

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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SOCIAL STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA

NO. 47 : DIVORCE

SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1966



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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bulletin contains statistics of divorce for the September quarter 1966 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 1965 were shown in "Social Statistics No. 43 - Divorce 1965", issued on 28 July 1966.

2. The Commonwealth Matrimonial Causes Act 1959 came into operation on 1 February 1961. This Act provided a uniform law throughout Australia with respect to divorce and other matrimonial causes, and superseded the matrimonial causes laws of the States and Territories except in so far as the transitional provisions of the Act kept them in force for the purpose of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dissolution, nullity and judicial separation granted after that date include some decrees made on petitions under the superseded laws and are to that extent not uniformly based. By 1966 the number of such decrees had become insignificant.

3. Under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959-1966 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 should refrain from making false claim that a marriage has taken place between him and another person). Orders may be made for the custody and welfare of children, maintenance, the settlement of property and damages for adultery.

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 counted as a separate petition.

## I. PETITIONS FILED

TABLE 1. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

## NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1966

| Petition for -                       | N.S.W. | Vic. | Qld | S.A | W.A | Tas. | N.T. | A.C.T. | Aust. |
|--------------------------------------|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|--------|-------|
| Dissolution of marriage -            |        |      |     |     |     |      |      |        |       |
| Husband petitioner                   | 513    | 320  | 141 | 112 | 108 | 36   | 3    | 18     | 1,251 |
| Wife petitioner                      | 818    | 409  | 183 | 183 | 112 | 57   | 5    | 17     | 1,784 |
| <u>Total</u>                         | 1,331  | 729  | 324 | 295 | 220 | 93   | 8    | 35     | 3,035 |
| Nullity of marriage -                |        |      |     |     |     |      |      |        |       |
| Husband petitioner                   | 3      | 2    | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 5     |
| Wife petitioner                      | 5      | 2    | 1   | 1   | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 9     |
| <u>Total</u>                         | 8      | 4    | 1   | 1   | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 14    |
| Dissolution or nullity -             |        |      |     |     |     |      |      |        |       |
| Husband petitioner                   | 1      | 2    | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 3     |
| Wife petitioner                      | ..     | ..   | 1   | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| <u>Total</u>                         | 1      | 2    | 1   | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 4     |
| Judicial separation -                |        |      |     |     |     |      |      |        |       |
| Husband petitioner                   | ..     | ..   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | ..    |
| Wife petitioner                      | 5      | ..   | 2   | 1   | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 8     |
| <u>Total</u>                         | 5      | ..   | 2   | 1   | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 8     |
| Dissolution or judicial separation - |        |      |     |     |     |      |      |        |       |
| Husband petitioner                   | ..     | ..   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | ..    |
| Wife petitioner                      | ..     | 1    | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| <u>Total</u>                         | ..     | 1    | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| Total petitions -                    |        |      |     |     |     |      |      |        |       |
| By husband - Number                  | 517    | 324  | 141 | 112 | 108 | 36   | 3    | 18     | 1,259 |
| Per cent                             | 38     | 44   | 43  | 38  | 49  | 38   | (a)  | (a)    | 41    |
| By wife - Number                     | 828    | 412  | 187 | 185 | 112 | 57   | 5    | 17     | 1,803 |
| Per cent                             | 62     | 56   | 57  | 62  | 51  | 62   | (a)  | (a)    | 59    |
| <u>TOTAL</u>                         | 1,345  | 736  | 328 | 297 | 220 | 93   | 8    | 35     | 3,062 |

(a) Percentage not calculated.

TABLE 2. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

## NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : AUSTRALIA

| Petition for -                       | 1961  | 1962  | 1963  | 1964   | 1965   | Quarter ended - |           |            |           |            |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|
|                                      |       |       |       |        |        | Sept. 1965      | Dec. 1965 | March 1966 | June 1966 | Sept. 1966 |
| Dissolution of marriage -            |       |       |       |        |        |                 |           |            |           |            |
| Husband petitioner                   | 4,394 | 4,072 | 4,000 | 4,215  | 4,413  | 1,192           | 1,086     | 1,008      | 1,109     | 1,251      |
| Wife petitioner                      | 5,110 | 5,176 | 5,602 | 5,933  | 6,426  | 1,700           | 1,601     | 1,510      | 1,637     | 1,784      |
| <u>Total</u>                         | 9,504 | 9,248 | 9,602 | 10,148 | 10,839 | 2,892           | 2,687     | 2,518      | 2,746     | 3,035      |
| Nullity of marriage -                |       |       |       |        |        |                 |           |            |           |            |
| Husband petitioner                   | 13    | 15    | 11    | 14     | 16     | 4               | 3         | 3          | 12        | 5          |
| Wife petitioner                      | 44    | 35    | 28    | 30     | 35     | 12              | 12        | 7          | 7         | 9          |
| <u>Total</u>                         | 57    | 50    | 39    | 44     | 51     | 16              | 15        | 10         | 19        | 14         |
| Dissolution or nullity -             |       |       |       |        |        |                 |           |            |           |            |
| Husband petitioner                   | 3     | 6     | 5     | 5      | 15     | 6               | 5         | 3          | 1         | 3          |
| Wife petitioner                      | 4     | 5     | 10    | 12     | 10     | 1               | 3         | 2          | 3         | 1          |
| <u>Total</u>                         | 7     | 11    | 15    | 17     | 25     | 7               | 8         | 5          | 4         | 4          |
| Judicial separation -                |       |       |       |        |        |                 |           |            |           |            |
| Husband petitioner                   | 2     | 2     | 3     | ..     | 1      | 1               | ..        | ..         | ..        | ..         |
| Wife petitioner                      | 9     | 18    | 26    | 34     | 20     | 2               | 6         | 4          | 9         | 8          |
| <u>Total</u>                         | 11    | 20    | 29    | 34     | 21     | 3               | 6         | 4          | 9         | 8          |
| Dissolution or judicial separation - |       |       |       |        |        |                 |           |            |           |            |
| Husband petitioner                   | ..    | ..    | 1     | ..     | ..     | ..              | ..        | ..         | ..        | ..         |
| Wife petitioner                      | ..    | ..    | ..    | 1      | ..     | ..              | ..        | ..         | 1         | 1          |
| <u>Total</u>                         | ..    | ..    | 1     | 1      | ..     | ..              | ..        | ..         | 1         | 1          |
| Total petitions -                    |       |       |       |        |        |                 |           |            |           |            |
| By husband - Number                  | 4,412 | 4,095 | 4,020 | 4,234  | 4,445  | 1,203           | 1,094     | 1,014      | 1,122     | 1,259      |
| Per cent                             | 46    | 44    | 42    | 41     | 41     | 41              | 40        | 40         | 40        | 41         |
| By wife - Number                     | 5,167 | 5,234 | 5,666 | 6,010  | 6,491  | 1,715           | 1,622     | 1,523      | 1,657     | 1,803      |
| Per cent                             | 54    | 56    | 58    | 59     | 59     | 59              | 60        | 60         | 60        | 59         |
| <u>TOTAL</u>                         | 9,579 | 9,329 | 9,686 | 10,244 | 10,936 | 2,918           | 2,716     | 2,537      | 2,779     | 3,062      |

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

| Period          | N.S.W. | Vic.  | Qld   | S.A   | W.A | Tas. | N.T. | A.C.T. | Aust.  |
|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|--------|--------|
| Year - 1961     | 4,215  | 2,289 | 1,084 | 865   | 620 | 321  | 40   | 70     | 9,504  |
| 1962            | 4,093  | 2,148 | 1,083 | 910   | 651 | 276  | 39   | 48     | 9,248  |
| 1963            | 4,339  | 2,163 | 1,061 | 1,005 | 623 | 271  | 50   | 90     | 9,602  |
| 1964            | 4,484  | 2,357 | 1,121 | 1,034 | 653 | 322  | 53   | 124    | 10,148 |
| 1965            | 4,679  | 2,501 | 1,266 | 1,107 | 736 | 328  | 61   | 161    | 10,839 |
| Quarter ended - |        |       |       |       |     |      |      |        |        |
| September 1965  | 1,287  | 658   | 346   | 280   | 194 | 81   | 19   | 27     | 2,892  |
| December 1965   | 1,138  | 661   | 315   | 253   | 178 | 81   | 14   | 47     | 2,687  |
| March 1966      | 1,125  | 514   | 304   | 287   | 165 | 81   | 14   | 28     | 2,518  |
| June 1966       | 1,146  | 699   | 267   | 302   | 179 | 102  | 14   | 37     | 2,746  |
| September 1966  | 1,331  | 729   | 324   | 295   | 220 | 93   | 8    | 35     | 3,035  |

(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) :

SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1966

| Decree for -                 | N.S.W. | Vic. | Qld | S.A | W.A | Tas. | N.T. | A.C.T. | Aust. |
|------------------------------|--------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|--------|-------|
| Dissolution of marriage -    |        |      |     |     |     |      |      |        |       |
| Husband petitioner           | 391    | 263  | 126 | 123 | 84  | 38   | 10   | 17     | 1,052 |
| Wife petitioner              | 630    | 357  | 168 | 164 | 76  | 38   | 10   | 20     | 1,463 |
| Granted on petitions of both | ..     | 1    | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| <u>Total</u>                 | 1,021  | 621  | 294 | 287 | 160 | 76   | 20   | 37     | 2,516 |
| Nullity of marriage -        |        |      |     |     |     |      |      |        |       |
| Husband petitioner           | 2      | ..   | 1   | 1   | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 4     |
| Wife petitioner              | 2      | 1    | ..  | 1   | 1   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 5     |
| <u>Total</u>                 | 4      | 1    | 1   | 2   | 1   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 9     |
| Judicial separation -        |        |      |     |     |     |      |      |        |       |
| Husband petitioner           | ..     | ..   | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | ..    |
| Wife petitioner              | 1      | 1    | ..  | ..  | ..  | 1    | ..   | ..     | 3     |
| <u>Total</u>                 | 1      | 1    | ..  | ..  | ..  | 1    | ..   | ..     | 3     |
| Total Decrees -              |        |      |     |     |     |      |      |        |       |
| For husband - Number         | 393    | 263  | 127 | 124 | 84  | 38   | 10   | 17     | 1,056 |
| Per cent                     | 38     | 42   | 43  | 43  | 52  | 49   | (b)  | (b)    | 42    |
| For wife - Number            | 633    | 359  | 168 | 165 | 77  | 39   | 10   | 20     | 1,471 |
| Per cent                     | 62     | 58   | 57  | 57  | 48  | 51   | (b)  | (b)    | 48    |
| Granted on petitions of both | ..     | 1    | ..  | ..  | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| <u>TOTAL</u>                 | 1,026  | 623  | 295 | 289 | 161 | 77   | 20   | 37     | 2,528 |

(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) Percentage not calculated.

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

| Decree for -                 | 1961  | 1962  | 1963  | 1964  | 1965  | Quarter ended - |              |               |              |               |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|                              |       |       |       |       |       | Sept.<br>1965   | Dec.<br>1965 | March<br>1966 | June<br>1966 | Sept.<br>1966 |
| Dissolution of marriage -    |       |       |       |       |       |                 |              |               |              |               |
| Husband petitioner           | 3,068 | 3,308 | 3,257 | 3,377 | 3,523 | 1,012           | 909          | 984           | 710          | 1,052         |
| Wife petitioner              | 3,643 | 3,935 | 4,216 | 4,536 | 4,966 | 1,424           | 1,313        | 1,430         | 989          | 1,463         |
| Granted on petitions of both | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 2     | ..              | ..           | 3             | 1            | 1             |
| <u>Total</u>                 | 6,712 | 7,245 | 7,476 | 7,917 | 8,491 | 2,436           | 2,222        | 2,417         | 1,700        | 2,516         |
| Nullity of marriage -        |       |       |       |       |       |                 |              |               |              |               |
| Husband petitioner           | 15    | 12    | 7     | 11    | 10    | 2               | 4            | 5             | 2            | 4             |
| Wife petitioner              | 22    | 28    | 25    | 33    | 25    | 4               | 9            | 3             | 9            | 5             |
| <u>Total</u>                 | 37    | 40    | 32    | 44    | 35    | 6               | 13           | 8             | 11           | 9             |
| Judicial separation -        |       |       |       |       |       |                 |              |               |              |               |
| Husband petitioner           | ..    | 2     | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..              | ..           | ..            | ..           | ..            |
| Wife petitioner              | 2     | 3     | 7     | 6     | 8     | 1               | 4            | 1             | 3            | 3             |
| <u>Total</u>                 | 2     | 5     | 7     | 6     | 8     | 1               | 4            | 1             | 3            | 3             |
| Total Decrees -              |       |       |       |       |       |                 |              |               |              |               |
| For husband - Number         | 3,083 | 3,322 | 3,264 | 3,388 | 3,533 | 1,014           | 913          | 989           | 712          | 1,056         |
| Per cent                     | 46    | 46    | 43    | 43    | 41    | 42              | 41           | 41            | 42           | 42            |
| For wife - Number            | 3,667 | 3,966 | 4,248 | 4,575 | 4,999 | 1,429           | 1,326        | 1,434         | 1,001        | 1,471         |
| Per cent                     | 54    | 54    | 57    | 57    | 59    | 58              | 59           | 59            | 58           | 58            |
| Granted on petitions of both | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 2     | ..              | ..           | 3             | 1            | 1             |
| <u>TOTAL</u>                 | 6,751 | 7,290 | 7,515 | 7,967 | 8,534 | 2,443           | 2,239        | 2,426         | 1,714        | 2,528         |

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 6. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a)

| Period          | N.S.W. | Vic.  | Qld   | S.A | W.A | Tas. | N.T. | A.C.T. | Aust. |
|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|-----|-----|------|------|--------|-------|
| Year - 1961     | 3,156  | 1,248 | 779   | 718 | 466 | 286  | 23   | 36     | 6,712 |
| 1962            | 3,113  | 1,615 | 920   | 685 | 582 | 248  | 38   | 44     | 7,245 |
| 1963            | 3,293  | 1,616 | 910   | 765 | 553 | 260  | 38   | 41     | 7,476 |
| 1964            | 3,024  | 2,130 | 981   | 887 | 542 | 229  | 31   | 93     | 7,917 |
| 1965            | 3,440  | 2,089 | 1,052 | 852 | 604 | 279  | 41   | 134    | 8,491 |
| Quarter ended - |        |       |       |     |     |      |      |        |       |
| September 1965  | 1,064  | 593   | 260   | 245 | 152 | 76   | 10   | 36     | 2,436 |
| December 1965   | 803    | 567   | 319   | 202 | 194 | 82   | 15   | 40     | 2,222 |
| March 1966      | 1,011  | 508   | 286   | 307 | 199 | 60   | 17   | 29     | 2,417 |
| June 1966       | 669    | 440   | 170   | 223 | 110 | 68   | 5    | 15     | 1,700 |
| September 1966  | 1,021  | 621   | 294   | 287 | 160 | 76   | 20   | 37     | 2,516 |

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

TABLE 7. - GROUNDS ON WHICH DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE  
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS WERE GRANTED (a) : SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1966

| Grounds                                      | N.S.W. | Vic. | Qld | S.A. | W.A. | Tas. | N.T. | A.C.T. | Aust. |
|--|--------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|--------|-------|
| DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE                      |        |      |     |      |      |      |      |        |       |
| Single grounds -                             |        |      |     |      |      |      |      |        |       |
| Desertion                                    | 487    | 289  | 150 | 99   | 48   | 35   | 10   | 8      | 1,126 |
| Adultery                                     | 214    | 167  | 51  | 84   | 67   | 18   | 4    | 13     | 618   |
| Separation                                   | 193    | 150  | 64  | 59   | 37   | 15   | 5    | 5      | 528   |
| Cruelty                                      | 53     | 8    | 17  | 35   | 3    | 3    | ..   | 4      | 123   |
| Drunkenness                                  | 15     | 2    | 4   | 8    | 1    | 1    | ..   | 2      | 33    |
| Intoxication by drugs                        | 1      | ..   | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| Failure to pay maintenance                   | ..     | ..   | ..  | ..   | 1    | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| Non-compliance with<br>restitution decree    | 2      | ..   | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 2     |
| Refusal to consummate                        | 4      | ..   | 1   | 1    | 1    | ..   | ..   | ..     | 7     |
| Insanity                                     | 2      | 2    | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 4     |
| Frequent convictions                         | 2      | 1    | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 3     |
| Sodomy                                       | ..     | 1    | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| Dual grounds -                               |        |      |     |      |      |      |      |        |       |
| Desertion and adultery                       | 15     | 1    | 2   | ..   | ..   | 1    | ..   | 2      | 21    |
| Desertion and<br>separation                  | 3      | ..   | 1   | 1    | ..   | ..   | ..   | 1      | 6     |
| Desertion and cruelty                        | 5      | ..   | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..   | 1    | ..     | 6     |
| Desertion and<br>drunkenness                 | 2      | ..   | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 2     |
| Desertion and failure to<br>pay maintenance  | ..     | ..   | ..  | ..   | 1    | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| Adultery and separation                      | 2      | ..   | 2   | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 4     |
| Separation and failure<br>to pay maintenance | ..     | ..   | ..  | ..   | 1    | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| Cruelty and drunkenness                      | 18     | ..   | 2   | ..   | ..   | 3    | ..   | 1      | 24    |
| Three grounds or more                        | 3      | ..   | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..   | 1      | 4     |
| <u>Total</u>                                 | 1,021  | 621  | 294 | 287  | 160  | 76   | 20   | 37     | 2,516 |
| NULLITY OF MARRIAGE                          |        |      |     |      |      |      |      |        |       |
| Bigamy                                       | 3      | ..   | ..  | ..   | 1    | ..   | ..   | ..     | 4     |
| Invalid marriage                             | ..     | 1    | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| Incapacity to consummate                     | 1      | ..   | 1   | 1    | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 3     |
| Pregnancy                                    | ..     | ..   | ..  | 1    | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| <u>Total</u>                                 | 4      | 1    | 1   | 2    | 1    | ..   | ..   | ..     | 9     |
| JUDICIAL SEPARATION                          |        |      |     |      |      |      |      |        |       |
| Desertion                                    | ..     | 1    | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| Adultery                                     | ..     | ..   | ..  | ..   | ..   | 1    | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| Desertion and cruelty                        | 1      | ..   | ..  | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..   | ..     | 1     |
| <u>Total</u>                                 | 1      | 1    | ..  | ..   | ..   | 1    | ..   | ..     | 3     |

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 8. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a) : AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION  
OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1966

| Age of husband (years)      | Age of wife (years) |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |           | Total Husbands |          |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|----------------|----------|
|                             | Under 20            | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60 & over | Number         | Per cent |
| Under 20                    | 2                   | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..        | 2              | ..       |
| 20 - 24                     | 1                   | 63    | 8     | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..        | 72             | 3        |
| 25 - 29                     | 1                   | 129   | 203   | 20    | 1     | 1     | ..    | ..    | ..    | ..        | 355            | 14       |
| 30 - 34                     | ..                  | 30    | 170   | 158   | 26    | 7     | 2     | ..    | ..    | ..        | 393            | 16       |
| 35 - 39                     | ..                  | 3     | 45    | 190   | 147   | 34    | 4     | 2     | ..    | ..        | 425            | 17       |
| 40 - 44                     | ..                  | 1     | 11    | 40    | 147   | 182   | 24    | 4     | 1     | ..        | 410            | 16       |
| 45 - 49                     | ..                  | ..    | 2     | 14    | 40    | 108   | 116   | 25    | 2     | 1         | 308            | 12       |
| 50 - 54                     | ..                  | ..    | 2     | 2     | 14    | 39    | 105   | 72    | 24    | 2         | 260            | 10       |
| 55 - 59                     | ..                  | ..    | ..    | ..    | 4     | 20    | 21    | 47    | 45    | 16        | 153            | 6        |
| 60 & over                   | ..                  | ..    | ..    | 1     | 1     | 2     | 11    | 16    | 38    | 69        | 138            | 6        |
| <b>Total wives</b> (Number) | 4                   | 226   | 441   | 425   | 380   | 393   | 283   | 166   | 110   | 88        | 2,516          | ..       |
| (Per cent)                  | ..                  | 9     | 17    | 17    | 15    | 16    | 11    | 7     | 4     | 4         | ..             | 100      |

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

TABLE 9. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a) : DURATION OF MARRIAGE  
AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF MARRIAGE (b), AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1966

| Duration of marriage (years)              | Dissolutions of marriage with - |         |            |            |            |            |                    | Total marriages dissolved |          | Total number of children (b) |
|---|---------------------------------|---------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
|   | No children                     | 1 child | 2 children | 3 children | 4 children | 5 children | 6 or more children | Number                    | Per cent |                              |
| Under 5                                   | 122                             | 50      | 8          | 2          | 2          | ..         | ..                 | 184                       | 7        | 80                           |
| 5 - 9                                     | 216                             | 235     | 133        | 38         | 9          | 1          | ..                 | 632                       | 25       | 656                          |
| 10 - 14                                   | 125                             | 126     | 130        | 87         | 29         | 9          | 1                  | 507                       | 20       | 814                          |
| 15 - 19                                   | 72                              | 91      | 132        | 94         | 34         | 13         | 16                 | 452                       | 18       | 937                          |
| 20 - 24                                   | 76                              | 80      | 103        | 55         | 36         | 10         | 5                  | 365                       | 15       | 675                          |
| 25 - 29                                   | 80                              | 57      | 29         | 14         | 4          | 1          | 1                  | 186                       | 7        | 186                          |
| 30 and over                               | 142                             | 29      | 15         | 3          | ..         | 1          | ..                 | 190                       | 8        | 73                           |
| <b>Total marriages dissolved</b> (Number) | 833                             | 668     | 550        | 293        | 114        | 35         | 23                 | 2,516                     | ..       | ..                           |
| (Per cent)                                | 33                              | 27      | 22         | 12         | 4          | 1          | 1                  | ..                        | 100      | ..                           |
| <b>Total number of children (b)</b>       | ..                              | 668     | 1,100      | 879        | 456        | 175        | 143                | ..                        | ..       | 3,421                        |

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

(b) Living children under 21 at the time of petition. The term "children" used in the Commonwealth legislation refers to living "children of the marriage" under 21 years; for dissolutions granted on petitions filed under superseded legislation the term "children" was used differently.

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CANBERRA, A.C.T.

7 MARCH 1967

NOTE. - Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 49 6155 Extension 1 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.