

DIVORCE

1969



**COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA**

Reference No. 13.1

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959-1966, a court may grant decrees of dissolution of marriage (divorce), nullity of marriage, judicial separation, restitution of conjugal rights, and jactitation of marriage (i.e., that a person should refrain from making a false claim that a marriage has taken place between him and another person). Orders may be made for maintenance, the custody and welfare of children, the settlement of property, and damages for adultery. The statistics shown in this bulletin refer only to petitions for and decrees of dissolution, nullity, and judicial separation.

2. Statistics of petitions exclude cross-petitions contained in answers by respondents. Statistics of decrees refer to decrees nisi made absolute except for the following cases, where no decree nisi is granted.

- (i) Decrees of judicial separation, which do not dissolve the marriage and may be discharged on resumption of co-habitation.
- (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.

3. For further statistics in respect of past years, see previous issues in this series and the annual bulletin "Demography" (Reference No. 4.9). Summary figures are also published quarterly, the latest being "Divorce - December quarter 1969" (Reference No. 13.2) issued on 5 May 1970.

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

5. Yearly periods shown refer to the year ended 31 December.

I. PETITIONS FILED (a) FOR DISSOLUTION, NULLITY AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION

TABLE 1. - PETITIONS FILED : STATES AND TERRITORIES

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
DISSOLUTION									
1965	4,679	2,501	1,266	1,107	736	328	61	161	10,839
1966	4,892	2,621	1,173	1,133	787	357	46	123	11,132
1967	5,427	2,700	1,424	1,178	888	319	55	162	12,153
1968	5,558	2,771	1,464	1,186	995	405	59	181	12,619
1969	5,805	3,049	1,634	1,354	1,059	427	60	194	13,582
1969-By husband	2,056	1,185	664	480	496	202	44	78	5,205
By wife	3,749	1,864	970	874	563	225	16	116	8,377
NULLITY									
1965	20	12	1	13	2	3	..	..	51
1966	27	14	4	7	3	..	..	..	55
1967	28	16	5	11	2	..	..	3	65
1968	28	10	6	5	5	2	..	3	59
1969	26	9	5	7	5	1	1	1	55
1969-By husband	9	3	2	3	2	..	..	1	20
By wife	17	6	3	4	3	1	1	..	35
DISSOLUTION OR NULLITY									
1965	3	15	5	2	..	..	..	..	25
1966	6	8	3	3	..	..	..	1	21
1967	4	13	1	2	..	..	..	..	20
1968	5	16	4	1	..	..	..	..	26
1969	8	9	1	2	..	..	..	..	20
1969-By husband	2	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	7
By wife	6	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	13
JUDICIAL SEPARATION									
1965	4	4	6	5	..	..	..	2	21
1966	13	1	4	2	1	..	..	4	25
1967	13	2	7	15	..	1	..	1	39
1968	7	6	6	8	3	1	..	6	37
1969	10	1	5	6	1	1	..	5	29
1969-By husband	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2
By wife	10	1	4	5	1	1	..	5	27
ALL PETITIONS									
1965	4,706	2,532	1,278	1,127	738	331	61	163	10,936
1966	4,938	(b)2,645	1,184	(c)1,147	791	357	46	128	(d)11,236
1967	5,472	(b)2,732	1,437	(b)1,207	890	320	55	166	(e)12,279
1968	5,598	2,803	1,480	(b)1,201	1,003	408	59	190	(b)12,742
1969	5,849	3,068	1,645	1,369	1,065	429	61	200	13,686
1969-By husband - No.	2,067	1,192	667	485	498	202	44	79	5,234
- %	35	39	41	35	47	47	(e)	39	38
By wife - No.	3,782	1,876	978	884	567	227	17	121	8,452
- %	65	61	59	65	53	53	(e)	61	62

(a) See paragraph 2 of Explanatory notes. (b) Includes one petition for dissolution or judicial separation. (c) Includes two petitions for dissolution or judicial separation. (d) Includes three petitions for dissolution or judicial separation. (e) Percentage not shown because of small number of cases.

TABLE 2. - GROUNDS OF PETITIONS (a) : STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1969

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.	Aust.
DISSOLUTION									
Single grounds									
Desertion	1,990	1,107	584	378	328	161	21	39	4,608
Adultery	1,524	820	343	393	408	133	15	68	3,704
Separation	659	422	236	166	217	69	15	14	1,798
Cruelty	685	60	122	260	25	21	4	40	1,217
Drunkenness	58	10	12	27	8	10	..	4	129
Intoxication by drugs	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Failure to pay maintenance	2	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	7
Non-compliance with restitution decree	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Refusal to consummate	26	1	5	5	1	..	..	..	38
Insanity	2	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	5
Frequent convictions	10	4	3	2	3	..	..	..	22
Imprisonment	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	3
Infliction of grievous bodily harm	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Rape	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Sodomy	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Presumption of death	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	72	128	40	18	14	6	1	2	281
Desertion and separation	265	357	149	37	32	10	3	4	857
Desertion and cruelty	101	26	26	11	2	4	..	3	173
Desertion and drunkenness	19	7	3	2	1	..	..	..	32
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	2	4	..	..	1	1	..	..	8
Desertion and refusal to consummate	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
Desertion and frequent convictions	4	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	9
Desertion and other	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Adultery and separation	5	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	12
Adultery and cruelty	50	8	11	12	4	2	..	1	88
Adultery and drunkenness	3	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	6
Adultery and refusal to consummate	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Adultery and other	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Separation and cruelty	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Separation and failure to pay maintenance	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Separation and insanity	6	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	10
Separation and other	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cruelty and drunkenness	208	21	58	35	4	4	..	14	344
Cruelty and frequent convictions	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Cruelty and other	6	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	11
Other dual grounds	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	6
Three grounds or more	69	53	31	2	2	4	1	5	167
<u>Total</u>	5,805	3,049	1,634	1,354	1,059	427	60	194	13,582

(a) See paragraph 2 of Explanatory notes.

TABLE 2. - GROUNDS OF PETITIONS (a) : STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1969 - continued

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Unst.
NULLITY									
Bigamy	11	3	3	3	2	1	1	..	24
Invalid marriage	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Incapacity to consummate	15	6	2	3	2	..	..	..	28
Unsound mind	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Pregnancy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
<u>Total</u>	26	9	5	7	5	1	1	1	55
DISSOLUTION OR NULLITY									
<u>Total</u>	8	9	1	2	..	..	..	..	20
JUDICIAL SEPARATION									
Desertion	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Adultery	3	1	..	1	1	..	..	1	7
Cruelty	5	..	1	2	..	..	..	3	11
Drunkenness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Desertion and adultery	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
Desertion and cruelty	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Adultery and cruelty	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	4
Cruelty and drunkenness	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
<u>Total</u>	10	1	5	6	1	1	..	5	29
ALL PETITIONS									
Dissolution	5,805	3,049	1,634	1,354	1,059	427	60	194	13,582
Nullity	26	9	5	7	5	1	1	1	55
Dissolution or nullity	8	9	1	2	..	..	..	..	20
Judicial separation	10	1	5	6	1	1	..	5	29
<u>TOTAL</u>	5,849	3,068	1,645	1,369	1,065	429	61	200	13,686

(a) See paragraph 2 of Explanatory notes.

TABLE 3. - PETITIONS FILED (a) : SEX OF PETITIONER AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN
OF THE MARRIAGE (b), AUSTRALIA, 1969

Petition for	Marriages with -							All petitions	Total number of children (b)
	No children	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children	5 children	6 or more children		
Dissolution -									
By husband	1,932	1,226	1,133	564	231	76	43	5,205	6,764
By wife	2,421	2,097	2,097	1,084	421	152	105	8,377	12,677
<u>Total</u>	4,353	3,323	3,230	1,648	652	228	148	13,582	19,441
Nullity -									
By husband	14	2	2	1	1	..	..	20	13
By wife	22	5	7	..	..	..	1	35	25
<u>Total</u>	36	7	9	1	1	..	1	55	38
Dissolution or nullity -									
By husband	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	7	1
By wife	8	2	2	1	..	..	..	13	9
<u>Total</u>	14	3	2	1	..	..	..	20	10
Judicial separation -									
By husband	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	7
By wife	4	4	10	2	3	1	3	27	67
<u>Total</u>	5	4	10	2	3	1	4	29	74
ALL PETITIONS									
By husband	1,953	1,229	1,135	565	232	76	44	5,234	6,785
By wife	2,455	2,108	2,116	1,087	424	153	109	8,452	12,778
<u>TOTAL</u>	4,408	3,337	3,251	1,652	656	229	153	13,686	19,563

(a) See paragraph 2, of Explanatory notes. (b) Number of children living and under 21 years at time of petition. Includes children deemed to be children of the marriage in accordance with Section 6 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1959-1966.

TABLE 4. - PETITIONS FILED (a) : NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE (b), AUSTRALIA

	Marriages with -							All petitions	Total number of children (b)
	No children	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children	5 children	6 or more children		
1965	3,747	2,722	2,393	1,285	510	165	114	10,936	14,965
1966	3,775	2,836	2,503	1,225	577	194	126	11,236	15,622
1967	4,160	2,978	2,792	1,431	586	222	110	12,279	17,048
1968	4,076	3,104	2,975	1,580	637	235	135	12,742	18,395
1969	4,408	3,337	3,251	1,652	656	229	153	13,686	19,563

(a) Dissolution, nullity, and judicial separation. See paragraph 2 of Explanatory notes. (b) See footnote (b) to Table 3.

II. DECREES OF DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION

TABLE 5. - DECREES GRANTED (a) : STATES AND TERRITORIES

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
DISSOLUTION									
1965	3,440	2,089	1,052	852	604	279	41	134	8,491
1966	4,515	2,131	1,031	1,069	637	317	58	101	9,859
1967	4,555	2,039	1,074	929	726	248	20	97	9,688
1968	4,860	2,515	1,135	915	812	302	23	149	10,731
1969	5,123	2,220	1,236	963	872	331	44	141	10,930
1969 - To husband	1,924	911	498	362	421	159	22	48	4,345
To wife	3,198	1,303	738	601	451	172	22	92	6,577
To both	1	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	8
NULLITY									
1965	14	13	3	3	2	..	..	..	35
1966	19	11	7	9	3	1	..	..	50
1967	17	15	6	9	1	..	..	2	50
1968	24	10	4	4	..	1	..	1	44
1969	16	15	5	6	1	..	..	1	44
1969 - To husband	2	6	1	1	1	..	..	1	12
- To wife	14	9	4	5	..	..	..	..	32
JUDICIAL SEPARATION									
1965	1	1	4	..	..	1	..	1	8
1966	4	2	1	2	..	1	..	2	12
1967	2	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	8
1968	7	..	1	3	..	..	..	3	14
1969	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	2	5
1969 - To husband	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
- To wife	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	4
ALL DECREES									
1965	3,455	2,103	1,059	855	606	280	41	135	8,534
1966	4,538	2,144	1,039	1,080	640	319	58	103	9,921
1967	4,574	2,054	1,083	941	727	248	20	99	9,746
1968	4,911	2,525	1,140	922	812	303	23	153	10,789
1969	5,139	2,235	1,243	970	873	331	44	144	10,979
1969 - To husband - number	1,926	917	499	363	422	159	22	50	4,358
- per cent	37	41	40	37	48	18	(b)	35	40
- To wife - number	3,212	1,312	744	607	451	172	22	93	6,613
- per cent	63	59	60	63	52	52	(b)	65	60
- To both - number	1	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	8

(a) See paragraph 2, of Explanatory notes. (b) Percentage not shown because of small number of cases.

TABLE 6. - GROUNDS FOR DECREES GRANTED (a) : STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1969

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
DISSOLUTION									
Single grounds -									
Desertion	2,254	1,082	589	313	305	144	9	34	4,730
Adultery	1,237	636	248	296	332	104	14	49	2,916
Separation	712	398	238	143	183	55	16	13	1,758
Cruelty	433	41	83	141	16	10	1	25	750
Drunkness	71	13	19	22	7	3	..	1	136
Intoxication by drugs	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Failure to pay maintenance	1	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	8
Non-compliance with restitution decree	..	..	..	3	2	..	..	..	..
Refusal to consummate	17	5	6	1	1	2	..	..	32
Insanity	4	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	7
Frequent convictions	12	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	18
Imprisonment	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	3
Infliction of grievous bodily harm	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rape	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Sodomy	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Presumption of death	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	54	15	8	9	8	5	..	3	102
Desertion and separation	95	6	23	13	4	3	..	1	145
Desertion and cruelty	66	4	2	1	..	2	1	1	77
Desertion and drunkenness	5	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	8
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	5
Desertion and other	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Adultery and cruelty	11	1	1	3	..	..	..	..	16
Adultery and other	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	5
Separation and other	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cruelty and drunkenness	105	8	6	7	3	1	2	11	143
Cruelty and other	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	7
Other dual grounds	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Three grounds or more	23	..	5	4	1	2	1	3	39
<u>Total</u>	5,123	2,220	1,236	963	872	331	44	141	10,930
NULLITY									
Of void marriage -									
Bigamy	4	5	2	1	..	..	..	..	12
Force	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Invalidity	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Of voidable marriage -									
Incapacity to consummate	11	9	3	5	..	..	..	..	28
Pregnancy	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
<u>Total</u>	16	15	5	6	1	..	..	1	44
JUDICIAL SEPARATION									
Cruelty	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	2	5

(a) See paragraph 2, of Explanatory notes.

TABLE 7. - GROUNDS FOR DECREES GRANTED (a): AUSTRALIA

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
DISSOLUTION					
Single grounds -					
Desertion	3,777	4,532	4,398	4,863	4,730
Adultery	2,035	2,288	2,270	2,611	2,916
Separation	1,706	1,968	1,868	1,959	1,758
Cruelty	380	488	550	670	750
Drunkenness	103	142	128	150	136
Intoxication by drugs	1	3	1	3	4
Failure to pay maintenance	10	6	3	10	8
Non-compliance with restitution decree	15	7	5	5	5
Refusal to consummate	24	23	30	39	32
Insanity	13	10	7	7	7
Frequent convictions	23	15	12	18	18
Imprisonment	7	6	7	4	3
Rape	5	1	3	4	2
Sodomy	1	2	1	3	2
Presumption of death	2	2	4	4	2
Other single grounds	5	..	1	3	1
Dual grounds -					
Desertion and adultery	93	93	76	68	102
Desertion and separation	108	67	68	88	145
Desertion and cruelty	36	34	50	44	77
Desertion and drunkenness	26	20	24	16	8
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	4	5	4	6	5
Desertion and frequent convictions	1	4	3	4	1
Desertion and other	4	2	2	1	3
Adultery and separation	2	7	9	1	3
Adultery and cruelty	6	8	12	12	16
Adultery and other	2	2	3	2	2
Separation and failure to pay maintenance	..	2	1	..	..
Separation and other	6	3	4	1	2
Cruelty and drunkenness	76	98	126	118	143
Cruelty and other	6	3	..	2	7
Drunkenness and other	1	1	1	..	2
Other dual grounds	..	1	1	2	1
Three grounds or more	13	16	16	13	39
<u>Total</u>	8,491	9,859	9,688	10,731	10,930
NULLITY					
Bigamy	13	21	15	18	12
Invalid marriage	2	2	5	2	1
Incapacity to consummate	20	22	27	23	28
Other grounds	..	5	3	1	3
<u>Total</u>	35	50	50	44	44
JUDICIAL SEPARATION					
Desertion	..	3	1	1	..
Adultery	5	4	5	8	..
Cruelty	1	2	2	2	5
Other grounds	2	3	..	3	..
<u>Total</u>	8	12	8	14	5

(a) See paragraph 2 of Explanatory notes.

III. DEGREES OF DISSOLUTION

TABLE 8. - DEGREES OF DISSOLUTION

AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA, 1969

Age of husband (years)	Age of wife (years)											All husbands	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	Not stated	Num-ber	Per cent
Under 20	868	196	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,072	10
20 - 24	2,418	2,710	267	40	11	4	..	..	..	..	1	5,451	50
25 - 29	555	1,317	498	125	23	4	3	..	..	..	..	2,525	23
30 - 34	92	315	282	134	52	14	2	3	..	..	..	894	8
35 - 39	20	101	135	96	79	24	9	1	..	..	..	465	4
40 - 44	6	32	39	55	48	48	13	4	1	1	..	247	2
45 - 49	2	9	13	24	20	20	25	8	5	..	..	126	1
50 - 54	..	4	2	6	8	16	19	14	5	3	..	77	1
55 - 59	..	..	2	2	2	2	9	8	3	6	..	34	..
60 and over	..	1	..	..	..	3	2	5	10	17	..	38	..
Not stated	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
All - No.	3,962	4,685	1,246	482	243	135	82	43	24	27	1	10,930	..
wives - %	36	43	11	4	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	100

TABLE 9. - DEGREES OF DISSOLUTION

AGE OF HUSBAND AT TIME OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA

Year of dissolution of marriage	Age of husband (years)											Total
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	Not stated	
1965	636	4,069	2,162	799	386	192	120	62	33	26	6	8,491
1966	770	4,685	2,525	937	409	248	142	66	39	30	8	9,859
1967	783	4,653	2,401	910	462	223	116	71	34	33	2	9,688
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

TABLE 10. - DEGREES OF DISSOLUTION

AGE OF WIFE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA

Year of dissolution of marriage	Age of wife (years)											Total
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	Not stated	
1965	2,796	3,667	1,072	464	243	114	69	26	16	16	8	8,491
1966	3,322	4,241	1,244	482	271	140	80	35	24	13	7	9,859
1967	3,286	4,186	1,180	468	281	135	74	39	21	16	2	9,688
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

TABLE 11. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION
AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION, AUSTRALIA, 1969

Age of husband (years)	Age of wife (years)										All husbands		
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	Not stated	Num-ber	Per-cent
Under 20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 - 24	8	325	43	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	380	3
25 - 29	5	675	988	73	7	..	..	..	..	..	1	1,749	16
30 - 34	..	110	941	823	77	19	2	3	1	..	..	1,976	18
35 - 39	..	23	217	693	598	108	27	5	1	1	..	1,673	15
40 - 44	..	2	53	217	610	653	109	26	11	2	..	1,683	15
45 - 49	..	1	15	50	169	505	529	113	12	4	..	1,398	13
50 - 54	..	..	4	15	35	164	359	283	63	13	..	936	9
55 - 59	..	..	3	4	24	46	105	238	140	45	..	605	6
60 and over	..	..	..	3	4	19	43	102	130	228	..	529	5
Not stated	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
<u>All</u> - No.	13	1,137	2,264	1,881	1,525	1,514	1,174	770	358	293	1	10,930	..
<u>wives</u> - %	..	10	21	17	14	14	11	7	3	3	..	..	100

TABLE 12. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION
AGE OF HUSBAND AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION, AUSTRALIA

Year of dissolution of marriage	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	
1965	194	1,082	1,369	1,482	1,461	1,038	824	467	468	6	8,491
1966	279	1,338	1,577	1,695	1,631	1,191	980	587	574	7	9,859
1967	255	1,293	1,562	1,547	1,653	1,320	931	581	544	2	9,688
1968	344	1,657	1,808	1,686	1,659	1,397	953	638	589	..	10,731
1969	380	1,749	1,976	1,673	1,683	1,398	936	605	529	1	10,930

TABLE 13. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION
AGE OF WIFE AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION, AUSTRALIA

Year of dissolution of marriage	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	
1965	662	1,528	1,368	1,523	1,322	934	603	275	268	8	8,491
1966	879	1,800	1,645	1,563	1,460	1,078	706	401	321	6	9,859
1967	840	1,709	1,567	1,534	1,517	1,132	752	354	281	2	9,688
1968	1,067	2,129	1,738	1,618	1,515	1,177	754	413	318	2	10,731
1969	1,150	2,264	1,881	1,525	1,514	1,174	770	358	293	1	10,930

**TABLE 14. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : DURATION OF MARRIAGE
AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE (a), AUSTRALIA, 1969**

Duration of marriage (years)	Marriages with -							Total marriages dissolved		Total number of children (a)
	No child-ren	1 child	2 child-ren	3 child-ren	4 child-ren	5 child-ren	6 or more child-ren	Number	Per cent	
Under 5	600	289	64	11	4	3	..	971	9	481
5 - 9	1,117	1,036	689	168	40	9	3	3,062	28	3,143
10 - 14	460	462	723	410	144	51	14	2,264	21	4,056
15 - 19	226	297	463	388	149	65	28	1,616	15	3,492
20 - 24	287	291	413	262	135	46	36	1,470	13	2,908
25 - 29	364	248	153	74	32	6	8	885	8	985
30 and over	498	95	53	10	4	1	1	562	6	528
Total (number marriages dissolved (per cent	3,552	2,718	2,558	1,323	508	181	90	10,930	..	..
	32	25	23	12	5	2	1	..	100	..
Total number of children (a)	..	2,718	5,116	3,969	2,032	905	583	..	..	15,323

(a) Number of children living and under 21 years at time of petition. Includes children deemed to be children of the marriage in accordance with Section 6 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1959-1966.

**TABLE 15. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION
DURATION OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA**

Year of dissolution of marriage	Duration of marriage (years)							Total marriages dissolved
	Under 5	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30 and over	
1965	572	2,204	1,843	1,569	1,072	647	584	8,491
1966	780	2,550	2,004	1,743	1,287	786	709	9,859
1967	691	2,457	1,758	1,681	1,432	836	633	9,688
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

**TABLE 16. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION
NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE (a), AUSTRALIA**

Year of dissolution of marriage	Marriages with -							Total marriages dissolved	Total number of children (a)
	No child-ren	1 child	2 child-ren	3 child-ren	4 child-ren	5 child-ren	6 or more child-ren		
1965	2,891	2,180	1,905	967	352	116	80	8,491	11,426
1966	3,500	2,507	2,158	1,039	410	152	93	9,859	12,950
1967	3,249	2,462	2,204	1,077	486	131	79	9,688	13,213
1968	3,727	2,623	2,390	1,219	510	163	99	10,731	14,561
1969	3,552	2,718	2,558	1,323	508	181	90	10,930	15,323

(a) See footnote (a) to Table 14.

TABLE 17. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION

AGES OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE (a), AUSTRALIA, 1969

Decrees granted	Ages of children (a) (years)																		Total number of children (a)
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 to 20	Not stated	
To husband	30	112	215	281	339	324	405	388	370	336	334	293	303	271	272	275	1,069	2	5,620
To wife	84	201	419	567	585	662	658	614	635	557	547	510	510	470	427	435	1,802	7	9,690
To both	..	..	2	..	2	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	4	..	13
Total	114	313	636	848	926	986	1,064	1,002	1,006	894	881	804	813	742	699	710	2,875	10	15,323

(a) Number of children living and under 21 at time of petition. Includes children deemed to be children of the marriage in accordance with Section 6 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1959-1966.

TABLE 18. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION

DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION, AUSTRALIA, 1969

Duration of marriage (years)	Ages of parties (years)											Total marriages dissolved	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	Not stated	Number	Per cent
HUSBAND													
Under 5	..	248	402	143	69	43	24	20	8	14	..	971	9
5 - 9	..	132	1,271	940	287	173	102	60	44	52	1	3,062	28
10 - 14	..	..	76	862	737	310	125	65	43	46	..	2,264	21
15 - 19	..	..	..	31	540	652	199	102	56	36	..	1,616	15
20 - 24	..	..	..	..	40	482	580	219	96	53	..	1,470	13
25 - 29	..	..	..	..	..	23	356	323	111	70	..	885	8
30 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	147	247	258	..	662	6
Total (number marriages per dissolved cent)	..	380	1,749	1,976	1,673	1,683	1,398	936	605	529	1	10,930	..
	..	3	16	18	15	15	13	9	6	5	..	..	100

WIFE

Under 5	13	531	266	61	29	20	21	13	7	9	1	971	9
5 - 9	..	605	1,589	470	143	86	61	43	23	42	..	3,062	28
10 - 14	..	1	409	1,112	389	179	78	51	24	21	..	2,264	21
15 - 19	..	..	..	238	773	394	116	59	19	17	..	1,616	15
20 - 24	..	..	..	..	191	724	371	118	45	21	..	1,470	13
25 - 29	..	..	..	..	..	111	469	235	50	20	..	885	8
30 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	58	251	190	163	..	662	6
Total (number)	13	1,137	2,264	1,881	1,525	1,514	1,174	770	358	293	1	10,930	..
dissolved (per cent)	..	10	21	17	14	14	11	7	3	3	..	..	100

TABLE 19. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : DURATION OF MARRIAGE
AND MARITAL STATUS OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA, 1969

Duration of marriage (years)	Marital status at time of marriage of -							
	Husband				Wife			
	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Under 5	844	33	94	971	854	41	76	971
5 - 9	2,733	73	256	3,062	2,716	93	253	3,062
10 - 14	2,055	38	171	2,264	1,963	54	247	2,264
15 - 19	1,482	22	112	1,616	1,438	29	149	1,616
20 - 24	1,354	27	89	1,470	1,327	46	97	1,470
25 - 29	858	7	20	885	657	8	20	885
30 and over	649	6	7	662	648	6	8	662
<u>Total</u>	9,975	206	749	10,930	9,803	277	850	10,930

TABLE 20. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : MARITAL STATUS
OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA 1969

Marital status of husband at time of marriage	Marital status of wife at time of marriage			
	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Single	9,291	150	534	9,975
Widowed	84	67	55	206
Divorced	428	60	261	749
<u>Total</u>	9,803	277	850	10,930

TABLE 21. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : MARITAL STATUS
OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA

Year of dissolution of marriage	Marital status at time of marriage of -									
	Husband					Wife				
	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Not stated	Total	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Not stated	Total
1965	7,694	189	605	3	8,491	7,557	220	712	2	8,491
1966	8,943	206	709	1	9,859	8,735	290	834	..	9,859
1967	8,750	205	733	..	9,688	8,604	261	823	..	9,688
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

TABLE 22. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION : NUMBER OF
TIMES PARTIES HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY DIVORCED, AUSTRALIA, 1969

Husband	Wife				
	No previous divorces	1 previous divorce	2 previous divorces	3 previous divorces	Total
No previous divorces	9,583	573	18	3	10,177
1 previous divorce	469	251	9	..	729
2 previous divorces	19	4	..	..	23
3 previous divorces	..	..	..	..	..
4 previous divorces	1	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	10,072	829	27	3	10,930

TABLE 23. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION
MONTH IN WHICH GRANTED, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1969

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
January	382	181	129	47	69	14	..	12	834
February	416	132	121	68	88	12	11	10	858
March	345	206	123	94	82	41	4	12	907
April	103	31	4	32	17	13	3	2	205
May	425	233	61	72	78	26	5	14	914
June	360	242	100	72	73	25	2	16	890
July	486	174	80	58	69	40	1	9	917
August	757	182	110	115	77	37	7	22	1,307
September	526	197	124	108	64	21	1	14	1,055
October	229	145	127	42	70	48	5	..	666
November	526	260	119	126	104	28	4	17	1,184
December	568	237	138	129	81	26	1	13	1,193
<u>Total</u>	5,123	2,220	1,236	963	872	331	44	141	10,930

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CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

8 JUNE 1970

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2268 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.