COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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SOCIAL STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA

NO. 36 : DIVORCE

QUARTER ENDED JUNE, 1965

CONTENTS

Table		Page
• •	Explanatory Notes	2
	I. PETITIONS FILED: DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION	
1.	Petitions Filed: States, quarter ended June, 1965	3
2.	Petitions Filed: Australia, 1960 to June quarter, 1965	, _{//} 3
3•	Petitions Filed for Dissolution of Marriage: States, 1960 to June quarter, 1965	4
	II. DECREES GRANTED : DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION	
4.	Decrees Granted: States, quarter ended June, 1965	4
5•	Decrees Granted : Australia, 1960 to June quarter, 1965	5
6.	Dissolutions Granted: States, 1960 to June quarter, 1965	5
7•	Grounds on which Decrees were Granted : States, quarter ended June, 1965	6
8.	Dissolutions Granted: Ages of Parties at time of Dissolution, Australia, quarter ended June, 1965	7
9.	Dissolutions Granted: Duration of Marriage and Number of Children, Australia, quarter ended June, 1965.	7

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bulletin contains statistics of divorce for the quarter ended June, 1965, and for previous periods. For further details in respect of past periods, see previous issues in this series and the annual bulletin "Demography". Details for 1964 were shown in "Social StatisticsNo. 33 - Divorce, Quarter and Year Ended December, 1964", issued on 24th August, 1965.

- 2. The Commonwealth Matrimonial Causes Act 1959 came into operation on 1st February, 1961. This Act provides a uniform law throughout Australia with respect to divorce and other matrimonial causes, and supersedes the matrimonial causes laws of the States and Territories except in so far as the transitional provisions of the Act keep them in force for the purpose of completing pending proceedings. Therefore, statistics of petitions filed since February, 1961, are on a uniform basis for all States and Territories, but statistics of decrees of dissolution, nullity and judicial separation granted since that date include some decrees made on petitions under the superseded laws and are to that extent not uniformly based. By 1965, the number of such decrees had dwindled to an insignificant number. Because of differences in legislation and also some variations from State to State in the bases of compilation of divorce statistics prior to the introduction of the uniform system, the figures for 1960 are not strictly comparable with those for later years.
- 3. Under the new legislation a court may grant decrees of dissolution of marriage (commonly known as divorce), judicial separation, nullity of marriage, restitution of conjugal rights and jactitation of marriage (i.e. that a person has falsely claimed to be another person's wife or husband). Orders may be made for the custody of children, the provision of maintenance, damages and the settlement of marriage property.
- 4. The statistics in this bulletin refer only to petitions filed and final decrees granted, for dissolution, nullity and judicial separation. Statistics of petitions filed relate only to the original petition in a suit, i.e. a cross-petition contained in an answer by the respondent is not taken as a separate petition.

I. PETITIONS FILED

TABLE 1. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION: QUARTER ENDED JUNE, 1965

Petition for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage - Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner	417 723	271 345	140 162	105 204		31 57	6 7	14 31	1,062 1,611
Total	1,140	616	302	309	160	88	13	45	2,673
Nullity of Marriage - Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner	1 1	2		3	• •		• •	• •	6
<u>Total</u>	2	3		4	• •				9
Dissolution or Nullity ~ Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner	• •	1	2					• •	3 2
<u>Total</u>	••	2	3	• •	• •	••	••	••	5
Judicial Separation - Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner	1	• • 1	2	••	• •	• •	* *	••	• 6
<u>Total</u>	· 1	1	2	1				1	6
Total Petitions - Husband Petitioner No. Per cent. Wife Petitioner No. Per cent.	418 37 725 63	274 44 348 56	142 46 165 54	108 34 206 66	49 82	35 57	7	14 (a) 32 (a)	1,071 40 1,622 60
TOTAL	1,143	622	307	314					2,693

(a) Percentage not calculated.

TABLE 2. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION: AUSTRALIA

NULLITY OF	MARKI	AGE AN	דמחר ה	JAL S.	CPARATI	ON : A	LUSTRAL	<u> T.R</u>				
Petition for - 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 June, Sept., Dec., March												
Petition for -	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964					June,		
	·					1964	1964	1964	1965	1965		
Dissolution of Marriage							_	,/				
Husband Petitioner					4,215					1,062		
Wife Petitioner	4,385	5,110	5,176	5,602	5,933	1,509	1,650	1,503	1,513	1,611		
<u>Total</u>	8,094	9,504	9,248	9,602	10,148	2,624	2,696	2,603	2,586	2,673		
Nullity of Marriage -												
Husband Petitioner	23	13	15	11	14	5	5	4	3	6		
Wife Petitioner	32	44	35	28	30	6	6	10	8	3		
Total	55	57	50	39	44	11	11	14	11	9		
Dissolution or Nullity -												
Husband Petitioner		3	6	5	5		2	3	1	3		
Wife Petitioner		4	5	10	12	1	5	3	4	2		
<u>Total</u>	• •	7	11	15	17	1	7	6	5	5		
Judicial Separation -												
Husband Petitioner	7	2	2	3			• •		••	• •		
Wife Petitioner	31	9	18	3 26	34	8	5	9	6	6		
<u>Total</u>	38	11	20	29	34	8	5	9	6	6		
Dissolution or Judicial								[
Separation -	ĺ		1		· ·							
Husband Petitioner				1			• •			••		
Wife Petitioner	••				1	1	• •			••		
<u>Total</u>		• •		1	1	1	• •		• • •	• •		
Total Petitions								1		***		
Husband Petitioner No.	3,739	4.412	4.095	4.020	4,234	1.120	1,053	1,107	1.077	1,071		
Per cent	46			42		42	39	42	41	40		
Wife Petitioner No.					6,010							
Per cent	54		1							60		
TOTAL	8,187	9,579	9.329	9.686	10,244	2.645	2.719	2.632	2,608	2,693		
	5, 101	7,717	7,327	1,,000	1.0,244	-,047	29117	عرد, ع	12,000	-,093		

TABLE 3. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (a)

Period		N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Year - 1960		3,746	1,798	863	781	560	274	26	46	8,094
1961		4,215		1,084	865	620		40	• 1	
1962		4,093		1,083	910	651	276			
1963		4,339	2,163	1,061	1,005	623				
1964		4,484	2,357	1,121	1,034	653		53		
Quarter ended -										
June,	1964	1,146	642	255	256	190	87	20	28	2,624
Septemb	er, 1964	1,158		333				13	41	2,696
Decembe	r, 1964	1,160	645	272				13		2,603
March,	1965	1,114		303				15		2,586
June,	196.5	1,140		302	309			13		

⁽a) This table excludes petitions filed for nullity of marriage, judicial separation and any petitions for two or more alternative types of relief.

.II. DECREES GRANTED

TABLE 4. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED (a):

QUARTER ENDED JUNE, 1965

Decree for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	.A.W	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage - Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner	297 468	176 276		66 81	62 50		4	. 13 12	712 1,023
<u>Total</u>	765	452	167	147	112	61	6	25	1,735
Nullity of Marriage - Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner	2	2 2	1	• 1	• 0	• •	• •	••	4 8
<u>Total</u>	6	4	1	1	• •	••	••	••	12
Judicial Separation - Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner	• 1	1	• • 1	•	• 0	• •	• •	••	3
Total	1	1	1	• •	••	0 •	••	,	3
Total Decrees - Husband Petitioner No. Per cent Wife Petitioner No. Per cent	299 39 473 61	178 39 279 61	39 103	66 45 82 55	50	46 33	(b) (b)	12	716 41 1,034 59
TOTAL	772	457	. 169	148	112	61	6	25	1,750

⁽a) Decrees absolute. (b) Percentage not calculated.

TABLE 5. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED (a): AUSTRALIA

	····						Qua r	ter end	led -	
Decree for -	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964		Sept.,	Dec.,	March, 1965	June, 1965
Dissolution of Marriage - Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner Granted on Petitions of Both	3,555		3,308 3,935 2							• –
<u>Total</u>	6,633	6,712	7,245	7,476	7,917	1,310	2,281	2,338	r2,072	1,735
Nullity of Marriage - Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner	26 37	15 22	12 28	7 25	· 11	1	2 11	4 9	• • 4	4 8
<u>Total</u>	63	37	40	32	: 44	9	13	13	4	12
Judicial Separation - Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner	2 11	••	2	7	:	. 2	• •	. 3	• •	
<u>Total</u>	13	2	5	7	6	2	• •	3	• •	3
Total Decrees - Husband Petitioner No. Per cent Wife Petitioner No. Per cent Granted on Petitions of Both	46 3,603 54	46 3,667	3,966	43 4 , 248	43 4,575	43 752	43 1,298	41 1,394	884 43 r1,190 57 2	41
TOTAL	6,709	6,751	7,290	7,515	7,967	1,321	2,294	2,354	r2,076	1,750

(a) Decrees absolute. r - Revised.

TABLE 6. - DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a)

Perio	Period		Vic.	Q'14.	S.A.	.W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Year - 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964	3,243 3,156 3,113 3,293 3,024	1,296 1,248 1,615 1,616 2,130	696 779 920 910 981	610 718 685 765 887	540 466 582 553 542	210 286 248 260 229	5 23 38 38 31	33 36 44 41 93	6,633 6,712 7,245 7,476 7,917	
Quarter ended - June, September, December, March, June,	1964 1964 1964 1965 1965	523 796 959 £783 765	282 729 679 477 452	129 259 256 306 167	189 250 225 258 147	98 134 142 146 112	62 69 50 60 61	11 10 6 10	16 34 21 32 25	1,310 2,281 2,338 r2,072 1,735

⁽a) Decrees absolute. This table excludes nullities of marriage and judicial separations granted. r - Revised.

TABLE 7. - GROUNDS ON WHICH DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS WERE GRANTED (a) : QUARTER ENDED JUNE, 1965

Ground	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'1d.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.					
	DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE													
Single grounds -														
Desertion Adultery Separation Cruelty Drunkenness Failure to pay	349 152 140 38 16	223 111 106 2 4	77 24 43 8 1	60 34 30 16 1	39 36 28 1	26 14 10 3 2	3 2	11 6 3 1	788 379 360 69 26					
maintenance	1	1		••	1	• •	••		3					
Non-compliance with restitution decree Refusal to consummate Insanity Frequent covictions Imprisonment	4 4 2 1 2	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	2 1 1	0 0 • • • •	o o	• •	• •	1	6 4 4 2 3					
Dual grounds -				_		_		{	07					
Desertion and adultery Desertion and separation Desertion and cruelty	14 17 3	1	1 2	3	5	1	1	1	27 27 5					
Desertion and drunkenness Cruelty and drunkenness Other dual grounds	5 7 7	1	1 1 1	1	o •	2	••	1	7 10 11					
Three grounds or more	3		٥٠	11_	••	••	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4					
<u>Total</u>	765	452	167	147	112	61	6	25	1,735					
		NULLIT	Y OF MA	RRIAGE										
Bigamy Invalid marriage Incapacity to consummate	4 1 1	2 • • 2	,	• •	0 0	• •	••	• •	6 1 5					
Total	6	4	1 ,	1	• •		••	••	12					
JUDICIAL SEPARATION														
Adultery Cruelty Cruelty and drunkenness	1	1	• • • 1	• •	• •	• •	• •	• • • •	1 1 1					
<u>Total</u>	1	1	1	• •	0.0		• •		3					

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 8. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a) 8 AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA, QUARTER ENDED JUNE, 1965

Age of	Age of Wife (Years)												Total Husbands	
Husband (Years)	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 and over	Not Stated	ווארט ב	Per cent	
Under 20	9 0	• •	• •		• •			• •		• •	• •	. •	• •	
20-24	2	27	7			••	• •	••			••	36	2	
25-29	1	80	125	13	3				1	••		223		
30-34	• •	23	114	99	23	1	2	• •			••	262	15	
35-39	. •	3	34	124	123	27	4	• •		••	••	315	18	
40-44	• •		8	26	117	132	22	4	1			310	18	
45-49			4	10	24	72	76	15	3	1	1	206	12	
50-54	• •	1	1	2	12	32	59	43	9	2	• •	161	9	
55-59	0 0		• •	1	5	13	32	30	19	6		106		
60 and over	• •	• •		• •	1	2	10	17	25	61		116	7	
Not stated	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	••	• •	••	• •	••	••	0 •	
Total (No.	3	134	293	275	308	279	205	109	58	70	1	1,735	• 0	
Wives %	0 0	8	17	16	18	16	12	6	3	4	• •	•••	100	

(a) Decrees absolute. This table excludes nullities of marriage and judicial separations granted.

TABLE 9. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a) 8 DURATION OF MARRIAGE
AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF MARRIAGE (b), AUSTRALIA, QUARTER ENDED JUNE, 1965

Durati	Lon		Diss	olution	s of Ma	rriage	with -		Total Marriages		Total Number
of Mannie	Marriage		4	2	3	4	5	6	Disso	lved	of
(Yea:		Child-	Child	Child-	Child-	Child-	Child-	or more	No.	Per	Children
(100.		ren		ren	ren	ren	ren	Children	1100	cent	(b)
Under 5	ö	72	18	8	5		• •	• •	103	6	49
5 - 9	7	184	151	79	21	3	••	1	439	25	391
10 - 14	•	102	79	126	50	17	3	1	378	22	571
15 - 19		67	72	80	61	26	9	4	319	•	595
20 - 24	•	57	45	54	40	15	12	5	228		430
25 - 29		44	45	29	8	3	• •	1	1 30		146
30 and or	ver	111	15	8	3	1	• •	• •	1 38	8	44
Total (Marriages)	No.	637	425	384	188	65	24	12	1,735	••	• •
Dissolved(37	24	22	11	4	1	1		100	0 0
Total Number of Children (b)		0 0	425	768	564	260	120	89	0 0	••	2,226

(a) Decrees absolute. This table excludes nullities of marriage and judicial separations

(b) Living children under 21 at time of petition. The term "children" used in the Commonwealth legislation refers to living "children of the marriage" under 21 years; but the table above includes a small number of dissolutions granted to petitions filed under old legislation in which the term "children" was used differently.

J.P. O'NEILL ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 5TH JANUARY, 1966

NOTE. - Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 45.384 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.