



CATALOGUE NUMBER 3308.2

### DIVORCES - VICTORIA 1983

10 JANUARY 1985

Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning Information Services INQUIRIES on Melbourne (03) 63 0181; for advice on the interpretation of these statistics ask for Mr Tony Pearce.

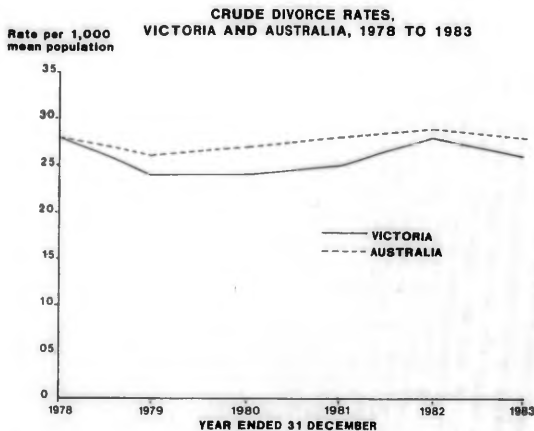
#### MAIN FEATURES

For the calendar year 1983, Victoria experienced a decline in the number of divorces granted compared with the previous year. In 1983, there were 10,663 divorces granted, a decrease of 5.4 per cent over 1982 (11,266).

The crude divorce rate fell from 2.8 divorces per thousand mean Estimated Resident Population in 1982 to 2.6 in 1983 (compared with 2.9 for Australia in 1982 and 2.8 in 1983).

While the number of divorces (and crude divorce rate) declined for the year 1983, it is still higher than for each of the years 1979 to 1981.

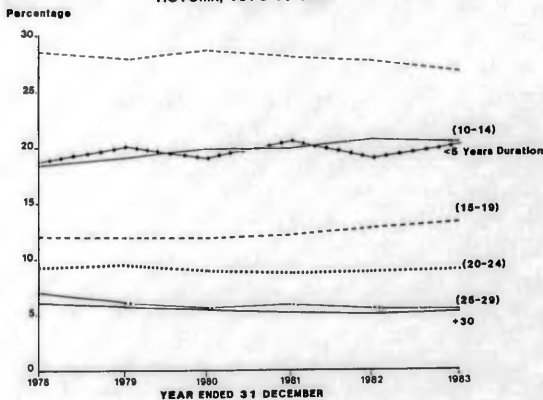
Diagram 1



As in previous years, the 1983 age specific divorce rate among males was highest at ages 30-34 (14.3 per 1,000) and among females at ages 25-29 (14.8 per 1,000). The median ages of husbands and wives at marriage prior to divorce were 23.7 and 21.2 years, respectively. Median ages at separation were 33.9 and 31.2 years, respectively and median ages at divorce were 36.5 and 33.7 years, respectively.

The median duration of marriages ending in divorce during 1983 was 10.7 years with 20.1 per cent of divorces having a duration of marriage of less than 5 years (compared with 19.6 per cent in 1982). The median interval between marriage and separation was 8.0 years in 1983 compared with 7.8 years in 1982.

**DURATION OF MARRIAGE,  
VICTORIA, 1978 TO 1983**



The proportion of persons who had been divorced previously increased for husbands from 8.9 per cent in 1982 to 10.3 per cent in 1983 and for wives also increased from 9.5 per cent in 1982 to 9.8 per cent in 1983.

CONTENTS

Table	Page
Main features	1
Explanatory notes	3
1 Summary of divorces, 1978 to 1983	5
2 Relative ages of parties at marriage, 1983	6
3 Relative ages of parties at separation, 1983	6
4 Ages of parties at marriage and duration of marriage, 1983	7
5 Ages of parties at separation and interval between marriage and separation, 1983	8
6 Number of children and duration of marriage, 1983	9
7 Age of youngest child and number of children, 1983	9
8 Relative marital status of parties at marriage, 1983	10
9 Duration of marriage and previous marital status, 1983	10
10 Relative birthplaces of parties, 1983	11
Appendix Family Court of Australia - statistical report	

## Introduction

This publication contains annual statistics of divorces granted in Victoria, supplementing those published in the national publication Divorces, Australia (Catalogue No. 3307.0). Similar publications are to be produced by most ABS State offices commencing with the 1983 calendar year.

2. The Family Law Act 1975 came into operation throughout Australia on 5 January 1976, repealing the Matrimonial Causes legislation which had been operative since 1961. Under Family Law legislation the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage is the only ground on which a dissolution of marriage is granted. This ground is established by the husband and wife having lived apart for 12 months or more and there being no reasonable likelihood of reconciliation. Applications for nullity of marriage under Family Law legislation must be on the ground that the marriage is void because of failure to meet a legal requirement such as that neither party be already lawfully married to another person. There is no provision for judicial separation under Family Law legislation.

3. Successful applicants for a decree of dissolution of marriage under Family Law legislation are initially granted a decree nisi. This becomes absolute after one month unless it is rescinded, appealed against, or the Court has not declared its satisfaction as to proper arrangements having been made for the welfare of children involved.

## Statistics

4. The statistics shown in this publication relate to calendar years and are compiled by the ABS from a Statistical Report completed by the Family Court in respect of each application which resulted in a decree absolute being granted. Such reports are forwarded to the ABS on finalisation of proceedings. A reproduction of the Statistical Report appears in Appendix A.

5. In the interpretation of data it is important to bear in mind that the availability of judges and the complexity of the cases brought before them can affect the number of decrees made absolute or granted in any one year. A rise in numbers in one year may be due wholly or in part to the clearing of a backlog of cases from an earlier period.

6. The number of divorces shown for Victoria is dependent on the number of cases heard by Family Law Courts in Victoria. As there is no residential requirement under Family Law, applicants may be resident anywhere in Australia. Caution should therefore be exercised in interpreting the rates shown in this bulletin.

## Definitions

7. Divorces. The term divorce, as used in this publication refers to a decree of dissolution of marriage made absolute. Prior to 1980 the term was used to include nullities of marriage, details of which have not been collected by the ABS from 1980 onwards.

8. The crude divorce rate is the number of divorces granted per 1,000 of the mean Estimated Resident Population. In the interpretation of this rate it must be kept in mind that a large and varying proportion of the population used in the denominator is unmarried or below the minimum age of marriage.

9. The age specific divorce rate (per 1,000 population) relates the number of divorces by age at decree made absolute to the Estimated Resident Population in specific age groups. Males under 18 and females under 16 are excluded from the population, as are 'not stated' ages.

10. The median value (age, duration or interval) is that value which divides the relevant population into two equal parts, one half of cases falling below this value and one half of cases exceeding it.

11. Children are unmarried children of the marriage who were aged under 18 years at the time of application for divorce as defined by the Family Law Act 1975; these may include adopted, ex-nuptial and foster children, and children from a former marriage. Children who are married or aged 18 years or more are not subject to custody and guardianship orders and are excluded.

12. Duration of marriage is the interval between the date of marriage and the date the decree was made absolute. Date of final separation is the date, given on the application for divorce, from which the period of living apart is calculated for the purpose of establishing the grounds for divorce. In determining the date of final separation, a

single period of resumed co-habitation of less than 3 months may be ignored, provided the periods of living apart before and after resumed co-habitation amount to 12 months or more in total.

#### Additional statistics available

13. In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer printout, clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information.

#### Related publications

14. Other ABS publications which may be of interest are:

- Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)  
(quarterly)
- Estimated Age Distribution of the Population, States and Territories of Australia (3201.0)
- Marriages, Australia (3306.0)
- Divorces, Australia (3307.0)
- Marriages, Victoria (3307.2)

Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of Publications, Australia (1101.0). The ABS also

issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a Publications Advice (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. These are available from any ABS Office.

#### Symbols and other usages

na	not available
np	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
p	preliminary
r	figure of series revised since last issue
**	not applicable
-	nil or rounded to zero
—	break in continuity of series (where a line is drawn between two consecutive figures in the same column, or alongside two or more figures in consecutive columns)

Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

ERLE BOURKE  
Deputy Commonwealth Statistician

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF DIVORCES - VICTORIA, 1978 TO 1983

Particulars	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Divorces granted, number	10,821	9,471	9,207	9,769	11,266	10,663
Crude divorce rate	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.8	2.6
Age specific divorce rate						
Husband - Under 20	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 24	3.7	3.3	2.8	2.5	2.8	2.3
25 - 29	15.1	12.2	12.2	12.9	13.1	11.7
30 - 34	14.7	13.6	13.2	13.6	16.2	14.3
35 - 39	13.2	12.0	11.3	12.3	14.1	13.5
40 - 44	11.1	10.2	9.8	10.0	12.2	12.0
45 - 49	9.9	8.2	7.8	8.0	9.7	9.2
50 - 54	7.7	6.1	5.6	6.6	6.8	6.8
55 and over	r3.1	2.5	r2.3	2.4	r2.6	2.5
Wife - Under 20	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
20 - 24	9.5	8.0	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.4
25 - 29	16.2	14.2	13.9	15.1	16.2	14.8
30 - 34	14.4	12.7	12.8	12.9	15.8	13.9
35 - 39	12.4	10.7	10.2	11.1	13.1	12.3
40 - 44	9.8	9.0	8.8	9.0	10.5	10.2
45 - 49	8.3	7.0	6.6	6.8	8.0	7.5
50 - 54	6.4	4.9	3.9	4.7	5.2	5.1
55 and over	1.7	r1.3	r1.2	1.2	r1.3	1.3
Marital status at marriage of						
Husband, number -						
Never married	9,992	8,701	8,462	8,885	10,120	9,430
Widowed	160	135	108	104	139	137
Divorced	669	635	637	780	1,007	1,096
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wife, number -						
Never married	9,888	8,633	8,398	8,869	10,037	9,437
Widowed	220	195	165	150	158	178
Divorced	713	643	644	750	1,071	1,048
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Median age at marriage (years) -						
Husband	23.4	23.4	23.4	23.5	23.6	23.7
Wife	21.0	21.0	21.0	21.1	21.2	21.2
Median age at separation (years) -						
Husband	32.5	32.7	32.7	32.9	33.3	33.9
Wife	29.8	30.1	30.1	30.2	30.8	31.2
Median age at divorce (years) -						
Husband	35.7	35.5	35.3	35.5	35.8	36.5
Wife	32.9	32.8	32.7	32.9	33.5	33.7
Median duration of marriage (years)	10.6	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.6	10.7
Median interval between marriage and separation (years)	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.8	8.0
Divorces Involving children -						
Number	6,728	5,741	5,619	5,942	6,867	6,577
Percentage of total	62.2	60.6	61.0	60.8	61.0	61.7
Average Issue	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

TABLE 2. DIVORCES, RELATIVE AGES OF PARTIES AT MARRIAGE - VICTORIA, 1983

Age of husband (years)	Age of wife (years)										Total
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not stated	
Under 20	673	174	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	862
20 - 24	2,315	3,036	266	40	15	4	-	-	-	13	5,689
25 - 29	427	1,297	495	105	25	12	4	-	1	9	2,375
30 - 34	84	285	239	142	46	14	5	1	-	1	817
35 - 39	19	69	92	101	64	26	9	3	-	1	384
40 - 44	5	22	37	51	39	23	8	5	1	1	192
45 - 49	1	6	15	14	23	32	16	8	2	-	117
50 - 54	1	5	2	7	7	12	24	13	6	-	77
55 and over	1	4	2	4	5	10	15	25	48	4	118
Not stated	15	8	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
Total	3,541	4,906	1,165	468	224	133	81	55	58	32	10,663

TABLE 3. DIVORCES, RELATIVE AGES OF PARTIES AT SEPARATION - VICTORIA, 1983

Age of husband (years)	Age of wife (years)										Total
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not stated	
Under 20	28	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	38
20 - 24	160	826	105	13	4	1	-	-	-	2	1,111
25 - 29	33	931	1,221	157	21	3	2	-	1	6	2,375
30 - 34	11	197	912	998	120	25	10	4	-	8	2,285
35 - 39	2	35	199	722	634	80	20	8	2	1	1,703
40 - 44	3	13	54	171	512	406	58	17	6	4	1,244
45 - 49	1	4	10	38	123	354	226	37	10	2	805
50 - 54	-	4	4	14	41	103	186	157	52	1	562
55 and over	-	3	4	8	18	31	59	136	236	5	500
Not stated	4	10	8	7	2	-	-	-	-	9	40
Total	242	2,031	2,518	2,128	1,475	1,003	561	359	307	39	10,663

TABLE 4. AGES OF PARTIES AT MARRIAGE AND DURATION OF MARRIAGE - VICTORIA, 1983

Duration of marriage (years)	Age group (years)										Total
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not stated	
HUSBAND											
1	8	59	41	30	16	9	6	3	13	3	188
2	35	240	134	53	36	15	11	12	24	6	566
3	38	308	167	72	41	23	9	13	14	1	686
4	44	333	164	64	26	22	17	11	15	4	700
5	45	298	147	71	38	22	15	6	7	2	651
6	48	304	131	64	36	14	12	8	16	1	634
7	67	307	102	32	19	7	11	5	6	2	558
8	50	280	89	36	17	8	5	4	5	1	495
9	50	287	107	30	17	8	8	2	3	1	513
10 - 14	200	1,300	443	122	47	34	14	5	12	5	2,182
15 - 19	134	804	319	85	43	14	4	6	3	1	1,413
20 and over	143	1,169	531	158	48	16	5	2	-	5	2,077
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>5,689</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>817</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>10,663</b>
WIFE											
1	35	74	29	18	13	2	2	3	11	1	188
2	121	260	80	30	33	10	11	7	12	2	566
3	174	281	114	48	26	17	13	4	9	-	686
4	207	301	82	43	21	18	10	10	4	4	700
5	175	280	89	54	15	19	6	7	3	3	651
6	191	266	89	31	25	11	12	4	5	-	634
7	201	240	65	19	10	8	2	6	5	2	558
8	193	205	56	16	7	6	6	1	3	2	495
9	184	237	45	24	7	7	6	2	1	-	513
10 - 14	833	1,023	180	77	26	20	6	8	4	5	2,182
15 - 19	517	719	107	32	20	9	6	2	1	-	1,413
20 and over	710	1,020	229	76	21	6	1	1	-	13	2,077
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,541</b>	<b>4,906</b>	<b>1,165</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>10,663</b>

TABLE 5. DIVORCES, AGES OF PARTIES AT SEPARATION AND INTERVAL BETWEEN MARRIAGE AND SEPARATION  
- VICTORIA, 1983

Interval (years)	Age group (years)									Not stated	Total
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over		
HUSBAND											
Under 1	28	275	182	100	55	33	23	10	35	15	756
1	6	311	268	97	47	27	13	21	23	4	817
2	4	247	299	121	52	36	13	9	17	2	800
3	-	172	317	126	43	25	19	15	17	3	737
4	-	58	324	130	52	34	16	15	14	1	644
5	-	40	319	130	55	29	9	12	14	-	608
6	-	5	233	132	36	23	10	6	9	-	454
7	-	3	203	202	67	30	9	8	8	1	531
8	-	-	142	214	66	20	11	5	11	1	470
9	-	-	62	244	88	26	10	7	9	-	446
10 - 14	-	-	26	770	713	195	61	28	22	2	1,817
15 - 19	-	-	-	19	422	498	152	56	26	2	1,175
20 and over	-	-	-	-	7	268	459	370	295	-	1,399
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>2,375</b>	<b>2,285</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>1,244</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10,663</b>
WIFE											
Under 1	134	301	135	69	45	21	14	9	20	8	756
1	66	429	171	53	36	21	16	10	15	-	817
2	35	427	185	72	35	14	13	9	8	2	800
3	6	352	231	64	29	19	15	8	12	1	737
4	-	237	232	81	41	19	16	12	6	-	644
5	1	183	291	77	19	14	6	5	10	2	608
6	-	66	266	78	22	10	5	2	4	1	454
7	-	28	338	102	32	13	3	10	3	2	531
8	-	6	264	135	35	12	10	2	5	1	470
9	-	2	195	167	42	17	7	6	5	5	446
10 - 14	-	-	209	1,070	404	77	33	9	15	-	1,817
15 - 19	-	-	1	160	659	262	56	20	15	2	1,175
20 and over	-	-	-	-	76	504	367	257	189	6	1,399
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>2,031</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>2,128</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>10,663</b>

TABLE 6. DIVORCES, NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND DURATION OF MARRIAGE - VICTORIA, 1983

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children						Total divorces	Total children
	0	1	2	3	4 or more			
1	148	27	10	3	-		188	56
2	422	103	25	12	4		566	205
3	440	164	63	11	8		686	361
4	384	203	87	19	7		700	463
5	301	233	84	22	11		651	514
6	298	178	116	32	10		634	548
7	228	150	135	37	8		558	570
8	156	141	155	30	13		495	594
9	144	115	178	65	11		513	710
10 - 14	317	347	963	440	115		2,182	4,080
15 - 19	129	182	560	379	163		1,413	3,142
20 and over	1,119	475	321	119	43		2,077	1,659
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-		-	-
Total divorces	4,086	2,318	2,697	1,169	393		10,663	**
Total children	**	2,318	5,394	3,507	1,683		**	12,902

TABLE 7. DIVORCES, AGE OF YOUNGEST CHILD AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN - VICTORIA, 1983

Age of youngest child (years)	Number of children					Total divorces involving children	Total children	Average number of children
	1	2	3	4	5 and over			
Under 1	32	28	20	8	1	89	185	2.1
1	145	100	39	8	4	296	521	1.8
2	219	178	72	26	8	503	941	1.9
3	273	210	92	23	5	603	1,087	1.8
4	213	228	113	34	7	595	1,185	2.0
5-9	562	1,034	496	144	37	2,273	4,892	2.2
10-14	426	780	308	69	13	1,596	3,253	2.0
15-17	438	129	24	4	-	595	784	1.3
Not stated	10	10	5	1	1	27	54	2.0
Total divorces involving children	2,318	2,697	1,169	317	76	6,577	**	**
Total children	2,318	5,394	3,507	1,268	415	**	12,902	2.0

TABLE 8. DIVORCES, RELATIVE MARITAL STATUS OF PARTIES AT MARRIAGE - VICTORIA, 1983

Marital status of husband	Marital status of wife			Total
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	
Never married	8,874	69	487	9,430
Widowed	37	45	55	137
Divorced	526	64	506	1,096
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,437</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>10,663</b>

TABLE 9. DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS - VICTORIA, 1983

Duration of marriage (years)	Husband				Wife			
	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Never married	Widowed	Divorced	Total
Under 5	1,666	54	420	2,140	1,677	68	395	2,140
5- 9	2,383	42	426	2,851	2,413	90	388	2,851
10-14	2,031	19	132	2,182	2,014	21	147	2,182
15-19	1,345	11	57	1,413	1,331	18	64	1,413
20-24	914	8	25	947	908	10	29	947
25-29	553	1	24	578	560	3	15	578
30 and over	538	2	12	552	534	8	10	552
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,430</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>10,663</b>	<b>9,437</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>10,663</b>
Median duration	11.6	6.5	5.9	10.7	11.5	7.1	6.0	10.7

TABLE 10. DIVORCES, RELATIVE BIRTHPLACES OF PARTIES - VICTORIA, 1983

Country of birth	Number of divorces involving -							
	Husband born in country shown and wife born in -				Wife born in country shown and husband born in -			
	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country (a)	Total husbands	Australia	Same overseas country	Different overseas country (a)	Total wives
Australia	6,468	**	895	7,363	6,468	**	1,408	7,876
New Zealand	56	68	26	150	43	68	32	143
Other Oceania	9	2	5	16	11	2	5	18
Africa -								
Egypt	20	14	11	45	12	14	20	46
South Africa	8	9	5	22	7	9	5	21
Other Africa	21	12	12	45	8	12	15	35
Total Africa	49	35	28	112	27	35	40	102
America -								
Canada	11	2	5	18	8	2	8	18
United States	25	11	8	44	20	11	12	43
Other America	4	20	11	35	3	20	8	31
Total America	40	33	24	97	31	33	28	92
Asia -								
Cyprus	2	9	6	17	1	9	10	20
India	17	16	6	39	8	16	6	30
Indonesia	10	3	3	16	5	3	5	13
Lebanon	5	15	6	26	-	15	3	18
Malaysia	19	11	9	39	9	11	5	25
Philippines	3	5	1	9	12	5	9	26
Turkey	4	25	7	36	1	25	4	30
Vietnam	1	12	-	13	-	12	2	14
Other Asia	50	36	34	120	21	36	41	98
Total Asia	111	132	72	315	57	132	85	274
Europe -								
Germany	128	48	55	231	62	48	43	153
Greece	42	84	18	144	9	84	22	115
Italy	88	97	44	229	25	97	31	153
Malta	44	26	14	84	14	26	4	44
Netherlands	101	42	33	176	51	42	31	124
Poland	18	59	30	107	9	59	28	96
UK and Ireland	566	470	94	1,130	470	470	124	1,064
Yugoslavia	41	139	48	228	14	139	22	175
Other Europe	90	69	74	233	44	69	65	178
Total Europe	1,118	1,034	410	2,562	698	1,034	370	2,102
USSR	5	11	5	21	2	11	8	21
Other and not stated	20	-	7	27	26	-	9	35
Total	7,876	1,315	1,472	10,663	7,363	1,315	1,985	10,663

(a) Includes not stated.



FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA - STATISTICAL REPORT

Instructions

1. This report is to be made out in respect of applications for dissolution of marriage.

2. All fields should be right-justified with leading zeros (e.g. "4 March 1908" show as

Month	Year
0 3	0 8

show File Identification Details as

Year	Number
8 3	0 0 1 5 3

REGISTRY .....

(See back of form for identifier)

Year	Number
7 3	4 1 6 7 8

FILE IDENTIFICATION DETAILS .....

Month	Year
9 10	11 12

DATE APPLICATION FILED .....

SEX OF APPLICANT .....

(Male 1, Female 2)

Month	Year
14 15	16 17

DATE OF MARRIAGE .....

(If date of marriage unknown enter 99 99)

Month	Year
18	

MARITAL STATUS OF HUSBAND AT TIME OF MARRIAGE .....

(Bachelor 1, Widowed 2, Divorced 3)

19
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MARITAL STATUS OF WIFE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE .....

(Spinster 1, Widowed 2, Divorced 3)

20 21 22
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PLACE OF BIRTH OF HUSBAND .....

Please code Australia or country (abroad) as per code list  
- see back of form for common codes  
(If unable to code country, please write in any details available)

Month	Year
23 24	25 26

DATE OF BIRTH OF HUSBAND .....

(If date of birth unknown enter 99 99)

Month	Year
27 28 29	

PLACE OF BIRTH OF WIFE .....

Please code Australia or country (abroad) as per code list  
- see back of form for common codes  
(If unable to code country, please write in any details available)

Month	Year
30 31	32 33

DATE OF BIRTH OF WIFE .....

(If date of birth unknown enter 99 99)

Month	Year
34 35	36 37

DATE OF FINAL SEPARATION .....

Month	Year
40 41	42 43

NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE .....

(AGED UNDER 18 AT TIME OF APPLICATION)  
(If no children, please code 00)

Month	Year
44 45	46 47

DATE OF BIRTH OF YOUNGEST CHILD OF THE MARRIAGE .....

(If no children please leave code boxes blank;  
(If date of birth unknown enter 99 99)

Month	Year
48 49	

DATE DECREE MADE ABSOLUTE .....

Month	Year
44 45	46 47