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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.

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)

State or Territory	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
New South Wales	337,540	361,377	390,233	427,560	n.a.
Victoria	326,445	341,284	339,019	339,527	370,701
Queensland(c)(d)	100,046	107,375	110,803	110,883	114,063
South Australia(c)	117,081	118,877	125,867	123,303	142,689
Western Australia	86,836	93,157	88,940	101,077	104,001
Tasmania	35,077	32,587	32,880	38,046	43,277
Northern Territory	10,459	13,718	14,695	21,329	22,493
Australian Capital Territory .	7,647	6,685	(e)10,326	(e)11,416	(e)19,071
Australia	1,021,131	1,075,060	1,112,763	1,173,141	n.a.

(a) Includes Children's Court, except for Darwin Children's Court in the Northern Territory prior to 1970. (b) Excludes minor traffic offences settled without court proceedings. (c) Year ended 30 June. (d) A person charged on several counts at the one hearing is included only once. (e) Includes remand cases, adjournments and court orders not collected prior to 1970.

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

State or Territory	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
New South Wales	426,496	418,626	456,798	511,005	588,729
Victoria	410,857	443,222	477,332	544,663	(a)611,106
Queensland(b)	253,429	236,320	235,477	257,709	312,029
South Australia(b)	239,619	267,709	244,120	277,464	246,184
Western Australia	83,146	117,436	154,307	176,994	200,723
Tasmania	55,677	56,076	62,408	76,062	107,457
Northern Territory(c)	n.a.	n.a.	8,438	10,444	(d)7,574
Australian Capital Territory .	4,430	4,340	5,282	7,229	12,580
Total	1,473,654	1,543,729	1,644,162	1,861,570	2,086,382

(a) Includes 7,022 fines paid direct to the Victorian Railways Commissioners, the Albert Park Committee of Management and several tourist area management authorities, for which details are not available for previous years. (b) Year ended 30 June. (c) No provision for settlement of parking and minor traffic offences by payment of fines without court proceedings existed in the Northern Territory prior to 1970. (d) 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: 1972

Class of offence	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld (b)(c)	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Against the person	n.a.	4,744	902	1,063	1,593	639	528	249	n.a.
Against property	n.a.	32,498	7,578	7,513	18,288	4,974	1,380	977	n.a.
Forgery and offences against the currency	n.a.	639	..	20	177	198	105	47	n.a.
Against good order	n.a.	37,897	33,458	15,081	23,433	2,119	10,249	1,047	n.a.
Other(d)	n.a.	245,483	55,594	99,386	52,182	27,574	7,833	11,693	n.a.
Total	n.a.	321,261	97,532	123,063	95,673	35,504	20,095	14,013	n.a.

(a) Includes Children's Courts. (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)

State or Territory	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
New South Wales . . .	290,616	309,297	337,563	366,701	n.a.
Victoria . . .	291,821	297,574	294,554	291,669	321,261
Queensland ^{(c)(d)} . . .	85,363	89,041	91,198	92,650	97,532
South Australia ^(c) . . .	105,027	105,966	114,499	110,543	123,063
Western Australia . . .	81,892	85,956	79,899	93,548	95,673
Tasmania . . .	30,100	26,515	26,571	32,031	35,504
Northern Territory . . .	9,416	12,543	13,528	20,047	20,095
Australian Capital Territory . . .	6,947	5,681	6,620	8,940	14,013
Australia . . .	901,182	932,573	964,432	1,016,129	n.a.

(a) Includes Children's Courts except for Darwin Children's Court in the Northern Territory prior to 1970. (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

State or Territory	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
New South Wales . . .	57,710	59,048	58,606	58,733	n.a.
Victoria . . .	24,338	25,582	25,054	25,820	28,962
Queensland ^{(b)(c)} . . .	28,409	28,140	31,259	29,878	30,529
South Australia ^(b) . . .	6,889	7,528	9,650	9,365	10,181
Western Australia . . .	11,146	11,970	12,612	16,197	16,379
Tasmania . . .	501	598	541	716	813
Northern Territory . . .	5,216	6,566	6,675	8,217	8,418
Australian Capital Territory . . .	316	388	572	393	712
Australia . . .	134,525	139,820	144,969	149,319	n.a.

(a) Includes Children's Court except for Darwin Children's Court in the Northern Territory prior to 1970. (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)

State or Territory	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
New South Wales . . .	37,367	40,583	40,642	44,191	n.a.
Victoria . . .	26,338	30,286	33,025	34,744	37,881
Queensland ^{(c)(d)} . . .	6,604	6,865	7,525	7,373	8,480
South Australia ^(c) . . .	5,817	6,678	7,349	8,040	8,596
Western Australia . . .	12,065	13,622	15,925	19,776	20,058
Tasmania . . .	3,650	3,597	3,813	5,073	5,811
Northern Territory . . .	941	1,397	1,517	1,751	2,013
Australian Capital Territory . . .	1,133	970	729	1,069	1,273
Australia . . .	93,915	103,998	110,525	122,017	n.a.

(a) Offences against the person, offences against property, forgery, and offences against the currency. (b) Includes Children's Courts except for Darwin Children's Court in the Northern Territory prior to 1970. (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, 1972

<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.	1,555	534	315	143	226	87	78	n.a.
Against property	n.a.	4,004	1,797	570	618	639	255	209	n.a.
Forgery and offences against the currency	n.a.	774	..	11	35	11	41	4	n.a.
Against good order	n.a.	82	5	65	51	26	7	3	n.a.
Other	n.a.	497	29	42	46	516	12	42	n.a.
Total	n.a.	6,912	2,365	1,003	893	1,418	402	336	n.a.

(a) Includes committals from Children's Courts. (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>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>
New South Wales	8,229	9,793	9,173	11,055	n.a.
Victoria	6,192	5,515	6,446	6,710	6,912
Queensland(b)(c)	1,428	1,579	1,733	2,172	2,365
South Australia(b)	726	749	742	873	1,003
Western Australia	1,037	950	1,270	1,507	893
Tasmania	716	747	1,012	1,056	1,418
Northern Territory	196	241	151	116	402
Australian Capital Territory	240	219	278	179	336
Australia	18,764	19,793	20,805	23,668	n.a.

(a) Includes committals from Children's Courts except for Darwin Children's Court in the Northern Territory prior to 1970. (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. Under the Australian *Matrimonial Causes Act* 1959-1973, the Supreme Courts of the various States and Territories have exclusive jurisdiction in matrimonial causes, and under the *Bankruptcy Act* 1966-1973, 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, 1972

Offence	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld(b)	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Against the person—									
Murder	26	10	3	4	16	1	1	..	61
Attempted murder	1	1	6	..	2	3	..	..	13
Manslaughter(c)	34	16	6	3	12	6	1	3	81
Culpable driving	79	15	43	3	..	11	1	1	153
Rape	64	31	39	7	25	4	4	2	176
Other offences against females	447	241	109	164	1	34	11	9	1,016
Abduction	8	11	1	2	1	..	..	..	23
Unnatural offences	59	69	26	15	4	5	5	..	183
Abortion and attempt to procure	13	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	18
Bigamy	17	3	..	1	2	..	..	..	23
Malicious wounding and aggravated assault	239	74	92	7	35	18	4	9	478
Common assault	52	34	7	1	..	6	..	3	103
Other offences against the person	24	5	13	25	4	5	7	15	98
<i>Total, against the person</i>	<i>1,063</i>	<i>512</i>	<i>348</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>2,426</i>
Against property—									
Burglary, breaking and entering	1,392	406	880	479	355	122	63	33	3,730
Robbery and stealing from the person	286	173	55	34	33	49	11	17	658
Embezzlement and larceny by servants	106	57	10	13	20	1	..	..	207
Other larceny(d)	891	199	236	44	43	..	6	5	1,424
Receiving	232	41	155	8	6	4	1	2	449
Fraud and false pretences	146	63	(e)20	18	14	13	4	..	278
Arson	38	17	16	4	4	15	..	1	95
Malicious damage	19	33	21	3	1	15	..	2	94
Other offences against property	17	..	..	11	..	3	5	12	48
<i>Total, against property</i>	<i>3,127</i>	<i>989</i>	<i>1,393</i>	<i>614</i>	<i>476</i>	<i>222</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>6,983</i>
Forgery and offences against the currency	66	98	..	10	9	5	4	(f)7	199
Against good order	40	47	4	12	8	..	7	..	118
Other	63	171	13	96	67	4	5	..	419
<i>Grand total</i>	<i>4,359</i>	<i>1,817</i>	<i>1,758</i>	<i>964</i>	<i>662</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>10,145</i>

(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. (f) Includes false pretences.

PERSONS CONVICTED(a) AT HIGHER COURTS

State or Territory	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
New South Wales	3,254	3,609	3,804	4,024	4,359
Victoria	1,790	1,689	1,752	1,805	1,817
Queensland(b)	1,160	1,610	1,402	1,720	1,758
South Australia	692	712	694	931	964
Western Australia	507	518	693	755	662
Tasmania	243	292	337	401	324
Northern Territory	88	120	87	114	140
Australian Capital Territory	86	68	96	94	121
<i>Australia</i>	<i>7,820</i>	<i>8,618</i>	<i>8,865</i>	<i>9,844</i>	<i>10,145</i>

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

Capital punishment

There were no executions in Australia in 1973. 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* 1966-1969, see Year Book No. 55, pages 586-7. The Bankruptcy Act was amended in 1970 to remove any obstacle the Act may present to the operation of compositions or schemes of arrangement entered into under State or Territory legislation providing assistance to farmers in respect of their debts.

Bankruptcy proceedings

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

BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS, 1972-73

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	521	15	26	12	574
	{ Liabilities \$	4,175,486	599,414	1,130,138	473,772	6,378,810
	{ Assets \$	1,945,426	925,484	752,656	249,663	3,873,229
Vic.	{ Number	452	27	58	22	559
	{ Liabilities \$	4,281,939	488,857	1,253,374	489,055	6,513,225
	{ Assets \$	1,277,883	158,825	861,429	217,342	2,515,479
Qld	{ Number	228	..	8	5	241
	{ Liabilities \$	2,919,079	..	95,577	96,390	3,111,046
	{ Assets \$	1,097,235	..	67,712	189,240	1,354,187
S. Aust.	{ Number	528	4	18	4	554
	{ Liabilities \$	2,821,609	61,200	316,558	120,264	3,319,631
	{ Assets \$	1,176,909	14,602	164,199	34,180	1,389,890
W. Aust.	{ Number	364	25	47	36	472
	{ Liabilities \$	3,692,944	441,326	1,810,755	1,129,292	7,074,317
	{ Assets \$	3,497,971	191,345	924,665	901,407	5,515,388
Tas.	{ Number	151	..	3	9	163
	{ Liabilities \$	470,191	..	23,745	392,409	886,345
	{ Assets \$	188,795	..	33,391	540,694	762,880
N.T.	{ Number	10	..	..	..	10
	{ Liabilities \$	147,135	..	..	..	147,135
	{ Assets \$	47,234	..	..	..	47,234
Australia	{ Number	2,254	71	160	88	2,573
	{ Liabilities \$	18,508,383	1,590,797	4,630,147	2,701,182	27,430,509
	{ Assets \$	9,231,453	1,290,256	2,804,052	2,132,526	15,458,287

(a) Includes the Australian Capital Territory.

BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS: AUSTRALIA

Year		<i>Sequestration orders and orders for administration of deceased debtors' estates</i>	<i>Compositions</i>	<i>Deeds of assignment</i>	<i>Deeds of arrangement</i>	<i>Total</i>
1968-69	Number	2,302	52	103	93	2,550
	Liabilities \$'000	15,865	893	3,870	2,641	23,269
	Assets \$'000	7,588	447	2,699	1,674	12,408
1969-70	Number	2,236	59	145	102	2,542
	Liabilities \$'000	18,243	1,006	3,810	2,903	25,962
	Assets \$'000	6,820	423	2,881	2,297	12,421
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

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 1972 and 1973.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA, 1972 AND 1973

<i>Original jurisdiction(a)</i>	1972	1973	<i>Appellate jurisdiction</i>	1972	1973
Number of writs issued	54	80	Number of appeals—		
Number of causes entered for trial	26	28	Set down for hearing	107	90
Judgments for plaintiffs	8	10	Allowed	49	27
Judgments for defendants	2	5	Dismissed	65	59
Otherwise disposed of	10	6	Otherwise disposed of	16	9
Amounts of judgments	\$566,391	\$251,327			

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

During 1972 and 1973, respectively, the High Court dealt also with the following: appeals from assessments under the Taxation Assessments Act, 81, 48; special cases stated for the opinion of the Full Court, 4, 4; applications for prohibition, etc., 12, 29. The fees collected amounted to \$15,046 in 1972 and \$16,691 in 1973.

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 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 *offices, factories and warehouses* (including parts of buildings, but excluding dwellings and shops used for such purposes). While attempted breaking and entering offences are included in the scope of the definition, the figures presented in the following table exclude attempts since the table includes breakings involving property valued at more than \$100 and attempted breaking and entering offences are counted with the category of property involved valued at less than \$100. From 1967 the figures exclude breakings involving property valued at \$100 or less. Does not include stealing where there is no breaking.

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.(a)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Homicide—									
1969	120	66	38	21	12	15	7	1	280
1970	125	107	36	34	15	10	9	3	339
1971	134	87	44	27	26	8	15	2	343
1972	134	133	66	28	32	16	10	4	423
1973(b)	189	124	108	29	26	15	7	4	502
Serious assault(c)—									
1969	626	1,460	134	92	77	47	30	17	2,483
1970	799	2,014	177	87	95	32	46	32	3,282
1971	724	2,457	212	115	156	32	120	46	3,862
1972	834	2,801	251	149	97	20	95	38	4,285
1973(d)	929	1,307	266	167	139	21	67	41	2,937
Robbery—									
1969	777	503	106	127	41	23	13	9	1,599
1970	867	744	124	140	69	33	11	11	1,999
1971	1,490	792	205	151	92	39	36	13	2,818
1972	1,484	941	259	162	97	52	27	23	3,045
1973	1,359	834	289	245	96	49	16	19	2,907
Rape—									
1969	126	144	35	32	6	7	7	7	364
1970	136	160	42	21	6	17	29	5	416
1971	204	191	74	44	21	23	17	4	578
1972	172	180	59	57	42	21	8	5	544
1973	242	188	98	75	27	17	21	12	680
Breaking and entering (dwellings, shops, offices, etc.)(e)—									
1969	11,923	8,215	2,035	1,299	1,368	586	66	105	25,597
1970	13,879	9,870	2,538	1,727	1,825	492	68	192	30,591
1971	13,394	12,189	3,798	1,878	1,623	666	171	206	33,925
1972	13,904	13,284	4,332	2,460	1,960	637	174	225	36,976
1973	13,184	11,963	3,902	2,724	2,247	583	170	307	35,080
Motor vehicle theft, etc.—									
1969	16,082	9,343	2,295	1,741	1,895	658	228	250	32,492
1970	18,464	11,246	3,023	2,140	2,700	722	347	284	38,926
1971	20,756	12,688	4,090	2,746	3,645	1,012	482	376	45,795
1972	19,895	11,710	4,725	3,073	4,469	1,234	459	359	45,924
1973	18,392	10,725	4,743	3,791	4,431	1,106	571	501	44,260
Fraud, forgery, etc.—									
1969(e)	8,940	5,988	4,681	3,221	2,199	972	187	357	26,545
1970	10,657	9,233	4,239	3,797	2,609	800	208	296	31,839
1971	12,769	8,065	5,207	3,788	2,383	783	265	297	33,557
1972	12,134	8,474	6,221	3,560	2,558	1,060	283	283	34,573
1973	14,989	7,525	5,101	3,555	2,735	809	396	610	35,720

(a) Statistics for 1971 and later years are not necessarily comparable with those for earlier years because of changes in reporting procedures.

(b) From July 1973, statistics for some States include manslaughter arising from motor traffic accidents.

(c) See definitions on page 480.

(d) Statistics for Victoria are not comparable with earlier years due to a change in collection procedures in that State.

(e) Excludes offences involving property valued at \$100 or less.

Crimes cleared and persons involved

The tables which follow show, for the various categories of offences, the numbers of offences reported, the numbers cleared, and the numbers of persons involved according to age and sex. Sub-divisions of the categories homicide, breaking and entering, and fraud, etc., are provided. See pages 480-1 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>		
	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973(a)	1971	1972	1973
Numbers reported or becoming known .	185	208	237	119	169	158	39	46	107	343	423	502
Numbers cleared .	178	195	218	112	147	150	39	42	104	329	384	472
Persons involved in crimes cleared—												
Aged(b)(c)—												
16 years and under .	9	7	n.a.	3	7	n.a.	1	4	n.a.	13	18	n.a.
17 and 18 years .	11	13	n.a.	8	8	n.a.	2	4	n.a.	21	25	n.a.
19 and 20 years .	9	13	n.a.	11	27	n.a.	5	4	n.a.	25	44	n.a.
21 years and over .	171	187	n.a.	99	139	n.a.	35	34	n.a.	305	360	n.a.
Total persons involved .	200	220	n.a.	121	181	n.a.	43	46	n.a.	(d)364	(d)447	n.a.

(a) From July 1973, statistics for some States include manslaughter arising from motor traffic accidents. (b) Age last birthday at time of clearance. (c) Statistics are not presented for persons involved in crimes cleared for 1973 due to a change in collection procedures half-way through the year. (d) Includes 43 females in 1971, and 43 in 1972.

**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>		
	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973
Numbers reported or becoming known .	3,862	4,285	2,937	2,818	3,045	2,907	578	544	680
Numbers cleared .	2,936	3,200	2,086	827	802	834	375	380	431
Persons involved in crimes cleared—									
Aged(a)(b)—									
16 years and under .		363	405	251	285	n.a.	39	48	n.a.
17 and 18 years .		627	502	283	315	n.a.	111	88	n.a.
19 and 20 years .		511	433	217	245	n.a.	100	81	n.a.
21 years and over .		2,168	2,388	669	647	n.a.	239	269	n.a.
Total persons involved .		(c)3,669	(c)3,728	(d)1,420	(d)1,492	n.a.	(e)489	486	n.a.

(a) Age last birthday at time of clearance. (b) Statistics are not presented for persons involved in crimes cleared for 1973 due to a change in collection procedures half-way through the year. (c) Includes 169 females in 1971, and 175 in 1972. (d) Includes 50 females in 1971, and 53 in 1972. (e) Includes 1 female in 1971 (an accessory).

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

	<i>Dwellings</i>			<i>Shops</i>			<i>Offices and warehouses</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973
Numbers reported or becoming known .	17,707	19,632	n.a.	9,243	9,300	n.a.	6,975	8,044	n.a.	33,925	36,976	35,080
Numbers cleared .	2,119	2,327	n.a.	1,854	2,104	n.a.	836	1,072	n.a.	4,809	5,503	5,405
Persons involved in crimes cleared—												
Aged(b)(c)—												
16 years and under .	1,072	1,413	n.a.	902	1,109	n.a.	409	624	n.a.	2,383	3,146	n.a.
17 and 18 years .	682	526	n.a.	634	720	n.a.	251	320	n.a.	1,567	1,566	n.a.
19 and 20 years .	415	384	n.a.	512	501	n.a.	178	233	n.a.	1,105	1,118	n.a.
21 years and over .	1,112	1,357	n.a.	1,182	1,466	n.a.	588	802	n.a.	2,882	3,625	n.a.
Total persons involved .	3,281	3,680	n.a.	3,230	3,796	n.a.	1,426	1,979	n.a.	(d)7,937	(d)9,455	n.a.

(a) Excludes offences involving property valued at \$100 or less. (b) Age last birthday at time of clearance. (c) Statistics are not presented for persons involved in crimes cleared for 1973 due to a change in collection procedures half-way through the year. (d) Includes 274 females in 1971, and 293 in 1972.

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>		
	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973	1971	1972	1973
Numbers reported or becoming known .	45,795	42,924	44,260	11,813	12,404	10,488	21,744	22,169	25,232	33,557	34,573	35,720
Numbers cleared .	10,395	11,341	10,425	7,186	7,379	6,489	14,643	14,742	16,674	21,829	22,121	23,163
Persons involved in crimes cleared—												
Males aged(a)(b)—												
16 years and under .	7,754	8,772	n.a.	178	148	n.a.	368	514	n.a.	546	662	n.a.
17 and 18 years .	4,168	4,152	n.a.	303	307	n.a.	673	544	n.a.	976	851	n.a.
19 and 20 years .	1,692	1,846	n.a.	453	568	n.a.	781	619	n.a.	1,234	1,187	n.a.
21 years and over .	2,907	3,053	n.a.	5,455	5,690	n.a.	9,784	8,827	n.a.	15,239	14,517	n.a.
Total males .	16,521	17,823	n.a.	6,389	6,713	n.a.	11,606	10,504	n.a.	17,995	17,217	n.a.
Females aged(a)(b)—												
16 years and under .	269	250	n.a.	55	44	n.a.	128	395	n.a.	183	439	n.a.
17 and 18 years .	71	88	n.a.	54	48	n.a.	320	584	n.a.	374	632	n.a.
19 and 20 years .	49	30	n.a.	108	53	n.a.	314	457	n.a.	422	510	n.a.
21 years and over .	52	74	n.a.	950	973	n.a.	2,914	3,342	n.a.	3,864	4,315	n.a.
Total females .	441	442	n.a.	1,167	1,118	n.a.	3,676	4,778	n.a.	4,843	5,896	n.a.
Total persons involved .	16,962	18,265	n.a.	7,556	7,831	n.a.	15,282	15,282	n.a.	22,838	23,113	n.a.

(a) Age last birthday at time of clearance. (b) Statistics are not presented for persons involved in crimes cleared for 1973 due to a change in collection procedures half-way through the year.

The number of stolen motor vehicles recovered was: 1971, 41,332; 1972, 42,956; 1973, 39,367.

Drug offences

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

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

Legislative provisions

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

The penalty on conviction for an offence relating to narcotic goods as defined in the *Customs Act 1901-1971* 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, 1966-1967; Summary Offences Act, 1970
Victoria	<i>Poisons Act 1962</i>
Queensland	' <i>The Health Acts 1937 to 1967</i> '
South Australia	Narcotic and Psychotropic Drugs Act, 1970 (formerly Dangerous Drugs Act, 1934-1955); Food and Health Act, 1908-1962; Police Offences Act, 1953-1961
Western Australia	<i>Police Act, 1892-1967; Poisons Act 1964</i>
Tasmania	<i>Dangerous Drugs Act 1959; Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act 1968; Health Services Act 1960</i>
Northern Territory	<i>Dangerous Drugs Ordinance 1928-1973; Poison Ordinance 1924-1970.</i>
Australian Capital Territory	<i>Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance 1967</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.

During 1971 some States 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 Australian 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 Customs and Excise. In 1969 a National Standing Control Committee on Drugs of Dependence was established to consider further action by the Commonwealth and States to combat all aspects of the drug problem in Australia and to make recommendations on legislation and administrative action. The Committee is chaired by the Comptroller-General of Customs and its members comprise senior officers of Commonwealth and State police and health authorities.

The National Standing Control Committee on Drugs of Dependence recommended that the Central Crime Intelligence Bureau of the Commonwealth Police serve as the national agency for the systematic collection, evaluation and dissemination of information concerning the illicit drug traffic in Australia. During 1973, the fourth complete year for which the Central Crime Intelligence Bureau compiled statistics, 6,449 drug offences, for which 3,080 males and 519 females were prosecuted, were reported to the Bureau. Details of the offences and the drugs involved are given in the following table.

PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS FOR DRUG OFFENCES REPORTED TO THE CENTRAL CRIME INTELLIGENCE BUREAU: PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA 1973

(Source: Commonwealth Police)

Offence	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
				Number	Amount	Number	Months			
\$										
Unlawful possession—										
Males aged—										
16 years and under	83	84	48	17	1,465	..	..	28	10	29
17 and 18 years	378	410	285	156	30,750	20	176	97	19	118
19 and 20 years	618	661	466	392	72,870	34	199	114	17	193
21 years and over	1,234	1,341	973	690	168,037	18	991	194	44	395
Total males	2,313	2,496	1,772	1,255	273,122	72	1,366	433	90	735
Females aged—										
16 years and under	30	31	22	3	610	1	12	13	3	6
17 and 18 years	78	85	60	33	7,605	1	6	37	6	15
19 and 20 years	90	100	72	33	6,765	6	33	24	8	24
21 years and over	125	138	99	60	11,935	4	83	31	7	31
Total females	323	354	253	129	26,915	12	134	105	24	76
Unlawful import—										
Males aged—										
16 years and under	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17 and 18 years	5	5	4	3	800	..	..	1	..	1
19 and 20 years	12	14	8	7	2,050	..	..	1	..	6
21 years and over	89	102	69	45	12,420	18	437	6	..	32
Total males	106	121	81	55	15,270	18	437	8	..	39
Females aged—										
16 years and under	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17 and 18 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19 and 20 years	2	2	1	1	400	..	..	..	..	1
21 years and over	13	15	9	4	1,100	4	107	1	..	6
Total females	15	17	10	5	1,500	4	107	1	..	7
Unlawful use—										
Males aged—										
16 years and under	84	86	60	14	845	1	24	36	8	27
17 and 18 years	301	342	232	119	15,825	9	67	80	16	103
19 and 20 years	408	453	296	195	28,310	13	104	81	20	138
21 years and over	632	676	492	323	48,480	41	392	105	20	172
Total males	1,425	1,557	1,080	651	93,460	64	587	302	64	440
Females aged—										
16 years and under	45	51	27	..	..	1	12	21	5	20
17 and 18 years	81	90	55	15	2,175	1	9	39	9	23
19 and 20 years	55	58	46	17	2,605	3	16	23	3	12
21 years and over	62	82	55	28	3,780	3	7	19	2	26
Total females	243	282	183	60	8,560	8	44	102	19	81
Theft—										
Males aged—										
16 years and under	5	5	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	3
17 and 18 years	21	24	15	..	..	3	54	8	..	9
19 and 20 years	33	59	28	1	200	17	120	10	6	25
21 years and over	39	92	47	4	550	14	233	7	2	63
Total males	98	180	92	5	750	34	407	27	8	100
Females aged—										
16 years and under	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
17 and 18 years	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
19 and 20 years	5	7	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	5
21 years and over	12	24	6	..	..	..	..	6	2	15
Total females	20	34	8	..	..	..	..	7	4	21

For footnote; see next page.

PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS FOR DRUG OFFENCES REPORTED TO THE CENTRAL CRIME INTELLIGENCE BUREAU: PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA 1973—continued

Offence	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
			Number	Amount	Number	Months				
					\$					
Trafficking—										
Males aged—										
16 years and under	8	10	5	2	150	..	..	2	1	6
17 and 18 years	43	60	46	12	2,270	10	122	24	1	10
19 and 20 years	57	119	75	19	5,200	44	238	13	8	33
21 years and over	175	223	106	31	7,630	48	598	29	11	105
Total males	283	412	232	64	15,250	102	958	68	21	154
Females aged—										
16 years and under	2	2	1	1	75	..	..	..	1	..
17 and 18 years	9	12	6	2	175	1	21	3	1	5
19 and 20 years	11	14	9	4	680	1	12	2	2	2
21 years and over	13	16	7	1	100	2	4	3	5	5
Total females	35	44	23	8	1,030	4	37	8	9	12
Other offences—										
Males aged—										
16 years and under	10	10	10	2	110	1	24	6	..	..
17 and 18 years	62	69	54	25	5,215	2	27	14	6	9
19 and 20 years	122	127	88	69	11,925	2	42	16	4	35
21 years and over	287	460	280	162	27,860	48	312	69	9	169
Total males	481	666	432	258	45,110	53	405	105	19	213
Females aged—										
16 years and under	6	6	4	..	..	1	12	3	..	2
17 and 18 years	12	13	8	2	650	..	..	4	2	3
19 and 20 years	24	30	15	7	830	3	7	3	1	15
21 years and over	38	57	46	12	1,870	3	7	17	..	11
Total females	80	106	73	21	3,350	7	26	27	3	31
Total males	4,706	5,432	3,889	2,288	442,962	343	4,160	943	202	1,681
Total females	716	837	550	223	41,355	35	348	250	59	228

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

NUMBER OF CHARGES(a) INVOLVING SPECIFIC DRUG TYPES

(Source: Commonwealth Police)

Type of drug	Possess	Import	User/ad- minister	Traffic	Steal	False pretences	Forge prescription	Other	Total(b)
Narcotics—									
Cocaine	29	..	16	7	16	..	..	4	72
Codeine	4	..	1	1	..	6	1	1	14
Palfium	17	..	20	11	6	20	65	4	143
Physeptone	14	..	23	8	4	11	47	2	109
Morphine	78	..	82	15	54	14	35	13	291
Fortral	..	..	..	..	1	3	37	..	41
Opium preparations	22	8	23	3	8	..	..	1	65
Pethedine	25	..	28	3	47	13	42	3	161
Omnopon	5	..	6	..	12	..	..	1	24
Heroin	94	10	101	34	..	..	..	4	243
Hydromorphone	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Phenoperidine	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Pholecodine	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total	290	18	304	82	148	67	227	33	1,169
Cannabis—									
Plants	146	1	..	1	..	..	..	87	235
Seeds	189	12	..	1	3	..	..	1	206
Marihuana	2,222	83	1,376	233	3	..	..	318	4,235
Hashish	69	35	14	7	3	..	..	2	130
Cannabinol	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Liquid hash	8	7	1	1	..	..	..	2	19
Total	2,642	138	1,391	243	9	..	..	410	4,833
Amphetamines—									
Amphetamine	25	..	6	7	3	..	..	5	46
Dexamphetamine	7	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	8
Drinamyl	3	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	5
Methyl-amphetamine	1	..	6	1	..	..	5	..	13
Methyl-phenidate	4	..	..	..	..	..	24	..	28
Other unspecified amphetamine	8	..	4	4	..	..	25	..	41
Phenmetrazine	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Ponderax	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Total	49	..	16	12	4	2	56	5	144
Barbiturates/hypnotics—									
Amylobarbitone	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5
Phenobarbitone	8	..	2	1	1	..	3	..	15
Quinalbarbitone	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2
Other barbiturates	3	..	3	..	3	..	1	..	10
Methaqualone	9	..	3	10	4	..	1	1	28
Nitrazepam	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Phenobarbital	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total	27	..	9	11	10	..	6	1	64
Tranquillisers—									
Valium	10	1	4	2	3	1	2	..	23
Chlopromazine	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Total	12	1	4	2	3	1	2	..	25
Hallucinogens—									
L.S.D.	179	15	120	122	..	..	..	..	436
Psilocybine	23	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	27
Mescaline	3	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	5
Other hallucinogens	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total	207	15	124	123	1	..	..	..	470
Grand Total	3,227	172	1,548	473	175	70	291	449	6,705

(a) If a number of different drug types have been involved in an offence, they are counted under each drug category. (b) As a percentage of all charges, cannabis comprises 72.52 per cent; narcotics, 17.00 per cent; hallucinogens, 7.01 per cent; barbiturates/hypnotics, 0.95 per cent; amphetamines, 2.15 per cent; tranquillisers, 0.37 per cent.

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

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

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 Department of Customs and Excise in recent years.

DRUG SEIZURES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

Type of drug	Unit	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Amphetamines	gram . . . .	..	11,379	18	79	50
	tablet	688	..	1,421	493	127
Barbiturates	gram . . . .	..	..	22	37	..
	tablet . . . .	..	2,800	287	1,050	265
Cannabis	gram	47,809	98,078	178,654	541,929	1,107,189
Cocaine	gram . . . .	..	..	4	198	121
	tablet . . . .	..	120	9	..	..
L.S.D.	dosage unit .	368	17,611	21,676	69,863	23,442
Narcotics—						
Opium	gram	889	9,950	6,094	2,746	3,020
Heroin	gram	196	1,405	2,468	2,018	3,116
Morphine	gram . . . .	..	29	31	158	1,536
	ampoule . . .	8	18	6	16	2
	tablet . . . .	..	151	2	..	..
Pethidine	tablet/ampoule	..	43	6	43	51

The number of offenders charged with drug offences by the Department of Customs and Excise, and the sentences imposed are given in the following table. Particulars of all drug offences in 1973 reported to the Central Crime Intelligence Bureau are shown in the table on pages 485-6.

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

(Source: Department of Customs and Excise)

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	Number of charges pending
				Number	Amount	Number	Months			
Unlawful possession—					\$					
1969	61	63	60	50	9,490	5	57	5	1	2
1970	79	82	68	50	18,415	19	220	4	5	9
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
Unlawful import—										
1969	32	34	27	20	5,300	7	84	1	..	7
1970	55	62	58	36	15,285	16	238	9	..	4
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
Other offences—										
1969	5	5	4	3	500	1	6	..	1	..
1970	12	13	12	11	700	..	..	..	1	..
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

(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.

Senate Select Committee

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

Police

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

Acts. In metropolitan and large country areas they also regulate the street traffic. With the exception of the Commonwealth Police Force and the police in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, the police forces of Australia are under the control of the State Governments, but their members perform certain functions for the Australian 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 1973 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 1973

<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 . . .	5	3	1	1	3	1	..	..
Inspectors . . .	21	26	9	6	3	5	1	1
Sergeants . . .	357	72	157	51	94	39	12	14
Constables(b) . . .	918	664	(c)340	266	195	81	32	32
Total, criminal investigations, etc. . .	1,301	765	(c)507	324	295	126	45	47
Traffic duties—								
Executive officers . . .	3	4	1	1	1	1	..	..
Inspectors . . .	7	13	3	3	8	3	..	1
Sergeants . . .	155	23	54	18	45	9	3	14
Constables(b) . . .	888	488	(c)133	218	194	88	14	82
Total, traffic duties . . .	1,053	528	(c)191	240	248	101	17	97
Other special and general duties—								
Executive officers . . .	28	38	6	10	13	4	..	..
Inspectors . . .	126	154	75	44	23	36	3	11
Sergeants . . .	1,343	273	653	179	269	100	51	50
Constables(b) . . .	(d)3,772	3,470	(c)1,773	1,343	870	420	194	228
Total, other special, etc. . .	5,269	3,935	(c)2,507	1,576	(e)1,175	560	(f)248	(f)289
Not allocated—								
Executive officers whose duties extend beyond one branch . . .	8	5	5	4	4	2	3	2
Inspectors . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Police women . . .	102	163	(g)	45	38	..	5	..
Trainees and cadets . . .	311	114	308	373	47	103	..	..
Total, not allocated . . .	421	282	313	422	89	105	8	2
Total police force—								
Executive officers . . .	44	50	13	16	21	8	3	2
Inspectors . . .	154	193	87	53	34	44	4	13
Sergeants . . .	1,855	368	861	248	408	148	66	78
Constables(b) . . .	5,578	4,622	(c)2,112	1,827	1,259	589	240	342
Police women . . .	102	163	137	45	38	..	5	..
Trainees and cadets . . .	311	114	308	373	47	103	..	..
Total police force . . .	8,044	5,510	3,518	2,562	1,807	892	318	435

ANCILLARY AND CIVILIAN STAFF

Employed by Police Department—								
Ancillary staff(h)—								
Full-time . . .	222	130	25	198	..	..	35	..
Part-time . . .	..	4	..	2	171	..	..	..
Civilian staff(i)—								
Full-time . . .	(j)1,385	899	506	110	(k)515	150	31	57
Part-time . . .	..	71	31	8	72	..	..	2

For footnotes see next page,

POLICE FORCES AND ASSISTANT STAFF, 30 JUNE 1973—*continued*

<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>
TOTAL STAFF								
Grand total—								
Full-time	9,651	6,539	4,049	2,825	2,322	1,042	384	492
Part-time		75	31	10	243	..	..	2

(a) Where more than one duty is involved, officers have been allocated to the category of duties in which the greater part of their time is spent. The allocation of executive officers and inspectors to categories of duties is necessarily somewhat arbitrary and varies from State to State. (b) Includes probationary constables. (c) Excludes probationary constables; included with trainees and cadets. (d) Includes 19 constables on National Service. (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 Queensland 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 71 cadets whose appointment is not subject to the Police Act.

Ancillary and civilian staff are excluded from the following table.

POLICE FORCES

<i>30 June—</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>	<i>Aust.</i>
1969	7,259	4,743	3,179	2,255	1,490	670	195	288	20,079
1970	7,324	4,739	3,221	2,282	1,529	701	235	290	20,321
1971	7,470	4,943	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

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 Australian Parliament. It is also responsible for the protection of Australian Government property and interests at various buildings and establishments under the control of the Australian 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 1973 was 1,180 policemen and 5 policewomen. At that date there were, in addition, 123 civilian employees.

Prisons

Prisons and prison accommodation

PRISONS AND PRISON ACCOMMODATION, 30 JUNE 1972

	<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>Aust.</i>
Prisons	26	13	9	16	13	1	2	80
Accommodation	3,496	2,666	1,308	1,497	1,648	440	237	11,292

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
1968 . . .	3,292	2,103	958	926	1,150	281	120	8,830	7.3
1969 . . .	3,327	2,199	1,065	884	1,214	331	177	9,197	7.5
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

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

	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Final consumption expenditure—					
Authorities of the Australian Government	18.1	21.3	25.2	31.1	38.1
State Authorities—					
New South Wales	71.9	81.5	93.7	111.4	127.5
Victoria	43.7	48.3	53.4	63.1	73.0
Queensland	27.8	31.5	38.9	41.7	53.0
South Australia	14.4	15.6	18.2	21.3	25.0
Western Australia	15.3	18.7	22.7	28.8	32.4
Tasmania	6.5	7.1	8.4	10.4	12.4
Total States	179.7	202.6	235.3	276.7	323.3
Total current expenditure	197.8	223.9	260.5	307.8	361.4
Gross fixed capital expenditure—					
Authorities of the Australian Government	1.6	1.5	2.0	2.6	3.0
State Authorities—					
New South Wales	7.2	9.3	10.6	10.9	13.6
Victoria	6.9	4.4	3.9	5.0	5.0
Queensland	3.9	4.6	4.4	6.7	6.5
South Australia	1.3	1.6	2.3	2.9	1.7
Western Australia	3.0	3.5	3.3	1.8	1.5
Tasmania	1.0	1.0	1.7	2.2	2.7
Total States	23.3	24.4	26.3	29.5	31.0
Total capital expenditure	24.9	25.9	28.3	32.1	34.0
Total expenditure	222.7	249.8	288.8	339.9	395.4

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 firemen, operates under the Fire Brigades Act, 1909-1970, and 172 fire districts had been constituted at the end of 1973. The cost of maintenance of fire brigades is borne in proportions of local councils and the Government each one-eighth, and insurance companies three-quarters.

At 31 December 1973 the actual strength of the Fire Brigade throughout the fire districts of New South Wales was 501 officers and 1,417 permanent and 2,730 volunteer firemen. Corresponding figures for the Sydney Fire District were 400, 1,203 and 203. The revenue for the year 1973 was \$18,321,190, as follows: from the Government, \$2,254,736; municipalities and shires, \$2,254,736; fire insurance companies and firms, \$13,528,416; and from other sources, \$283,302. The disbursements for the year were \$19,822,851. The Board of Fire Commissioners provides the fire protection services for Canberra, in the Australian Capital Territory, and the cost of these services is reimbursed by the Australian Government.

Under the Bush Fires Act, 1949 a Bush Fire Fighting Fund exists from which finance is provided for the prevention and fighting of bush fires. Contributions to the Fund by the Government, councils and insurance companies are in the proportion of one-quarter, one-quarter and one-half, respectively. At 30 June 1973 Volunteer Brigades equipped by means of this fund numbered about 2,420 with an active membership of approximately 60,000 persons. The expenditure from the Fund for equipment, up to 30 June 1973, amounted to \$15,041,819.

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 eleven members.

Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board. The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board receives contributions from the municipalities and the insurance companies in the proportion of one-third and two-thirds respectively. At 30 June 1973 the Board had under its control 47 stations, 1,248 permanent staff, and 251 special service and clerical, etc., staff. The total receipts for 1972-73 were \$13,145,704, comprising contributions \$11,641,121, receipts for services \$966,334, and interest and sundries \$538,249. The expenditure was \$12,605,698.

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 1973 the Country Fire Authority Act applied to 147 insurance companies and 212 urban and 1,054 rural fire brigades. Permanent staff of the Authority totalled 331 (including administrative), while the effective strength of volunteer personnel was 114,709. Income for the year 1972-73 amounted to \$5,081,093. Total expenditure other than loan redemption and capital expenditure amounted to \$5,053,285.

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 1971,' and the Rural Fires Board under provisions of 'The Rural Fires Act, 1946 to 1970' 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 1971'. 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 1973 there were 81 fire brigade boards. The number of stations was 190 and the brigade strength was 1,224 permanent staff and 1,285 auxiliary and 73 volunteer staff. The total revenue for the year 1972-73 was \$10,111,651 received mainly from the following sources: Government \$1,223,710, local authorities \$1,223,710, insurance companies \$7,330,836. Loan receipts (Government and other) were \$979,318. The total expenditure for the year was \$10,355,223, which included administration and working expenses, etc., \$8,787,554, interest and redemption \$1,227,118 and other expenditure \$340,551.

The Rural Fires Board, operating under the *Rural Fires Act 1946 to 1970*, 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 1973 there were 1,139 bush fire brigades. Expenditure by the State Government including contributions by bush fire brigades for equipment during 1972-73 amounted to \$158,603

South Australia

The Fire Brigades Act, 1936-1974 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, and that when the Treasury proportion exceeds its statutory contribution of \$58,044, the excess is borne five-sevenths by insurance companies and two-sevenths by the municipalities. At 30 June 1973 there were altogether 39 fire brigade stations, of which 18 were metropolitan and 21 country.

The strength of the permanent staff at 30 June 1973 was 630, comprising 459 officers and men, 118 country auxiliary firemen and 53 other employees (including maintenance workers). The total revenue for the year 1972-73 was \$2,901,023, including contributions of \$2,866,945 made up as follows: insurance companies \$1,779,726, Treasury \$410,388 and municipalities \$676,831. The Treasury contribution includes a special grant of \$352,344.

Western Australia

The *Fire Brigades Act 1942-1947* 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 1973. The contribution to the Board is made in the proportion of 16 per cent from the State Government, 20 per cent from local government authorities, and 64 per cent from insurance companies. The number of local government authorities and insurance companies who contributed numbered 87 and 169 respectively. Seventeen permanent and two volunteer brigades operate in the metropolitan fire district centred in the City of Perth. Permanent brigade personnel serve with volunteer brigade personnel in five large country centres and volunteer brigades provide town fire protection at some 67 other centres. At 30 June 1973 the Board had 585 employees and there were 1,700 volunteer brigade officers and firemen. The revenue for the year ended 30 June 1973 was \$5,654,427 and the expenditure \$5,344,543.

Under the *Bush Fires Act, 1954-1970* 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 2,442 at 30 June 1973, and the establishment of bush fire brigades, 918 at 30 June 1973. 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 or Municipal Councils; one person nominated by the Chairman of the Rural Fires Board; and three persons representing the insurance companies. 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 cost for the year 1972-73 amounted to \$1,807,061. There were, at 30 June 1973, 23 boards controlling 40 stations, and their aggregate staffs numbered 699 (officers and firemen), comprising 247 permanent personnel, 412 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. The Board has a paid staff of 22, headed by the State Fire Control Officer and includes five regional fire officers and an assistant regional officer. At 30 June 1973 there were 314 rural fire brigades composed of 7,311 registered volunteers. The Board's budget in 1972-73 was \$436,500. Half the administrative expenditure is met by insurance companies insuring rural properties, and half by the Government. Special fire area 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 1974 the personnel strength of the regular stations was 114 full-time regulars, 18 part-time auxiliaries and 20 part-time volunteers.

Under the Bush Fire Control Ordinance 1965-1968 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 Canberra Fire Brigade is administered by the N.S.W. Board of Fire Commissioners under an agreement with the Australian Government. The cost of salaries, allowances, equipment and a 3 per cent administration charge to the Board is met by the Department of the Capital Territory.

At 31 December 1973 the 4 fire stations in Canberra employed a permanent fire fighting staff of 118. Expenditure during 1972-73 amounted to \$1,012,814, of which \$278,524 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 in Jervis Bay rests with the A.C.T. Bush Fire Council. In 1972-73, expenditure by the council amounted to \$144,658.

Patents, trade marks and designs

Patents

Patents for inventions are granted under the *Patents Act 1952-1973*, which applies to Australia and to the Territory of Norfolk Island. It also applies to Papua New Guinea until that Territory becomes independent. Regulations under the Act provide variable fees for lodgment of applications depending on size of specifications and number of claims. The basic fee for lodging an application and complete specification is \$20. 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 \$60, or the applicant may request examination of his own accord, in which case the fee is \$80. 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 \$8 on the expiration of the second year from the date of lodgment of the complete specification and rising to \$50 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

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Applications	17,446	16,443	16,407	16,165	16,460
Applications accompanied by provisional specifications	3,637	3,628	3,933	4,195	4,354
Letters patent sealed	7,127	6,130	10,641	10,920	11,670

Trade marks and designs

Under the *Trade Marks Act* 1955–1973 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* 1906–1973 the Commissioner of Patents is also Registrar of Designs.

TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS: AUSTRALIA

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Trade marks—					
Received	9,246	9,117	8,866	9,204	10,026
Registered	4,809	5,823	5,710	5,012	5,665
Designs—					
Received	1,975	2,007	1,977	2,228	2,115
Registered	1,440	1,604	1,578	1,608	1,732

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.

