

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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SOCIAL STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA

NO. 9 : DIVORCE, QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1962

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. This bulletin contains statistics of divorce for the three months ended September, 1962, and for previous periods. For further details in respect of past periods, see previous bulletins in this series and the annual issues of the bulletin "Demography".

2. In 1959, the Commonwealth Parliament passed the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959, which came into operation on 1st February, 1961. This Act provided a uniform law throughout Australia with respect to divorce and other matrimonial causes, and supersedes the matrimonial causes laws of the States and Territories except in so far as the transitional provisions of the Act keep them in force for the purpose of completing pending proceedings. Therefore statistics of petitions filed since February, 1961, are on a uniform basis for all States and Territories, but statistics of decrees of dissolution, nullity and judicial separation granted since that date include decrees made on petitions under the superseded laws, and are to that extent not uniformly based. Of the 1,962 decrees absolute for dissolution granted during the three months ended September, 1962, 1,673 were from petitions under the new legislation.

3. The matrimonial relief available under the superseded legislation differed extensively from State to State. For instance, some important variations in the ground for dissolution of marriage were as follows:-

- (i) Insanity was a ground for dissolution in all States except in New South Wales and 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.

In addition, some dissolutions granted under previous Commonwealth legislation in a particular State could be on grounds not provided for in that State's legislation.

4. Under the new legislation a court may grant decrees of dissolution of marriage (commonly known as divorce), judicial separation, nullity of marriage, restitution of conjugal rights and jactitation of marriage. Orders may be made for the custody of children, the provision of maintenance, damages and the settlement of marriage property.

5. The statistics in this bulletin refer only to petitions filed and final decrees granted for dissolution, nullity and judicial separation. Statistics of petitions filed relate only to the original petition in a suit, i.e. a cross-petition contained in an answer by the respondent is not taken as a separate petition nor are the grounds cited in the cross-petition included in table 3.

I. PETITIONS FILED

TABLE 1. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1962

Petition for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>Dissolution of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	426	256	145	94	71	26	6	5	1,029
Wife Petitioner	644	292	147	150	115	48	4	8	1,408
<u>Total</u>	<u>1,070</u>	<u>548</u>	<u>292</u>	<u>244</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2,437</u>
<u>Nullity of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	4
Wife Petitioner	4	4	3	..	1	1	..	..	13
<u>Total</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Dissolution or Nullity -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wife Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<u>Total</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Judicial Separation -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Total Petitions -</u>									
Husband Petitioner No.	428	257	147	94	71	26	6	5	1,034
Per cent.	40	46	49	38	38	35	60	38	42
Wife Petitioner No.	648	296	151	150	116	49	4	8	1,422
Per cent.	60	54	51	62	62	65	40	62	58
<u>Total</u>	<u>1,076</u>	<u>553</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>244</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2,456</u>

TABLE 2. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : AUSTRALIA

Petition for -	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	Quarter ended -				
						Sep. 1961	Dec. 1961	March 1962	June 1962	Sep. 1962
<u>Dissolution of Marriage -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	3,671	3,833	3,843	3,709	4,394	1,141	1,033	1,003	1,068	1,029
Wife Petitioner	4,228	4,570	4,465	4,385	5,110	1,377	1,297	1,180	1,315	1,408
<u>Total</u>	<u>7,899</u>	<u>8,403</u>	<u>8,308</u>	<u>8,094</u>	<u>9,504</u>	<u>2,518</u>	<u>2,330</u>	<u>2,183</u>	<u>2,383</u>	<u>2,437</u>
<u>Nullity of Marriage -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	40	40	22	23	13	6	3	3	3	4
Wife Petitioner	56	35	43	32	44	15	6	6	10	13
<u>Total</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Dissolution or Nullity -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	2	1	1
Wife Petitioner	..	..	..	..	4	3	1	1	2	..
<u>Total</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Judicial Separation -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	6	13	7	7	2	..	..	1	1	..
Wife Petitioner	26	36	24	31	9	2	2	6	6	1
<u>Total</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Total Petitions -</u>										
Husband Petitioner No.	3,717	3,886	3,872	3,739	4,412	1,148	1,036	1,009	1,073	1,034
Per cent.	46	46	46	46	46	45	44	46	45	42
Wife Petitioner No.	4,310	4,641	4,532	4,448	5,167	1,397	1,306	1,193	1,333	1,422
Per cent.	54	54	54	54	54	55	56	54	55	58
<u>Total</u>	<u>8,027</u>	<u>8,527</u>	<u>8,404</u>	<u>8,187</u>	<u>9,579</u>	<u>2,545</u>	<u>2,342</u>	<u>2,202</u>	<u>2,406</u>	<u>2,456</u>

TABLE 3. - GROUNDS ON WHICH PETITIONS WERE FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION :
QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1962

Grounds	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>Petitions for Dissolution of Marriage</u>									
<u>Single Grounds -</u>									
Desertion	419	213	125	72	46	27	3	6	911
Adultery	242	108	59	65	64	19	2	4	563
Separation	164	71	37	41	49	16	4	..	382
Cruelty	62	9	7	38	2	1	..	2	121
Drunkenness	14	1	..	3	2	5	..	..	25
Non-compliance with restitution decree	9	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	10
Sodomy	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
Insanity	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	5
Refusal to consummate	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other single grounds	2	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	5
<u>Dual Grounds -</u>									
Desertion and adultery	2	21	4	3	1	2	..	..	33
Desertion and separation	80	95	48	7	9	2	..	1	242
Desertion and cruelty	12	5	2	5	1	..	1	..	26
Desertion and drunkenness	4	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	8
Desertion and frequent convictions	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	2	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	7
Desertion and refusal to consummate	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Adultery and separation	1	1	..	1	4	..	..	..	7
Adultery and cruelty	6	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	10
Cruelty and drunkenness	24	2	3	2	..	1	..	..	32
Other dual grounds	1	2	1	..	3	..	..	..	7
<u>Multiple Grounds (a)</u>	14	11	1	3	1	..	..	..	30
<u>Total</u>	1,070	548	292	244	186	74	10	13	2,437

Petitions for Nullity of Marriage

Bigamy	3	2	2	..	..	1	..	..	8
Consanguinity or affinity	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Incapacity to consummate	3	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	8
<u>Total</u>	6	4	5	..	1	1	..	..	17

Petitions for Dissolution or Nullity of Marriage

<u>Multiple Grounds (a)</u>	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Petitions for Judicial Separation

<u>Desertion</u>	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	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 - 1957	3,824	1,654	672	767	623	291	19	49	7,899
1958	4,102	1,579	952	791	644	267	31	37	8,403
1959	3,884	1,650	976	789	671	283	12	43	8,308
1960	3,746	1,798	863	781	560	274	26	46	8,094
1961	4,215	2,289	1,084	865	620	321	40	70	9,504
Quarter ended -									
September, 1961	1,098	610	298	226	179	78	16	13	2,518
December, 1961	1,011	563	254	241	156	71	11	23	2,330
March, 1962	1,032	455	255	197	160	63	8	13	2,183
June, 1962	1,012	586	267	233	187	71	15	12	2,383
September, 1962	1,070	548	292	244	186	74	10	13	2,437

NOTE: Table 4 excludes petitions filed for nullity of marriage and judicial separation.

II. DISSOLUTIONS, ETC. GRANTED : NUMBER

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

QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1962

Decree for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>Dissolution of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	392	218	104	70	82	34	7	9	916
Wife Petitioner	455	243	128	76	95	32	6	10	1,045
Petition by both	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
<u>Total</u>	847	461	232	146	177	66	14	19	1,962
<u>Nullity of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Wife Petitioner	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
<u>Total</u>	3	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	6
<u>Judicial Separation -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wife Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<u>Total</u>	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total Decrees -</u>									
Husband Petitioner No.	393	219	105	71	82	34	7	9	920
Per cent.	46	47	45	48	46	52	50	47	47
Wife Petitioner No.	457	243	128	76	96	32	6	10	1,048
Per cent.	54	53	55	52	54	48	43	53	53
Petition by both No.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Per cent.	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	-
<u>Total</u>	850	462	233	147	178	66	14	19	1,969

(a) Decrees absolute.

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

Decree for -	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	Quarter ended -				
						Sept. 1961	Dec. 1961	March 1962	June 1962	Sept. 1962
<u>Dissolution of Marriage -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	2,875	3,225	3,291	3,078	3,049	913	733	815	590	916
Wife Petitioner	3,423	3,695	4,024	3,555	3,623	1,069	838	951	775	1,045
<u>Total</u>	<u>6,298</u>	<u>6,920</u>	<u>7,315</u>	<u>6,633</u>	<u>6,673(b)</u>	<u>1,982</u>	<u>1,571</u>	<u>1,766</u>	<u>1,365</u>	<u>1,962(b)</u>
<u>Nullity of Marriage -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	24	25	21	26	14	4	4	2	5	3
Wife Petitioner	40	36	32	37	22	6	7	8	8	3
<u>Total</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Judicial Separation -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wife Petitioner	10	11	2	11	2	..	1	1	1	..
<u>Total</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>..</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Total Decrees -</u>										
Husband Petitioner No.	2,901	3,252	3,312	3,106	3,063	917	737	817	595	920
Per cent.	46	46	45	46	46	46	47	46	43	47
Wife Petitioner No.	3,473	3,742	4,058	3,603	3,647	1,075	846	960	784	1,048
Per cent.	54	54	55	54	54	54	53	54	57	53
<u>Total</u>	<u>6,374</u>	<u>6,994</u>	<u>7,370</u>	<u>6,709</u>	<u>6,711(b)</u>	<u>1,992</u>	<u>1,583</u>	<u>1,777</u>	<u>1,379</u>	<u>1,969(b)</u>

(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) Includes one dissolution granted on petitions by both parties.

TABLE 7. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Year - 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
1961	3,156	1,248	779	679	466	286	23	36	6,673
Quarter ended -									
September, 1961	1,031	329	200	240	103	61	11	7	1,982
December, 1961	659	338	213	125	133	84	7	12	1,571
March, 1962	639	442	289	146	163	65	9	13	1,766
June, 1962	664	292	151	101	84	61	7	5	1,365
September, 1962	847	461	232	146	177	66	14	19	1,962

(a) Decrees absolute.

NOTE: Table 7 excludes nullities of marriage and judicial separations.

TABLE 8. - GROUNDS ON WHICH DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS WERE GRANTED : QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1962

Grounds	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>Dissolution of Marriage</u>									
<u>Single Grounds</u>									
Desertion	455	230	127	67	63	28	7	7	984
Adultery	179	57	37	33	50	16	5	5	382
Separation	100	63	42	30	48	17	2	1	303
Cruelty	36	2	4	12	1	..	..	1	56
Drunkenness	15	1	2	1	2	1	..	2	24
Non-compliance with restitution decree	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Failure to pay maintenance	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	3
Frequent convictions	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Insanity	12	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	14
Refusal to consummate	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
<u>Dual Grounds</u>									
Desertion and adultery	6	13	2	..	2	2	..	1	26
Desertion and separation	10	66	14	..	2	1	..	..	93
Desertion and cruelty	..	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	8
Desertion and drunkenness	2	..	2	..	..	1	..	1	6
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	1	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	5
Desertion and frequent convictions	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Adultery and separation	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
Adultery and refusal to consummate	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Cruelty and drunkenness	13	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	14
Other dual grounds	2	4	..	1	2	..	..	..	9
<u>Multiple Grounds (b)</u>									
<u>Total</u>	847	461	232	146	177	66	14	19	1,962

Nullity of Marriage

Bigamy	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Incapacity to consummate	1	1	2
<u>Total</u>	3	1	..	1	1	6

Judicial Separation

Adultery	1	1
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(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) Three grounds or more.

III. DISSOLUTIONS GRANTED - AGES OF PARTIESTABLE 9. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE (a),AUSTRALIA, QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1962

Age of Husband (Years)	Age of Wife (Years)										Total Husbands	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not Stated	No.	Per cent.
Under 20	84	29	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114	6
20-24	353	467	80	7	2	..	..	..	..	..	909	46
25-29	103	267	142	27	5	..	1	..	..	..	545	28
30-34	14	76	50	38	10	2	..	1	..	1	192	10
35-39	7	23	24	23	14	13	..	..	..	..	104	5
40-44	1	8	10	12	9	7	1	..	..	..	48	2
45-49	1	3	1	4	1	4	2	..	..	..	16	1
50-54	1	..	2	..	4	1	3	1	1	..	13	1
55 and over	..	..	1	..	1	4	4	2	4	..	16	1
Not Stated	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	..
Total (No.)	564	873	312	111	46	31	11	4	5	5	1,962	..
Wives (%)	29	44	16	6	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	100

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

TABLE 10. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTIONOF MARRIAGE (a), AUSTRALIA, QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1962

Age of Husband (Years)	Age of Wife (Years)										Total Husbands	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not Stated	No.	Per cent.
Under 20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20-24	2	29	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	2
25-29	2	92	116	21	3	..	..	..	..	..	234	12
30-34	..	23	138	161	18	2	1	..	..	..	343	17
35-39	..	6	41	143	143	31	5	2	..	..	371	19
40-44	..	1	6	40	122	113	25	2	1	..	310	16
45-49	..	..	3	14	40	82	91	17	2	..	249	13
50-54	..	..	2	6	14	39	68	52	11	1	193	10
55 and over	..	..	..	5	5	8	35	61	103	..	217	11
Not Stated	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	..
Total (No.)	4	151	315	391	345	275	225	134	117	5	1,962	..
Wives (%)	..	8	16	20	18	14	11	7	6	..	..	100

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 11. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : AGE (a) OF HUSBAND, AUSTRALIA

Period	Under 25 Years	25-29 Years	30-34 Years	35-39 Years	40-44 Years	45-49 Years	50-54 Years	55 Years and over	Not Stated	Total
Year - 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
1961	135	812	1,356	1,294	977	814	568	637	80	6,673
Quarter ended -										
September, 1961	45	230	387	405	277	241	184	188	25	1,982
December, 1961	27	196	312	296	240	175	136	177	12	1,571
March, 1962	26	193	317	351	292	221	150	202	14	1,766
June, 1962	24	134	244	264	201	194	122	172	10	1,365
September, 1962	40	234	343	371	310	249	193	217	5	1,962

(a) At time of decree absolute.

TABLE 12. - 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	55 Years and over	Not Stated	Total
Year - 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	652	300	253	71	6,633
1961	524	1,228	1,337	1,156	910	684	365	386	83	6,673
Quarter ended -										
September, 1961	160	359	393	327	273	205	104	132	29	1,982
December, 1961	126	289	301	255	224	175	79	112	10	1,571
March, 1962	122	273	332	358	246	177	115	127	16	1,766
June, 1962	86	206	250	264	196	162	83	108	10	1,365
September, 1962	155	315	391	345	275	225	134	117	5	1,962

(a) At time of decree absolute.

IV. DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND NUMBER AND AGE OF CHILDREN

TABLE 13. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) : DURATION OF MARRIAGE
AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN (b), AUSTRALIA, QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1962

Duration of Marriage (Years)	Dissolutions of Marriage with -							Total Marriages Dissolved	Total Number of Children (b)
	No Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	6 Children & over		
Under 5	88	44	8	3	..	..	..	143	7
5 - 9	224	184	76	20	5	1	..	510	25
10 - 14	123	130	132	44	18	3	..	450	23
15 - 19	78	78	74	60	29	8	5	332	17
20 - 24	76	64	68	44	15	3	2	272	14
25 - 29	72	24	21	5	3	2	3	130	7
30 and over	101	14	6	1	1	1	1	125	7
Total Marriages Dissolved (No. %)	762	538	385	177	71	18	11	1,962	..
Total Number of Children (b)	..	538	770	531	284	90	76	..	2,289

(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) At time of petition. The term "children" used in the Commonwealth legislation refers to living "children of the marriage" under 21 years. However, as some dissolutions in this period were granted to petitions filed 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; only Queensland included adopted children.

TABLE 14. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) : DURATION OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of Marriages Dissolved whose Duration was -								Total Marriages Dissolved
	Under 5 Years	5-9 Years	10-14 Years	15-19 Years	20-24 Years	25-29 Years	30 Years and over	Not Stated	
Year - 1957	452	2,098	1,503	1,044	589	328	279	5	6,298
1958	475	2,207	1,830	1,125	621	357	303	2	6,920
1959	489	2,275	1,978	1,236	667	384	283	3	7,315
1960	533	2,016	1,804	991	682	354	252	1	6,633
1961	481	1,928	1,693	1,032	783	371	384	1	6,673
Quarter ended -									
September, 1961	150	566	504	312	222	115	113	..	1,982
December, 1961	123	459	379	216	192	84	117	1	1,571
March, 1962	89	453	451	333	207	100	133	..	1,766
June, 1962	63	353	373	229	149	91	107	..	1,365
September, 1962	143	510	450	332	272	130	125	..	1,962

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 15. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) : NUMBER OF CHILDREN (b), AUSTRALIA

Period	Dissolutions of Marriage with -								Total Marriages Dissolved	Total Number of Children
	No Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	6 Children and over	Not Stated		
Year - 1957	2,195	1,737	1,391	584	232	77	78	4	6,298	8,127
1958	2,387	1,882	1,477	687	291	107	88	1	6,920	9,197
1959	2,510	1,927	1,627	741	330	92	88	..	7,315	9,797
1960	2,213	1,733	1,452	719	291	120	105	..	6,633	9,302
1961	2,589	1,717	1,398	641	204	79	45	..	6,673	7,945
Quarter ended -										
September, 1961	743	517	429	203	55	20	15	..	1,982	2,405
December, 1961	667	375	302	150	47	22	8	..	1,571	1,775
March, 1962	700	454	358	172	50	20	12	..	1,766	2,061
June, 1962	558	338	266	129	48	15	11	..	1,365	1,599
September, 1962	762	538	385	177	71	18	11	..	1,962	2,289

(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) At time of petition. The figures shown for periods until 1960 inclusive are based on the definition of children set down in the legislation of the various States. Since 1961 a uniform definition of children has been attempted, but see note (b) to Table 13.

TABLE 16. - CHILDREN OF DISSOLVED MARRIAGES (a) : AUSTRALIA,

QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER, 1962

Petitioner	Age of Children at Time of Petition -																Total Number of Children (b)		
	Under 12 mths.	1 yrs.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 yrs.	6 yrs.	7 yrs.	8 yrs.	9 yrs.	10 yrs.	11 yrs.	12 yrs.	13 yrs.	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16-20 yrs.		
Husband	5	17	32	39	48	53	48	56	63	58	55	43	59	40	46	46	144	135	987
Wife	8	14	21	60	59	69	68	89	85	78	74	79	70	69	61	65	182	149	1,300
By Both	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total	13	31	53	99	107	122	116	145	149	136	130	122	129	109	107	111	326	284	2,289

(a) This table refers to children under 21 years, of marriages for which decrees absolute for dissolution were granted in this period.

(b) Includes mainly children in respect of petitions for dissolution of marriage filed under the superseded matrimonial causes laws of the States, which did not all require this information to be supplied. Most of the not stated cases refer to dissolutions in New South Wales.

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

20TH DECEMBER, 1962

K.M. ARCHER
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning UO413 Extension 468 or, in each State Capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.