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CHAPTER 15

LAW, ORDER, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

This chapter provides summary information about criminal and civil court proceedings (including bankruptcy); selected crime reported or becoming known to the police; police strengths; prisons; expenditure on law and order; fire brigades; and patents, trademarks and copyright. The main sources of further information for individual States are the State Year Books and Annual Statistical bulletins, and the annual reports of the relevant justice authorities. *See also* Year Book No. 55, 1969, page 456, for short descriptions of the National Safety Council of Australia, lifesaving organisations, the Royal Humane Society and the Order of St John.

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 statistics (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 changes since then occurred in South Australia and New South Wales. In South Australia the Local Courts Act Amendment Act, 1969 came into operation 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 misdemeanors where the maximum punishment is imprisonment exceeding ten years.

In New South Wales the Supreme Court Act, 1970 came into operation on 1 July 1972. The Act provides for the concurrent administration of law and equity in the Supreme Court which will have the effect of bringing the New South Wales civil procedure in the Supreme Court in line with the other Australian States which have had concurrent administration from as early as 1876. Equitable reliefs and defences which could formerly only be pleaded in the Supreme Court exercising jurisdiction in equity can now be heard together with common law claims and defences in the one jurisdiction. The general scope of the Act will enable a suitor to obtain by one proceeding, the same ultimate result as he would previously have obtained either by having selected the right jurisdiction or after having been to each jurisdiction in succession. The Law Reform (Law and Equity) Act, 1972, which also commenced on 1 July 1972, provides that if any conflict or variance arises between the rules of equity and common law with reference to the same matter, the rules of equity will prevail. This principle extends, where applicable, to the inferior courts.

Legal aid

The Australian Legal Aid Office was established by the Commonwealth Government in July 1973. It provides a general problem-solving service of legal advice for persons with an element of need. Each person seeking help from the Office is seen by a lawyer, the problem identified and advice given. Further assistance, including assistance in litigation is available in matters arising under Federal law, including family law, to all persons, and in matters arising under State or Federal law to persons for whom the Commonwealth Government has a special responsibility such as those in receipt of social services, Aborigines, ex-servicemen, students and newcomers to Australia. The assistance is provided by lawyers of the Office or by referral to private legal practitioners.

The criteria for the provision of further assistance are, the merit of the applicant's case and the financial position of the applicant that is, whether he satisfies the means and needs test of the Office. In considering the merits, regard is had to all the circumstances, particularly to any advantage the applicant might gain from the provision of assistance and any disadvantage he might suffer if assistance was refused, and the likelihood that the proceedings will be terminated by a decision, settlement or otherwise so as to result in a proper and just advantage to the applicant. The means and needs test is the inability of the applicant to afford the cost of representation in the particular case. A system of contributions by applicants towards the cost of assistance has been in operation since August 1975.

The Office operates in each State and Territory of the Commonwealth. There is a branch office in each of the capital cities. Twenty-five regional offices have been established in suburban and provincial centres. The Office employs some 150 lawyers and 220 supporting administrative staff. Since its inception, the Office has given advice and assistance to over 200,000 people with interviews running at approximately 15,000 per month. During 1975, over 140,000 interviews were conducted.

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 recent years 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(b)

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>	<i>1973</i>	<i>1974</i>
New South Wales	390,233	427,560	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Victoria	339,019	339,527	370,701	n.a.	n.a.
Queensland(c)(d)	110,803	110,883	114,063	123,754	125,728
South Australia(c)	125,867	123,303	142,689	(a)113,829	(a)113,097
Western Australia	88,940	101,077	104,001	112,736	122,316
Tasmania	32,880	38,046	43,277	44,890	47,986
Northern Territory	14,695	21,329	22,493	23,821	n.a.
Australian Capital Territory	10,326	11,416	19,071	20,437	21,981
Australia	1,112,763	1,173,141	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Includes Children's Court except, from 1973, in South Australia. (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.

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 internal Territories 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**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>	<i>1973</i>	<i>1974</i>
New South Wales	456,798	511,005	588,729	694,697	792,469
Victoria	477,332	544,663	611,106	631,967	672,185
Queensland(a)	235,477	257,709	312,029	327,064	382,419
South Australia(a)	244,120	277,464	246,184	270,515	340,829
Western Australia	154,307	176,994	200,723	211,913	271,266
Tasmania	62,408	76,062	107,457	n.a.	n.a.
Northern Territory	8,438	10,444	(b)7,574	n.a.	n.a.
Australian Capital Territory	5,282	7,229	12,580	12,955	18,589
Australia	1,644,162	1,861,570	2,086,382	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Year ended 30 June. (b) During 1972 the duties of Darwin's Council Municipal Inspectors were expanded; in addition there was an alteration to Council By-Laws; these changes resulted in a decrease of minor traffic offence fines for that year.

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: 1974

<i>Class of offence</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i> <i>(b)(c)</i>	<i>S.A.</i> <i>(b)</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Against the person . . .	n.a.	n.a.	1,166	718	2,097	778	n.a.	248	n.a.
Against property . . .	n.a.	n.a.	9,252	3,250	18,205	3,913	n.a.	1,551	n.a.
Forgery and offences against the currency . . .	n.a.	n.a.	..	1	306	271	n.a.	113	n.a.
Against good order . . .	n.a.	n.a.	36,538	10,787	23,998	2,577	n.a.	999	n.a.
Other(d)	n.a.	n.a.	60,570	78,281	64,805	25,725	n.a.	11,633	n.a.
Total	n.a.	n.a.	107,526	93,037	109,411	33,264	n.a.	14,544	n.a.

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

CASES AT MAGISTRATES' COURTS(a) IN WHICH CONVICTIONS WERE MADE(b)

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>	<i>1973</i>	<i>1974</i>
New South Wales	337,563	366,701	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Victoria	294,554	291,669	321,261	n.a.	n.a.
Queensland(c)(d)	91,198	92,650	97,532	105,897	107,526
South Australia(c)	114,499	110,543	123,063	(a)94,068	(a)93,037
Western Australia	79,899	93,548	95,673	101,972	109,411
Tasmania	26,571	32,031	35,504	32,740	33,264
Northern Territory	13,528	20,047	20,095	21,256	n.a.
Australian Capital Territory	6,620	8,940	14,013	14,330	14,544
Australia	964,432	1,016,129	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Includes Children's Courts except, from 1973 in South Australia. (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.

The number of cases in which convictions for drunkenness were recorded in recent years are given in the following table.

DRUNKENNESS CASES(a) IN WHICH CONVICTIONS WERE MADE

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>	<i>1973</i>	<i>1974</i>
New South Wales	58,606	58,733	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Victoria	25,054	25,820	28,962	n.a.	n.a.
Queensland(b)(c)	31,259	29,878	30,529	32,530	33,093
South Australia(b)	9,650	9,365	10,181	(a)8,314	(a)7,973
Western Australia	12,612	16,197	16,379	15,104	16,142
Tasmania	541	716	813	890	1,101
Northern Territory	6,675	8,217	8,418	n.a.	n.a.
Australian Capital Territory	572	393	712	770	680
Australia	144,969	149,319	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Includes Children's Court except, from 1973, in South Australia. (b) Year ended 30 June. (c) A person convicted on several counts at the one hearing is included only once.

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 offences against the person, offences against property, forgery, and offences against the currency.

**CONVICTIONS FOR CERTAIN SERIOUS OFFENCES(a) AT
MAGISTRATES' COURTS(b)**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>	<i>1973</i>	<i>1974</i>
New South Wales	40,642	44,191	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Victoria	33,025	34,744	37,881	n.a.	n.a.
Queensland(c)(d)	7,525	7,373	8,480	9,343	10,418
South Australia(c)	7,349	8,040	8,596	(b)3,852	(b)3,969
Western Australia	15,925	19,776	20,058	20,615	20,608
Tasmania	3,813	5,073	5,811	4,645	4,962
Northern Territory	1,517	1,751	2,013	2,150	n.a.
Australian Capital Territory	729	1,069	1,273	1,707	1,866
Australia	110,525	122,017	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Offences against the person, offences against property, forgery, and offences against the currency. (b) Includes Children's Courts except, from 1973, in South Australia. (c) Year ended 30 June. (d) A person convicted on several counts at the one hearing is included only once.

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, 1974

<i>Class of offence</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i> <i>(b)(c)</i>	<i>S.A.</i> <i>(b)</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Against the person	n.a.	n.a.	559	163	219	182	n.a.	51	n.a.
Against property	n.a.	n.a.	1,301	543	716	525	n.a.	172	n.a.
Forgery and offences against the currency	n.a.	n.a.	..	14	67	77	n.a.	..	n.a.
Against good order	n.a.	n.a.	15	73	43	4	n.a.	1	n.a.
Other	n.a.	n.a.	60	189	21	53	n.a.	31	n.a.
Total	n.a.	n.a.	1,935	982	1,066	841	n.a.	255	n.a.

(a) Includes committals from Children's Courts except in South Australia. (b) Year ended 30 June. (c) A person committed on several counts at the one hearing is included only once.

COMMITTALS TO HIGHER COURTS(a)

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>	<i>1973</i>	<i>1974</i>
New South Wales	9,173	11,055	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Victoria	6,446	6,710	6,912	n.a.	n.a.
Queensland(b)(c)	1,733	2,172	2,365	2,193	1,935
South Australia(b)	742	873	1,003	(a)1,001	(a)982
Western Australia	1,270	1,507	893	712	1,066
Tasmania	1,012	1,056	1,418	1,008	841
Northern Territory	151	116	402	408	n.a.
Australian Capital Territory	278	179	336	382	255
Australia	20,805	23,668	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Includes committals from Children's Courts except, from 1973, in South Australia. (b) Year ended 30 June. (c) A person committed on several counts at the one hearing is included only once.

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 for trial or sentence by lower courts, and civil cases involving common law, commercial causes, equity, etc. From 5 January 1975, the *Family Law Act 1975* superseded the *Matrimonial Causes Act 1959* and established the Family Court of Australia. The jurisdiction in matrimonial causes under the New Act is exercised by the new court and, at least until it is fully established, concurrently by the Supreme Courts of the various States and Territories. In Western Australia, jurisdiction under the Act will be exercised by the Family Court of Western Australia, when it is established. Details of petitions for and decrees of dissolution, nullity, and judicial separation are shown in Chapter 8, Vital Statistics. Under the *Bankruptcy Act 1966*, 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, in practice, the Federal Court deals with bankruptcy cases in New South Wales and Victoria.

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

Criminal proceedings

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

PERSONS CONVICTED^(a) AT HIGHER COURTS: BY NATURE OF OFFENCE, 1974

Offence	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld(b)	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.
Against the person —								
Murder	28		11	8	6	1	4	..
Attempted murder	5		10	..	2	..	7	..
Manslaughter(c)	67		17	6	26	8	1	3
Culpable driving	59		12	3	5	..	3	2
Rape	69		35	17	23	6	10	2
Other offences against females	266		121	87	12	35	8	5
Abduction	8		6	..	1	1	..	..
Unnatural offences	62		20	4	3	12	4	..
Abortion and attempt to procure	3		..	..	..	..	..	..
Bigamy	12		..	1	2	..	..	..
Malicious wounding and aggravated assault	260		107	38	28	7	13	7
Common assault	79		6	14	..	12	..	2
Other offences against the person	3		12	42	7	20	7	..
<i>Total, against the person</i>	<i>921</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>368</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>21</i>
Against property—								
Burglary, breaking and entering	1,041		748	367	101	97	78	31
Robbery and stealing from the person	308		69	40	48	58	5	17
Embezzlement and larceny by servants	194		6	18	21	..	3	..
Other larceny(d)	670		64	56	49	..	9	8
Receiving	216		245	15	7	5	1	6
Fraud and false pretences	150		(e)23	31	14	17	..	3
Arson	36		29	7	11	6	1	2
Malicious damage	28		23	11	1	2	..	..
Other offences against property	1		2	3	2	..	1	3
<i>Total, against property</i>	<i>2,644</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>1,211</i>	<i>548</i>	<i>254</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>70</i>
Forgery and offences against the currency	46		..	16	4	9	5	1
Against good order	89		2	39	..	..	3	..
Other	94		29	83	63	16	11	2
Grand total	3,794	n.a.	1,610	906	436	312	174	94

(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. (e) Includes forgery and uttering.

PERSONS CONVICTED^(a) AT HIGHER COURTS

State or Territory	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
New South Wales	3,804	4,024	4,359	4,088	3,794
Victoria	1,752	1,805	1,817	n.a.	n.a.
Queensland ^(b)	1,402	1,720	1,758	1,812	1,610
South Australia	694	931	964	982	906
Western Australia	693	755	662	357	436
Tasmania	337	401	324	325	312
Northern Territory	87	114	140	205	174
Australian Capital Territory	96	94	121	121	94
Australia	8,865	9,844	10,145	n.a.	n.a.

(a) See footnote (a) in table above. (b) Year ended 30 June.

Capital punishment

There were no executions in Australia in 1974. For a brief account of the law relating to capital punishment in Australia, see Year Book No. 55, page 573.

Bankruptcy

For a description of the provisions of the *Bankruptcy Act 1966*, 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.

BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS, 1974-75

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	520	14	36	11	581
	Liabilities \$	10,636,443	424,497	9,269,239	186,879	20,517,058
	Assets \$	4,150,282	282,980	1,692,646	247,033	6,372,941
Vic.	Number	408	22	40	31	501
	Liabilities \$	4,943,920	401,476	3,647,926	1,168,862	10,162,184
	Assets \$	1,444,378	480,935	1,471,085	729,283	4,125,681
Qld	Number	291	6	18	6	321
	Liabilities \$	6,502,546	133,442	1,257,825	522,552	8,416,365
	Assets \$	3,868,164	59,753	962,739	319,736	5,210,392
S.A.	Number	427	3	4	3	437
	Liabilities \$	3,304,232	222,396	410,729	172,453	4,109,810
	Assets \$	1,580,680	111,595	455,285	151,557	2,299,117
W.A.	Number	336	17	28	26	407
	Liabilities \$	7,627,004	486,944	1,136,331	640,234	9,890,513
	Assets \$	1,508,189	117,595	467,935	506,159	2,599,878
Tas.	Number	75	1	2	3	81
	Liabilities \$	636,348	24,515	53,844	50,605	765,312
	Assets \$	279,786	16,602	79,810	79,903	456,101
N.T.	Number	4	..	..	..	4
	Liabilities \$	137,890	..	..	..	137,890
	Assets \$	697,034	..	..	..	697,034
Australia	Number	2,061	63	128	80	2,332
	Liabilities \$	33,788,383	1,693,270	15,775,894	2,741,585	53,999,132
	Assets \$	13,528,513	1,069,460	5,129,500	2,033,671	21,761,144

(a) Includes the Australian Capital Territory.

BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS: AUSTRALIA

Year			Sequestration orders and orders for administration of deceased debtors' estates	Compositions	Deeds of assignment	Deeds of arrangement	Total
1970-71	Number	.	2,428	64	152	139	2,783
	Liabilities	\$'000	21,259	849	3,976	4,681	30,765
	Assets	\$'000	8,868	286	2,947	5,199	17,300
1971-72	Number	.	2,684	64	153	135	3,036
	Liabilities	\$'000	29,669	1,036	6,298	3,943	40,946
	Assets	\$'000	10,243	684	3,377	3,540	17,844
1972-73	Number	.	2,254	71	160	88	2,573
	Liabilities	\$'000	18,508	1,591	4,630	2,701	27,430
	Assets	\$'000	9,231	1,290	2,804	2,133	15,458
1973-74	Number	.	1,637	54	110	63	1,864
	Liabilities	\$'000	17,194	1,196	3,569	2,280	24,241
	Assets	\$'000	5,970	646	2,364	1,307	10,288
1974-75	Number	.	2,061	63	128	80	2,332
	Liabilities	\$'000	33,788	1,693	15,776	2,742	53,999
	Assets	\$'000	13,529	1,069	5,129	2,034	21,761

The High Court of Australia

The High Court of Australia consists of a Chief Justice and six other Justices. Its principal seat is in Sydney, 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 1974 and 1975.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA, 1974 AND 1975

Original jurisdiction(a)	1974	1975	Appellate jurisdiction	1974	1975
Number of writs issued	131	189	Number of appeals—		
Number of causes entered for trial	28	31	Set down for hearing	128	115
Judgments for plaintiffs	7	10	Allowed	33	22
Judgments for defendants	5	4	Dismissed	58	37
Otherwise disposed of	18	16	Otherwise disposed of	22	21
Amounts of judgments	\$212,800	\$1,806,486			

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

During 1974 and 1975, respectively, the High Court dealt also with the following: appeals from assessments under the Taxation Assessments Act, 12, 22; taxation appeals remitted to Supreme Court, nil, 1; special cases stated for the opinion of the Full Court, 7, 15; applications for prohibition, etc., 26, 16. The fees collected amounted to \$17,414 in 1974 and \$18,978 in 1975.

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. During 1973 there were minor changes to the collection procedures and some offence definitions which means that 1973-74 statistics are not strictly comparable with the statistics of previous years. The following explanations are necessary in order to interpret the statistics 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. Attempted crimes are counted as offences in the appropriate offence category except for attempted murder which is shown separately.

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, for the purpose of bringing an offender before court. 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 statistics 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 statistics 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, and from July 1973 includes manslaughter arising from motor traffic accidents).

Serious assault. This is unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe bodily injury, usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or other means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Excludes attempted murder, robbery, sexual offences and offences where bodily injury results from negligent acts or omissions. *Uniform interpretation of this definition between States is especially difficult to effect.*

Robbery. Includes situations where the offender uses or threatens to use violence, either immediately before, during or after the time of stealing, 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 all premises normally used for dwelling purposes whether occupied or not, such as the residential parts of hotels, hostels, schools, colleges, clubs and similar institutions; excludes caravans on wheels, tents, etc.); *shops* (including kiosks, service stations, restaurants, bars, non-residential clubs, etc.); and *other buildings* (including parts of buildings, but excluding dwellings and shops used for such purposes) regardless of the value of the property involved.

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. Includes cases where the vehicle is not actually driven away. 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 all types of fraud, forgery, uttering, falsification of records, false pretences, secret commissions, imposition, fraudulent dealings in goods subject to hire purchase, obtaining credit by fraud, and offences involving false claims, deception, trickery, cheating or breaches of trust. Also included is embezzlement, fraudulent misappropriation, fraudulent conversion and stealing by a bailee, servant or trustee etc. Forgery and or uttering of bank notes is excluded. 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. The table includes offences reported to and investigated by the Commonwealth Police.

**SELECTED CRIME REPORTED OR BECOMING KNOWN TO POLICE:
NUMBER OF OFFENCES**

Category of crime	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Homicide—									
1971-72	131	110	44	35	33	13	10	4	380
1972-73	142	122	76	23	29	18	9	6	425
1973-74(a)	252	137	130	45	62	9	14	4	653
Serious assault(b)—									
1971-72	828	2,712	224	126	157	21	131	36	4,235
1972-73	877	(b)1,942	289	172	112	11	73	40	(b)3,516
1973-74	886	(b)1,491	178	168	168	22	64	41	(b)3,018
Robbery—									
1971-72	1,608	877	213	187	112	48	33	21	3,099
1972-73	1,457	872	302	182	89	51	24	19	2,996
1973-74	1,369	891	294	262	130	46	20	22	3,034
Rape—									
1971-72	184	181	72	61	33	24	16	6	577
1972-73	206	181	88	46	31	16	15	8	591
1973-74	295	209	66	101	31	17	25	9	753
Breaking and entering (dwellings, shops, offices, etc.)—									
1971-72	46,873	38,148	14,333	12,109	8,025	3,060	875	633	124,056
1972-73	42,292	34,988	13,627	12,172	9,631	2,742	734	861	117,047
1973-74	39,832	32,888	13,999	13,352	11,563	2,324	1,055	1,236	116,249
Motor vehicle theft, etc.—									
1971-72	21,112	12,370	4,549	2,990	3,975	1,208	368	349	46,921
1972-73	18,847	11,057	4,739	3,380	4,338	1,148	593	412	44,514
1973-74	20,103	10,953	5,016	4,172	5,214	1,084	677	598	47,817
Fraud, forgery, etc.—									
1971-72	13,459	8,686	6,573	3,488	2,619	843	248	293	36,209
1972-73	12,565	7,898	4,796	3,810	2,670	1,100	358	472	33,669
1973-74	13,915	7,889	5,586	5,964	2,489	777	280	426	37,326

(a) For 1973-74, manslaughter includes manslaughter arising from motor traffic accidents. (b) Statistics not comparable with earlier years because of changes in interpretation and collection procedures in Victoria.

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 476-7 for definitions used and the bases on which these statistics are prepared.

**HOMICIDE: CRIMES REPORTED OR BECOMING KNOWN, CRIMES CLEARED
AND PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA**

	<i>Murder</i>			<i>Attempted murder</i>			<i>Manslaughter</i>			<i>All homicide</i>		
	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>
Numbers reported or becoming known	175	220	226	157	151	161	48	54	266	380	425	653
Numbers cleared	168	202	209	141	135	151	47	50	260	356	387	620
Persons involved in crimes cleared—												
Aged(b)—												
16 years and under	10	7	8	5	5	3	4	1	6	19	13	17
17 and 18 years	12	12	22	9	10	13	4	10	21	25	32	56
19 and 20 years	8	11	23	33	13	15	8	5	37	49	29	75
21 years and over	162	212	176	135	119	107	36	46	187	333	377	470
Total persons involved	192	242	229	182	147	138	52	62	(c)265	(d)426	(d)451	(c)(d)632

(a) From July 1973 includes manslaughter arising from motor traffic accidents. (b) Age last birthday at time of clearance. (c) Includes 14 persons involved in driving offences occasioning death not included in age distribution. (d) Includes 49 females in 1971-72, 54 in 1972-73 and 51 in 1973-74.

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

	<i>Serious assault</i>			<i>Robbery</i>			<i>Rape</i>			
	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	
Numbers reported or becoming known		4,235	3,516	3,018	3,099	2,996	3,034	577	591	753
Numbers cleared		3,237	2,632	2,029	914	861	800	400	422	418
Persons involved in crimes cleared—										
Aged(a)—										
16 years and under		470	268	225	278	307	192	48	49	73
17 and 18 years		629	419	311	339	313	254	128	93	91
19 and 20 years		522	376	262	288	270	199	87	107	92
21 years and over		2,337	2,038	1,311	750	683	416	258	309	237
Total persons involved		(b)3,958	(b)3,101	(b)2,109	(c)1,655	(c)1,573	(c)1,061	521	558	493

(a) Age last birthday at time of clearance. (b) Includes 77 females in 1971-72, 148 in 1972-73 and 136 in 1973-74. (c) Includes 65 females in 1971-72, 75 in 1972-73 and 69 in 1973-74.

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

	<i>Dwellings</i>			<i>Shops</i>			<i>Other buildings</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>
Numbers reported or becoming known	58,311	57,372	60,071	27,054	22,964	22,708	30,217	29,190	33,470	124,056	117,047	116,249
Numbers cleared	11,246	11,049	12,246	6,721	5,798	5,741	5,259	5,105	5,366	24,113	22,757	23,353
Persons involved in crimes cleared(b)—												
Aged—												
16 years and under	10,514	10,025	4,249	5,316	4,713	2,503	5,173	5,454	2,841	21,003	20,192	9,593
17 and 18 years	2,218	2,409	1,137	2,018	1,822	1,017	1,216	1,098	595	5,452	5,329	2,749
19 and 20 years	1,129	1,277	487	1,377	972	555	776	613	366	3,282	2,862	1,408
21 years and over	3,713	3,146	1,185	3,154	2,374	1,251	2,108	1,669	844	8,975	7,189	3,280
Total persons involved	17,574	16,857	7,058	11,865	9,881	5,326	9,273	8,834	4,646	(c)40,053	(c)36,839	(c)17,030

(a) Attempts in N.S.W. in 1971-72 and 1972-73 are included in totals only. (b) A change in collection procedures affected the numbers in 1973-74. (c) Includes 1,047 females in 1971-72, 1,106 in 1972-73 and 661 in 1973-74.

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

	<i>Motor vehicle theft, etc.</i>			<i>Fraud, forgery, false pretences</i>								
				<i>Valueless cheques</i>			<i>Other</i>			<i>All fraud, etc.</i>		
	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>
Numbers reported or becoming known	46,921	44,514	47,814	12,848	11,671	9,564	24,186	20,871	27,960	36,209	33,669	37,326
Numbers cleared	11,389	10,717	n.a.	7,783	7,603	5,708	15,692	14,421	18,831	23,475	22,024	24,539
Persons involved in crimes cleared—												
Males aged(a)—												
16 years and under	8,889	8,188	4,788	132	183	83	510	462	355	642	645	438
17 and 18 years	4,629	4,001	2,460	284	324	96	689	714	405	973	1,038	501
19 and 20 years	1,956	1,726	1,067	563	505	129	844	624	365	1,407	1,129	494
21 years and over	3,308	2,717	1,731	6,027	5,586	1,418	10,135	7,780	3,126	16,162	13,366	4,544
Total males	18,782	16,632	10,046	7,006	6,598	1,726	12,178	9,580	4,251	19,184	16,178	5,977
Females aged(a)—												
16 years and under	309	245	199	67	29	12	313	208	109	380	237	121
17 and 18 years	100	91	61	50	38	29	521	359	144	571	397	173
19 and 20 years	43	30	19	117	76	29	349	420	135	466	496	164
21 years and over	87	60	39	968	1,012	210	3,104	3,479	812	4,072	4,491	1,022
Total females	539	426	318	1,202	1,155	280	4,287	4,466	1,200	5,489	5,621	1,480
Total persons involved	19,321	17,058	10,364	8,208	7,753	2,006	16,465	14,046	5,451	24,673	21,799	7,457

(a) Age last birthday at time of clearance.

The number of stolen motor vehicles recovered was: 1971-72, 43,967; 1972-73, 41,150; 1973-74, 41,830.

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* 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 goods as defined in the *Customs Act 1901* is:

(a) In a Court of Summary Jurisdiction—

A fine not exceeding \$2,000 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 manufacture 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:

(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.

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, 1966–1975; Summary Offences Act, 1970
Victoria	<i>Poisons Act 1962</i>
Queensland	<i>The Health Acts 1937 to 1974</i>
South Australia	Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs Act, 1934–74 (formerly Dangerous Drugs Act, 1934–1955); Food and Health Act, 1908–1962; Police Offences Act, 1953–1961
Western Australia	<i>Police Act, 1892–1967; Poisons Act 1964</i>
Tasmania	<i>Dangerous Drugs Act 1959; Alcohol and Drug Dependence Act 1968; Health Services Act 1960; Poisons Act 1971</i>
Northern Territory	<i>Dangerous Drugs Ordinance 1928; Poison Ordinance 1924</i>
Australian Capital Territory	<i>Poisons, Dangerous Drugs and Public Health Ordinances 1933</i>

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.

Since 1970 some States have introduced legislation requiring that stocks of dangerous drugs in pharmacies be stored in heavy metal safes.

All State Governments have agreed to a uniform code of penalties based on those applicable in Commonwealth Government 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 Business and Consumer Affairs. 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 legislation and administrative action. The Committee is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs. The Department administers the Australian Narcotics Bureau and has responsibility for the enforcement of laws controlling importation and exporting of drugs. Membership of the Committee is comprised of senior officers of the Commonwealth and State police and health authorities. Its Deputy Chairman is the Director-General of the Australian Department of Health.

The National Standing Control Committee on Drugs of Dependence recommended that the Australia Crime Intelligence Centre (formerly known as the Central Crime Intelligence Bureau) of the Commonwealth Police Force serve as the national agency for the systematic collection, collation, evaluation and dissemination of information concerning the illicit drug traffic in Australia. During 1974, the fifth complete year for which the Australia Crime Intelligence Centre compiled statistics, 9,179 drug offences, for which 4,850 male and 720 females were prosecuted, were reported to the Centre. Details of the offences and drugs involved are given in the following tables.

PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS FOR DRUG OFFENCES REPORTED TO THE AUSTRALIAN CRIME INTELLIGENCE CENTRE (COMMONWEALTH POLICE): PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA 1974

Age (years)	Number of offenders	Number of individual charges	Convictions on individual charges	Fines imposed		Gaol sentences		Number of bonds granted (a)	Number of charges not proceeded with or dismissed	Number of charges pending
				No.	Amount \$	No.	Months			
UNLAWFUL POSSESSION										
Males aged—										
16 and under	132	141	45	21	1,930	..	..	20	10	86
17 and 18	715	785	339	249	59,508	5	38	76	26	420
19 and 20	1,023	1,136	560	441	112,625	41	394	70	19	557
21	338	445	219	164	39,622	25	312	32	5	221
22 and over	1,563	1,795	848	625	170,248	74	650	108	30	917
<i>Total males</i>	<i>3,771</i>	<i>4,302</i>	<i>2,011</i>	<i>1,500</i>	<i>383,933</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>1,394</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>2,201</i>
Females aged—										
16 and under	38	45	12	3	350	..	..	6	5	28
17 and 18	112	123	50	35	8,330	1	3	17	5	68
19 and 20	155	175	81	58	13,845	2	12	17	6	88
21	43	47	20	13	2,800	1	3	5	1	26
22 and over	169	190	79	48	10,895	2	5	25	12	99
<i>Total females</i>	<i>517</i>	<i>580</i>	<i>242</i>	<i>157</i>	<i>36,220</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>309</i>
UNLAWFUL IMPORTS										
Males aged—										
16 and under	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17 and 18	4	4	1	1	300	..	..	..	..	3
19 and 20	16	19	8	3	450	1	6	1	1	10
21	11	11	5	4	750	..	..	..	1	5
22 and over	102	113	46	29	11,229	12	392	3	1	66
<i>Total males</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>12,729</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>398</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>84</i>
Females aged—										
16 and under	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
17 and 18	3	3	1	1	400	..	..	..	..	2
19 and 20	8	8	1	1	500	..	..	..	..	7
21	2	2	1	1	150	..	..	..	..	1
22 and over	22	23	8	5	1,450	..	..	3	..	15
<i>Total females</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2,500</i>	..	..	<i>3</i>	..	<i>26</i>
UNLAWFUL USE										
Males aged—										
16 and under	120	122	36	10	775	..	..	23	5	81
17 and 18	483	521	143	101	11,275	4	21	34	20	358
19 and 20	594	643	246	178	24,700	18	114	44	19	378
21	203	219	88	68	9,030	9	48	9	4	127
22 and over	624	673	249	176	22,965	17	74	42	15	409
<i>Total males</i>	<i>2,024</i>	<i>2,178</i>	<i>762</i>	<i>533</i>	<i>68,745</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>257</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>1,353</i>
Females aged—										
16 and under	49	50	12	1	40	..	..	6	7	31
17 and 18	73	88	22	10	1,182	1	6	13	5	61
19 and 20	84	92	43	28	2,985	2	6	15	3	46
21	24	26	8	5	255	..	..	2	..	18
22 and over	73	77	27	16	1,980	2	18	8	4	46
<i>Total females</i>	<i>303</i>	<i>333</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>6,442</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>202</i>
THEFT										
Males aged—										
16 and under	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
17 and 18	22	29	14	1	30	2	90	11	..	15
19 and 20	36	45	17	3	400	5	85	4	1	27
21	17	33	8	1	80	5	132	3	..	25
22 and over	61	73	23	5	530	6	140	11	1	49
<i>Total males</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1,040</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>447</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>117</i>
Females aged—										
16 and under	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
17 and 18	5	7	3	2	240	1	30	..	..	4
19 and 20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3
22 and over	9	11	6	3	450	1	3	3	..	5
<i>Total females</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>690</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>4</i>	..	<i>14</i>

For footnote see next page.

PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS FOR DRUG OFFENCES REPORTED TO THE
AUSTRALIAN CRIME INTELLIGENCE CENTRE (COMMONWEALTH POLICE): PERSONS
INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA 1974—*continued*

Age (years)	Number of individual offenders	Number of individual charges	Con- victions on individual charges	Fines imposed		Gaol sentences		Number of bonds granted (a)	Number of charges not pro- ceeded with or dismissed	Number of charges pending
				No.	Amount \$	No.	Months			
TRAFFICKING										
Males aged—										
16 and under	21	22	6	3	228	1	6	3	2	14
17 and 18	66	75	25	12	2,945	4	61	4	8	42
19 and 20	96	127	49	11	3,119	16	210	7	2	76
21	46	64	38	8	1,900	11	104	2	..	26
22 and over	152	171	36	14	4,250	11	105	8	1	134
<i>Total males</i>	<i>381</i>	<i>459</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>12,442</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>486</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>292</i>
Females aged—										
16 and under	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
17 and 18	6	7	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	5
19 and 20	10	11	5	5	1,100	..	..	..	..	6
21	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
22 and over	16	18	4	1	750	1	3	2	..	14
<i>Total females</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1,850</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>28</i>
OTHER OFFENCES										
Males aged—										
16 and under	21	22	8	2	200	..	..	5	1	13
17 and 18	113	122	50	42	5,235	2	9	6	2	70
19 and 20	170	193	88	72	13,580	6	72	8	2	103
21	93	109	40	36	7,135	1	6	3	1	68
22 and over	279	354	141	109	24,283	15	69	12	6	207
<i>Total males</i>	<i>676</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>327</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>50,433</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>156</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>461</i>
Females aged—										
16 and under	6	6	3	..	..	..	..	3	1	2
17 and 18	12	12	5	2	200	1	12	2	1	6
19 and 20	18	21	9	5	810	..	..	1	3	9
21	13	16	9	4	540	2	17	2	..	7
22 and over	33	44	18	9	1,110	1	24	2	..	26
<i>Total females</i>	<i>82</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>2,660</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>50</i>
TOTAL OFFENCES										
Total males	7,122	8,067	3,376	2,389	529,322	291	3,138	549	183	4,508
Total females	993	1,112	429	256	50,362	18	142	135	54	629
Total persons	8,115	9,179	3,805	2,645	579,684	309	3,280	684	237	5,137

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

NUMBER OF CHARGES INVOLVING SPECIFIC DRUG TYPES(a), 1974
(Source: Australian Crime Intelligence Centre (Commonwealth Police))

Type of drug	Possess	Import	Use/ administer	Traffic	Steal	False pre- tences	Forge pre- scription	Other	Total	Per- centage of drug group
Narcotics—										
Cocaine	21	2	13	2	8	..	..	1	47	4.07
Codeine	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	0.17
Palfium	9	..	32	2	6	29	60	3	141	12.22
Physeptone	22	..	21	33	3	9	23	4	115	9.97
Morphine	97	2	102	7	95	4	1	16	324	28.08
Opium	24	4	12	..	5	..	..	..	45	3.73
Opium (preparations)	4	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	8	0.69
Pethidine	25	..	30	4	36	14	4	5	118	10.23
Omnoyon	6	..	4	..	2	..	1	3	16	1.39
Fortral	1	..	1	..	4	1	..	..	7	0.62
Heroin	153	27	94	40	4	..	..	11	329	28.34
Etorphine	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0.08
Fentanyl	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0.08
Codeine hydrocodone	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	0.08
Dilaudid	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	0.17
Phenadoxone . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	0.08
<i>Total</i>	367	36	312	89	165	57	89	43	1,158	100.00
Cannabis—										
Plants	203	..	1	..	..	..	..	92	296	4.12
Seeds	101	10	2	..	..	..	..	5	118	1.64
Marihuana	3,672	99	1,938	331	2	..	..	486	6,528	90.98
Hashish	117	39	19	7	..	..	..	6	188	2.62
Cannabinol	15	2	1	3	..	..	..	2	23	0.32
Liquid hash	17	2	3	1	..	..	..	..	23	0.32
<i>Total</i>	4,125	152	1,964	342	2	..	..	591	7,176	100.00
Amphetamines—										
Amphetamine	17	2	14	3	..	..	..	2	38	64.42
Dexamphetamine	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1.70
Methylamphetamine	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	15.26
Methylphenidate	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	5	1.70
Phenmetrazine	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	8.46
Ponderax . . . . .	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	1	5	8.46
<i>Total</i>	29	2	20	5	..	..	..	3	59	100.00
Barbiturates/hypnotics—										
Mandrax	44	..	15	6	5	1	2	1	74	71.16
Amylobarbitone	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	2.89
Butobarbitone	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0.97
Pentobarbitone	9	..	5	3	3	..	..	..	20	18.35
Quinalbarbitone	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	1.93
Nitrazepam . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	0.97
Other	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	3	3.73
<i>Total</i>	58	..	20	11	10	1	3	1	104	100.00
Tranquillisers—										
Valium	15	..	1	..	10	1	4	..	31	91.18
Other	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	8.82
<i>Total</i>	18	..	1	..	10	1	4	..	34	100.00
Hallucinogens—										
L.S.D.	100	5	66	27	..	..	..	2	200	81.30
Psilocybine	31	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	42	17.08
Mescaline	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	1.22
Other	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0.40
<i>Total</i>	133	5	79	27	..	..	..	2	246	100.00
Other total	172	2	15	24	40	3	9	23	288	..
Grand total	4,902	197	2,410	497	227	62	105	663	9,065	..
<i>Percentage</i>	<i>54.08</i>	<i>2.16</i>	<i>26.60</i>	<i>5.50</i>	<i>2.50</i>	<i>0.69</i>	<i>1.16</i>	<i>7.31</i>	<i>100.00</i>	<i>..</i>

(a) If a number of different drug types are involved in an offence, they are counted under each drug category.

In 1969, the Commonwealth Bureau of Narcotics was created as part of the Government's campaign to combat the increasing incidence of illicit trafficking of drugs in Australia. Now known as the Australian Narcotics Bureau and operating under the Bureau of Customs from within the Department of Business and Consumer Affairs, it is made up of three sections:

Treaties and Secretariat Section—responsible for ensuring that Australia's obligations as a signatory to the various international conventions on drugs are complied with.

International Enforcement and 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.

National 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 Bureau of Customs (previously the Department of Customs and Excise) in recent years.

DRUG SEIZURES BY THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

Type of drug	Unit	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Amphetamines	gram	18	79	50	655	165
	tablet	1,421	493	127	..	..
Barbiturates	gram	22	37	..	172	262
	tablet	287	1,050	265	..	..
Cannabis	gram	178,654	541,929	1,107,189	287,506	885,476
Cannabis oil	gram . . . . .	..	..	..	4,809	32,859
Cocaine	gram	4	198	121	47	338
	tablet	9	..	..	..	..
L.S.D.	dosage unit	21,676	69,863	23,442	5,505	9,131
Narcotics—						
Opium	gram	6,094	2,746	3,020	5,700	4,861
Heroin	gram	2,468	2,018	3,116	5,079	5,938
Morphine	gram	31	158	1,536	279	863
	ampoule	6	16	2	..	..
Pethidine	tablet	2	..	..	..	..
	tablet/ampoule	6	43	51	..	..

The number of offenders charged with drug offences by the Bureau of Customs and the sentences imposed are given in the following table. Particulars of all drug offences in 1974 reported to the Australian Crime Intelligence Centre are shown in the table on pages 481-2.

PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS UNDER THE CUSTOMS ACT AND THE NARCOTIC DRUGS ACT FOR OFFENCES INVOLVING DRUGS OF DEPENDENCE

(Source: Bureau of Customs)

Offence and year	Number of offenders	Number of individual charges	Convictions on individual charges	Fines imposed		Gaol sentences		Number of bonds granted (a)	Number of charges not proceeded with or dismissed	Offence proven without conviction	Number of charges pending
				No.	Amount	No.	Months				
Unlawful possession—											
					\$						
1971	53	56	31	13	2,870	14	266	4	12	..	13
1972	85	89	63	46	13,275	14	220	2	9	..	18
1973	37	39	36	31	9,780	4	69	1	2	..	1
1974	85	89	63	46	12,275	14	220	2	9	..	18
1975	189	199	136	65	28,695	29	984	42	14	2	49
Unlawful import—											
1971	74	78	60	41	11,005	16	188	3	2	..	16
1972	105	116	86	46	13,207	34	694	5	6	..	23
1973	112	115	97	58	14,258	20	220	9	10	..	18
1974	105	116	86	46	13,207	34	694	5	6	..	23
1975	134	149	106	50	8,175	36	1,039	20	7	2	34
Other offences—											
1971	15	15	10	6	3,950	4	88	..	..	..	5
1972	48	56	25	15	3,675	6	102	5	16	..	14
1973	24	26	16	11	2,850	3	48	2	5	..	5
1974	48	56	25	15	3,675	6	102	5	16	..	14
1975	52	63	38	23	6,200	11	582	4	7	..	18

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

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

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 Government, 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 1974 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 degrees 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, 30 JUNE 1974

<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	4	3	1	3	3	1	..	2
Inspectors	23	37	9	7	6	6	1	2
Sergeants	384	78	156	55	97	41	13	14
Constables(b)	907	693	(c)352	268	187	90	33	34
Total, criminal investigations, etc.	1,318	811	(c)518	333	293	138	47	52
Traffic duties—								
Executive officers	3	4	1	2	1	1	..	..
Inspectors	6	14	4	4	7	4	..	1
Sergeants	219	26	51	23	46	8	3	16
Constables(b)	780	496	(c)129	216	204	93	14	85
Total, traffic duties	1,008	540	(c)(d)185	245	258	106	17	102
Other special and general duties—								
Executive officers	30	44	6	17	13	5	3	..
Inspectors	176	173	75	44	25	37	10	15
Sergeants	1,306	283	677	182	294	92	56	50
Constables(b)	3,979	3,685	(c)1,863	1,384	961	430	220	221
Total, other special, etc.	5,491	4,185	(c)2,621	1,627	(e)1,293	564	(f)289	(f)286
Not allocated—								
Executive officers whose duties extend beyond one branch	8	5	5	4	4	1	2	..
Inspectors . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Police women	113	218	(g)	80	37	24	6	10
Trainees and cadets	261	122	441	432	99	106	..	74
Total, not allocated	382	345	446	516	140	131	8	84
Total police force—								
Executive officers	45	56	13	26	21	8	5	2
Inspectors	205	224	88	55	38	47	11	18
Sergeants	1,909	387	884	260	437	141	72	80
Constables(b)	5,666	4,874	(c)2,129	1,868	1,352	613	267	340
Police women	113	218	215	80	37	24	6	10
Trainees and cadets	261	122	441	432	99	106	..	74
Total police force	8,199	5,881	3,770	2,721	1,984	939	361	524

For footnotes see next page.

POLICE FORCES AND ASSISTANT STAFF, 30 JUNE 1974—*continued*

Duty and rank(a)	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.
ANCILLARY AND CIVILIAN STAFF								
Employed by Police Department—								
Ancillary staff(h)—								
Full-time	281	142	34	212	..	1	37	..
Part-time . . . . .	..	4	..	2	173	..	..	..
Civilian staff(i)—								
Full-time	(j)1,579	1,097	554	127	(k)317	175	41	61
Part-time . . . . .	..	78	33	8	74	..	..	3
TOTAL STAFF								
Grand total—								
Full-time	10,059	7,120	4,358	3,060	2,301	1,115	439	585
Part-time . . . . .	..	82	33	10	247	..	..	3

(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) Metropolitan area only. Traffic duties outside Brisbane metropolitan area are performed by general duties police. (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) For *Queenstand police women* are included in the personnel figures for each rank of the respective duties. (h) Parking police, native trackers, wardresses, etc.; special constables in New South Wales and Tasmania; police reservists in Victoria. (i) Clerks, typists, artisans, cleaners, etc., includes Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner in Tasmania. (j) Does not include cleaning which is done by the Cleaning Services Branch of the Government Stores Department. (k) Includes 79 cadets whose appointment is not subject to the Police Act.

Ancillary and civilian staff are excluded from the following table.

POLICE FORCES

30 June—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1970	7,324	4,739	3,221	2,282	1,529	701	235	290	20,321
1971	7,470	4,945	3,197	2,360	1,616	796	259	347	20,990
1972	7,914	5,274	3,353	2,445	1,686	879	281	398	22,230
1973	8,044	5,510	3,518	2,562	1,807	892	318	435	23,086
1974	8,199	5,881	3,770	2,721	1,984	939	361	524	24,379

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 Government property and interests at various buildings and establishments under the control of the Commonwealth Government. This force co-ordinates the work of other investigation and law enforcement agencies and acts on behalf of the United Nations Organisation 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 establishment of the force at 30 June 1974 was 1114. At that date there were, in addition, 122 civilian employees.

Prisons

Prisons

At 30th June 1974 there were 90 prisons in Australia, comprising 29 in New South Wales, 13 in Victoria, 10 in Queensland, 16 in South Australia, 18 in Western Australia, 1 in Tasmania, and 3 in the Northern Territory. There is no gaol in the Australian Capital Territory, but there are two lock-ups attached to police stations 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

30 June—	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	Australia	
								Number	Per 10,000 of popu- lation
1970 . . .	3,429	2,178	1,104	836	1,174	327	198	9,246	7.4
1971 . . .	3,493	2,276	1,142	854	1,261	352	166	9,544	7.5
1972 . . .	3,641	2,192	1,313	816	1,269	339	252	9,822	7.6
1973 . . .	3,399	2,096	1,414	675	1,105	332	282	9,303	7.0
1974 . . .	2,696	1,568	1,224	665	915	346	144	7,558	5.7

(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 Government 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 Government figures differ from those of the States because of the Commonwealth Government's different responsibilities in this field. The Commonwealth Government 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
(\$ million)

	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Final consumption expenditure—					
Federal Authorities	24.1	30.0	37.1	49.4	75.6
State Authorities—					
New South Wales	94.5	111.2	125.5	154.2	204.0
Victoria	53.2	62.2	72.2	88.9	122.4
Queensland	40.3	43.2	54.0	66.1	93.8
South Australia	18.8	22.7	27.4	35.2	49.8
Western Australia	22.0	28.2	31.6	38.6	56.4
Tasmania	8.6	10.5	12.7	15.1	22.7
Total States	237.4	278.1	323.5	398.1	549.1
Total current expenditure	261.5	308.1	360.6	447.5	624.7
Gross fixed capital expenditure—					
Federal Authorities	2.0	2.6	2.9	3.2	7.2
State Authorities—					
New South Wales	8.6	8.7	12.6	9.7	14.0
Victoria	3.8	5.0	5.8	8.4	8.4
Queensland	4.3	6.6	7.4	8.9	9.1
South Australia	2.4	3.1	3.2	4.2	4.1
Western Australia	3.0	1.7	2.9	3.1	5.6
Tasmania	1.8	2.3	2.8	5.0	5.2
Total States	23.9	27.4	34.8	39.3	46.4
Total capital expenditure	25.9	30.0	37.7	42.5	53.6
Total expenditure	287.4	338.1	398.3	490.0	678.3

Fire brigades

New South Wales

A Board of Fire Commissioners, consisting of seven members, two appointed by the State Government (President and Deputy President), two representing insurance companies and one each representing, local government authorities, volunteer firemen, and permanent fireman, is constituted under the Fire Brigades Act, 1909, and controls the public services for the prevention and extinguishing of fires. Its jurisdiction extends over the Sydney Metropolitan area and cities and towns in the rest of the State. The cost of maintenance of fire brigades is borne in proportions of one-eighth each by local councils and the Government, and three-quarters by insurance companies.

At 31 December 1975 the actual strength of the Fire Brigade throughout the 174 fire districts of New South Wales was 479 officers and 1,357 permanent and 2,765 volunteer firemen. Corresponding figures for the Sydney Fire District were 401, 1,229 and 179. The revenue for the year 1975 was \$31,191,000, as follows: from the Government, \$3,720,000; municipalities and shires, \$3,721,000; fire insurance companies and firms, \$22,277,000; and from other sources, \$1,473,000. The disbursements for the year were \$30,798,000. The Board of Fire Commissioners formerly provided fire protection services for Canberra, in the Australian Capital Territory, and the cost of these services was reimbursed by the Commonwealth Government. From January 1976 these activities are carried out by the A.C.T. Fire Brigade.

Under the Bush Fires Act, 1949 a Bush Fire Fighting Fund exists from which finance is provided by the Government, insurance companies, and certain local government councils for the prevention, detection, control and suppression of bush fires in the Eastern and Central Divisions of the State. At 30 June 1975 Volunteer Brigades equipped by means of this fund numbered about 2,500 with an active membership of approximately 60,000 persons. Expenditure from the Fund for the purchase of fire fighting units, plant running expenses, and maintenance and repairs for the year ended 30 June 1975 was \$1,935,000.

Victoria

In Victoria, fire brigades are controlled by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board consisting of eight members, including an employees' representative, and the Country Fire Authority consisting of twelve members.

Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board. The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board receives contributions from the municipalities, the insurance companies and the State Government in the proportion of one-eighth, three-quarters and one-eighth respectively. At 30 June 1975 the Board had under its control 47 stations, 1,396 permanent staff, and 283 special service and clerical, etc., staff. The total receipts for 1974-75 were \$21,627,214, comprising contributions \$19,196,210, receipts for services \$1,622,905, and interest and sundries \$808,099. The expenditure was \$21,298,961.

Country Fire Authority. This authority is responsible for the prevention and suppression of fires in the 'country area of Victoria', which embraces the whole of the State outside the Metropolitan Fire District, excluding State forests, National Parks and certain Crown lands. The country area has been divided into twenty-five fire control regions, three of which (Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong) are wholly urban and the remainder mixed urban and rural. The Country Fire Authority receives contributions in the proportion of two-thirds from insurance companies and one-third from the Treasury. At 30 June 1975 the Country Fire Authority Act applied to 155 insurance companies and 215 urban and 1,062 rural fire brigades. Permanent staff of the Authority totalled 398 (including administrative), while the effective strength of volunteer personnel was 118,283. Income for the year 1974-75 amounted to \$8,975,495. Total expenditure other than loan redemption and capital expenditure amounted to \$8,809,333.

Queensland

There are two controlling bodies responsible for fire fighting services throughout Queensland. The State Fire Services Council controls brigades set up under *The Fire Brigades Act, 1964 to 1973*, and the Rural Fires Board under provisions of *The Rural Fires Act, 1946 to 1975* administers bush fire brigades. In addition a local authority may establish a fire fighting brigade of its own as do some major establishments such as the State Forestry Department and private companies whose activities involve fire hazards.

Fire districts are constituted under *The Fire Brigades Act, 1964 to 1973*. For each district, there must be a Fire Brigades Board consisting of seven members, and the cost of maintenance of each brigade is borne by the State Government, the component local authorities and the contributory insurance companies and owners of property (which is insured with a company other than a contributory company) in the proportions of one-eighth each by the State Government and the component local authorities, and three-quarters by the contributory companies and owners of property referred to.

At 30 June 1975 there were 81 fire brigade boards. The number of stations was 194 and the brigade strength was 1,422 permanent staff and 1,314 auxiliary and 32 volunteer staff. The total revenue for the year 1974-75 was \$18,171,794 received mainly from the following sources: Government \$2,193,102 local authorities \$2,174,550, insurance companies \$13,202,660. Loan receipts (Government and other) were \$1,457,708. The total expenditure for the year was \$17,989,874, which included administration and working expenses, etc., \$16,644,135, interest and redemption \$901,682 and other expenditure \$444,057.

The Rural Fires Board, operating under the *Rural Fires Act 1946 to 1975*, consists of a chairman and nine members all of whom are appointed by the Governor-in-Council. Eight of the members are from Government Departments, the other represents the United Graziers Association. For administrative purposes the State is divided into Rural Fire Districts under the control of a Chief Fire Warden, and in these districts fire wardens are appointed to assigned areas. These officers control the issuing of permits, reporting of fire hazards and education in fire protection, while the bush fire brigades operate on a voluntary basis under the control of an appointed first officer. At 30 June 1975 there were 1,250 bush fire brigades. Expenditure by the State Government including contributions by bush fire brigades for equipment during 1974-75 amounted to \$296,761.

South Australia

The *Fire Brigades Act, 1936* provides for a board of five members, that the expenses and maintenance of brigades are defrayed in the proportion of one-eighth by the Treasury, three-quarters by insurance companies and one-eighth by the municipalities concerned. At 30 June 1975 there were altogether 39 fire brigades stations, of which 17 were metropolitan and 22 country.

The strength of the permanent staff at 30 June 1975 was 695, comprising 501 officers and men, 119 country auxiliary firemen and 75 other employees (including maintenance workers). The total revenue for the year 1974-75 was \$6,050,000, made up as follows: insurance companies \$4,537,500, Treasury \$756,250 and municipalities and district councils \$756,250.

Western Australia

The *Fire Brigades Act 1942-1972* provides for the constitution of fire districts which are under the control of the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board. There were 74 fire districts at 30 June 1975. The contribution to the Board is made in the proportion of 12½ per cent from the State Government, 12½ per cent from local government authorities, and 75 per cent from insurance companies. The number of local governments authorities and insurance companies who contributed numbered 90 and 155 respectively. Sixteen permanent and two volunteer brigades operate in the metropolitan fire district centred in the City of Perth. Permanent brigade personnel served with volunteer brigade personnel in five large country centres and volunteer brigades provide town fire protection at some 75 other centres. At 30 June 1975 the Board had 725 employees and there were 1,874 volunteer brigade officers and firemen. The revenue for the year ended 30 June 1975 was \$10,656,276 and the expenditure \$10,079,514.

Under the *Bush Fires Act, 1954-1973* a Bush Fires Board, consisting of thirteen members, six of whom are nominated by the Country Shire Councils' Association, was set up to advise the Minister for Lands on bush fire control and to administer the Bush Fires Act. The Act also provides for the registration of bush fire control officers, who numbered 2,601 at 30 June 1975, and the establishment of bush fire brigades, 962 at 30 June 1975. Many individual brigades are large organisations with numerous self-contained sections.

Tasmania

The *Fire Brigades Act 1945* provided for the creation of the Fire Brigades Commission of Tasmania to co-ordinate the activities of existing fire brigade boards, while leaving the responsibility for individual control and management with the boards. The Commission comprises the following: two persons nominated by the Minister; one person representing the City and Municipal Councils; one person nominated by the Chairman of the Rural Fires Board; three persons representing the insurance companies; and one employees' representative. Contributions towards the cost of operations are on the basis of 22.5 per cent each from the Treasury and the municipalities and 55 per cent from the insurance companies concerned. The distribution made by the Commission to fire brigade boards during 1974-75 was \$3,402,000. There were, at 30 June 1974, 23 boards controlling 40 stations and their aggregate staffs numbered 720 (officers and firemen), comprising 255 permanent personnel, 425 part-time firemen and 40 volunteers. The volunteers all operate under the Hobart Board in the forested and mountainous Fern Tree area.

Following the fire disaster of February 1967, amendments were made to the *Rural Fires Act 1950*. The 1967 Act brought the separate urban and rural fire services and the State Civil Defence and Emergency Services together under the Chief Secretary. The newly constituted Rural Fires Board, under a chairman appointed by the Governor, consists of 16 members. At 30 June 1975 the Board had a paid staff of 30, headed by the State Fire Control Officer and included six regional fire control officers and assistants. At 30 June 1975 there were 305 rural fire brigades composed of 7850 registered volunteers. The Board's budget in 1973-74 was \$936,000. Half the administrative expenditure is met by insurance companies insuring rural properties, and half by the Government. Grants to councils and workers' compensation and expenditure is borne by the Government, with remaining expenditure being shared proportionately between the Government and municipalities.

Northern Territory

Under the Fire Brigade Ordinance fire brigades in the Northern Territory are under the control of the Administrator in Council. Regular fire stations are maintained for the urban areas of Darwin, Casuarina, Winnellie, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. There are volunteer stations at Batchelor, Adelaide River, Pine Creek, Mataranka and Larrimah. At 30 June 1975 the personnel strength of the regular stations was 114 full-time regulars, 18 part-time auxiliaries and 20 part-time volunteers. Regular stations received 2051 calls of all types during 1975.

Under the Bush Fire Control Ordinance 1965 the regulation of fire-fighting in non-urban areas is the responsibility of a Bush Fire Council which has six regional fire control committees and receives executive assistance from the Forestry Section of the Department of Northern Australia. The Forestry Section also provides some equipment and actual fire-fighting assistance to rural land holders. The Bush Fire Council consists of private and government members and works closely together with the fire brigades.

Australian Capital Territory

The A.C.T. Fire Brigade is administered by the Department of the Capital Territory.

At 31 December 1975 the 4 fire stations in Canberra employed a permanent fire fighting staff of 115. Expenditure during 1974-75 amounted to \$1,577,108, of which \$557,507 was a charge against the Canberra Municipal Account.

The responsibility for prevention and suppression of fires which occur outside the built-up areas of the A.C.T. and Jervis Bay rests with the A.C.T. Bush Fire Council. In 1974-75, expenditure by the council amounted to \$166,956.

Patents, trade marks and designs

Patents

Patents for inventions are granted under the *Patents Act 1952*, which applies to Australia and to the Territory of Norfolk Island. 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 \$30. Examination is no longer made automatically following lodgment of an application. The Commissioner may direct an applicant to request examination in which case the examination fee is \$90, or the applicant may request examination of his own accord, in which case the fee is \$120. If examination is not requested within six months after the commissioner's direction or within five years after lodgment of a complete specification, the application lapses.

Continuation fees in respect of patent applications are payable commencing with a fee of \$12 on the expiration of the second year from the date of lodgment of the complete specification and rising to \$100 on the expiration of the fifteenth year from that date. Renewal fees in respect of patents are payable commencing with a fee of \$20 on the expiration of the fourth year from the date of the patent and rising to \$100 on the expiration of the fifteenth year from that date. Continuation fees cease to be payable when a patent has been sealed in respect of an application and renewal fees do not become payable until that time.

PATENTS: AUSTRALIA

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Applications	16,407	16,165	16,460	15,950	14,082
Applications accompanied by provisional specifications	3,933	4,195	4,354	4,036	4,250
Letters patent sealed	10,641	10,920	11,670	12,828	12,161

Trade marks and designs

Under the *Trade Marks Act 1955* 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. Under the *Designs Act 1906* the Commissioner of Patents is also Registrar of Designs.

TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS: AUSTRALIA

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Trade marks—					
Received	8,866	9,204	10,026	9,209	9,046
Registered	5,710	5,012	5,665	5,303	7,087
Designs—					
Received	1,977	2,228	2,115	1,991	2,105
Registered	1,578	1,608	1,732	1,570	1,733

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.

