6,287	2,814	965	465	236	118	75	28	38	6	12,198
1971	1,308	6,733	2,903	997	471	238	141	80	36	37	3	12,947
1972	1,581	8,380	3,414	1,139	470	273	143	98	48	37	1	15,584
WIFE												
1968	3,746	4,661	1,242	464	273	168	82	52	24	17	2	10,731
1969	3,962	4,685	1,246	482	243	135	82	43	24	27	1	10,930
1970	4,590	5,298	1,243	491	245	168	80	43	21	16	3	12,198
1971	4,926	5,617	1,324	490	268	132	98	54	21	14	2	12,947
1972	5,943	6,924	1,519	549	304	150	98	50	19	23	5	15,584

TABLE 12. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : AGES OF PARTIES AT DATE OF DISSOLUTION AND AGE SPECIFIC DIVORCE RATES, AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1972

Year of dissolution	Age group								60 and over
	Under 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	
HUSBAND									
Annual totals									
1968	344	1,657	1,808	1,686	1,659	1,397	953	638	589
1969	380	1,749	1,976	1,673	1,683	1,398	936	605	529
1970	500	2,229	2,212	1,767	1,713	1,560	964	673	574
1971	496	2,429	2,409	1,870	1,857	1,580	1,037	698	568
1972	573	3,180	2,968	2,298	2,077	1,849	1,267	709	662
Annual rates									
1968	1.21	40.21	48.48	43.70	41.07	37.77	29.77	22.12	9.03
1969	1.31	40.21	51.19	43.85	41.18	36.41	29.64	20.53	7.97
1970	1.69	48.62	55.33	46.73	41.93	39.72	30.30	22.44	8.50
1971	1.64	50.56	58.50	49.61	45.47	39.93	31.29	23.23	8.26
1972	1.88	62.00	69.87	60.67	51.24	46.89	36.88	23.55	9.43
WIFE									
Annual totals									
1968	1,067	2,129	1,738	1,618	1,515	1,177	754	413	318
1969	1,150	2,264	1,881	1,525	1,514	1,174	770	358	293
1970	1,464	2,723	2,070	1,581	1,482	1,312	796	464	303
1971	1,452	3,048	2,204	1,687	1,616	1,349	817	467	305
1972	1,807	3,845	2,660	2,073	1,838	1,572	963	472	349
Annual rates									
1968	3.94	55.29	49.43	45.19	39.96	32.84	23.60	14.53	3.86
1969	4.16	55.85	51.46	42.95	39.70	31.75	24.37	12.19	3.49
1970	5.19	63.44	54.81	44.52	39.11	34.68	25.07	15.47	3.54
1971	5.04	67.44	56.65	47.39	42.51	35.53	24.81	15.41	3.49
1972	6.22	79.09	66.52	57.52	48.83	41.50	28.32	15.44	3.91

TABLE 13. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION: AGES OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA, 1972

Ages of children (years)	Number of children			Total
	Decreases to husbands	Decreases to wives	Decreases to both	
Under 1	59	156	1	216
1	159	377	3	539
2	334	662	4	997
3	448	874	4	1,326
4	455	844	2	1,301
5	498	884	4	1,386
6	491	916	4	1,411
7	508	894	1	1,409
8	491	858	3	1,386
9	513	894	1	1,374
10	459	882	1	1,342
11	422	790	1	1,213
12	408	765	1	1,174
13	373	765	2	1,140
14	359	705	2	1,064
15	312	662	2	976
16 to 20	1,253	2,534	7	3,794
Not stated	5	8	..	13
Total	7,547	14,474	40	22,061

TABLE 14. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION: DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN, AUSTRALIA, 1972

Year of marriage	Duration of marriage (years)	Number of marriages dissolved with -										Total marriages dissolved	Total number of children	Average issue
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 and over			
1972	Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1971	1 and under 2	30	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	7	0.21
1970	2 "	3 135	22	4	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	168	49	0.29
1969	3 "	4 290	86	21	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	401	143	0.36
1968	4 "	5 612	277	57	11	1	..	..	..	..	..	960	443	0.46
1967	5 "	6 604	418	116	25	9	..	..	..	..	..	1,175	779	0.66
1966	6 "	7 463	355	189	38	3	..	..	..	..	..	1,050	870	0.83
1965	7 "	8 329	360	214	52	10	..	..	..	..	..	967	994	1.03
1964	8 "	9 229	261	247	86	14	..	..	..	..	..	841	1,092	1.30
1963	9 "	10 186	201	286	72	17	6	3	..	..	..	771	1,105	1.43
1962	10 "	11 140	162	271	114	27	7	3	1	1	..	726	1,222	1.68
1961	11 "	12 62	143	234	109	31	6	2	..	..	..	615	1,092	1.78
1960	12 "	13 105	102	223	131	49	6	2	..	..	..	507	1,187	1.92
1959	13 "	14 73	86	164	125	47	8	4	..	..	..	420	1,041	2.05
1958	14 "	15 82	75	178	107	65	11	2	..	..	..	520	1,079	2.08
1957	15 "	16 60	65	157	120	62	20	6	2	..	..	492	1,137	2.31
1956	16 "	17 57	61	121	101	66	14	7	3	2	1	460	1,062	2.31
1955	17 "	18 65	61	121	124	65	25	6	3	2	..	472	1,133	2.40
1954	18 "	19 56	48	122	92	61	23	13	4	..	..	420	1,044	2.49
1953	19 "	20 62	51	111	81	45	9	4	..	..	..	363	912	2.43
1952	20 "	21 41	64	111	73	49	21	9	5	1	1	375	912	2.49
1951	21 "	22 47	55	111	86	50	14	9	2	3	1	378	906	2.40
1950	22 "	23 57	55	119	71	43	19	9	4	2	..	374	837	2.24
1949	23 "	24 71	81	90	55	27	12	4	..	..	..	346	662	1.91
1948	24 "	25 86	90	77	49	27	10	7	6	..	..	352	633	1.80
1947	25 "	26 105	76	80	41	18	8	1	1	1	..	331	492	1.49
1946	26 "	27 119	78	71	41	9	4	3	1	..	..	326	424	1.30
1945	27 "	28 90	69	35	20	2	2	1	..	..	..	219	223	1.02
1944	28 "	29 102	41	28	18	4	2	..	..	..	..	195	177	0.91
1943	29 "	30 99	60	26	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	190	131	0.69
1942	30 "	31 112	44	14	7	2	2	2	..	..	..	183	123	0.67
1941	31 "	32 87	35	17	8	2	1	..	..	..	..	150	106	0.71
1940	32 "	33 82	22	12	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	129	69	0.53
1939	33 "	34 68	14	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	89	43	0.48
1938	34 "	35 61	8	6	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	80	37	0.46
1937	35 "	36 47	6	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56	12	0.21
1936	36 "	37 45	4	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54	14	0.26
1935	37 "	38 30	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	5	0.15
1934	38 "	39 23	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	3	0.12
1933	39 "	40 17	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	2	0.11
1932	40 "	41 25	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28	3	0.11
1931	41 "	42 8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1	0.11
1930	42 "	43 18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	..	..
1929	43 "	44 14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	..
1928	44 "	45 6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	0.14
1927	45 "	46 5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	0.17
1926	46 "	47 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..
1925	47 "	48 6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..
1924	48 "	49 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..
1923	49 "	50 4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..
1922	50 "	51 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..
1921	51 "	52 3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
1920	52 "	53 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
1919	53 "	54 2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
1918	54 "	55 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Total marriages dissolved		5,177	3,671	3,653	1,879	811	240	99	33	15	6	15,584		1.42
Total number of children		..	3,671	7,306	5,637	3,244	1,200	594	231	120	58		22,061	

TABLE 15. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : NUMBER OF CHILDREN, AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1972

Year	Number of marriages dissolved with issue -										Total dissolutions	Total children	Average issue
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 and over			
1968	3,727	2,623	2,390	1,219	510	163	63	26	7	3	10,731	14,561	1.36
1969	3,552	2,718	2,558	1,323	508	181	60	21	7	2	10,930	15,323	1.40
1970	4,111	2,968	2,830	1,402	572	186	80	36	8	5	12,198	16,895	1.39
1971	4,212	3,180	2,973	1,601	619	223	81	34	12	12	12,947	18,451	1.43
1972	5,177	3,671	3,653	1,879	811	240	99	33	15	6	15,584	22,061	1.42

TABLE 16. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : DURATION OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1972

Year	Duration of marriage							Total dissolutions
	Under 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over	
1968	857	3,024	2,130	1,678	1,426	877	739	10,731
1969	971	3,062	2,264	1,616	1,470	885	662	10,930
1970	1,217	3,591	2,372	1,709	1,531	981	797	12,198
1971	1,200	3,880	2,594	1,854	1,605	993	821	12,947
1972	1,563	4,804	2,987	2,207	1,825	1,261	937	15,584

TABLE 17. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND AGES OF PARTIES AT DATE OF DISSOLUTION, AUSTRALIA, 1972

		Ages of parties										
Duration of marriage (years)		Under 25	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	Not stated	Total dissolutions
Husband												
Under 5		353	812	203	74	39	29	18	18	17	..	1,563
5 and under 6		150	650	212	72	34	23	14	8	11	1	1,175
6 " " 7		65	579	258	60	27	27	11	12	11	..	1,050
7 " " 8		5	500	274	98	33	18	21	9	9	..	967
8 " " 9		..	343	319	86	36	26	11	10	10	..	841
9 " " 10		..	171	376	107	57	26	16	8	10	..	771
10 " " 11		..	85	379	141	55	30	18	6	12	..	726
11 " " 12		..	32	339	141	52	28	10	6	7	..	615
12 " " 13		..	7	264	218	64	34	14	7	11	..	619
13 " " 14		..	1	177	197	66	29	19	8	10	..	507
14 " " 15		..	..	113	236	102	34	14	11	10	..	520
15 " " 20		..	..	54	843	808	291	114	44	53	..	2,207
20 and over		..	..	..	25	704	1,254	937	562	491	..	4,023
Total		573	3,180	2,968	2,298	2,077	1,849	1,267	709	662	1	15,584
Wife -												
Under 5		849	512	87	44	21	13	17	7	11	2	1,563
5 and under 6		463	530	92	29	22	17	7	9	6	..	1,175
6 " " 7		294	586	94	34	15	13	8	8	7	1	1,050
7 " " 8		145	608	121	33	22	19	13	2	4	..	967
8 " " 9		53	550	145	41	20	11	11	2	7	1	841
9 " " 10		12	425	218	50	23	16	13	7	7	..	771
10 " " 11		1	301	290	56	34	19	10	7	7	1	726
11 " " 12		..	197	306	60	25	18	3	2	4	..	615
12 " " 13		..	93	366	89	32	20	9	6	4	..	619
13 " " 14		..	37	292	97	35	27	10	5	4	..	507
14 " " 15		..	6	275	149	46	27	8	2	7	..	520
15 " " 20		..	..	374	1,136	425	135	69	36	32	..	2,207
20 and over		..	..	..	255	1,118	1,237	785	379	249	..	4,023
Total		1,807	3,845	2,660	2,073	1,838	1,572	963	472	349	5	15,584

TABLE 18. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND MARITAL STATUS OF PARTIES AT DATE OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA, 1972

Duration of marriage	Marital status at date of marriage							
	Husband				Wife			
	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Under 5	1,392	37	134	1,563	1,404	36	123	1,563
5 to 9	4,395	85	324	4,804	4,386	101	317	4,804
10 " 14	2,736	41	210	2,987	2,673	59	255	2,987
15 " 19	2,028	26	153	2,207	2,003	39	165	2,207
20 " 24	1,714	14	97	1,825	1,671	34	120	1,825
25 " 29	1,201	11	49	1,261	1,199	18	44	1,261
30 and over	912	7	18	937	920	7	10	937
Total	14,378	221	985	15,584	14,256	294	1,034	15,584

TABLE 19. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : MARITAL STATUS OF PARTIES AT DATE OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA, 1972

Marital status of husband at date of marriage	Marital status of wife at date of marriage			
	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Single	13,625	142	611	14,378
Widowed	75	61	85	221
Divorced	556	91	338	985
Total	14,256	294	1,034	15,584

TABLE 20. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : MARITAL STATUS OF PARTIES AT DATE OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1972

	Marital status at date of marriage									
	Husband					Wife				
	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Not stated	Total	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Not stated	Total
1968	9,725	231	775	..	10,731	9,593	291	846	1	10,731
1969	9,975	206	749	..	10,930	9,803	277	850	..	10,930
1970	11,190	217	791	..	12,198	11,051	268	879	..	12,198
1971	11,864	221	862	..	12,947	11,734	261	952	..	12,947
1972	14,378	221	985	..	15,584	14,256	294	1,034	..	15,584

TABLE 21. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : NUMBER OF TIMES PARTIES HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY DIVORCED, AUSTRALIA, 1972

Husband	Wife					Total
	No previous divorces	1 previous divorce	2 previous divorces	3 previous divorces	Not stated	
No previous divorces	13,893	674	21	4	..	14,592
1 previous divorce	624	317	12	2	..	955
2 previous divorces	21	9	2	..	..	32
3 previous divorces	3	1	1	..	..	5
Not stated	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	14,541	1,001	36	6	..	15,584

Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2348 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.