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CHAPTER 15

LAW, ORDER, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

This chapter provides summary information about criminal and civil court proceedings (including divorce and bankruptcy); selected crime reported or becoming known to the police; police strengths; prisons; expenditure on law and order; and patents, trademarks and copyright. The main sources for further information for individual States are the State Year Books and Statistical Registers, and the annual reports of the relevant justice authorities.

The statistics in this chapter are influenced by a number of factors which affect comparability from State to State and from year to year, such as differences in the jurisdiction of courts; changes in the law in particular States and differences in the laws between States; differences in the methods of compiling the figures (e.g. in respect of persons convicted for more than one offence); the prevailing attitude to laws such as those connected with liquor, vagrancy, gaming, and traffic offences; and the strength and distribution of the police forces.

Details of the development and structure of the State, Territory, and Commonwealth legal systems are given in Year Book No. 55, pages 565-7 and Year Book No. 56, page 441. The only notable change since then occurred in South Australia where the *Local Courts Act Amendment Act, 1969* came into effect on 20 August 1970. It provides for the establishment of District Criminal Courts. Provision has been made for the division of the State into districts and for the appointment by the Senior Judge, of judges known as Recorders, to courts in each of these districts. Under the Act the District Court has the jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court in respect of indictable offences except for capital offences and for felonies and misdemeanours where the maximum punishment is imprisonment exceeding ten years.

Lower (magistrates') courts

Particulars of the powers of magistrates, and of special provisions for dealing with juvenile offenders in special courts in the various States and Territories are given in Year Book No. 55, pages 567 to 571. The statistics in the following tables are influenced by the factors listed at the beginning of this chapter and, in particular by differences in the jurisdiction of lower courts in the various States.

Criminal proceedings

The number of charges heard at magistrates' courts in each State and Territory in the years 1965 to 1969 are given in the following table. The statistics relate to individual offences for which persons were charged, except for Queensland where proceedings against a person for a number of offences at the one hearing are counted as one charge.

**MAGISTRATES' COURTS(a): CHARGES HEARD, STATES AND TERRITORIES
1965 TO 1969(b)**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1965</i>	<i>1966</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>
New South Wales	341,171	338,808	336,746	337,540	361,377
Victoria	323,644	307,465	318,172	326,445	341,284
Queensland(c)(d)	113,568	111,743	95,155	100,046	107,375
South Australia(c)	71,468	83,080	98,588	117,081	118,877
Western Australia	67,244	66,863	76,458	86,836	93,157
Tasmania	36,535	37,624	36,550	35,077	32,587
Northern Territory	(e)7,519	(e)7,961	10,336	10,459	(f)13,153
Australian Capital Territory	7,845	9,025	7,318	7,647	6,685
Australia	968,994	962,569	979,323	1,021,131	1,074,495

(a) Includes Children's Courts, except for Northern Territory. (b) Excludes minor traffic offences settled without court proceedings. (c) Year ended 30 June. (d) A person charged on several counts at the one hearing is included only once. (e) Excludes courts at Tennant Creek and Katherine. (f) Excludes court at Tennant Creek.

Differences between States in the preceding table, and within States over a period of time, are influenced by the large number of traffic offences and the arrangements which have been introduced at various times for dealing with them. Provision exists in the States and the Australian Capital Territory for settlement of parking and minor traffic offences by payment of fines without court proceedings. The numbers involved are shown in the next table.

**MINOR TRAFFIC OFFENCES SETTLED BY PAYMENT OF FINES
WITHOUT COURT PROCEEDINGS, STATES AND A.C.T., 1965 TO 1969**

<i>State and Territory</i>	<i>1965</i>	<i>1966</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>
New South Wales	400,459	464,122	411,447	426,496	418,626
Victoria	229,478	313,529	343,432	410,857	477,332
Queensland(a)	115,446	209,417	264,617	253,429	236,347
South Australia(a)	121,535	240,359	240,014	239,619	244,120
Western Australia	51,167	64,842	62,827	83,146	116,820
Tasmania	40,917	50,914	45,081	55,677	56,076
Australian Capital Territory	5,145	4,590	6,765	4,430	4,340
Total	964,147	1,347,773	1,374,183	1,473,654	1,553,661

(a) Year ended 30 June.

The following tables show the number of cases dealt with in magistrates' courts, in which convictions were made.

**CASES AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS(a) IN WHICH CONVICTIONS WERE MADE, BY
CLASS OF OFFENCE: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1969**

<i>Class of offence</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld (b)(c)</i>	<i>S.A. (b)</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T. (d)</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Against the person	4,923	4,170	815	785	1,254	580	350	172	13,049
Against property	34,369	25,829	6,042	5,879	12,300	2,921	720	653	88,713
Forgery and offences against the currency	1,291	287	8	14	68	96	237	145	2,146
Against good order	80,980	33,394	31,201	11,385	17,370	1,653	6,897	817	183,697
Other(e)	187,734	233,894	50,975	87,903	54,964	21,265	3,883	3,894	644,512
Total	309,297	297,574	89,041	105,966	85,956	26,515	12,087	5,681	932,117

(a) Includes Children's Courts except for Northern Territory. (b) Year ended 30 June. (c) A person convicted on several counts at the one hearing is included only once. (d) Excludes court at Tennant Creek. (e) Includes traffic offences other than minor traffic offences settled without court proceedings.

**CASES AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS(a) IN WHICH CONVICTIONS WERE MADE
STATES AND TERRITORIES(b), 1965 TO 1969**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1965</i>	<i>1966</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>
New South Wales	304,053	299,780	297,697	290,616	309,297
Victoria	296,542	279,631	286,316	291,821	297,574
Queensland(c)(d)	101,955	98,214	82,271	85,363	89,041
South Australia(c)	62,238	71,694	87,110	105,027	105,966
Western Australia	64,014	63,489	72,798	81,892	85,956
Tasmania	31,256	32,414	31,525	30,100	26,515
Northern Territory	(e)7,026	(e)7,402	9,437	9,416	(f)12,087
Australian Capital Territory	6,688	7,793	6,021	6,947	5,681
Australia	873,772	860,417	873,175	901,182	932,117

(a) Includes Children's Courts except for Northern Territory. (b) Excludes minor traffic offences settled without court proceedings. (c) Year ended 30 June. (d) A person convicted on several counts at the one hearing is included only once. (e) Excludes courts at Tennant Creek and Katherine. (f) Excludes court at Tennant Creek.

The number of cases in which convictions for drunkenness were recorded during each of the years 1965 to 1969 are given in the following table.

**DRUNKENNESS CASES^(a) IN WHICH CONVICTIONS WERE MADE
STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1965 TO 1969**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1965</i>	<i>1966</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>
New South Wales	63,143	56,159	55,134	57,710	59,048
Victoria	23,790	24,279	23,855	24,338	25,582
Queensland ^{(b)(c)}	29,224	28,791	29,530	28,409	28,140
South Australia ^(b)	7,110	7,334	6,109	6,889	7,528
Western Australia	8,288	9,033	10,722	11,146	11,970
Tasmania	491	461	481	501	598
Northern Territory	(d)3,938	(d)3,231	4,598	5,216	(e)6,299
Australian Capital Territory .	401	377	313	316	388
Australia	136,385	129,665	130,742	134,525	139,553

(a) Includes Children's Courts except for Northern Territory. (b) Year ended 30 June.
(c) A person convicted on several counts at the one hearing is included only once. (d) Excludes courts at Tennant Creek and Katherine. (e) Excludes court at Tennant Creek.

Convictions for certain serious offences at lower (magistrates') courts

The figures given in the preceding tables refer to all convictions, and include offences of a technical nature, drunkenness, and minor breaches of good order, which come under the heading of crime in a very different sense from the more serious offences. The following table has therefore been prepared to show convictions at magistrates' courts for the years 1965 to 1969 for offences against the person, offences against property, forgery, and offences against the currency.

**CONVICTIONS FOR CERTAIN SERIOUS OFFENCES^(a) AT MAGISTRATES'
COURTS^(b): STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1965 TO 1969**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1965</i>	<i>1966</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>
New South Wales	34,585	34,911	35,809	37,367	40,583
Victoria	23,785	25,804	27,355	26,338	30,286
Queensland ^{(c)(d)}	6,160	6,900	6,789	6,604	6,865
South Australia ^(c)	4,813	5,085	5,180	5,817	6,678
Western Australia	7,991	9,357	10,207	12,065	13,622
Tasmania	3,670	3,285	3,278	3,650	3,597
Northern Territory	(e)627	(e)647	818	941	(f)1,307
Australian Capital Territory .	627	761	895	1,133	970
Australia	82,258	86,750	90,331	93,915	103,908

(a) Offences against the person, offences against property, forgery, and offences against the currency. (b) Includes Children's Courts except for Northern Territory. (c) Year ended 30 June. (d) A person convicted on several counts at the one hearing is included only once. (e) Excludes courts at Tennant Creek and Katherine. (f) Excludes court at Tennant Creek.

Committals to higher (judges') courts

In the case of other than minor offences a preliminary hearing is held before a stipendiary magistrate or justice of the peace for the purpose of determining whether a *prima facie* case has been made out. If the magistrate or justice of the peace finds that there is a case to answer, the person charged is committed for trial at a higher court. The numbers of such committals are shown in the following tables.

COMMITTALS TO HIGHER COURTS(a), BY CLASS OF OFFENCE: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1969

<i>Class of offence</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld (b)(c)</i>	<i>S.A. (b)</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T. (d)</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Against the person	1,993	1,268	369	275	107	137	28	37	4,214
Against property	7,014	3,053	1,198	433	807	532	109	131	13,277
Forgery and offences against the currency	350	738	2	22	5	50	36	47	1,250
Against good order	238	48	4	6	2	13	16	1	328
Other	198	408	6	13	29	15	43	3	715
Total	9,793	5,515	1,579	749	950	747	232	219	19,784

(a) Includes committals from Children's Court except for Northern Territory. (b) Year ended 30 June. (c) A person committed on several counts at the one hearing is included only once. (d) Excludes court at Tennant Creek.

**COMMITTALS TO HIGHER COURTS(a): STATES AND TERRITORIES
1965 TO 1969**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1965</i>	<i>1966</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>
New South Wales	7,908	8,758	7,954	8,229	9,793
Victoria	4,745	5,308	5,655	6,192	5,515
Queensland(b)(c)	1,477	1,614	1,611	1,428	1,579
South Australia(b)	753	737	713	726	749
Western Australia	515	523	609	1,037	950
Tasmania	414	486	549	716	747
Northern Territory	(d)169	(d)127	176	196	(e)232
Australian Capital Territory	224	137	170	240	219
Australia	16,205	17,690	17,437	18,764	19,784

(a) Includes committals from the Children's Court except for Northern Territory. (b) Year ended 30 June. (c) A person committed on several counts at the one hearing is included only once. (d) Excludes courts at Tennant Creek and Katherine. (e) Excludes court at Tennant Creek.

Civil proceedings

Civil proceedings in the lower courts refer to those in the Small Debts Courts in New South Wales, Courts of Petty Sessions in Victoria, Magistrates' Courts in Queensland, Local Courts in South Australia and Western Australia, Courts of Requests in Tasmania, Local Courts in the Northern Territory, and the Court of Petty Sessions in the Australian Capital Territory. Statistics of civil proceedings in the lower courts are given on page 434.

Higher (judges') courts

Higher courts are presided over by a judge, sometimes with a jury. The general jurisdiction of the higher courts in the States and Territories, which for this purpose include District, County and Supreme Courts, includes appeals from the lower courts, cases of serious crime committed from lower courts, and civil cases involving common law, commercial causes, equity, etc. Under the Commonwealth *Matrimonial Causes Act* 1959-1966, the Supreme Courts of the various States and Territories have exclusive jurisdiction in matrimonial causes, and under the *Bankruptcy Act* 1966-1969, the Federal Court of Bankruptcy, the Supreme Courts of New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, and the Courts of Insolvency in Victoria and South Australia, can deal with bankruptcy cases. However, the Federal Court handles bankruptcy cases in New South Wales and Victoria.

Proceedings at higher courts include therefore criminal, civil, divorce, and bankruptcy proceedings. Separate details of each are given in the following paragraphs.

Criminal proceedings

The statistics in the following tables are influenced by the factors listed at the beginning of this chapter.

**PERSONS CONVICTED^(a) AT HIGHER COURTS, BY NATURE OF OFFENCE: STATES
AND TERRITORIES, 1969**

<i>Offence</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i> <i>(b)</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Against the person—									
Murder	25	6	5	2	5	4	1	..	48
Attempted murder	2	..	3	1	2	..	..	..	8
Manslaughter ^(c)	32	26	16	4	10	5	3	..	96
Culpable driving	66	14	32	5	5	3	..	1	126
Rape	58	23	11	5	3	4	..	..	104
Other offences against females	307	207	122	142	10	33	5	8	834
Abduction	2	13	1	..	1	..	..	..	17
Unnatural offences	92	125	30	18	2	8	..	2	277
Abortion and attempt to procure	9	6	4	1	..	..	..	..	20
Bigamy	9	4	2	1	2	..	..	..	18
Malicious wounding and aggravated assault	174	50	82	6	27	5	4	3	351
Common assault	87	26	4	4	2	10	14	..	147
Other offences against the person	21	6	10	18	3	5	..	..	63
<i>Total, against the person</i>	<i>884</i>	<i>506</i>	<i>322</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>2,109</i>
Against property—									
Burglary, breaking and entering	1,307	361	860	340	351	136	58	28	3,441
Robbery and stealing from the person	196	138	54	22	21	15	6	..	452
Embezzlement and larceny by servants . . . . .	..	63	14	9	8	..	1	5	100
Other larceny ^(d)	700	177	199	11	5	..	13	10	1,115
Receiving	163	33	82	11	25	11	1	2	328
Fraud and false pretences	239	69	27	22	13	15	1	..	386
Arson	18	14	20	..	3	5	..	1	61
Malicious damage	18	20	15	5	..	10	..	..	68
Other offences against property	3	2	..	14	2	..	..	4	25
<i>Total, against property</i>	<i>2,644</i>	<i>877</i>	<i>1,271</i>	<i>434</i>	<i>428</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>5,976</i>
Forgery and offences against the currency	29	80	5	16	4	11	8	4	157
Against good order	2	22	4	..	..	..	..	..	28
Other	50	204	8	55	14	12	5	..	348
Grand total	3,609	1,689	1,610	712	518	292	120	68	8,618

(a) A person convicted on several counts at the one hearing is classified according to the most serious offence and is included only once. (b) Year ended 30 June. (c) Includes causing death by dangerous driving. (d) Includes unlawfully using vehicles.

**PERSONS CONVICTED^(a) AT HIGHER COURTS: STATES AND
TERRITORIES, 1965 TO 1969**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1965</i>	<i>1966</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>
New South Wales	2,900	3,201	3,126	3,254	3,609
Victoria	1,618	1,725	1,786	1,790	1,689
Queensland ^(b)	1,201	1,330	1,279	1,160	1,610
South Australia	713	738	707	692	712
Western Australia	315	302	357	507	518
Tasmania	170	204	254	243	292
Northern Territory	76	58	65	88	120
Australian Capital Territory	85	67	69	86	68
Australia	7,078	7,625	7,643	7,820	8,618

(a) See note (a) above. (b) Year ended 30 June.

Capital punishment

There were no executions in Australia in 1970. For a brief account of the law relating to capital punishment in Australia, see Year Book No. 55, page 573.

Civil proceedings

The following table shows civil judgments (excluding those for divorce and bankruptcy) in the higher courts during 1969. The particulars given below include the number and amount of judgments entered by default or confession or agreement.

CIVIL CASES AT HIGHER COURTS: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1969

		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld (a)	S.A.	W.A. (b)	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.
Judgments	number	58,161	11,288	1,101	327	801	n.a.	n.a.	629
Amounts awarded	\$'000	n.a.	23,812	5,238	2,159	3,359	n.a.	n.a.	1,744

(a) Year ended 30 June. (b) Judgments signed and entered.

Because of differences in the jurisdictions of higher and lower courts in respect of civil proceedings in each State and Territory, the figures above should be read in conjunction with the following table, showing the numbers of plaints entered and amounts awarded to plaintiffs in the lower courts in 1969.

CIVIL CASES AT LOWER COURTS: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1969

		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld (a)	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Plaints entered	number	155,469	200,801	53,657	93,679	60,854	20,949	(b)3,731	7,152	596,292
Amounts awarded to plaintiffs	\$'000	5,179	17,246	4,137	4,828	3,263	1,540	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Year ended 30 June. (b) Excludes Tennant Creek.

Divorce and other matrimonial causes

A description of Commonwealth legislation governing divorce and other matrimonial causes in Australia is contained in Year Book No. 55, page 580. Under this legislation 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, and settlement of property, and damages for adultery. The following statistics refer only to petitions for, and decrees of, dissolution, nullity, and judicial separation. Detailed statistics are published in the annual and quarterly *Divorce* bulletins, and the annual *Demography* bulletin.

Petitions filed

Statistics of petitions exclude cross-petitions contained in answers by respondents. The following table shows the number of petitions for dissolution of marriage, nullity of marriage, and judicial separation filed in each State and Territory during 1970.

PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION
STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1970

Petition for—		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution—										
By husband		2,317	1,479	736	507	578	223	35	73	5,948
By wife		4,193	2,182	1,117	858	626	277	32	146	9,431
Total		6,510	3,661	1,853	1,365	1,204	500	67	219	15,379
Nullity—										
By husband		12	3	2	4	..	1	..	..	22
By wife		14	11	9	3	2	2	2	..	43
Total		26	14	11	7	2	3	2	..	65
Dissolution or nullity—										
By husband		2	5	2	1	..	..	..	..	10
By wife		4	9	4	1	..	..	..	..	18
Total		6	14	6	2	..	..	..	..	28
Judicial separation—										
By husband		1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
By wife		15	1	3	4	..	..	1	1	25
Total		16	2	3	4	..	..	1	1	27
All petitions—										
By husband	No.	2,332	1,488	740	512	578	224	35	73	5,982
	per cent	36	40	40	37	48	45	50	33	39
By wife	No.	4,226	2,203	1,133	(a)868	628	279	35	147	(a)9,519
	per cent	64	60	60	63	52	55	50	67	61
Grand total		6,558	3,691	1,873	(a)1,380	1,206	503	70	220	(a)15,501

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

Decrees granted

Statistics of decrees granted 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 cohabitation.
- (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*, e.g. that either party is incapable of consummating the marriage.

The following tables show the number of dissolutions of marriage, nullities of marriage, and judicial separations granted in each State and Territory during 1970 classified according to petitioner, and the grounds on which decrees were granted during the years 1966 to 1970.

**DECREES FOR DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION
STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1970**

Decree of—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution—									
To husband . . .	1,982	988	610	354	433	187	30	71	4,655
To wife . . .	3,624	1,593	897	585	456	235	20	122	7,532
To both . . .	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	1	11
<i>Total</i> . . .	5,606	2,591	1,507	939	889	422	50	194	12,198
Nullity—									
To husband . . .	5	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	8
To wife . . .	17	13	3	1	..	3	..	..	37
<i>Total</i> . . .	22	13	4	1	1	3	..	1	45
Judicial separation—									
To husband . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
To wife . . .	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	4
<i>Total</i> . . .	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	4
All decrees—									
To husband . . . No.	1,987	988	611	354	434	187	30	72	4,663
per cent	35	38	40	38	49	44	60	37	38
To wife . . . No.	3,641	1,606	900	588	456	239	20	123	7,573
per cent	65	62	60	62	51	56	40	63	62
To both . . . No.	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	1	11
Grand total . . .	5,628	2,604	1,511	942	890	426	50	196	12,247

**DECREES FOR DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION
GROUNDS, AUSTRALIA, 1966 TO 1970**

<i>Ground</i>	<i>1966</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>
DISSOLUTION					
Single grounds—					
Desertion	4,532	4,398	4,863	4,730	5,098
Adultery	2,288	2,270	2,611	2,916	3,419
Separation	1,968	1,868	1,959	1,758	2,023
Cruelty	488	550	670	750	942
Drunkenness	142	128	150	136	142
Failure to pay maintenance	6	3	10	8	3
Non-compliance with res- titution decree	7	5	5	5	2
Refusal to consummate	23	30	39	32	42
Insanity	10	7	7	7	6
Frequent convictions	15	12	18	18	25
Imprisonment	6	7	4	3	3
Other single grounds	8	10	17	11	17
Dual grounds—					
Desertion and adultery	93	76	68	102	90
Desertion and separation	67	68	88	145	96
Desertion and cruelty	34	50	44	77	59
Desertion and drunkenness	20	24	16	8	14
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	5	4	6	5	3
Desertion and other	6	5	5	4	7
Adultery and separation	7	9	1	3	4
Adultery and cruelty	8	12	12	16	17
Adultery and other	2	3	2	2	2
Separation and other	5	5	1	2	3
Cruelty and drunkenness	98	126	118	143	160
Cruelty and other	3	..	2	7	5
Other dual grounds	2	2	2	3	1
Three grounds or more	16	16	13	39	15
<i>Total</i>	<i>9,859</i>	<i>9,688</i>	<i>10,731</i>	<i>10,930</i>	<i>12,198</i>
NULLITY					
Bigamy	21	15	18	12	15
Invalid marriage	2	5	2	1	..
Incapacity to consummate	22	27	23	28	29
Other grounds	5	3	1	3	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>45</i>
JUDICIAL SEPARATION					
Desertion	3	1	1	..	..
Adultery	4	5	8	..	2
Cruelty	2	2	2	5	..
Other grounds	3	..	3	..	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>
ALL DECREES					
Grand total	9,921	9,746	10,789	10,979	12,247

Divorced persons at each census, 1911 to 1966

The following table shows the number and proportion of divorced persons in Australia as recorded from returns supplied at each census from 1911 to 1966. A classification of divorced persons by ages for the censuses from 1891 to 1947 appeared in earlier issues of the Year Book (*see* No. 39, page 269). Before 1911 no record was made of divorced persons in South Australia, so comparisons cannot be made beyond that date.

DIVORCED PERSONS AT CENSUS DATES: AUSTRALIA, 1911 TO 1966

Sex	Number							Number per 10,000 of males or females 15 years of age and over						
	1911	1921	1933	1947	1954	1961	1966	1911	1921	1933	1947	1954	1961	1966
Males	2,368	4,233	10,298	25,052	32,389	38,640	42,885	15	23	42	89	100	105	105
Females	2,140	4,304	10,888	27,516	36,650	43,339	51,143	15	24	46	96	115	119	125

Bankruptcy

For a description of the provisions of the *Bankruptcy Act* 1966-1969, *see* Year Book No. 55, pages 586-7. The Bankruptcy Act was amended in 1970 to remove any obstacle the Act may present to the operation of compositions or schemes of arrangement entered into under State or Territory legislation providing assistance to farmers in respect of their debts.

Bankruptcy proceedings

The following table shows the number of bankruptcies of the various types in each State, together with the disclosed assets and liabilities of the debtors, during 1969-70.

BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1969-70

State or Territory		Sequestration orders and orders for administration of deceased debtors' estates	Compositions	Deeds of assignment	Deeds of arrangement	Total
N.S.W.(a)	Number	536	16	30	24	606
	Liabilities \$	5,571,436	555,711	976,092	702,692	7,805,931
	Assets \$	1,511,233	116,195	373,040	764,884	2,765,352
Vic.	Number	494	18	68	25	605
	Liabilities \$	5,031,504	120,958	1,252,543	678,396	7,083,401
	Assets \$	1,430,735	56,360	1,286,293	480,488	3,253,876
Qld	Number	249	4	18	4	275
	Liabilities \$	2,080,725	4,704	606,753	203,411	2,895,593
	Assets \$	1,180,982	1,416	257,593	145,742	1,585,733
S. Aust.	Number	602	4	12	6	624
	Liabilities \$	2,999,527	99,302	614,267	214,266	3,927,362
	Assets \$	1,485,488	81,141	610,993	119,406	2,297,028
W. Aust.	Number	229	17	13	34	293
	Liabilities \$	1,924,334	225,334	285,132	910,091	3,344,891
	Assets \$	847,280	167,784	288,852	641,845	1,945,761
Tas.	Number	121	..	4	9	134
	Liabilities \$	592,932	..	74,988	193,936	861,856
	Assets \$	359,445	..	64,632	144,682	568,759
N.T.	Number	5	..	..	..	5
	Liabilities \$	42,471	..	..	..	42,471
	Assets \$	5,238	..	..	..	5,238
Australia	Number	2,236	59	145	102	2,542
	Liabilities \$	18,242,929	1,006,009	3,809,775	2,902,792	25,961,505
	Assets \$	6,820,401	422,896	2,881,403	2,297,047	12,421,747

(a) Includes the Australian Capital Territory.

The next table shows Australian figures in respect of each of the various types of bankruptcy, for the years 1965-66 to 1969-70.

BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS: AUSTRALIA, 1965-66 TO 1969-70

Year		<i>Sequestration orders and orders for administration of deceased debtors' estates</i>	Compositions	<i>Deeds of assignment</i>	<i>Deeds of arrangement</i>	Total
1965-66	Number . . .	2,384	133	23	113	2,653
	Liabilities \$'000	15,106	4,082	634	3,176	22,998
	Assets \$'000	6,488	3,585	725	2,623	13,421
1966-67	Number . . .	2,284	127	18	108	2,537
	Liabilities \$'000	19,108	2,176	535	2,310	24,129
	Assets \$'000	7,685	1,293	308	1,542	10,829
1967-68	Number . . .	2,350	78	35	88	2,551
	Liabilities \$'000	15,222	1,828	1,229	3,330	21,609
	Assets \$'000	6,292	1,189	918	2,010	10,409
1968-69	Number . . .	2,302	52	103	93	2,550
	Liabilities \$'000	15,865	893	3,870	2,641	23,269
	Assets \$'000	7,588	447	2,699	1,674	12,408
1969-70	Number . . .	2,236	59	145	102	2,542
	Liabilities \$'000	18,243	1,006	3,810	2,903	25,962
	Assets \$'000	6,820	423	2,881	2,297	12,422

The High Court of Australia

The High Court of Australia consists of a Chief Justice and six other Justices. Its principal seat is in Melbourne, but sittings are held in every State capital as occasion requires. The High Court has both original and appellate jurisdiction. Its original jurisdiction is usually exercised by a single Justice, appellate jurisdiction by at least three Justices. The following table sets out transactions in its original and appellate jurisdiction for 1969 and 1970.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA, 1969 AND 1970

<i>Original jurisdiction(a)</i>	1969	1970	<i>Appellate jurisdiction</i>		
				1969	1970
Number of writs issued . . .	103	63	Number of appeals—		
Number of causes entered for trial	25	38	Set down for hearing . . .	61	87
Judgment for plaintiffs . . .	8	11	Allowed	32	27
Judgments for defendants . . .	1	3	Dismissed	62	67
Otherwise disposed of . . .	20	16	Otherwise disposed of . . .	14	8
Amounts of judgments . . .	\$126,612	\$1,630,034			

(a) Some matters dealt with by the High Court neither originate as writs nor are entered as causes.

During 1969 and 1970, respectively, the High Court dealt also with the following: appeals from assessments under the Taxation Assessment Acts, 55, 153; special cases stated for the opinion of the Full Court, 9, 11; applications for prohibition, etc., 9, 5. The fees collected amounted to \$13,094 in 1969 and \$15,183 in 1970.

Selected crime reported to police

The following tables show some details of certain categories of offences reported or becoming known to police. This series, which commenced in 1964, is derived from police records and is based, as far as possible, on definitions and procedural arrangements uniformly determined for all States. The following explanations are necessary in order to interpret the figures in this series.

Offences reported or becoming known. All incidents reported or becoming known to the police which are found to constitute offences within the scope of the crimes covered are included. Offences are shown as 'reported or becoming known' in the period during which it has been established that the incident constitutes a crime, not necessarily in the period when the incident occurred. However, the incident is included when the police are satisfied that a crime has been committed, even though it may be established in subsequent proceedings that no crime or a crime of a different nature was committed. As far as possible, the offences are recorded in respect of the State in which the incident occurred, regardless of which police force undertakes investigations or prosecutions, or where an arrest is made. In the case of homicide, assault, robbery, and rape, one offence is counted in respect of each victim, regardless of the number of offenders involved. In the case of breaking and entering, and fraud, etc., one offence is counted for each act or series of directly related acts occurring at the same time and place, and under the same circumstances. Each motor vehicle stolen is counted as constituting a separate offence.

Offences cleared. An offence of the type included in this series is counted as 'cleared' when an information (charge, arrest or summons to appear) has been laid against at least one person involved. However, an offence may also be counted as 'cleared' without an information being laid. This may occur when the offender has received an official caution or has died, has committed suicide, has been committed to a mental institution, or is in another jurisdiction from which extradition is not desired or available, or is serving a sentence; or if there are other obstacles to prosecution, such as diplomatic immunity or that the complainant refuses to prosecute. A clearance is always shown against the classification under which the offence was 'reported', regardless of the nature of the charge laid or changes in the description of an offence due to later information. The entries are made in respect of the year when the offence was 'cleared', whether or not the offence was 'reported' in that or an earlier year.

Persons involved in crimes cleared. This is the sum of the number of persons dealt with in each of the offences shown as 'cleared'. If more than one person is involved in the one offence, each person is counted. If the same person is involved in more than one offence cleared, he is counted separately for each offence. Persons involved are shown against the categories of offences to which an incident was originally allocated, regardless of the actual offences they are charged with. This basis of counting 'persons involved in offences cleared' was adopted to reveal trends in crime participation by persons in various age-groups. The figures in this series are not directly comparable with statistics of persons charged or convicted in court, or of cases brought before the courts; nor do these figures reveal the number of offenders in the community.

Offences included in the statistics

Homicide. Separate details are provided for murder, attempted murder (i.e. acts done with intent to murder) and manslaughter (unlawful killing other than murder), excluding manslaughter arising from motor traffic accidents.

Serious assault. These are assaults normally dealt with on indictment. Includes woundings, offences causing bodily harm, assaults with a weapon, etc., and attempts of this nature. Excludes sexual assault and robbery. *Uniform interpretation of this definition between States is especially difficult to effect.*

Robbery. Stealing anything, if at or immediately before or after the time of stealing, the offender uses or threatens to use violence to any person or property in order to obtain the thing stolen, or to prevent or overcome resistance to its being stolen. Includes attempts of this nature.

Rape. Includes attempted rape and assault with intent to rape. Excludes unlawful carnal knowledge (i.e. where consent is given, but the girl is below the legal age of consent) and indecent assault.

Breaking and entering. Breaking and entering a building (or entering a building and breaking out) and committing or intending to commit a crime. Includes burglaries. Separate details are shown according to the type of building involved, namely, *dwellings* (including unoccupied dwellings, tents, caravans, etc., used as dwellings, and the residential parts of hotels, schools, etc.); *shops* (including kiosks, service stations, restaurants, bars, non-residential clubs, etc.); and *offices, factories and warehouses* (including parts of buildings, but excluding dwellings and shops used for such purposes). Includes attempts. From 1967 the figures exclude breakings involving property valued at \$100 or less.

Motor vehicle thefts, illegal use, etc. Includes all offences of illegal, unlawful or unauthorised use, use without consent, unlawfully assuming control, etc., no matter under which legislation these offences are prescribed. Excludes cases of 'interference', but includes attempts at illegal use. The number of stolen motor vehicles which are recovered is also shown.

Fraud, forgery, false pretences. Includes embezzlement, 'omit to account', misappropriation, fraudulent appropriation, conversion, larceny as bailee, falsification of accounts, company fraud, forgery, uttering, false pretences, passing of valueless cheques and offences by trustees. Includes attempts, but excludes imposition. As a general rule, offences are included only if there is an element of deception or trickery. Separate details are shown for *valueless cheque* offences (i.e. passing of valueless cheques, whether there is no account, insufficient funds or a false signature of the purported drawer of the cheque. However, this sub-group excludes cases where a genuine cheque is altered or the endorsement of the payee is forged. These cases are regarded as forgery and or uttering and included in 'other').

Offences reported or becoming known to police

The following table shows, for each State and Territory, the number of offences in each of the seven categories covered by this series which were reported or became known to police during the years 1966 to 1970. The table excludes offences reported to and investigated by the Commonwealth Police, which are shown on page 442.

SELECTED CRIME REPORTED OR BECOMING KNOWN TO POLICE, NUMBER OF OFFENCES, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1966 TO 1970

Category of crime	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Homicide—									
1966	113	106	62	13	14	3	8	2	321
1967	139	57	47	25	7	7	17	1	300
1968	140	52	51	18	14	10	12	3	300
1969	120	66	38	21	12	15	7	1	280
1970	125	107	36	34	15	10	9	3	339
Serious assault(a)—									
1966	522	1,529	82	53	14	3	11	13	2,227
1967	547	1,338	119	71	20	11	39	13	2,158
1968	611	1,600	128	52	60	19	15	23	2,508
1969	626	1,460	134	92	77	47	30	17	2,483
1970	799	2,014	177	87	95	32	46	32	3,282
Robbery—									
1966	346	457	92	50	20	17	4	6	992
1967	386	395	79	51	21	18	5	5	960
1968	544	480	88	79	48	23	6	12	1,280
1969	777	503	106	127	41	23	13	9	1,599
1970	867	744	124	140	69	33	11	11	1,999
Rape—									
1966	72	107	38	16	7	2	8	1	251
1967	72	138	32	43	5	17	2	2	311
1968	95	168	34	43	5	7	7	4	363
1969	126	144	35	32	6	7	7	7	364
1970	136	160	42	21	6	17	29	5	416
Breaking and entering (dwellings, shops, offices, etc.)—									
1966	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	(b)56,841
1967(c)	7,806	7,656	1,417	1,165	552	340	40	96	19,072
1968(c)	11,026	8,069	1,841	1,181	883	422	54	86	23,562
1969(c)	11,923	8,215	2,035	1,299	1,368	586	66	105	25,597
1970(c)	13,879	9,870	2,538	1,727	1,825	492	68	192	30,591
Motor vehicle theft, etc.—									
1966	12,678	8,969	1,703	1,304	1,572	410	89	212	26,937
1967	12,558	8,348	1,544	1,701	1,707	603	119	211	26,791
1968	13,008	9,352	1,740	1,967	2,084	759	192	196	29,298
1969	16,082	9,343	2,295	1,741	1,895	658	228	250	32,492
1970	18,464	11,246	3,023	2,140	2,700	722	347	284	38,926
Fraud, forgery, etc.—									
1966	5,558	3,779	2,778	1,740	1,052	182	144	276	15,509
1967	5,438	3,367	2,872	2,185	1,256	292	143	270	15,823
1968	6,283	4,402	4,154	1,596	1,476	607	271	166	18,955
1969	5,897	4,554	4,056	2,927	1,924	660	187	210	20,415
1970	7,184	5,438	3,658	3,541	2,048	663	154	179	22,865

(a) See definition on page 439. (b) All reported breakings, etc. (c) Excludes offences involving property valued at \$100 or less.

Crimes cleared and persons involved

The tables which follow show, for the various categories of offences, the numbers of offences reported, the numbers cleared, and the numbers of persons involved according to age and sex. Sub-divisions of the categories homicide, breaking and entering, and fraud, etc., are provided. See pages 438–40 for definitions used and the bases on which these statistics are prepared.

HOMICIDE: CRIMES REPORTED OR BECOMING KNOWN, CRIMES CLEARED AND PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1970

	<i>Murder</i>			<i>Attempted murder</i>			<i>Manslaughter</i>			<i>All homicide</i>		
	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970
Numbers reported or becoming known .	143	157	172	114	90	145	43	33	29	300	280	346
Numbers cleared .	140	152	160	105	82	139	42	33	29	287	267	328
Persons involved in crimes cleared—												
Aged(a)—												
16 years and under	7	4	15	8	6	7	.	2	1	15	12	23
17 and 18 years .	10	8	8	6	6	11	2	7	4	18	21	23
19 and 20 years .	12	8	14	8	6	17	6	5	2	26	19	33
21 years and over	136	147	147	98	65	116	38	22	22	272	234	285
Total persons involved .	165	167	184	120	83	151	46	36	29	(b)331	(b)286	(b)364

(a) Age last birthday at time of clearance. (b) Includes 44 females in 1968, 54 in 1969, and 51 in 1970.

SERIOUS ASSAULT, ROBBERY, RAPE: CRIMES REPORTED OR BECOMING KNOWN, CRIMES CLEARED, AND PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1970

	<i>Serious assault</i>			<i>Robbery</i>			<i>Rape</i>		
	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970
Numbers reported or becoming known	2,508	2,483	3,282	1,280	1,599	1,999	363	364	416
Numbers cleared .	1,987	1,892	2,524	459	648	755	281	286	315
Persons involved in crimes cleared—									
Aged(a)—									
16 years and under	156	176	268	105	182	200	48	30	40
17 and 18 years	267	333	406	160	227	285	99	74	58
19 and 20 years	271	326	449	164	210	238	99	83	73
21 years and over	1,501	1,590	1,884	411	476	566	187	207	223
Total persons involved	(b)2,195	(b)2,425	(b)3,007	(c)840	(c)1,095	(c)1,289	433	394	394

(a) Age last birthday at time of clearance. (b) Includes 106 females in 1968, 110 in 1969, and 119 in 1970. (c) Includes 38 females in 1968, 58 in 1969, and 44 in 1970.

BREAKING AND ENTERING(a): CRIMES REPORTED OR BECOMING KNOWN, CRIMES CLEARED, AND PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1970

	<i>Dwellings</i>			<i>Shops</i>			<i>Offices and warehouses</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970
Numbers reported or becoming known .	11,434	12,258	15,110	6,585	7,215	7,552	5,543	6,124	7,929	23,562	25,597	30,591
Numbers cleared .	2,221	1,983	2,306	1,354	1,862	1,885	1,057	1,142	1,253	4,632	4,987	5,444
Persons involved in crimes cleared—												
Aged(b)—												
16 years and under	893	845	1,122	452	553	694	410	422	407	1,755	1,820	2,223
17 and 18 years .	394	492	600	400	594	590	239	306	331	1,033	1,392	1,521
19 and 20 years .	326	384	387	343	391	421	224	210	221	893	985	1,029
21 years and over	1,427	1,013	1,180	928	1,357	1,175	731	764	890	3,086	3,134	3,245
Total persons involved .	3,040	2,734	3,289	2,123	2,895	2,880	1,604	1,702	1,849	(c)6,767	(c)7,331	(c)8,018

(a) Excludes offences involving property valued at \$100 or less. (b) Age last birthday at time of clearance. (c) Includes 174 females in 1968, 210 in 1969, and 134 in 1970.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT, ETC., FRAUD, ETC.: CRIMES REPORTED OR BECOMING KNOWN, CRIMES CLEARED, AND PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1970

	<i>Motor vehicles theft, etc.</i>			<i>Fraud, forgery, false pretences</i>								
	1968	1969	1970	<i>Valueless cheques</i>			<i>Other</i>			<i>All frauds, etc.</i>		
				1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970	1968	1969	1970
Numbers reported or becoming known . . .	29,298	32,492	38,926	7,787	8,694	9,016	11,168	11,721	13,849	18,955	20,415	22,865
Numbers cleared . . .	6,218	6,772	7,820	5,784	6,643	6,564	9,935	10,601	12,557	15,719	17,244	19,121
Persons involved in crimes cleared—												
Males aged(a)—												
16 years and under . . .	3,747	4,571	5,662	105	177	189	186	404	529	291	581	718
17 and 18 years . . .	2,298	2,753	3,331	186	209	241	235	298	332	421	507	573
19 and 20 years . . .	1,165	1,295	1,300	242	409	332	496	369	513	738	778	845
21 years and over . . .	1,944	1,840	2,035	4,810	5,352	4,887	7,565	7,512	7,507	12,375	12,864	12,394
Total males . . .	9,154	10,459	12,328	5,343	6,147	5,649	8,482	8,583	8,881	13,825	14,730	14,530
Females aged(a)—												
16 years and under . . .	57	86	118	22	43	35	83	132	132	105	175	167
17 and 18 years . . .	39	69	42	26	17	102	140	178	351	166	195	453
19 and 20 years . . .	58	25	39	23	85	86	475	315	255	498	400	341
21 years and over . . .	95	33	34	590	748	1,226	1,065	1,729	3,274	1,655	2,477	4,500
Total females . . .	249	213	223	661	893	1,449	1,763	2,354	4,012	2,424	3,247	5,461
Total persons involved . . .	9,403	10,672	12,561	6,004	7,040	7,098	10,245	10,937	12,893	16,249	17,977	19,991

(a) Age last birthday at time of clearance.

The number of stolen motor vehicles recovered was: 1968, 27,191; 1969, 29,371; 1970, 34,864.

Offences reported or becoming known to Commonwealth Police.

In addition to the offences shown in the preceding tables, the following statistics relate to those offences in the selected crime series which were reported to and investigated by the Commonwealth Police in 1970.

	<i>Breaking and Entering</i>	<i>Valueless cheques</i>	<i>Other Fraud</i>
Numbers reported or becoming known . . .	5	1,508	7,466
Numbers cleared . . .	..	275	2,197
Persons(a) involved in crimes cleared—			
Aged(b)—			
16 years and under . . .	..	..	21(3)
17 and 18 years . . .	..	5(2)	16(5)
19 and 20 years . . .	..	11	80(18)
21 years and over . . .	..	257(24)	2,091(585)
Total persons involved . . .	..	273(26)	2,208(611)

(a) Numbers of females are shown in brackets. (b) Age last birthday at time of clearance.

Drug offences

Australia is a signatory to the Single Convention of Narcotic Drugs which has as its main aim the limitation of narcotic drugs to legitimate medical and research purposes.

As its name implies, the Single Convention covers only the so-called narcotic drugs. In recognition that there are other drugs of dependence, the member nations met during 1970 and 1971 and drew up a further Convention to impose controls on psychotropic substances such as hallucinogens, amphetamines, other central nervous system stimulants, barbiturates, tranquillisers and certain other sedatives.

Legislative provisions

Regulation 5 of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations made under Section 50 of the *Customs Act 1901-1971* provides the legal controls for the importation of narcotic drugs and other drugs of dependence. Under this regulation all importers of these drugs must be licensed and must obtain permission in writing for each importation. Importers are also required to keep these drugs in a secure place and to keep such records as may be required concerning use or disposal.

The penalty on conviction for an offence relating to narcotic drugs as defined in the *Customs Act* 1901-1971 is:

(a) In a Court of Summary Jurisdiction—

A fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 2 years, or both.

(b) On indictment—

A fine not exceeding \$4,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years, or both.

The penalty on conviction for an offence relating to drugs other than narcotic drugs as defined in the Act is a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

The manufacturer of narcotic drugs in Australia is controlled under the *Narcotic Drugs Act* 1967. The Act requires that a manufacturer shall be licensed and shall comply with strict conditions and directions relating to such manufacture and the handling of the drugs concerned. Failure to comply with these requirements constitutes an offence against the Act and the penalty upon conviction for such an offence is the same as under the Customs Act.

State and Territory legislation relating to the regulation, control and prohibition of the sale, use, possession and administering (including smoking) of poisons, restricted substances, drugs of addiction, dangerous drugs and deleterious substances, is listed below.

New South Wales	Poisons Act, 1966-1967; Summary Offences Act, 1970
Victoria	<i>Poisons Act</i> 1962
Queensland	' <i>The Health Acts 1937 to 1967</i> '
South Australia	Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs Act, 1970 (formerly Dangerous Drugs Act, 1934-1955); Food and Health Act, 1908-1962; Police Offences Act, 1953-1961
Western Australia	<i>Police Act</i> , 1892-1967; <i>Poisons Act</i> , 1964
Tasmania	<i>Dangerous Drugs Act</i> 1959; <i>Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act</i> 1968; <i>Health Services Act</i> 1960
Northern Territory	<i>Dangerous Drugs Ordinance</i> 1928-1969; <i>Poison Ordinance</i>
Australian Capital Territory	<i>Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance</i> 1967

In some States this legislation also provides for the offence of 'trafficking' (where there is possession of a minimum specified quantity of a prescribed substance, prohibited drug, or drug of addiction, such possession being *prima facie* for the offence), and for the offence of being the owner, lessee, or concerned in the management of any premises used for the purposes of drug abuse such as the smoking of opium or indian hemp. Offences of habitually consorting, etc., with reputed drug offenders are also covered under State legislation.

All State Governments have agreed to a uniform code of penalties based on those applicable in Commonwealth legislation. Some State Governments have already taken the legislative action to implement this decision.

Law enforcement

Law enforcement in respect of drugs is handled by State police forces, the Commonwealth Police Force, and the Department of Customs and Excise. In 1969 a National Standing Control Committee on Drugs of Dependence was established to consider further action by the Commonwealth and States to combat all aspects of the drug problem in Australia and to make recommendations on legislative and administrative action. The Committee is chaired by the Comptroller-General of Customs and its members comprise senior officers of Commonwealth and State police and health authorities.

The National Standing Control Committee on Drugs of Dependence recommended that the Central Crime Intelligence Bureau of the Commonwealth Police serve as the national agency for the systematic collection, evaluation and dissemination of information concerning the illicit drug traffic in Australia. During 1970, the first complete year for which the Central Crime Intelligence Bureau compiled statistics, 2,075 drug offences, for which 1,176 males and 288 females were prosecuted, were reported to the Bureau. Details of the offences and the drugs involved are given in the following table.

DRUG OFFENCES REPORTED TO THE CENTRAL CRIME INTELLIGENCE BUREAU: 1970

(Source: Commonwealth Police)

Type of drug	Type of offence			Total	Per cent
	Use	Possession (including importation)	Sale or supply		
Amphetamines—					
Dexamphetamine	17	45	3	65	3.2
Methylamphetamine	31	70	6	107	5.2
Other—Not specified	24	101	15	140	6.8
	72	216	24	312	15.2
Barbiturates—					
Nembutal	7	45	10	62	3.0
Phenobarbitone	4	16	2	22	1.1
Other—Not specified	10	58	8	76	3.7
	21	119	20	160	7.8
Cannabis—					
Indian hemp, hashish, marihuana, plants (cannabis), seeds (cannabis) .	301	503	73	877	42.8
Hallucinogenic—					
L.S.D.	30	59	28	117	5.7
Psilocybin	1	12	..	13	0.7
	31	71	28	130	6.4
Narcotics—					
Heroin	27	17	5	49	2.4
Morphine	145	110	8	263	12.7
Opium	17	29	5	51	2.5
Pethidine	38	37	7	82	4.0
Other—Not specified	48	70	11	129	5.2
	275	263	36	574	26.8
Other—Not specified	8	14	..	22	..
Total	708	1,186	181	2,075	..
Per cent	34.1	57.2	8.7	..	100.0

In 1969 the Commonwealth Bureau of Narcotics was created within the Department of Customs and Excise, as part of the Government's campaign to combat the increasing incidence of illicit trafficking of drugs in Australia. The Bureau operates on a national basis and is made up of three sections:

Licit Control Section—responsible for the control of legal importation and exportation of all drugs of dependence as well as controlling the manufacture of narcotic drugs in Australia. The section is also responsible for ensuring that Australia's obligations, as a signatory to the various international conventions on drugs, are complied with.

Overseas Liaison—responsible for maintaining an effective system for the exchange of information with overseas law enforcement agencies concerned with the suppression of illicit trafficking in drugs.

Law Enforcement—responsible for the prevention of, and investigations into, illegal importation, exportation, and major trafficking of drugs. Its activities are concentrated in co-ordinated operations against importers and major distributors.

The following table shows the types of drugs and amounts seized by the Department of Customs and Excise in the years 1966–1970.

DRUG SEIZURES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE: 1966 TO 1970

Type of drug	Unit	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Amphetamines(a)	gram	..	..	..	..	11,379
	tablets	..	..	..	688	..
Barbiturates(a)	tablets	..	..	..	..	2,800
Cannabis	gram	2,036	1,376	5,654	47,809	98,078
plants	..	..	..	..	..	306
reefers	..	..	555	..	251	..
Cocaine	tablets	..	..	..	..	120
L.S.D.	tablets	..	237	..	368	17,611
Narcotics—						
Opium	gram	22,415	21,530	3,660	889	9,950
Heroin	gram	1,582	2,572	1,977	196	1,405
Morphine	gram	..	..	1,387	..	29
	ampoules	..	..	..	8	18
	tablets	..	..	..	..	151
Pethidine	tablets	..	..	..	..	43

(a) Not a prohibited import until 1969.

The number of offenders charged with drug offences by the Department of Customs and Excise, and the sentences imposed in the years 1966 to 1970 are given in the following table. Particulars of all drug offences in 1970 reported to the Central Crime Intelligence Bureau are shown in the table on page 444.

PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS UNDER THE CUSTOMS ACT AND THE
NARCOTICS DRUGS ACT FOR OFFENCES INVOLVING DRUGS OF DEPENDENCE
1966 TO 1970

(Source: Department of Customs and Excise)

Offence and year	Number of offenders	Number of individual charges	Con- victions on individual charges	Fines imposed		Gaol sentences		Number of bonds granted (a)	Number of charges not proceeded with or dismissed	Number of charges pending
				Number	Amount	Number	Months			
Unlawful possession—					\$					
1966	31	33	31	28	3,440	3	30	..	2	..
1967	50	54	48	29	2,940	17	228½	2	1	5
1968	51	52	46	41	8,820	4	22	1	3	3
1969	61	63	60	50	9,490	5	57	5	1	2
1970	79	82	68	50	18,415	19	220	4	5	9
Unlawful import—										
1966	7	7	7	4	1,250	2	12	1	..	..
1967	11	11	7	4	325	3	8	..	1	3
1968	21	25	15	13	1,615	2	42	..	3	7
1969	32	34	27	20	5,300	7	84	1	..	7
1970	55	62	58	36	15,285	16	238	9	..	4
Other offences—										
1966	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1967	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
1968	1	1	1	1	500	..	..	..	..	..
1969	5	5	4	3	500	1	6	..	1	..
1970	12	13	12	11	700	..	..	..	1	..

NOTE. Where dual penalties such as a fine and a bond were imposed both are included.

(a) Bonds include suspended gaol sentences and/or other recognisances to be of good behaviour for a specified period.

Senate Select Committee

On 25 November 1969, by resolution of the Senate, a Select Committee into Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse was established. The report of the findings of the Senate Select Committee was published in May 1971.

Police

The primary duties of the police are to prevent crime, to detect and detain offenders, to protect life and property, to enforce the law, and to maintain peace and good order. In addition, they perform many duties in the service of the State, e.g. they act as clerks of petty sessions in small centres, as crown land bailiffs, foresters, mining wardens, and inspectors under the fisheries and various other

Acts. In metropolitan and large country areas they also regulate the street traffic. With the exception of the Commonwealth Police Force and the police in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, the police forces of Australia are under the control of the State Governments, but their members perform certain functions for the Commonwealth Governments, such as acting as aliens registration officers and concurrently with Commonwealth Police and other Commonwealth Officers, policing various Commonwealth Acts and Regulations.

Women police perform special duties at places where young women and girls are subject to moral danger, control traffic at school crossings and lecture school children on road safety. They also assist male police as required in the performance of normal police duties.

The strength of the police force and the duties and ranks of the personnel involved in each State and Territory for 1970 are shown in the following table. Comparability between States is affected by differences in the classification of ranks and duties, and known differences between States are mentioned in footnotes.

Also included in the table are statistics of ancillary and civilian staff employed by police departments. Differences between States in the use of such staff are considerable. These differences arise, on the one hand, from differences in the extent to which police make use of such staff for police functions and, on the other hand, in the extent to which such staff are required to undertake additional functions (such as parking control) which are allocated to the police in varying degree between States. There is also some overlap between duties of ancillary and civilian staff as defined in the footnotes to the table.

POLICE FORCES AND ASSISTANT STAFF: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1970

<i>Duty and rank(a)</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>
POLICE FORCES								
Criminal investigations, plain clothes police, scientific duties—								
Executive officers . . .	2	2	..	1	2	1	..	..
Inspectors . . .	15	12	14	3	5	5	1	1
Sergeants . . .	332	53	158	38	58	16	11	7
Constables(b) . . .	800	586	(c)332	223	126	72	34	19
Total, criminal investigations, etc. . .	1,149	653	(c)504	265	191	94	46	27
Traffic duties—								
Executive officers . . .	2	1	..	1	2	1	..	..
Inspectors . . .	6	9	6	3	4	2	..	1
Sergeants . . .	163	27	38	20	20	7	2	11
Constables(b) . . .	890	522	(c)262	184	130	68	14	63
Total, traffic duties . . .	1,061	559	(c)306	208	156	78	16	75
Other special and general duties—								
Executive officers . . .	25	22	..	9	14	4	..	..
Inspectors . . .	122	100	(d)64	38	14	29	3	8
Sergeants . . .	1,333	207	682	164	191	40	31	35
Constables(b) . . .	3,347	3,037	(c)1,498	1,152	878	407	128	138
Total, other special, etc. . .	4,827	3,366	(c)2,244	1,363	(e)1,097	480	(f)162	(f)181
Not allocated—								
Executive officers whose duties extend beyond one branch . . .								
Inspectors . . .	5	3	(g)4	2	(h)4	..	(h)4	2
Police women . . .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trainees and cadets . . .	83	68	27	38	30	15	7	5
Total, not allocated . . .	199	89	136	406	51	34	..	..
Total police force—								
Executive officers . . .	34	(h)28	(g)4	13	(h)22	6	(h)4	2
Inspectors . . .	143	122	84	44	23	36	4	10
Sergeants . . .	1,828	287	878	222	269	63	44	53
Constables(b) . . .	5,037	4,145	(c)2,092	1,559	1,134	547	176	220
Police women . . .	83	68	27	38	30	15	7	5
Trainees and cadets . . .	199	89	136	406	51	34	..	..
Total police force . . .	7,324	4,739	3,221	2,282	1,529	701	235	290
ANCILLARY AND CIVILIAN STAFF								
Employed by Police Department—								
Ancillary staff(i)								
Full-time . . .	180	107	28	(j)175	..	48	30	..
Part-time . . .	..	4	..	2	105	..	..	..
Civilian staff(k)								
Full-time . . .	(l)842	757	382	84	(m)406	97	19	50
Part-time . . .	..	58	29	7	46	..	..	..

For footnotes see next page.

POLICE FORCES AND ASSISTANT STAFF: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1970—
continued

Duty and rank(a)	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.
TOTAL STAFF								
Grand total—								
Full-time	8,346	5,603	3,631	2,541	1,935	846	284	340
Part-time . . . . .	..	62	29	9	151	..	..	..

(a) Where more than one duty is involved, officers have been allocated to the category of duties in which the greater part of their time is spent. The allocation of executive officers and inspectors to categories of duties is necessarily somewhat arbitrary and varies from State to State. (b) Includes probationary constables. (c) Excludes probationary constables; included with trainees and cadets. (d) Includes sub-inspectors. (e) Includes officers engaged on motor vehicle examination and testing and licensing drivers. (f) Does not include transport and maintenance; each section undertakes its own transport, and maintenance is done on contract and/or by the government transport pool. (g) Includes 1 commissioner's inspector and 1 chief inspector. (h) Includes 1 chief inspector. (i) Parking police, native trackers, wardresses, etc.; special constables in New South Wales and Tasmania; police reservists in Victoria. (j) Includes clerical workers in the Women Police Auxiliaries. (k) Clerks, typists, artisans, cleaners. (l) Does not include cleaning which is done by the Cleaning Services Branch of the Government Stores Department. (m) Includes 58 cadets whose appointment is not subject to the Police Act.

Ancillary and civilian staff are excluded from the following table.

POLICE FORCES: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1966 TO 1970

30 June—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1966	6,486	4,656	2,975	1,994	1,349	619	157	186	18,422
1967	6,765	4,711	3,056	2,059	1,375	645	151	215	18,977
1968	7,111	4,825	3,083	2,214	1,421	632	172	228	19,686
1969	7,259	4,743	3,179	2,255	1,490	670	195	288	20,079
1970	7,324	4,739	3,221	2,282	1,529	701	235	290	20,321

Commonwealth Police Force

The Commonwealth Police Force commenced operations on 21 April 1960, and is the principal agency for the enforcement of the laws passed by the Commonwealth Parliament. It is also responsible for the protection of Commonwealth property and interests at various buildings and establishments under the control of the Commonwealth. This force co-ordinates the work of other Commonwealth investigation and law enforcement agencies and acts on behalf of the United Nations Organization for the suppressing of traffic in women and the suppression of obscene literature.

Under the control of the force is the Australian Police College at Manly, New South Wales, which provides training for officers of various police forces and other agencies in Australia and New Zealand. The force has its Head Office in Canberra and District Offices in each capital city. The strength of the force at 30 June 1970 was 887 policemen and 3 policewomen. At that date there were, in addition, 97 civilian employees.

Prisons

Prisons and prison accommodation

PRISONS AND PRISON ACCOMMODATION: STATES AND NORTHERN TERRITORY, 30 JUNE 1969

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	Aust.
Prisons	20	13	8	15	15	1	2	74
Accommodation	3,479	2,610	1,255	1,314	1,315	417	185	10,575

There is no gaol in the Australian Capital Territory, but there is a lock-up attached to the police station at Canberra and another lock-up at Jervis Bay where offenders are held for short periods. Prisoners remanded or sentenced by a court in the Australian Capital Territory for more than five days are usually held in New South Wales prisons.

Convicted prisoners

CONVICTED PRISONERS: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1965 TO 1969

30 June—	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	Australia	
								Number	Per 10,000 of popu- lation
1965 . . .	2,957	1,879	949	796	803	210	129	7,723	6.8
1966 . . .	3,140	1,872	995	818	863	259	107	8,054	6.9
1967 . . .	3,334	1,994	1,021	866	1,137	275	112	8,739	7.4
1968 . . .	3,292	2,103	958	926	1,150	281	120	8,830	7.3
1969 . . .	3,327	2,199	1,065	884	1,214	331	177	9,197	7.5

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory prisoners held in New South Wales prisons.

Expenditure on law, order and public safety

Expenditure on law, order and public safety

The following table shows the identifiable expenditure on goods and services of Commonwealth and State public authorities whose activities are primarily directed towards serving the purposes of law, order and public safety. Because of differing legislative and administrative arrangements and differing accounting practices in the various States, the activities covered by the figures are not the same in each State; and the activities covered by the Commonwealth figures differ from those of the States because of the Commonwealth's different responsibilities in this field. The Commonwealth and State figures are therefore not strictly comparable; but they have been compiled by uniform methods, and each series is comparable from year to year.

ALL PUBLIC AUTHORITIES: EXPENDITURE ON LAW ORDER AND PUBLIC SAFETY
1965-66 TO 1969-70
(\$ million)

	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
Net current expenditure on goods and services—					
Commonwealth Authorities	6.9	9.7	11.5	12.9	15.2
State authorities—					
New South Wales	52.5	59.6	64.9	71.6	82.9
Victoria	33.7	36.9	40.0	43.7	49.0
Queensland	19.8	22.6	24.7	27.5	31.1
South Australia	10.5	12.2	13.3	14.4	16.0
Western Australia	10.1	11.5	12.3	14.8	17.6
Tasmania	4.4	4.9	5.9	6.5	7.4
Total States	130.9	147.6	161.1	178.6	204.0
Total Current	137.9	157.3	172.6	191.5	219.2
Gross fixed capital expenditure—					
Commonwealth authorities	0.8	0.6	0.9	1.6	1.5
State authorities—					
New South Wales	4.0	4.4	5.3	7.2	9.2
Victoria	4.4	4.4	4.6	6.7	4.2
Queensland	2.3	2.9	3.2	3.9	4.6
South Australia	1.2	1.3	0.8	0.8	1.1
Western Australia	0.8	0.8	0.9	1.7	1.3
Tasmania	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.2	1.3
Total States	13.9	14.6	15.7	21.5	21.7
Total Capital	14.7	15.2	16.6	23.1	23.1
Total expenditure	152.4	172.5	189.2	214.6	242.3

Patents, trade marks and designs

Patents

Patents for inventions are granted under the *Patents Act* 1952–1969, which applies to the Commonwealth of Australia and the Territories of Norfolk Island, Papua and New Guinea. The Act is administered by a Commissioner of Patents. The amending Act of 1969 came into operation on 1 January 1970. Regulations under the Act provide variable fees for lodgment of applications depending on size of specifications and number of claims. The basic fee for lodging an application and complete specification is \$20.00. Examination no longer automatically follows lodgment of applications. The Commissioner may now direct an applicant to request examination in which case the examination fee is \$60.00, or the applicant may request it of his own accord, in which case the fee is \$80.00. If examination is not requested within five years after lodgment, the application lapses.

Annual taxes are payable commencing with a fee of \$8.00 after the expiration of two years from the date of lodgment of the complete specification and rising to \$50.00 after the expiration of 15 years from that date.

PATENTS: AUSTRALIA, 1966 TO 1970

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Applications	16,007	15,733	16,712	17,446	16,443
Applications accompanied by provisional specifications	3,853	3,708	3,899	3,637	3,628
Letters patent sealed	6,140	6,356	5,537	7,127	6,130

Trade marks and designs

Under the *Trade Marks Act* 1955–1966 the Commissioner of Patents is also Registrar of Trade Marks. Provision is made for the registration of users of trade marks and for their assignment with or without the goodwill of the business concerned. A new classification of goods was adopted in 1958, and trade marks registered under repealed Acts are reclassified on renewal. Under the *Designs Act* 1906–1968 the Commissioner of Patents is also Registrar of Designs.

TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS: AUSTRALIA, 1966 TO 1970

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Trade marks—					
Received	6,714	7,537	8,301	9,246	9,117
Registered	3,272	5,333	4,612	4,809	5,823
Designs—					
Received	1,523	1,627	1,769	1,975	2,007
Registered	642	1,833	1,614	1,440	1,604

Copyright

Copyright is regulated by the Commonwealth *Copyright Act* 1968, which came into force on 1 May 1969. On that date Australia ratified its adherence to the Brussels revision of the Berne Copyright Convention and to the Universal Copyright Convention, whereby citizens of member countries are accorded protection by complying with the convention formality requiring proprietors to place on their works the symbol © together with their name and the year of first publication, in such a manner and location as to give reasonable notice of their claim of copyright in the works so identified. The new legislation contains no provision for the registration of copyright, and the Copyright Office ceased to exist on 1 May 1969. Copyright is now administered by the Attorney-General's Department.

