COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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SOCIAL STATISTICS.: AUSTRALIA NO.4: DIVORCE, SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1961

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

- 1. This bulletin is the second in the series "Social Statistics" presenting statistics on divorce. It replaces the series relating to Divorce Statistics previously included in issues of the Australian Demographic Review. The previous bulletin in this series on divorce statistics related to the three months ended 31st March, 1961. This bulletin gives statistics of the first six months of 1961.
- 2. In 1959, the Commonwealth Parliament passed the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959, which came into operation on 1st February, 1961. This Act establishes uniform grounds throughout the whole of the Commonwealth for the termination of marriage, and supersedes the matrimonial causes laws of the States and Territories except in so far as the transitional provisions of the Act keep them in force for the purpose of completing pending proceedings.
- 3. Until the operation of the Commonwealth Matrimonial Causes Act 1959 (on 1st February, 1961) the grounds for dissolution of marriage varied between each State and Territory. For example:-
 - (i) Insanity was not a ground in New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory;
 - (ii) in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory a suit for dissolution of marriage could forthwith be instituted against a respondent who failed to comply with an order for restitution of conjugal rights;
 - (iii) separation for over five years was a ground only in Western Australia;
 - (iv) separation for over five years under a decree of judicial separation or an order granting relief from co-habitation was a ground only in South Australia; and
 - (v) impotence was a ground for dissolution of marriage in Western Australia, but a ground for nullity of marriage in each other State and Territory.
- 4. In addition, some dissolutions granted under previous Common-wealth legislation in a particular State could be on grounds not provided for in that State's legislation.
- 5. The grounds on which dissolutions and nullities of marriage and judicial separations were granted in each State and Territory are shown in Table 8. The proportions of marriages dissolved in each State and Territory on these grounds are shown in Table 9.
- 6. Of the 4,654 petitions lodged (for dissolution) in the six months ended 30th June, 1961, 1,045 were under the old legislation (i.e. in January). Of the 3,119 decrees absolute for dissolution granted during the period, 69 were from petitions lodged under new legislation and these were all granted during the quarter ended 30th June, 1961.

I. PETITIONS FILED

TABLE 1. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION, SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1961

Petition for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage -	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·								
Husband Petitioner	950	551	277	193	135	87	10	15	2,218
Wife Petitioner	1,154	565		205	150	85	3	19	2,436
Total	2,104	1,116	532	398	285	172	13	34	4,654
Nullity of Marriage -						,			
Husband Petitioner	2	1	1	••	••	• •		••	4
Wife Petitioner	11	2	3	6	0.0	1	••	••	23
Total	13	3	4	6	• •	1	• •	••	27
Dissolution and Nullity -	<u> </u>								
Husband Petitioner		2		••	0 •	• •	• • ;	••	2
Judicial Separation -									
Husband Petitioner			••		. 2	• • •		••	2
Wife Petitioner	2	••	••	3	••	••	• •	••	2 5
<u>Total</u>	2		••	3	2	• •	••	••	7
Total Petitions -									
Husband Petitioner No.	952	554	278	193	137	87	10	15	2,226
Per cent.	45	49	52	47	48	50	77	44	47
Wife Petitioner No.	1,167		258	214	150	86	3	19	2,464
Per cent.	55	51	48	53	52	50	23	56	53
<u>Total</u>	2,119	11,121	536	407	287	173	13	34	4,690

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

Petition for -	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	6 months ended 30th June, 1961
Dissolution of Marriage - Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner									2,218 2,436
<u>Total</u>	8,751	8,330	8,229	8,276	7,899	8,403	8,308	8,094	4,654
Nullity of Marriage - Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner	31 60	19 45	24 47	. 28 52				23 32	
<u>Total</u>	91	64	71	80	96	75	65	55	27
Dissolution and Nullity - Husband Petitioner		0 0			••	• •	••	. • •	. 2
Judicial Separation - Husband Petitioner Wife Petitioner	3 37	3 35	11 29	6	6 26			7	· 2 5
Total	40	38	40	47	32	49	31	38	
Total Petitions -									
Husband Petitioner No. Per cent.	3,894 44	3,800 45			3,717 46	3,886 46	3,872 46		
Wife Petitioner No. Per cent.	4,988 56	4,632 55	4,643	4,650	4,310	4,641	4,532	4,448	2,464
Total	8,882						8,404		
(a) The Queensland component					ior to				

(a) The Queensland component of figures for years prior to 1956 represents petitions heard.

TABLE 3. - GROUNDS ON WHICH PETITIONS WERE FILED FOR DISSOLUTION
OF MARRIAGE, NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION,
SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1961

Grounds	N.S.W.	Vico	Q'1d.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Petit:	ions fo	r Disso	lution	of Ma	rriag	<u> </u>			
Single Grounds -						1 - 1	Ī ·	· ·	
Adultery	412	186	83	95	103	37	4	10	930
Cruelty	.64	10	3	44				3	124
Desertion	999	542	304	146	103	70	6	₩ 13 °	2,183
Drunkenness	33	3	1	2		1		2.	42
Failure to comply with				, .					l . :·
restitution decree	72			• •	100	0.0			72
Failure to pay maintenance	2		• •	· 1	9	ال ا	J. 6 6 .		12
Frequent convictions	5	[3			1	• •		• •	9
Insanity	28		3	1	,			2 89 1	33
Presumption of death	ەە	0.6	2	• •	1 - 1	3	••		6
Refusal to consummate	7	6		1		2.2	1.	• •	17
Separation	332	212	82	76	61	∫ 51a		4	820
Other single grounds	2		00	0 0	[3	00			5
Dual Grounds -					÷				
Adultery and cruelty	2	2	2			9	3 7 10		6
Adultery and desertion	22	31	6	6	1	2	.00	,	68
Adultery and drunkenness	i	31	1 : : 1	1	l ' `	l	• •		2
Adultery and separation	2	9	1	· ·					3
Cruelty and drunkenness	40	4		3		. 1	00	1.	51
Desertion and cruelty	14	9	1	5	1	, -, i; 1 .,			29
Desertion and drunkenness	9	2	2	1		- 2 9 9.4 4	. 0 0		-15
Desertion and failure to)	-			. ; • •	aQ 1	2.0%	, • •	1 :!/
pay maintenance	1	5	1			u Me ç	41)		7
Desertion and separation	39	74	38	15	2	4	• •		172
Desertion and other grounds		3	* -				, o ∵6		6
Drunkenness and intoxication			• •	۰۰	• •		۰۰	••	2
Insanity and separation	1 3	2	• •	• •	••	• •	. •	• •	5
Presumption of death and	ر	-	°°	• •	• •	••	00	••	'
separation		4		٥٥٠	- 00				1 4
		::: 1	0.0	· ·			• • •	. • •	!
Multiple Grounds (a)	11	20	2	. 1					34
Total	2,104	1,116	532	398	285	172	13	34	4,654
Peti	itions i	or Nul	lity o	f Marr	iage				
D4				2	1		: : ::	 	0
Bigamy Incapacity to consummate	7	3	2 2	. 3		0.6	••	• •	9 15
Other	2	, -		_		1	6.0	4 4	3
	-			00	0.0 .		- ••		
Total	13	3	4	6	• 0	- Ca	• •	• •	27
Petitions i	or Diss	olutio	n or N	ullity	of Ma	rriage	esi.); z	
Refusal to consummate or					; - 2005				
incapacity	. 00	2	, 00		.00	0 0		0.0	2.
Peti	itions i	or Jud	icial	Separa	tion		• • •	.1115	
Adultery	1			1.			• •		2
Cruelty				2	0 0	, i o		6.0	23 × -2
Desertion					2		100		2
Desertion and cruelty				0.0		00			1
·	·	<u> </u>	 						
<u>Total</u>	2		00	3	2	0 0	00	• •	7
		• • •			1				

⁽a) Three grounds or more.

TABLE 4. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Year - 1953 1954	4,230 4,039	1,866	(a) 725 (a) 714	921 832	615 589	319 316	31 24	44 39	8,751 8,330
1955 1956	4,092 3,943	1,600	(a) 801 837	825 754	560 652	285 273	40 26	26 44	8,229
1957 1958	3,824	1,654	672	767 791	623 644	291 267	19	49 37	7,899
1959	3,884	1,650	952 976 863	789	671	283	12	43	8,308
1960 6 months ended 30th	3,746	1,798		781	560	274	26	46	8,094
June, 1961	2,104	1,116	532	398	285	172	13	34	4,654

(a) Petitions heard.

NOTE: The table above excludes petitions filed for nullity of marriage and judicial separation.

II. DISSOLUTIONS, ETC. GRANTED TABLE 5. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED, SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1961

Decree for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage -						-			
Husband Petitioner	644	280	165	125	116	57	5	10	1,402
Wife Petitioner	822	301	201	188	113	84	• •	7	1,716
Petition by Both	• •		• •	1	• •	0 0			. 1
<u>Total</u>	1,466	581	366	314	229	141	5	17	3,119
Nullity of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	3	3	0.0	• •	1	• •	• •		7
Wife Petitioner	5	1		2	• •		• •	1	9
Total	8	4		2	1	. •		1	16
Judicial Separation -						:			
Husband Petitioner	. •		• •	• •		0 0	• •	••	
Wife Petitioner	1			. • •	• •	• •	• •		1
<u>Total</u>	1	• •	• 0						1
Total Decrees -				*					
Husband Petitioner No.	647	283	165	125	117	57	5	10	1,409
Per cent.	44	48	45	40	51	40	100		45
Wife Petitioner No.	828	302		190	113	84		8	1,726
Per cent.	56	52	55	60	49	60		44	55
Petition by Both No.				1	0 •			• 0	1
<u>Total</u>	1,475	585	366	316	230	141	5	18	3,136

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 6. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED: AUSTRALIA

Decree for -	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	6 months ended 30th June, 1961
Dissolution of Marriage -	2 507	0 033	:	0.040	0.075	3 005	2 004	3 070	400
Husband Petitioner								3,078	
Wife Petitioner								3,555	
<u>Total</u>	7,962	6,457	6,724	6,435	6,298	6,920	7,315	6,633	3,119(b)
Nullity of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	30	18	9	14	. 24	25	21	26	7
Wife Petitioner	41	42	36	32	40	36	32	37	9
<u>Total</u>	71	60	45	46	64	. 61	. 53	63	16
Judicial Separation -									
Husband Petitioner	• •		4	4	2	2		. 2	
Wife Petitioner	10	11	9	7	10	11	2	11	1
<u>Total</u>	10	11	13	11	12	13	2	13	• 1
Total Decrees -									
Husband Petitioner No.	3,557	2,951	3,059	2,960	2,901	3,252	3,312	3,106	1,409
Per cent.	44	45	45	46	46	46	45	46	45
Wife Petitioner No.	4,486	3,577	3,723	3,532	3,473	3,742	4,058	3,603	1,726
Per cent.	56	55	55	54	54	54	55	54	55
Total	8,043	6,528	6,782	6,492	6,374	6,994	7,370	6,709	3,136(b)

(a) Decree absolute. For years prior to 1957 the Victorian component of figures for dissolutions and nullities of marriage represents decrees nisi. (b) Includes one petition by both.

TABLE 7. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) GRANTED

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Year - 1953	3,725	(b)2,096	725	628	535	210	12	31	7,962
1954	2,816	(b)1,519	710	594	530	235	20	33	6,457
1955	2,874	(b)1,674	801	624	479	233	18	21	6,724
1956	3,125	(b)1,255	703	567	544	196	25	20	6,435
1957	2,975	1,345	682	529	541	179	18	29	6,298
1958	3,217	1,698	759	483	536	176	15	36	6,920
1959	3,363	1,861	739	503	584	222	14	29	7,315
1960	3,243	1,296	696	610	540	210	5	33	6,633
6 months ended 30th	·	•							
June, 1961	1,466	58 1	366	314	229	141	5	17	3,119

(a) Decrees absolute. (b) Decrees nisi.

NOTE: - The table above excludes nullities of marriage and judicial separations.

TABLE 8. - GROUNDS ON WHICH DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION WERE GRANTED, SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1961

Grounds	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
	Diss	oluti	on of	Marria,	ge .				
Single Grounds									
Adultery	388	168	107	115	106	44	3	8	939
Cruelty	40	6		68		4	• •	1	119
Desertion	790	378	254	112	62	89	2	8	1,695
Drunkenness	19	0 •	• •	4	1	••	• •	••	24
Failure to comply with								,	<u>.</u> '
restitution decree	169	• •	• 0	• •		••	. • •		169
Failure to pay maintenance	• •	. • •	00	2	8	• •	• •		10
Frequent convictions	4	1	• •	1	••		• •		6
Imprisonment	4	0 •	• •	• •	1		• •	• •	5
Insanity	. •	1	1	3		••	• •		5
Presumption of death		• •	1	• •	î	••	• •		2
Rape	• •	• •	1	• 0		••			1
Separation	6	• •	1	3	49	1	• •	••	60
Dual Grounds		i							
Adultery and bigamy	1	3	• •	• •	••		• •		4
Adultery and desertion	2	20	• •	1		1	• •		24
Cruelty and drunkenness	41			1	1	2	• •		45
Desertion and cruelty	2	• •	• •	1			• •		1 3
Desertion and frequent								Ì	İ
convictions		2				• •	• •		2
Desertion and intoxication								ł	1
by drugs		1		• •	00	• •	• •	••	1
Multiple Grounds (b)	• 0	1	1	3	• •	• •	• •	• •	5
Total	1,466	581	366	314	229	141	5	17	3,119
		Null	ity of	Marria	<u>ige</u>				
Bigamy		1		1					2
Incapacity to consummate	8	2	• •	1		• •	••	1	12
Unsound mind	••	۰.	• •	• •	1	• •	• •	••	1
Want of consent		1	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	1
<u>Total</u>	8	4	۰.	2	1	• •	••	1	16
		Judic	ial Se	paratio	on				
Cruelty	1	• •	• •			• •			1

⁽a) Decrees absolute.

⁽b) Three grounds or more.

TABLE 9. - PERCENTAGES OF DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) GRANTED ON VARIOUS GROUNDS, SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1961

Grounds	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Adultery (b) Desertion (c) Other	27 66 7	29 69 2	29 69 2	37 38 25	46 49 5	31 65 4	60 40	47 47 . 6	30 63 . 7
<u>Total</u>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(a) Decrees absolute. (b) Includes adultery and bigamy. (c) Includes adultery and desertion, separation, and non-compliance with an order for restitution of conjugal rights.

III. AGES OF PARTIES TABLE 10. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE (a) AUSTRALIA, SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1961

Age of Husband		······································	,	Age	of Wife	e (Year	rs)				Total Husbands	
(Years)	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not Stated	No.	Per cent.
Under 20	172	47	3		00	0.0					222	7
20-24	622	720	100	14	3		• •		• •		1,459	47
25-29	164	387	167	48	4		1			1	772	25
30-34	31	104	94	60	20	6	2		0.0	• •	317	10
35-39	5	42	36	33	35	9	1		• •		161	5
40-44	1	12	8	19	16	11	1	0.0			68	2
45-49		1	5	8	7	6	6	2	1		36	1
50-54			2	4	5	6	4				21	1
55 and			j					İ				
over			1		2	5	1	4	7		20	1
Not Stated		۰۰		٥٥	۰.				• •	43	43	1
Total (No. Wives (%	995 32	1,313 42	416 14	186 6	92 3	43 1	16 1	6	8	44 1	3,119	100

(a) Marriages for which decrees absolute for dissolution were granted.

TABLE 11. - AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (a) AUSTRALIA, SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1961

	Age of Wife (Years)												
Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not Stated	No.	Per cent		
00	1	00				0 0				1	• •		
2	52	7	1				00		00	62	2		
1	143	208	28	5	1		• •		0 0	386	12		
	30	272	296	54	3		1		• 0	656	21		
	6	73	226	235	43	9			1		19		
	3	16	65	167	169	30	9	1		460	15		
		4	17	83	135	129	24	6		398	15 13 8		
0.0	0 0	0.0	6	23	41	85	79	14	••	248	8		
			3	7	21	51	69	121	• •	272	9		
			• •			• •	• •	0 0	43	43	1		
3	235	580	642	574	413	304	182	142	44	3,119	100		
	20	20 20-24 1 2 52 1 143 30 6 3	20 20-24 25-29 1 1	Under 20 20-24 25-29 30-34 1	Under 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 1	Under 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 1	Under 20 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 1	Under 20 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 1	Under 20 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 55 and over 1	Under 20 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 55 and over Stated 1	Under 20 20-24 25-29 30-34 35-39 40-44 45-49 50-54 55 and over Stated No. 1		

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 12. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : AGE (a) OF HUSBAND, AUSTRALIA

Period	Under 25 Years	25-29 Years	30-34 Years	35-39 Years	40-44 Years	45 -4 9 Years	50-54 Years	55 Years and over	Not Stated	Tota]
Year - 1953	177	1,266	1,598	1,554	1,247	879	592	602	47	7,962
1954	157	1,009	1,380	1,168	990	729	477	490	57	6,457
1955	158	995	1,435	1,189	1,059	793	503	509	83	6,724
1956	122	961	1,434	1,130	1,007	738	447	529	67	6,435
1957	119	866	1,334	1,171	988	737	495	477	111	6,298
1958	110	940	1,528	1,372	1,026	775	545	495	129	6,920
1959	131	929	1,626	1,494	1,075	852	586	550	72	7,315
1960	143	931	1,377	1,324	989	822	473	503	71	6,633
6 months ended		Í	•						,	
30th June, 1961	63	386	656	593	460	398	248	272	43	3,119

⁽a) At time of decree absolute.

TABLE 13. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: AGE (a) OF WIFE, AUSTRALIA

Period	Under 25 Years	25–29 Years	30-34 Years	35-39 Years	40-44 Years	45-49 Years	50-54 Years		Not Stated	Total
Year - 1953	655	1,692	1,743	1,465	1,033	634	379	311	50	7,962
1954	557	1,420	1,336	1,130	887	516	289	267	55	6,457
1955	571	1,433	1,410	1,139	944	608	272	268	79	6,724
1956	482	1,378	1,379	1,112	882	567	284	288	63	6,435
1957	475	1,263	1,371	1,082	874	601	290	234	108	6,298
1958	492	1,401	1,556	1,239	875	634	318	279	126	6,920
1959	539	1,425	1,679	1,322	986	678	369	245	72	7,315
1960	582	1,261	1,439	1,210	865	6 52	300	253	71	6,633
6 months ended		•								,
30th June, 1961	238	580	642	574	413	304	182	142	44	3,119

⁽a) At time of decree absolute.

IV. DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND NUMBER AND AGE OF CHILDREN

TABLE 14. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DURATION OF MARRIAGE

AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN (b), AUSTRALIA, SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1961

Duration of Marriage		Disso	Tot Marri Disso	lages	Total Number of					
(Years)	No. Child- ren	1 Child	2 Child- ren	3 Child- ren	4 Child- ren	5 Child- ren	6 Child- ren & over	No.	Per cent.	Child- ron (b)
Under 5 5 - 9 10 - 14 15 - 19 20 - 24 25 - 29 30 and over	153 402 239 103 85 84	45 291 224 120 89 36	7 157 212 147 101 35	2 37 90 86 58 8	13 32 28 21 6	2 8 14 9 1	1 5 6 6 2	207 903 810 504 369 172	7 29 26 16 12 5	65 786 1,117 893 637 172
Total (No. Marriages (Dissolved (%	1,178	825 27	667	288	102	37	22	3,119	100	00
Total Number of Children (b)	۰۰	825	1,334	864	408	185	149	0 0		3,765

⁽a) Decrees absolute. (b) The term "children" used in the Commonwealth legislation refers to living "children of the marriage" under 21 years. However, as the majority of dissolutions in this period were granted to petitions lodged under old legislation, it has not been possible to make the data in the table above conform exactly to this definition. For instance, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia included children whether living or dead; and only Queensland included adopted children.

TABLE 15. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) : DURATION OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA

	Num	ber of	Marriag	es Diss	olved w	hose Di	ration wa	as -	Total	
Period	Under 5 Years	5-9 Years	10-14 Years	15-19 Years	20-24 Years		30 Years and over	Not Stated	Marriages Dissolved	
Year - 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959	676 576 556 486 452 475 489 533	2,594 2,129 2,282 2,202 2,098 2,207 2,275 2,016	1,993 1,557 1,572 1,523 1,503 1,830 1,978 1,804	1,139 941 968 989 1,044 1,125 1,236	694 582 602 564 589 621 667 682	447 363 424 339 328 357 384 354	419 306 311 323 279 303 283 252	3 9 9 5 2 3	7,962 6,457 6,724 6,435 6,298 6,920 7,315 6,633	
6 months ended 30th June, 1961	207	903	810	504	369	172	154	• •	3,119	

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 16. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) CLASSIFIED ACCORDING

TO NUMBER OF CHILDREN (b) : AUSTRALIA

			Di	issoluti	ions of	Marria	ge with	4445		M-+-3	Total	
•	Period	No. Child- ren	Child-Child		3 Child- ren	1 1		6 Children and over	Not Stated	Total Marriages Dissolved	Number of Child- ren	
	Year - 1953 1954	2,730 2,246	2,404	1,581 1,353	701 563	302 239	116 95	128 76	••	7,962 6,457	10,353 8,239	
.	1955	2,239	1,957	1,451	600 556	250 248	110 97	115 89	2	6,724 6,435	8,995 8,306	
ı	1956 1957	2,195	1,737	1,391	584	232	77	78	4	6,298	8,127	
	1958 1959	2,387 2,510	1,882	1,477 1,627	687 741	291 330	107 92	88 88	1	6,920 7,315	9,197 9,797	
	1960 6 months ended	2,213	1,733	1,452	719	291	120	105	••	6,633	9,302	
	30th June, 1961	1,178	825	667	288	102	37	22		3,119	3,765	

(a) Decrees absolute. (b) The figures shown for periods until 1960 inclusive are based on the definition of children set down in the legislation of the various States. For the six months ended 30th June, 1961, a uniform definition of children has been used. See note (b) to Table 14.

TABLE 17. - CHILDREN OF DISSOLVED MARRIAGES (a) CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE:

AUSTRALIA, SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1961

					A	ge of	Chi.	ldren	at!	l'ime	of Pe	titi	on -						Total
Peti-	Under	1	2	3	Λ	5	6	7	8	a	10	11	12	13	14	15	176-41		Number
tioner	12	3770	arma	1770	1776	37700	3770	7770	_	37700				_		1 -	•	Stat-	of
	mths.	y	yrs.	y 1 5 .	yrs.	yrs.	yr 5°	yrs.	y 15.	AT S.	y15.	yrs.	JI S.	AT 20	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	ed	Children
Husband Wife Both	8 9	10 28	27 42	50 81	53 127	93 130	84 142 1	105 145	92 132 ••	99 129	106 117		65 102	68 112 1	65 98	51 83	202 237		2,272
Total	17	38	69	131	180	223	227	250	224	228	223	204	167	181	163	134	439	667 (ъ)	3,765

(a) This table refers to children under 21 years of marriages for which decrees absolute for dissolution have been granted in 1961. (b) Includes 450 children in New South Wales (144 for wife and 306 for husband petitioner) whose ages were not known.

J.P. O'NEILL ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 14TH MAY, 1962.

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics can be made in Canberra by telephoning UO413, Extension 473 or, in State Capitals, by telephoning the offices of the Deputy Commonwealth Statisticians.