

DIVORCE

1971



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

Reference No. 13.1

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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 1971" (Reference No. 13.2) issued on 21 February 1972.

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.

6. The symbol ".." denotes Nil, or less than 0.05.

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.	Australia
DISSOLUTION									
1967	5,427	2,700	1,424	1,173	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
1970	6,510	3,661	1,853	1,365	1,204	500	67	219	15,379
1971	7,623	4,242	1,912	1,648	1,451	482	110	279	17,747
1971-By husband	2,746	1,631	736	622	673	221	63	115	6,807
By wife	4,877	2,611	1,176	1,026	778	261	47	164	10,940
NULLITY									
1967	28	16	5	11	2	..	..	3	65
1968	r 29	10	6	5	5	2	..	3	r 60
1969	r 27	9	5	7	5	1	1	1	r 56
1970	26	14	11	7	2	3	2	..	65
1971	41	13	5	5	3	6	..	1	74
1971-By husband	10	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	16
By wife	31	10	4	4	2	6	..	1	58
DISSOLUTION OR NULLITY									
1967	4	13	1	2	..	..	..	..	20
1968	5	16	4	1	..	..	..	..	26
1969	8	9	1	2	..	..	..	..	20
1970	6	14	6	2	..	..	..	..	28
1971	9	14	3	2	..	..	..	..	28
1971-By husband	1	7	..	1	..	..	..	..	9
By wife	8	7	3	1	..	..	..	..	19
JUDICIAL SEPARATION									
1967	13	2	7	15	..	1	..	1	39
1968	r 10	6	6	8	3	1	..	6	r 40
1969	r 13	1	5	6	1	1	..	5	r 32
1970	16	2	3	4	..	..	1	1	27
1971	18	2	3	9	..	..	..	1	33
1971-By husband	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
By wife	18	2	3	8	..	..	..	1	32
ALL PETITIONS									
1967	5,472	(b)2,732	1,437	(b)1,207	890	320	55	166	(c)12,279
1968	r 5,602	2,803	1,480	(b)1,201	1,003	408	59	190	(b)r12,746
1969	r 5,853	3,068	1,645	1,369	1,065	429	61	200	r13,690
1970	6,558	3,691	1,873	(c)1,380	1,206	503	70	220	(c)15,501
1971	(b)7,692	4,271	1,923	(e)1,668	1,454	488	110	281	(f)17,887
1971-By husb.-No.	(b)2,758	1,641	737	(c) 627	674	221	63	115	(d) 6,836
-%	35.9	38.4	38.3	37.6	46.4	45.3	57.3	40.9	38.2
By wife -No.	4,934	2,630	1,186	(c)1,041	780	267	47	166	(c)11,051
-%	64.1	61.6	61.7	62.4	53.6	54.7	42.7	59.1	61.8

(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) Includes four petitions for dissolution or judicial separation. (f) Includes five petitions for dissolution or judicial separation. r - revised.

TABLE 2. - GROUNDS OF PETITIONS (a): STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1971

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
DISSOLUTION									
Single grounds -									
Desertion	2,444	1,389	676	433	425	171	29	54	5,621
Adultery	2,208	1,407	469	583	658	184	41	103	5,653
Separation	857	579	248	155	225	74	22	25	2,185
Cruelty	1,032	96	193	267	46	9	4	56	1,703
Drunkenness	96	14	16	21	18	7	2	3	177
Intoxication by drugs	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Failure to pay maintenance	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Non-compliance with restitution decree	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	3
Refusal to consummate	18	2	6	3	7	2	..	1	39
Insanity	5	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	8
Frequent convictions	7	10	1	1	3	1	..	..	23
Imprisonment	2	3	..	..	1	1	..	..	7
Attempt to murder	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Infliction of grievous bodily harm	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Intent to inflict bodily harm	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Rape	1	2	..	2	..	1	..	..	6
Sodomy	4	3	2	..	1	..	..	..	10
Presumption of death	4	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	11
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	105	164	44	28	22	4	5	3	375
Desertion and separation	260	380	92	61	22	17	2	1	835
Desertion and cruelty	111	35	40	14	4	2	1	3	210
Desertion and drunkenness	16	13	8	2	1	1	1	..	42
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	7	10	1	1	..	..	..	1	20
Desertion and frequent convictions	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Desertion and other	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Adultery and separation	3	13	..	1	..	..	..	..	17
Adultery and cruelty	64	16	19	18	3	1	1	3	125
Adultery and drunkenness	2	2	1	2	..	1	..	..	8
Adultery and refusal to consummate	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Separation and cruelty	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	4
Separation and drunkenness	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2
Separation and refusal to consummate	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Separation and insanity	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Separation and presumption of death	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Cruelty and drunkenness	289	31	59	42	13	2	2	21	459
Cruelty and refusal to consummate	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cruelty and frequent convictions	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Cruelty and other	10	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	15
Drunkenness and intoxication by drugs	7	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	12
Other dual grounds	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Three grounds or more	57	54	24	5	..	2	..	4	146
<u>Total</u>	7,623	4,242	1,912	1,648	1,451	482	110	279	17,747

(a) See paragraph 2 of Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 2. - GROUNDS OF PETITIONS (a) : STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1971 - continued

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
NULLITY									
Bigamy	14	3	2	2	1	3	..	..	25
Consanguinity or affinity	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Invalid marriage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Consent by duress or fraud	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nonage	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Incapacity to consummate	24	9	3	3	2	3	..	..	44
Mental defective	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pregnancy	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Multiple grounds	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	41	13	5	5	3	6	..	1	74
DISSOLUTION OR NULLITY									
<u>Total</u>	9	14	3	2	..	..	..	..	28
JUDICIAL SEPARATION									
Desertion	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	5
Adultery	5	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	10
Separation	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cruelty	7	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	10
Drunkenness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Desertion and adultery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Desertion and drunkenness	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Adultery and cruelty	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cruelty and drunkenness	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	5
Three or more grounds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<u>Total</u>	18	2	3	9	..	..	..	1	33
DISSOLUTION OR JUDICIAL SEPARATION									
<u>Total</u>	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	5
ALL PETITIONS									
Dissolution	7,623	4,242	1,912	1,648	1,451	482	110	279	17,747
Nullity	41	13	5	5	3	6	..	1	74
Dissolution or nullity	9	14	3	2	..	..	..	..	28
Judicial separation	18	2	3	9	..	..	..	1	33
Dissolution or judicial separation	1	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	5
<u>TOTAL</u>	7,692	4,271	1,923	1,668	1,454	488	110	281	17,887

(a) See paragraph 2 of Explanatory Notes.

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

Petition for	Marriages with -										All petitions	Total number of children
	No child-dren	1 child	2 child-dren	3 child-dren	4 child-dren	5 child-dren	6 child-dren	7 child-dren	8 child-dren	9 or more children		
Dissolution -												
By husband	2,533	1,535	1,531	757	325	85	25	9	4	3	6,807	8,866
By wife	3,109	2,671	2,706	1,497	622	193	84	38	15	5	10,940	16,963
Total	5,642	4,206	4,237	2,254	947	278	109	47	19	8	17,747	25,829
Nullity -												
By husband	14	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	16	5
By wife	37	6	9	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	58	46
Total	51	7	9	3	3	1	..	..	..	..	74	51
Dissolution or nullity -												
By husband	7	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	2
By wife	12	..	3	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	19	21
Total	19	2	3	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	28	23
Judicial separation -												
By husband	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
By wife	9	3	8	6	4	..	2	..	..	..	32	65
Total	9	3	9	6	4	..	2	..	..	..	33	67
Dissolution or judicial separation -												
By husband	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	8
By wife	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Total	1	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	10
ALL PETITIONS -												
By husband	2,554	1,539	1,533	757	326	86	25	9	4	3	6,836	8,883
By wife	3,168	2,680	2,727	1,508	629	195	86	38	15	5	11,051	17,097
TOTAL	5,722	4,219	4,260	2,265	955	281	111	47	19	8	17,887	25,980
	5,056	3,681	3,608	1,865	849	261	112	35	19	15	15,501	22,401
	4,408	3,338	3,254	1,652	656	229	97	41	7	8	13,690	19,570
	4,078	3,105	3,076	1,580	637	235	90	29	10	6	12,746	18,358
	4,160	2,978	2,792	1,431	586	222	59	32	14	5	12,279	17,048

(a) Dissolution, nullity, and judicial separation. 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. r - revised.

II. DECREES OF DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION

TABLE 4.- DECREES GRANTED (a) : STATES AND TERRITORIES

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
DISSOLUTION									
1967	4,555	2,039	1,074	929	726	248	20	97	9,688
1968	4,880	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
1970	5,606	2,591	1,507	939	889	422	50	194	12,198
1971	5,467	3,072	1,404	1,264	1,064	429	55	192	12,947
1971 - To husband	1,956	1,190	527	473	486	196	35	72	4,935
- To wife	3,502	1,878	877	791	577	233	20	120	7,998
- To both	9	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	14
NULLITY									
1967	r18	15	6	9	1	..	..	2	r 51
1968	24	10	4	4	..	1	..	1	44
1969	r18	15	5	6	1	..	..	1	r 46
1970	22	13	4	1	1	3	..	1	45
1971	16	6	7	8	2	2	2	..	43
1971 - To husband	5	2	..	4	1	1	..	..	13
- To wife	11	4	7	4	1	1	2	..	30
JUDICIAL SEPARATION									
1967	2	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	8
1968	r9	..	1	3	..	..	..	3	r16
1969	r3	..	2	1	..	..	..	2	r 8
1970	r2	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	r 6
1971	4	1	..	3	2	1	..	1	12
1971 - To husband	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2
- To wife	4	1	..	2	2	..	..	1	10
ALL DECREES									
1967	r4,575	2,054	1,083	941	727	248	20	99	9,747
1968	r4,913	2,525	1,140	922	812	303	23	153	10,791
1969	r5,144	2,235	1,243	970	873	331	44	144	10,984
1970	r5,630	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
1971 - To husband - No.	1,961	1,192	527	478	487	198	35	72	4,950
- %	35.7	38.7	37.3	37.5	45.6	45.8	61.4	37.3	38.1
- To wife - No.	3,517	1,883	884	797	580	234	22	121	8,038
- %	64.1	61.2	62.7	62.5	54.3	54.2	38.6	62.7	61.8
- To both - No.	9	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	14

(a) See paragraph 2 of Explanatory Notes. r - revised.

TABLE 5. - GROUNDS FOR DECREES GRANTED (a) : STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1971

	N.S.V.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
DISSOLUTION									
Single grounds -									
Desertion	2,211	1,256	633	437	332	150	16	41	5,076
Adultery	1,525	974	326	446	468	151	20	67	5,977
Separation	771	736	264	160	191	98	9	14	2,243
Cruelty	547	41	135	174	23	13	3	47	985
Drunkenness	69	19	28	27	10	8	1	3	165
Intoxication by drugs	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	4
Failure to pay maintenance	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Non-compliance with restitution decree	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Refusal to consummate	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Insanity	2	7	4	1	..	..	..	1	29
Frequent convictions	5	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Imprisonment	3	2	2	..	1	..	..	..	15
Infliction of grievous bodily harm	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	8
Rape	3	3	..	1	..	2	..	..	9
Sodomy	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	3
Presumption of death	1	2	2	..	..	1	..	..	6
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	57	6	3	3	14	1	4	..	87
Desertion and separation	58	4	..	3	10	2	1	1	79
Desertion and cruelty	40	4	2	1	..	1	..	1	49
Desertion and drunkenness	6	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	10
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	4	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	6
Desertion and refusal to consummate	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Desertion and frequent convictions	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Desertion and other	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Adultery and separation	14	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Adultery and cruelty	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Adultery and drunkenness	112	5	1	9	8	..	..	11	146
Cruelty and frequent convictions	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Drunkenness and drug intoxication	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	3
Other dual grounds	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	5
Three grounds or more	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	14
Total	5,467	3,072	1,404	1,264	1,064	429	55	192	12,947
NULLITY									
Of void marriage -									
Bigamy	11	1	4	3	2	1	1	..	23
Invalid marriage	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Nonage	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Of voidable marriage -									
Incapacity to consummate	5	3	3	3	..	1	..	..	15
Unsound mind	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pregnancy	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Total	16	6	7	8	2	2	2	..	43
JUDICIAL SEPARATION									
Desertion	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Adultery	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Separation	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Cruelty	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	5
Desertion and adultery	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Cruelty and drunkenness	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	4	1	..	3	2	1	..	1	12

(a) See paragraph 2 of Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 6. - GROUNDS FOR DECREES GRANTED (a) : AUSTRALIA

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
DISSOLUTION					
Single grounds -					
Desertion	4,398	4,863	4,730	5,098	5,076
Adultery	2,270	2,611	2,916	3,419	3,977
Separation	1,868	1,959	1,758	2,023	2,243
Cruelty	550	670	750	942	983
Drunkenness	128	150	136	142	165
Intoxication by drugs	1	3	4	5	4
Failure to pay maintenance	3	10	8	3	1
Non-compliance with restitution decree	5	5	5	2	1
Refusal to consummate	30	39	32	42	29
Insanity	7	7	7	6	3
Frequent convictions	12	18	18	25	15
Imprisonment	7	4	3	3	8
Rape	3	4	2	4	9
Sodomy	1	3	2	2	3
Presumption of death	4	4	2	4	6
Other single grounds	1	3	1	2	1
Dual grounds -					
Desertion and adultery	76	68	102	90	87
Desertion and separation	68	88	145	96	79
Desertion and cruelty	50	44	77	59	49
Desertion and drunkenness	24	16	8	14	10
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	4	6	5	3	6
Desertion and frequent convictions	3	4	1	5	2
Desertion and other	2	1	3	2	1
Adultery and separation	9	1	3	4	3
Adultery and cruelty	12	12	16	17	14
Adultery and other	3	2	2	2	..
Separation and failure to pay maintenance	1	..	..	..	..
Separation and other	4	1	2	3	..
Cruelty and drunkenness	126	118	143	160	146
Cruelty and other	..	2	7	5	..
Drunkenness and other	1	..	2	..	..
Other dual grounds	1	2	1	1	12
Three grounds or more	16	13	39	15	14
<u>Total</u>	9,688	10,731	10,930	12,198	12,947
NULLITY					
Bigamy	15	18	14	15	23
Invalid marriage	5	2	1	..	1
Incapacity to consummate	27	23	28	29	15
Other grounds	r4	1	3	1	4
<u>Total</u>	51	44	46	45	43
JUDICIAL SEPARATION					
Desertion	1	1	..	..	1
Adultery	5	r9	r1	r3	2
Cruelty	2	r3	5	..	5
Other grounds	..	3	r2	r3	4
<u>Total</u>	8	16	r8	r6	12

(a) See paragraph 2 of Explanatory Notes.
r - revised.

III. DECREES OF DISSOLUTION

TABLE 7. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION

AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE: AUSTRALIA, 1971

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	Number	Per cent
Under 20	1,085	207	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,308	10.1
20 - 24	3,010	3,358	301	44	15	3	1	..	..	..	1	6,733	52.0
25 - 29	680	1,529	543	112	30	5	3	..	..	..	1	2,903	22.4
30 - 34	116	371	283	146	64	12	4	..	..	1	..	997	7.7
35 - 39	25	106	120	106	70	30	9	2	3	..	..	471	3.6
40 - 44	4	38	39	50	47	34	17	6	1	2	..	238	1.8
45 - 49	4	6	11	23	24	35	23	10	5	..	..	141	1.1
50 - 54	1	1	8	6	11	7	21	23	2	..	..	80	0.6
55 - 59	1	..	1	..	5	4	13	8	3	1	..	36	0.3
60 and over	..	..	1	2	2	3	7	5	7	10	..	37	0.3
Not stated	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
All - No.	4,926	5,617	1,324	490	268	133	98	54	21	14	2	12,947	..
wives - %	38.0	43.4	10.2	3.8	2.1	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.1	..	..	100

TABLE 8. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION

AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION: AUSTRALIA, 1971

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	Number	Per cent
Under 20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20 - 24	10	422	62	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	496	3.8
25 - 29	3	837	1,467	112	8	1	..	..	..	..	1	2,429	18.8
30 - 34	..	151	1,171	961	97	18	8	2	..	..	1	2,409	18.6
35 - 39	..	20	258	811	656	108	13	3	1	..	..	1,870	14.4
40 - 44	..	5	56	239	677	700	131	40	7	2	..	1,857	14.3
45 - 49	..	2	23	67	185	554	616	104	22	7	..	1,580	12.2
50 - 54	..	..	5	5	45	165	387	325	85	20	..	1,037	8.0
55 - 59	..	2	5	7	16	50	140	230	198	50	..	698	5.4
60 and over	..	..	..	1	3	18	53	113	154	226	..	568	4.4
Not stated	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	..
All - No.	13	1,439	3,048	2,204	1,687	1,616	1,349	817	467	305	2	12,947	..
wives - %	0.1	11.1	23.5	17.0	13.0	12.5	10.4	6.3	3.6	2.4	..	..	100

TABLE 9. - DECREES 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	
NUMBER												
1967	783	4,653	2,401	810	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
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
PER CENT												
1967	8.1	48.0	24.8	9.4	4.8	2.3	1.2	0.7	0.4	0.3	..	100
1968	8.8	49.2	23.9	8.9	4.1	2.2	1.4	0.7	0.5	0.4	..	100
1969	9.8	49.9	23.1	8.2	4.3	2.3	1.2	0.7	0.3	0.3	..	100
1970	9.6	51.5	23.1	7.9	3.8	1.9	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.3	..	100
1971	10.1	52.0	22.4	7.7	3.6	1.8	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.3	..	100

TABLE 10. - DECREES 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	
NUMBER												
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
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	133	98	54	21	14	2	12,947
PER CENT												
1967	33.9	43.2	12.2	4.8	2.9	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	..	100
1968	34.9	43.4	11.6	4.3	2.5	1.6	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.2	..	100
1969	36.2	42.9	11.4	4.4	2.2	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.2	..	100
1970	37.6	43.4	10.2	4.0	2.0	1.4	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	..	100
1971	38.0	43.4	10.2	3.8	2.1	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.1	..	100

TABLE 11. - 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	
NUMBER											
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
1970	500	2,229	2,212	1,767	1,713	1,560	964	673	574	6	12,198
1971	496	2,429	2,409	1,870	1,857	1,580	1,037	698	568	3	12,947
PER CENT											
1967	2.6	13.3	16.1	16.0	17.0	13.6	9.6	6.0	5.6	..	100
1968	3.2	15.4	16.8	15.7	15.5	13.0	8.9	5.9	5.5	..	100
1969	3.5	16.0	18.1	15.3	15.4	12.8	8.6	5.5	4.8	..	100
1970	4.1	18.3	18.1	14.5	14.0	12.8	7.9	5.5	4.7	..	100
1971	3.8	18.8	18.6	14.4	14.3	12.2	8.0	5.4	4.4	..	100

TABLE 12. - 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	
NUMBER											
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
1970	1,464	2,723	2,070	1,581	1,482	1,312	796	464	303	3	12,198
1971	1,452	3,048	2,204	1,687	1,616	1,349	817	467	305	2	12,947
PER CENT											
1967	8.7	17.6	16.2	15.8	15.7	11.7	7.8	3.7	2.9	..	100
1968	9.9	19.8	16.2	15.1	14.1	11.0	7.0	3.8	3.0	..	100
1969	10.5	20.7	17.2	14.0	13.9	10.7	7.0	3.3	2.7	..	100
1970	12.0	22.3	17.0	13.0	12.1	10.8	6.5	3.8	2.5	..	100
1971	11.2	23.5	17.0	13.0	12.5	10.4	6.3	3.6	2.4	..	100

**TABLE 13. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION, DURATION OF MARRIAGE
AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE (a) : AUSTRALIA, 1971**

Duration of marriage (years)	Marriages with-											Total marriages dissolved		Total number of children (a)
	No children	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children	5 children	6 children	7 children	8 children	9 or more children	Number	Per cent		
Under 5	792	328	59	13	7	1	..	..	..	..	1,200	9.3	518	
5 and under 6	459	312	81	13	1	1	..	..	..	1	868	6.7	531	
6 " " 7	374	338	148	27	8	1	..	..	..	1	897	6.9	761	
7 " " 8	264	291	204	29	4	2	..	1	..	..	795	6.1	819	
8 " " 9	184	221	213	52	9	2	2	..	..	..	683	5.3	861	
9 " " 10	162	164	204	86	15	5	..	1	..	..	637	4.9	922	
10 " " 11	133	163	209	78	21	6	1	..	..	1	612	4.7	944	
11 " " 12	96	122	214	88	27	7	1	1	..	..	556	4.3	970	
12 " " 13	74	92	176	111	33	5	3	..	..	..	494	3.8	952	
13 " " 14	65	74	154	118	44	10	2	..	..	..	467	3.6	974	
14 " " 15	60	72	146	127	41	11	7	1	..	..	465	3.6	1,013	
15 " " 20	292	285	510	419	215	89	28	11	2	3	1,854	14.3	4,155	
20 and over	1,257	718	655	440	194	83	37	19	10	6	3,419	26.4	5,031	
Total (number)	4,212	3,180	2,973	1,601	619	223	81	34	12	12	12,947	..	..	
marriages dissolved (per cent)	32.5	24.6	23.0	12.4	4.8	1.7	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.1	..	100	..	
Total number of children	..	3,180	5,946	4,803	2,476	1,115	486	238	96	111	..	..	18,451	
(a) Number of children living and under 21 years at time of dissolution	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

(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 14. - 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 children	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children	5 children	6 children	7 children	8 children	9 or more children		
1967	3,249	2,462	2,204	1,077	486	131	57	12	5	5	9,688	13,213
1968	3,727	2,623	2,390	1,219	510	163	63	26	7	3	10,731	14,561
1969	3,552	2,718	2,558	1,323	508	181	60	21	7	2	10,930	15,323
1970	4,111	2,968	2,830	1,402	572	186	80	36	8	5	12,198	16,895
1971	4,212	3,180	2,973	1,601	619	223	81	34	12	12	12,947	18,451

(a) See footnote (a) to Table 13.

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	
NUMBER								
1967	691	2,457	1,958	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
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
PER CENT								
1967	7.1	25.4	20.2	17.4	14.8	8.6	6.5	100
1968	8.0	28.2	19.8	15.6	13.3	8.2	6.9	100
1969	8.9	28.0	20.7	14.8	13.4	8.1	6.1	100
1970	10.0	29.4	19.4	14.0	12.6	8.0	6.5	100
1971	9.3	30.0	20.0	14.3	12.4	7.7	6.3	100

TABLE 16. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION
AGES OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE (a) : AUSTRALIA, 1971

Ages of children (a) (years)	Number of children				Ages of children (a) (years)	Number of children			
	Decree to husband	Decree to wife	Decree to both	Total		Decree to husband	Decree to wife	Decree to both	Total
Under 1	40	104	..	144	10	350	736	2	1,088
1	146	283	1	430	11	355	681	..	1,036
2	250	515	1	766	12	317	644	3	964
3	352	661	1	1,014	13	302	645	1	948
4	366	681	..	1,047	14	283	573	3	859
5	387	786	..	1,173	15	288	532	1	821
6	444	802	2	1,248	16 to 20	1,144	2,134	3	3,281
7	404	824	2	1,230	Not stated	4	4	..	8
8	429	824	..	1,253	Total number of children (a)	6,233	12,198	20	18,451
9	372	769	..	1,141					

(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 17. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION, MARITAL STATUS
OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE : AUSTRALIA, 1971

Marital status of husband at time of marriage	Marital status of wife at time of marriage			
	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Single	11,173	120	571	11,864
Widowed	81	66	74	221
Divorced	480	75	307	862
<u>Total</u>	11,734	261	952	12,947

**TABLE 18. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION
DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION : AUSTRALIA, 1971**

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	..	305	555	163	58	36	35	21	10	17	..	1,200	9.3
5 and under 6	..	132	460	144	48	31	18	14	12	9	..	868	6.7
6 " " 7	..	51	477	219	64	42	22	6	8	8	..	897	6.9
7 " " 8	..	6	388	237	76	29	21	16	10	11	1	795	6.1
8 " " 9	..	2	249	269	75	32	31	5	15	5	..	683	5.3
9 " " 10	..	..	175	281	83	44	22	14	7	11	..	637	4.9
10 " " 11	..	..	88	318	104	50	22	12	8	10	..	612	4.7
11 " " 12	..	..	34	275	135	55	25	9	13	10	..	556	4.3
12 " " 13	..	..	3	208	153	67	34	14	6	8	1	494	3.8
13 " " 14	..	..	..	157	190	80	29	9	4	8	..	467	3.6
14 " " 15	..	..	..	81	231	78	41	18	9	7	..	465	3.6
15 " " 20	..	..	..	57	635	715	256	92	57	41	1	1,854	14.3
20 and over	..	..	..	..	28	598	1,024	807	539	423	..	3,419	26.4
Total (number)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
marriages dissolved	..	496	2,429	2,409	1,870	1,857	1,580	1,037	698	568	3	12,947	..
(per cent)	..	3.8	18.8	18.6	14.4	14.3	12.2	8.0	5.4	4.4	..	..	100
WIFE													
Under 5	13	657	340	87	29	18	23	17	10	6	..	1,200	9.3
5 and under 6	..	360	368	66	28	14	10	13	4	5	..	868	6.7
6 " " 7	..	236	500	87	25	22	13	6	5	3	..	897	6.9
7 " " 8	..	135	482	101	30	13	6	19	9	9	..	795	6.1
8 " " 9	..	46	437	108	30	24	19	6	5	7	1	683	5.3
9 " " 10	..	5	353	179	36	20	22	8	9	4	1	637	4.9
10 " " 11	..	..	279	229	44	21	16	10	8	5	..	612	4.7
11 " " 12	..	..	169	267	62	23	15	8	4	8	..	556	4.3
12 " " 13	..	..	81	272	64	39	17	10	6	5	..	494	3.8
13 " " 14	..	..	36	263	105	29	20	6	3	5	..	467	3.6
14 " " 15	..	..	3	234	143	48	18	11	4	4	..	465	3.6
15 " " 20	..	..	..	310	896	392	151	54	32	19	..	1,854	14.3
20 and over	..	..	..	1	195	953	1,019	658	368	225	..	3,419	26.4
Total (number)	13	1,439	3,048	2,204	1,687	1,616	1,349	817	467	305	2	12,947	..
marriages dissolved	13	1,439	3,048	2,204	1,687	1,616	1,349	817	467	305	2	12,947	..
(per cent)	0.1	11.1	23.5	17.0	13.0	12.5	10.4	6.3	3.6	2.4	..	..	100

**TABLE 19. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION, DURATION OF MARRIAGE
AND MARITAL STATUS OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE : AUSTRALIA, 1971**

Duration of marriage (years)	Marital status at time of marriage of -							
	Husband				Wife			
	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Under 5	1,056	36	108	1,200	1,066	32	102	1,200
5 - 9	3,543	74	263	3,880	3,507	83	290	3,880
10 - 14	2,353	45	196	2,594	2,306	62	226	2,594
15 - 19	1,664	29	161	1,854	1,654	38	162	1,854
20 - 24	1,494	18	93	1,605	1,456	30	119	1,605
25 - 29	949	10	34	993	946	13	34	993
30 and over	805	9	7	821	799	3	19	821
Total	11,864	221	862	12,947	11,734	261	952	12,947

TABLE 20. - 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	Widow- ed	Div- orced	Not stated	Total	Single	Widow- ed	Div- orced	Not stated	Total
NUMBER										
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
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
PER CENT										
1967	90.3	2.1	7.6	..	100	88.8	2.7	8.5	..	100
1968	90.6	2.2	7.2	..	100	89.4	2.7	7.9	..	100
1969	91.3	1.9	6.9	..	100	89.7	2.5	7.8	..	100
1970	91.7	1.8	6.5	..	100	90.6	2.2	7.2	..	100
1971	91.6	1.7	6.7	..	100	90.6	2.0	7.4	..	100

TABLE 21. - DECREES OF DISSOLUTION, NUMBER OF
TIMES PARTIES HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY DIVORCED : AUSTRALIA, 1971

Husband	Wife					
	No previous divorces	1 previous divorce	2 previous divorces	3 previous divorces	Not Stated	Total
No previous divorces	11,432	624	21	2	..	12,079
1 previous divorce	537	278	18	2	..	835
2 previous divorces	18	9	2	..	..	29
3 previous divorces	1	2	..	..	..	3
Not stated	..	..	..	..	1	1
<u>Total</u>	11,988	913	41	4	1	12,947

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

2 MAY 1972

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.