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CHAPTER 15

LAW, ORDER, AND PUBLIC SAFETY

This chapter provides summary information about criminal and civil court proceedings (including divorce and 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 Statistical Registers, 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 figures (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 effect 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 force 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 the years 1967 to 1971 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, STATES AND TERRITORIES
1967 TO 1971(b)**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>
New South Wales	336,746	337,540	361,377	390,233	427,560
Victoria	318,172	326,445	341,284	339,019	339,527
Queensland(c)(d)	95,155	100,046	107,375	110,803	110,883
South Australia(c)	98,588	117,081	118,877	125,867	123,303
Western Australia	76,458	86,836	93,157	88,940	101,077
Tasmania	36,550	35,077	32,587	32,880	38,046
Northern Territory	10,336	10,459	13,718	14,695	21,329
Australian Capital Territory	7,318	7,647	6,685	(e)10,326	(e)11,416
Australia	979,323	1,021,131	1,075,060	1,112,763	1,173,141

(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 in previous years.

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, STATES AND TERRITORIES 1967 TO 1971**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>
New South Wales	411,447	426,496	418,626	456,798	511,005
Victoria	343,432	410,857	443,222	477,332	544,663
Queensland(a)	264,617	253,429	236,320	235,477	257,709
South Australia(a)	240,014	239,619	267,709	244,120	277,464
Western Australia	62,827	83,146	117,436	154,307	176,994
Tasmania	45,081	55,677	56,076	62,408	76,062
Northern Territory(b)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8,438	10,444
Australian Capital Territory	6,765	4,430	4,340	5,282	7,229
Total	1,374,183	1,473,654	1,543,729	1,644,162	1,861,570

(a) Year ended 30 June. (b) 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.

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: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1971**

<i>Class of offence</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld (b)(c)</i>	<i>S.A. (b)</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Against the person	5,294	4,355	904	898	1,680	628	445	205	14,409
Against property	36,992	29,863	6,468	7,113	17,919	4,209	1,225	749	104,538
Forgery and offences against the currency	1,905	526	1	29	177	236	81	115	3,070
Against good order	84,156	34,020	32,620	14,205	23,070	1,948	10,665	673	201,357
Other(d)	238,354	222,905	52,657	88,298	50,702	25,010	7,631	7,198	692,755
Total	366,701	291,669	92,650	110,543	93,548	32,031	20,047	8,940	1,016,129

(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
STATES AND TERRITORIES^(b), 1967 TO 1971**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>
New South Wales	297,697	290,616	309,297	337,563	366,701
Victoria	286,316	291,821	297,574	294,554	291,669
Queensland ^(c) ^(d)	82,271	85,363	89,041	91,198	92,650
South Australia ^(c)	87,110	105,027	105,966	114,499	110,543
Western Australia	72,798	81,892	85,956	79,899	93,548
Tasmania	31,525	30,100	26,515	26,571	32,031
Northern Territory	9,437	9,416	12,543	13,528	20,047
Australian Capital Territory	6,021	6,947	5,681	6,620	8,940
Australia	873,175	901,182	932,573	964,432	1,016,129

(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 during each of the years 1967 to 1971 are given in the following table.

**DRUNKENNESS CASES^(a) IN WHICH CONVICTIONS WERE MADE
STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1967 TO 1971**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>
New South Wales	55,134	57,710	59,048	58,606	58,733
Victoria	23,855	24,338	25,582	25,054	25,820
Queensland ^(b) ^(c)	29,530	28,409	28,140	31,259	29,878
South Australia ^(b)	6,109	6,889	7,528	9,650	9,365
Western Australia	10,722	11,146	11,970	12,612	16,197
Tasmania	481	501	598	541	716
Northern Territory	4,598	5,216	^(e) 6,566	6,675	8,217
Australian Capital Territory	313	316	388	572	393
Australia	130,742	134,525	139,820	144,969	149,319

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

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 the years 1967 to 1971 for offences against the person, offences against property, forgery, and offences against the currency.

**CONVICTIONS FOR CERTAIN SERIOUS OFFENCES^(a) AT MAGISTRATES'
COURTS^(b): STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1967 TO 1971**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>
New South Wales	35,809	37,367	40,583	40,642	44,191
Victoria	27,355	26,338	30,286	33,025	34,744
Queensland ^(c) ^(d)	6,789	6,604	6,865	7,525	7,373
South Australia ^(c)	5,180	5,817	6,678	7,349	8,040
Western Australia	10,207	12,065	13,622	15,925	19,776
Tasmania	3,278	3,650	3,597	3,813	5,073
Northern Territory	818	941	1,397	1,517	1,751
Australian Capital Territory	895	1,133	970	729	1,069
Australia	90,331	93,915	103,998	110,525	122,017

(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: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1971

<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	2,033	1,281	560	302	203	140	31	52	4,602
Against property	7,816	4,053	1,587	490	1,046	831	55	85	15,963
Forgery and offences against the currency	747	848	1	10	211	44	29	33	1,923
Against good order	291	56	16	26	17	7	..	..	413
Other	168	472	8	45	30	34	1	9	767
Total	11,055	6,710	2,172	873	1,507	1,056	116	179	23,668

(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): STATES AND TERRITORIES
1967 TO 1971**

<i>State or Territory</i>	<i>1967</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>
New South Wales	7,954	8,229	9,793	9,173	11,055
Victoria	5,655	6,192	5,515	6,446	6,710
Queensland(b)(c)	1,611	1,428	1,579	1,733	2,172
South Australia(b)	713	726	749	742	873
Western Australia	609	1,037	950	1,270	1,507
Tasmania	549	716	747	1,012	1,056
Northern Territory	176	196	241	151	116
Australian Capital Territory	170	240	219	278	179
Australia	17,437	18,764	19,793	20,805	23,668

(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 Commonwealth *Matrimonial Causes Act* 1959-1966, the Supreme Courts of the various States and Territories have exclusive jurisdiction in matrimonial causes, and under the *Bankruptcy Act* 1966-1970, 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, the Federal Court handles bankruptcy cases in New South Wales and Victoria.

Proceedings at higher courts include therefore 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: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1971

Offence	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld(b)	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Against the person—									
Murder	18	11	2	5	6	..	5	1	48
Attempted murder	3	3	4	4	3	1	..	..	18
Manslaughter(c)	33	16	10	2	18	4	4	..	87
Culpable driving	59	16	39	2	3	4	1	2	126
Rape	58	31	26	5	14	6	4	4	148
Other offences against females	396	237	138	153	5	26	6	11	972
Abduction	8	13	2	4	4	1	..	..	32
Unnatural offences	65	62	31	22	8	6	1	..	195
Abortion and attempt to procure	8	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	12
Bigamy	9	1	4	2	3	1	..	1	21
Malicious wounding and aggravated assault	173	67	89	16	36	6	3	9	399
Common assault	65	19	5	3	..	9	5	2	108
Other offences against the person	14	9	3	12	8	7	5	1	59
<i>Total, against the person</i>	<i>909</i>	<i>488</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>231</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>2,225</i>
Against property—									
Burglary, breaking and entering	1,421	404	825	457	509	120	50	35	3,821
Robbery and stealing from the person	250	140	93	36	27	156	9	5	716
Embezzlement and larceny by servants	91	53	11	20	15	..	1	2	193
Other larceny(d)	777	241	196	20	35	..	11	6	1,286
Receiving	179	41	159	9	14	13	1	3	419
Fraud and false pretences	175	57	30	16	8	13	..	5	304
Arson	39	8	23	3	5	5	1	..	84
Malicious damage	29	31	20	2	..	..	3	..	87
Other offences against property	24	..	1	6	1	..	..	..	32
<i>Total, against property</i>	<i>2,985</i>	<i>975</i>	<i>1,358</i>	<i>569</i>	<i>614</i>	<i>307</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>6,942</i>
Forgery and offences against the currency	42	97	..	13	14	6	3	4	179
Against good order	7	7	3	..	5	..	1	..	23
Other	81	238	6	118	14	17	..	1	475
Grand total	4,024	1,805	1,720	931	755	401	114	94	9,844

(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.

PERSONS CONVICTED^(a) AT HIGHER COURTS: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1967 TO 1971

State or Territory	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
New South Wales	3,126	3,254	3,609	3,804	4,024
Victoria	1,786	1,790	1,689	1,752	1,805
Queensland(b)	1,279	1,160	1,610	1,402	1,720
South Australia	707	692	712	694	931
Western Australia	357	507	518	693	755
Tasmania	254	243	292	337	401
Northern Territory	65	88	120	87	114
Australian Capital Territory	69	86	68	96	94
Australia	7,643	7,820	8,618	8,865	9,844

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

Capital punishment

There were no executions in Australia in 1972. For a brief account of the law relating to capital punishment in Australia, see Year Book No. 55, page 573.

Divorce and other matrimonial causes

A description of Commonwealth legislation governing divorce and other matrimonial causes in Australia is contained in Year Book No. 55, page 580. Under this legislation a court may grant decrees of dissolution of marriage (divorce), nullity of marriage, judicial separation, restitution of conjugal rights, and jactitation of marriage (i.e., that a person should refrain from making a false claim that a marriage has taken place between him and another person). Orders may be made for maintenance, the custody and welfare of children, and settlement of property, and damages for adultery. The following statistics refer only to petitions for, and decrees of, dissolution, nullity, and judicial separation. Detailed statistics are published in the annual *Divorce* bulletin (13.1), and the annual *Demography* bulletin (4.9).

Petitions filed

Statistics of petitions exclude cross-petitions contained in answers by respondents. The following table shows the number of petitions for dissolution of marriage, nullity of marriage, and judicial separation filed in each State and Territory during 1972.

PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1972

Petition for—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution—									
By husband . . .	2,800	1,748	789	727	750	237	69	119	7,239
By wife . . .	5,044	2,755	1,264	1,250	878	287	61	192	11,731
Total . . .	7,844	4,503	2,053	1,977	1,628	524	130	311	18,970
Nullity—									
By husband . . .	6	1	..	4	1	..	..	2	14
By wife . . .	25	10	4	2	4	1	..	..	46
Total . . .	31	11	4	6	5	1	..	2	60
Dissolution or nullity—									
By husband . . .	1	5	..	3	..	..	..	..	9
By wife . . .	6	10	..	1	..	..	..	..	17
Total . . .	7	15	..	4	..	..	..	..	26
Judicial separation—									
By husband . . .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
By wife . . .	14	3	..	6	1	..	1	1	26
Total . . .	14	4	..	6	1	..	1	2	28
All petitions—									
By husband . . .	No. 2,807	1,755	789	734	751	237	69	122	7,264
	per cent 36	39	38	37	46	45	53	39	38
By wife . . .	No. 5,089	2,778	1,268	(a)1,263	883	288	62	193	(a)11,824
	per cent 64	61	62	63	54	55	47	61	62
Grand total . . .	7,896	4,533	2,057	(a)1,997	1,634	525	131	315	(a)19,088

(a) Includes 4 petitions for dissolution or judicial separation.

Decrees granted

Statistics of decrees granted refer to decrees *nisi* made absolute except for the following cases, where no decree *nisi* is granted.

- (i) Decrees of judicial separation, which do not dissolve the marriage and may be discharged on resumption of cohabitation.
- (ii) Decrees of nullity of void marriage, as distinct from nullity of voidable marriage. A void marriage is invalid because of failure to meet a legal requirement, and the original decree of nullity is final. A valid marriage is voidable on proof of one or more of the grounds set out in Section 21 of the *Matrimonial Causes Act 1959-1966*, e.g. that either party is incapable of consummating the marriage.

The following tables show the number of dissolutions of marriage, nullities of marriage, and judicial separations granted in each State and Territory during 1972 classified according to petitioner, and the grounds on which decrees were granted during the years 1968 to 1972.

**DECREES FOR DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION
STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1972**

<i>Decree of—</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>
Dissolution—									
To husband . . .	2,510	1,394	650	479	571	200	47	97	5,948
To wife . . .	4,518	2,179	1,081	756	672	242	41	128	9,617
To both . . .	8	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
<i>Total</i> . . .	<i>7,036</i>	<i>3,584</i>	<i>1,731</i>	<i>1,235</i>	<i>1,243</i>	<i>442</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>225</i>	<i>15,584</i>
Nullity—									
To husband . . .	8	3	1	2	1	..	..	..	15
To wife . . .	18	6	4	2	..	4	..	..	34
<i>Total</i> . . .	<i>26</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>49</i>
Judicial separation—									
To husband . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
To wife . . .	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	3
<i>Total</i> . . .	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>3</i>
All decrees—									
To husband . . . No.	2,518	1,397	651	481	572	200	47	97	5,963
per cent	36	39	38	39	46	45	53	43	38
To wife . . . No.	4,536	2,185	1,086	760	672	246	41	128	9,654
per cent	64	61	62	61	54	55	47	57	62
To both . . . No.	8	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Grand total . . .	7,062	3,593	1,737	1,241	1,244	446	88	225	15,636

**DECREES FOR DISSOLUTION, NULLITY, AND JUDICIAL
SEPARATION, GROUNDS, AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1972**

<i>Ground</i>	<i>1968</i>	<i>1969</i>	<i>1970</i>	<i>1971</i>	<i>1972</i>
DISSOLUTION					
Single grounds—					
Desertion	4,863	4,730	5,098	5,076	5,814
Adultery	2,611	2,916	3,419	3,977	5,088
Separation	1,959	1,758	2,023	2,243	2,442
Cruelty	670	750	942	983	1,368
Drunkenness	150	136	142	165	203
Intoxication by drugs	3	4	5	4	5
Non-compliance with res- titution decree	5	5	2	1	3
Refusal to consummate	39	32	42	29	39
Insanity	7	7	6	3	1
Frequent convictions	18	18	25	15	19
Imprisonment	4	3	3	8	7
Other single grounds	24	15	15	20	19
Dual grounds—					
Desertion and adultery	68	102	90	87	80
Desertion and separation	88	145	96	79	106
Desertion and cruelty	44	77	59	49	68
Desertion and drunkenness	16	8	14	10	10
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	6	5	3	6	2
Desertion and other	5	4	7	5	3
Adultery and separation	1	3	4	3	7
Adultery and cruelty	12	16	17	14	26
Adultery and other	2	2	2	1	3
Separation and other	1	2	3	..	3
Cruelty and drunkenness	118	143	160	146	237
Cruelty and other	2	7	5	1	3
Other dual grounds	2	3	1	8	6
Three grounds or more	13	39	15	14	22
<i>Total</i>	<i>10,731</i>	<i>10,930</i>	<i>12,198</i>	<i>12,947</i>	<i>15,584</i>
NULLITY					
Bigamy	18	14	15	23	9
Invalid marriage	2	1	..	1	3
Incapacity to consummate	23	28	29	15	34
Other grounds	1	3	1	4	3
<i>Total</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>49</i>
JUDICIAL SEPARATION					
Desertion	1	..	..	1	..
Adultery	9	1	3	2	2
Cruelty	3	5	..	5	1
Other grounds	3	2	3	4	..
<i>Total</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>3</i>
ALL DECREES					
Grand total.	10,791	10,984	12,249	13,002	15,636

Divorced persons at each census, 1921 to 1971

The following table shows the number and proportion of divorced persons in Australia as recorded from returns supplied at each census from 1921 to 1971. A classification of divorced persons by ages for the censuses from 1891 to 1947 appeared in earlier issues of the Year Book (see No. 39, page 269). The number of divorced persons at the 1911 Census is shown in Year Book No. 58, page 453. Before 1911 no record was made of divorced persons in South Australia, so comparisons cannot be made beyond that date.

DIVORCED PERSONS AT CENSUS DATES: AUSTRALIA, 1921 TO 1971

Sex	Number						Number per 10,000 of males or females 15 years of age and over							
	1921	1933	1947	1954	1961	1966	1971	1921	1933	1947	1954	1961	1966	1971
Males	4,233	10,298	25,052	32,389	38,640	42,908	61,479	23	42	89	100	105	105	136
Females	4,304	10,888	27,516	36,650	43,339	51,174	71,421	24	46	96	115	119	125	157

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, during 1971-72.

BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1971-72

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	612	19	43	10	684
	Liabilities \$	4,373,609	144,513	1,260,676	313,794	6,092,592
	Assets \$	1,327,560	104,773	744,899	590,855	2,768,087
Vic.	Number	602	17	46	39	704
	Liabilities \$	10,691,209	164,288	2,437,282	1,241,890	14,534,669
	Assets \$	3,201,402	77,904	1,049,370	646,035	4,974,711
Qld	Number	277	7	17	11	312
	Liabilities \$	6,237,702	46,835	367,341	340,337	6,992,215
	Assets \$	2,012,805	23,080	330,693	203,265	2,569,843
S. Aust..	Number	622	1	10	10	643
	Liabilities \$	3,695,896	95,404	449,325	393,887	4,634,512
	Assets \$	1,884,312	13,575	398,397	316,783	2,613,067
W. Aust.	Number	408	20	30	60	518
	Liabilities \$	3,478,336	584,852	1,736,405	1,484,925	7,284,518
	Assets \$	1,300,244	465,143	811,740	1,562,544	4,139,671
Tas.	Number	156	..	7	5	168
	Liabilities \$	1,090,997	..	47,269	167,936	1,306,202
	Assets \$	438,277	..	41,864	220,458	700,599
N.T.	Number	7	..	..	..	7
	Liabilities \$	101,344	..	..	..	101,344
	Assets \$	78,888	..	..	..	78,888
Australia	Number	2,684	64	153	135	3,036
	Liabilities \$	29,669,093	1,035,892	6,298,298	3,942,769	40,946,052
	Assets \$	10,243,488	684,475	3,376,963	3,539,940	17,844,866

(a) Includes the Australian Capital Territory.

The next table shows Australian figures in respect of each of the various types of bankruptcy, for the years 1967-68 to 1971-72.

BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS: AUSTRALIA, 1967-68 TO 1971-72

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>
1967-68	Number . . .	2,350	78	35	88	2,551
	Liabilities \$'000	15,222	1,828	1,229	3,330	21,609
	Assets \$'000	6,292	1,189	918	2,010	10,409
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	12,422
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

The High Court of Australia

The High Court of Australia consists of a Chief Justice and six other Justices. Its principal seat is in Melbourne, 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 1971 and 1972.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA, 1971 AND 1972

<i>Original jurisdiction(a)</i>	1971	1972	<i>Appellate jurisdiction</i>	1971	1972
Number of writs issued . . .	90	54	Number of appeals—		
Number of causes entered for trial . . .	27	26	Set down for hearing . . .	111	107
Judgments for plaintiffs . . .	5	8	Allowed	47	49
Judgments for defendants . . .	3	2	Dismissed	90	65
Otherwise disposed of . . .	14	10	Otherwise disposed of . . .	18	16
Amounts of judgments . . .	\$34,464	\$566,391			

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

During 1971 and 1972, respectively, the High Court dealt also with the following: appeals from assessments under the Taxation Assessments Act, 53, 81; special cases stated for the opinion of the Full Court, 3, 4; applications for prohibition, etc., 10, 12. The fees collected amounted to \$15,992 in 1971 and \$15,046 in 1972.

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. The following explanations are necessary in order to interpret the figures 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.

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. 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 figures 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 figures 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), excluding manslaughter arising from motor traffic accidents.

Serious assault. These are assaults normally dealt with on indictment. Includes woundings, offences causing bodily harm, assaults with a weapon, etc., and attempts of this nature. Excludes sexual assault and robbery. *Uniform interpretation of this definition between States is especially difficult to effect.*

Robbery. Stealing anything, if at or immediately before or after the time of stealing, the offender uses or threatens to use violence 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 unoccupied dwellings, tents, caravans, etc., used as dwellings, and the residential parts of hotels, schools, 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). Includes attempts. From 1967 the figures exclude breakings involving property valued at \$100 or less.

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. 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 embezzlement, 'omit to account', misappropriation, fraudulent appropriation, conversion, larceny as bailee, falsification of accounts, company fraud, forgery, uttering, false pretences, passing of valueless cheques and offences by trustees. Includes attempts, but excludes imposition. As a general rule, offences are included only if there is an element of deception or trickery. 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 during the years 1968 to 1972. The table includes offences reported to and investigated by the Commonwealth Police for the years 1970-1972.

SELECTED CRIME REPORTED OR BECOMING KNOWN TO POLICE
NUMBER OF OFFENCES, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1968 TO 1972

Category of crime	N.S.W.(a)	Vic	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Homicide—									
1968	140	52	51	18	14	10	12	3	300
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	132	66	28	32	16	10	4	422
Serious assault(b)—									
1968	611	1,600	128	52	60	19	15	23	2,508
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
Robbery—									
1968	544	480	88	79	48	23	6	12	1,280
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
Rape—									
1968	95	168	34	43	5	7	7	4	363
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
Breaking and entering (dwellings, shops, offices, etc.)(c)—									
1968	11,026	8,069	1,841	1,181	883	422	54	86	23,562
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(d)	13,394	12,189	3,798	1,878	1,623	666	171	206	33,925
1972(d)	13,904	13,284	4,332	2,460	1,960	637	174	225	36,976
Motor vehicle theft, etc.—									
1968	13,008	9,352	1,740	1,967	2,084	759	192	196	29,298
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
Fraud, forgery, etc.—									
1968	6,283	4,402	4,154	1,596	1,476	607	271	166	18,955
1969	5,897	4,554	4,056	2,927	1,924	660	187	210	20,415
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

(a) Figures for 1971 and 1972 are not necessarily comparable with those for earlier years because of changes in reporting procedures. (b) See definition on page 463. (c) Excludes offences involving property valued at \$100 or less. (d) Excludes 8,175 attempted breaking and entering offences in New South Wales in 1971, and 8,282 in 1972.

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 462-4 for definitions used and the bases on which these statistics are prepared.

HOMICIDE: CRIMES REPORTED OR BECOMING KNOWN, CRIMES CLEARED AND PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA, 1970 TO 1972

	<i>Murder</i>			<i>Attempted murder</i>			<i>Manslaughter</i>			<i>All homicide</i>		
	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972
Numbers reported or becoming known .	172	185	207	145	119	169	22	39	46	339	343	422
Numbers cleared .	160	178	195	139	112	147	22	39	42	321	329	384
Persons involved in crimes cleared—												
Aged(a)—												
16 years and under .	15	9	7	7	3	7	1	1	4	23	13	18
17 and 18 years .	8	11	13	11	8	8	4	2	4	23	21	25
19 and 20 years .	14	9	13	17	11	27	1	5	4	32	25	44
21 years and over .	147	171	187	116	99	139	16	35	34	279	305	360
Total persons involved .	184	200	220	151	121	181	22	43	46	(b)357	(b)364	(b)447

(a) Age last birthday at time of clearance. (b) Includes 51 females in 1970, 43 in 1971, and 43 in 1972.

SERIOUS ASSAULT, ROBBERY, RAPE: CRIMES REPORTED OR BECOMING KNOWN, CRIMES CLEARED, AND PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA, 1970 TO 1972

	<i>Serious assault</i>			<i>Robbery</i>			<i>Rape</i>					
	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972			
Numbers reported or becoming known .			3,282	3,862	4,285	1,999	2,818	3,045	416	578	544	
Numbers cleared .			2,524	2,936	3,200	755	827	802	315	375	380	
Persons involved in crimes cleared—												
Aged(a)—												
16 years and under .				268	363	405	200	251	285	40	39	48
17 and 18 years .				406	627	502	285	283	315	58	111	88
19 and 20 years .				449	511	433	238	217	245	73	100	81
21 years and over .				1,884	2,168	2,388	566	669	647	223	239	269
Total persons involved .				(b)3,007	(b)3,669	(b)3,728	(c)1,289	(c)1,420	(c)1,492	394	(d)489	486

(a) Age last birthday at time of clearance. (b) Includes 119 females in 1970, 169 in 1971 and 175 in 1972. (c) Includes 44 females in 1970, 50 in 1971, and 53 in 1972. (d) Includes 1 female in 1971.

BREAKING AND ENTERING(a): CRIMES REPORTED OR BECOMING KNOWN, CRIMES CLEARED, AND PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA, 1970 TO 1972

	<i>Dwellings</i>			<i>Shops</i>			<i>Offices and warehouses</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972
Numbers reported or becoming known .	15,110	17,707	19,632	7,552	9,243	9,300	7,929	6,975	8,044	30,591	(b)33,925	(b)36,976
Numbers cleared .	2,306	2,119	2,327	1,885	1,854	2,104	1,253	836	1,072	5,444	4,809	5,503
Persons involved in crimes cleared—												
Ages(c)—												
16 years and under .	1,122	1,072	1,413	694	902	1,109	407	409	624	2,223	2,383	3,146
17 and 18 years .	600	682	526	590	634	720	331	251	320	1,521	1,567	1,566
19 and 20 years .	387	415	384	421	512	501	221	178	233	1,029	1,105	1,118
21 years and over .	1,180	1,112	1,357	1,175	1,182	1,466	890	588	802	3,245	2,882	3,625
Total persons involved .	3,289	3,281	3,680	2,880	3,230	3,796	1,849	1,426	1,979	(d)8,018	(d)7,937	(d)9,455

(a) Excludes offences involving property valued at \$100 or less. (b) Excludes 8,175 attempted breaking and entering offences in New South Wales in 1971, and 8,282 in 1972. (c) Age last birthday at time of clearance. (d) Includes 134 females in 1970, 274 in 1971, and 293 in 1972.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT, ETC., FRAUD, ETC.: CRIMES REPORTED OR BECOMING KNOWN, CRIMES CLEARED, AND PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA, 1970 TO 1972

	<i>Motor vehicle theft, etc.</i>			<i>Fraud, forgery, false pretences</i>								
				<i>Valueless cheques</i>			<i>Other</i>			<i>All fraud, etc.</i>		
	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972
Numbers reported or becoming known . . .	38,926	45,795	42,924	10,524	11,813	12,404	21,315	21,744	22,169	31,839	33,557	34,573
Numbers cleared . . .	7,820	10,395	11,341	6,839	7,186	7,379	14,754	14,643	14,742	21,593	21,829	22,121
Persons involved in crimes cleared—												
Males aged(a)—												
16 years and under . . .	5,662	7,754	8,772	189	178	148	547	368	514	736	546	662
17 and 18 years . . .	3,331	4,168	4,152	244	303	307	343	673	544	587	976	851
19 and 20 years . . .	1,300	1,692	1,846	343	453	568	575	781	619	918	1,234	1,187
21 years and over . . .	2,035	2,907	3,053	5,120	5,455	5,690	9,013	9,784	8,827	14,133	15,239	14,517
Total males . . .	12,328	16,521	17,823	5,896	6,389	6,713	10,478	11,606	10,504	16,374	17,995	17,217
Females aged(a)—												
16 years and under . . .	118	269	250	35	55	44	135	128	395	170	183	439
17 and 18 years . . .	42	71	88	104	54	48	356	320	584	460	374	632
19 and 20 years . . .	39	49	30	86	108	53	273	314	457	359	422	510
21 years and over . . .	34	52	74	1,250	950	973	3,859	2,914	3,342	5,109	3,864	4,315
Total females . . .	233	441	442	1,475	1,167	1,118	4,623	3,676	4,778	6,098	4,843	5,896
Total persons involved . . .	12,561	16,962	18,265	7,371	7,556	7,831	15,101	15,282	15,282	22,472	22,838	23,113

(a) Age last birthday at time of clearance.

The number of stolen motor vehicles recovered was: 1970, 34,864; 1971, 41,332; 1972, 42,956.

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 Dependancy 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 Commonwealth 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 legislative 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 1972, the third complete year for which the Central Crime Intelligence Bureau compiled statistics, 4,960 drug offences, for which 2,412 males and 413 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 1972.

(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	60	71	35	7	1,320	1	6	26	1	24
17 and 18 years	276	324	223	118	24,415	19	127	80	9	82
19 and 20 years	380	431	301	192	46,390	29	227	97	26	86
21 years and over	852	1,013	680	482	119,930	66	857	103	58	251
Total males	1,568	1,839	1,239	799	192,055	115	1,217	306	94	443
Females aged—										
16 years and under	20	22	12	..	..	..	..	12	2	8
17 and 18 years	47	48	32	14	3,550	1	2	18	2	11
19 and 20 years	47	48	26	19	3,905	1	6	10	2	19
21 years and over	86	101	63	35	8,870	6	48	19	8	26
Total females	200	219	133	68	16,325	8	56	59	14	64
Unlawful import—										
Males aged—										
16 years and under	3	3	3	1	250	..	..	2	..	..
17 and 18 years	11	11	6	2	250	1	4	3	..	5
19 and 20 years	27	35	23	7	1,965	8	234	5	1	11
21 years and over	109	130	86	38	13,440	31	973	5	5	39
Total males	150	179	118	48	15,905	40	1,211	15	6	55
Females aged—										
16 years and under	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17 and 18 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
19 and 20 years	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
21 years and over	13	16	12	8	2,750	1	18	1	1	3
Total females	14	17	13	8	2,750	1	18	2	1	3
Unlawful use—										
Males aged—										
16 years and under	60	71	40	8	630	1	24	27	3	23
17 and 18 years	229	278	187	86	16,385	4	38	94	9	66
19 and 20 years	303	346	244	155	27,875	18	149	75	17	73
21 years and over	446	504	362	242	48,290	34	343	86	23	119
Total Males	1,038	1,199	833	491	93,180	57	554	282	52	281
Females aged—										
16 years and under	43	52	25	..	..	..	..	30	12	12
17 and 18 years	63	81	50	14	2,450	3	28	28	6	15
19 and 20 years	50	55	33	14	1,950	3	24	19	1	19
21 years and over	53	60	40	16	2,300	3	23	18	5	15
Total females	209	248	148	44	6,700	9	75	95	24	61
Theft—										
Males aged—										
16 years and under	4	14	6	..	..	..	..	2	..	8
17 and 18 years	15	25	14	3	125	3	39	4	..	11
19 and 20 years	29	43	29	1	50	9	165	7	1	13
21 years and over	43	85	45	2	160	21	374	10	2	37
Total males	91	167	94	6	335	33	578	23	3	69
Females aged—										
16 years and under	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
17 and 18 years	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
19 and 20 years	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
21 years and over	10	14	11	3	360	1	4	2	..	3
Total females	15	20	15	3	360	1	4	5	2	3

For footnote; see next page.

PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS FOR DRUG OFFENCES REPORTED TO THE CENTRAL CRIME INTELLIGENCE BUREAU: PERSONS INVOLVED, AUSTRALIA 1972—*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	13	14	3	..	..	1	6	2	3	8
17 and 18 years .	31	38	27	7	1,500	5	47	15	3	8
19 and 20 years .	68	84	53	16	4,610	9	200	13	3	26
21 years and over .	141	195	107	24	6,470	50	666	22	12	74
<i>Total males</i> .	<i>253</i>	<i>331</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>12,580</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>919</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>116</i>
Females aged—										
16 years and under	5	5	4	..	..	..	..	4	1	..
17 and 18 years .	13	13	8	3	753	1	2	6	1	4
19 and 20 years .	6	7	4	2	250	2	15	1	1	2
21 years and over .	9	9	5	2	350	2	27	1	..	4
<i>Total females</i> .	<i>33</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1,353</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>10</i>
Other offences—										
Males aged—										
16 years and under	8	8	2	1	50	..	..	1	2	4
17 and 18 years .	54	210	120	26	5,840	5	31	7	2	18
19 and 20 years .	82	92	59	40	7,540	5	47	11	3	25
21 years and over .	189	256	165	91	22,385	24	459	30	24	64
<i>Total males</i> .	<i>333</i>	<i>566</i>	<i>346</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>35,815</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>537</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>111</i>
Females aged—										
16 years and under	5	5	3	..	..	..	..	3	1	1
17 and 18 years .	11	21	12	5	655	..	..	5	1	8
19 and 20 years .	9	11	8	1	200	1	6	3	..	3
21 years and over .	22	43	34	6	780	2	33	8	1	8
<i>Total females</i> .	<i>47</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1,635</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Total males</i> .	<i>3,433</i>	<i>4,281</i>	<i>2,820</i>	<i>1,549</i>	<i>349,870</i>	<i>344</i>	<i>5,016</i>	<i>727</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>1,075</i>
<i>Total females</i> .	<i>518</i>	<i>618</i>	<i>387</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>29,123</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>236</i>	<i>192</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>161</i>

(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	Use/ administer	Traffic	Steal	False pretences	Forge prescription	Other	Total(b)
Narcotics—									
Cocaine	27	1	26	1	12	..	..	2	69
Codeine	6	..	5	..	9	..	..	..	20
Palfium	15	..	17	3	5	3	77	4	124
Physeptone	17	..	17	..	2	32	105	3	176
Morphine	100	4	103	20	58	1	1	23	310
Opium	30	8	11	..	4	..	..	4	57
Opium preparations	8	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	11
Pethedine	32	..	35	5	38	14	22	7	153
Omnopon	6	..	6	..	3	1	2	..	18
Heroin	45	18	67	18	..	..	..	1	149
Other narcotic	1	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	5
<i>Total</i>	287	31	289	48	133	51	209	44	1,092
Cannabis—									
Plants	150	..	..	3	..	..	..	71	224
Seeds	143	9	..	4	..	..	..	5	161
Marihuana	1,377	134	994	210	..	..	..	124	2,839
Hashish	116	62	46	18	..	..	..	6	248
Cannabinol	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Total</i>	1,787	205	1,040	235	..	..	..	206	3,473
Amphetamines—									
Amphetamine	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	4
Dexamphetamine	12	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	15
Drinamyl	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Methyl-amphetamine	23	..	14	..	9	..	..	..	46
Methyl-phenidate	6	..	1	..	3	9	2	..	21
Other unspecified amphetamine	8	..	5	1	..	..	..	1	15
<i>Total</i>	54	..	24	1	12	9	2	2	104
Barbiturates/hypnotics—									
Amylobarbitone	9	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	12
Pentobarbitone	8	..	4	2	..	..	22	1	37
Quinalbarbitone	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Other barbiturates	10	..	22	6	..	..	6	..	44
Methaqualone	5	..	2	..	1	..	..	3	11
<i>Total</i>	35	..	29	9	1	..	28	5	107
Tranquillisers—									
Valium	11	5	2	1	1	1	8	4	33
<i>Total</i>	11	5	2	1	1	1	8	4	33
Hallucinogens—									
L.S.D.	128	12	195	65	..	2	..	3	405
Psilocybine	62	..	10	2	..	..	..	..	74
Mescaline	7	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	12
Other hallucinogens	4	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	7
<i>Total</i>	201	15	209	68	..	2	..	3	498
Grand Total	2,375	256	1,593	362	147	63	247	264	5,307

(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 65.45 per cent; narcotics, 20.58 per cent; hallucinogens, 9.39 per cent; barbiturates/hypnotics, 2.02 per cent; amphetamines, 1.94 per cent; tranquillisers, 0.62 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:

Licit Control 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.

Overseas 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.

Law 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 the years 1968–72.

DRUG SEIZURES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE: 1968 TO 1972

Type of drug	Unit	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Amphetamines(a)	gram	..	..	11,379	18	79
	tablet	..	688	..	1,421	493
Barbiturates(a)	gram	..	..	..	22	37
	tablet	..	..	2,800	287	1,050
Cannabis	gram	5,654	47,809	98,078	178,654	541,929
Cocaine	gram	..	..	..	4	198
	tablet	..	..	120	9	..
L.S.D.	dosage unit	..	368	17,611	21,676	69,863
Narcotics—						
Opium	gram	3,660	889	9,950	6,094	2,746
Heroin	gram	1,977	196	1,405	2,468	2,018
Morphine	gram	1,387	..	29	31	158
	ampoule	..	8	18	6	16
Pethidine	tablet	..	..	151	2	..
	..	..	..	43	6	43

(a) Not a prohibited import until 1969.

The number of offenders charged with drug offences by the Department of Customs and Excise, and the sentences imposed in the years 1968 to 1972 are given in the following table. Particulars of all drug offences in 1972 reported to the Central Crime Intelligence Bureau are shown in the table on page 470.

PROSECUTIONS AND CONVICTIONS UNDER THE CUSTOMS ACT AND THE NARCOTIC DRUGS ACT FOR OFFENCES INVOLVING DRUGS OF DEPENDENCE 1968 TO 1972

(Source: Department of Customs and Excise)

Offence and year	Number of offenders	Number of individual charges	Con- victions on indiv- idual charges	Fines imposed		Gaal sentences		Number of bonds granted (a)	Number of charges not proceeded with or dismissed	Number of charges pending
				Number	Amount	Number	Months			
Unlawful possession—										
\$										
1968	51	52	46	41	8,820	4	22	1	3	3
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
Unlawful import—										
1968	21	25	15	13	1,615	2	42	..	3	7
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
Other offences—										
1968	1	1	1	1	500	..	..	..	..	..
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

(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 Commonwealth 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 1972 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: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1972

<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	3	3	1	1	2	1	..	..
Inspectors	14	23	9	3	3	5	1	1
Sergeants	345	64	146	46	79	32	10	10
Constables(b)	875	631	(c)295	259	159	78	30	32
Total, criminal investigations, etc.	1,237	721	(c)451	309	243	116	41	43
Traffic duties—								
Executive officers	2	4	1	1	2	1	..	..
Inspectors	7	9	4	4	7	2	..	1
Sergeants	163	23	41	19	44	9	3	14
Constables(b)	876	472	(c)223	211	202	86	14	78
Total, traffic duties	1,048	508	(c)269	235	255	98	17	93
Other special and general duties—								
Executive officers	24	29	6	10	12	5	..	..
Inspectors	120	126	(d)71	40	20	35	3	10
Sergeants	1,354	238	673	181	220	89	45	46
Constables(b)	3,810	3,354	(c)1,563	1,253	894	397	167	197
Total, other special, etc.	5,308	3,747	(c)2,313	1,484	(e)1,146	526	(f)215	(f)253
Not allocated—								
Executive officers whose duties extend beyond one branch								
Inspectors	8	5	(g)5	2	4	..	3	2
Police women	106	144	65	40	38	21	5	7
Trainees and cadets	207	149	250	375	..	118	..	..
Total, not allocated	321	298	320	417	42	139	8	9
Total police force—								
Executive officers	37	41	(g)13	14	20	7	3	2
Inspectors	141	158	84	47	30	42	4	12
Sergeants	1,862	325	860	246	343	130	58	70
Constables(b)	5,561	4,457	(c)2,081	1,723	1,255	561	211	307
Police women	106	144	65	40	38	21	5	7
Trainees and cadets	207	149	250	375	..	118	..	..
Total police force	7,914	5,274	3,353	2,445	1,686	879	281	398

ANCILLARY AND CIVILIAN STAFF

Employed by Police Department—								
Ancillary staff(h)—								
Full-time	210	136	23	(i)189	..	..	35	..
Part-time . . . . .	..	3	..	2	161	..	..	..
Civilian staff(j)—								
Full-time	(k)1,264	849	473	96	(l)504	130	27	53
Part-time . . . . .	..	70	28	8	62	..	..	..

For footnotes see next page.

POLICE FORCES AND ASSISTANT STAFF: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1972—
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	9,388	6,259	3,849	2,730	2,190	1,009	343	451
Part-time . . . . .	..	73	28	10	223	..	..	..

(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 sub-inspectors. (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) Includes 1 chief superintendent. (h) Parking police, native trackers, wardresses, etc.; special constables in New South Wales and Tasmania; police reservists in Victoria. (i) Includes clerical workers in the Women Police Auxiliaries. (j) Clerks, typists, artisans, cleaners. (k) Does not include cleaning which is done by the Cleaning Services Branch of the Government Stores Department. (l) Includes 72 cadets whose appointment is not subject to the Police Act.

Ancillary and civilian staff are excluded from the following table.

POLICE FORCES: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1968 TO 1972

<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>
1968	7,111	4,825	3,083	2,214	1,421	632	172	228	19,686
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	4,945	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

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 Commonwealth Parliament. It is also responsible for the protection of Commonwealth property and interests at various buildings and establishments under the control of the Commonwealth. This force co-ordinates the work of other Commonwealth 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 strength of the force at 30 June 1972 was 989 policemen and 4 policewomen. At that date there were, in addition, 117 civilian employees.

Prisons

Prisons and prison accommodation

PRISONS AND PRISON ACCOMMODATION: STATES AND NORTHERN TERRITORY, 30 JUNE 1971

	<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	22	13	8	16	13	1	2	75
Accommodation	3,717	2,666	1,321	1,414	1,611	417	239	11,385

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: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1967 TO 1971

30 June—	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	Australia	
								Number	Per 10,000 of popu- lation
1967 . . .	3,334	1,994	1,021	866	1,137	275	112	8,739	7.4
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

(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 Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth figures differ from those of the States because of the Commonwealth's different responsibilities in this field. The Commonwealth 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
1967-68 TO 1971-72
(\$ million)**

	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72
Net current expenditure on goods and services—					
Commonwealth Authorities	12.5	13.9	16.5	20.1	25.2
State Authorities—					
New South Wales	64.9	71.6	81.2	93.4	111.0
Victoria	40.1	43.9	48.4	53.7	63.4
Queensland	24.7	27.5	31.2	38.5	40.2
South Australia	13.3	14.4	15.6	18.2	20.9
Western Australia	12.8	15.4	18.7	22.8	28.6
Tasmania	5.9	6.5	7.2	8.4	9.8
<i>Total States</i>	<i>161.7</i>	<i>179.3</i>	<i>202.3</i>	<i>235.0</i>	<i>273.9</i>
<i>Total current expenditure</i>	<i>174.1</i>	<i>193.2</i>	<i>218.8</i>	<i>255.1</i>	<i>299.1</i>
Gross fixed capital expenditure—					
Commonwealth authorities	1.2	1.6	1.5	2.1	2.6
State authorities—					
New South Wales	5.3	7.2	9.3	10.6	10.5
Victoria	4.7	7.0	4.4	3.9	5.3
Queensland	3.2	3.9	4.6	4.4	5.4
South Australia	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.7	1.8
Western Australia	0.9	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.2
Tasmania	0.8	1.2	1.2	1.8	2.1
<i>Total States</i>	<i>15.7</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>22.0</i>	<i>24.2</i>	<i>26.3</i>
<i>Total capital expenditure</i>	<i>16.9</i>	<i>23.3</i>	<i>23.4</i>	<i>26.3</i>	<i>28.9</i>
Total expenditure	191.0	216.6	242.3	281.4	328.0

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 174 fire districts had been constituted at the end of 1971. The cost of maintenance of fire brigades is borne in proportions of local councils and the Government each one-eighth, and the insurance companies three-quarters.

At 31 December 1972 the actual strength of the Fire Brigade throughout the fire districts of New South Wales was 502 officers and 1,387 permanent and 2,726 volunteer firemen. Corresponding figures for the Sydney Fire District were 403, 1,173 and 215. The revenue for the year 1971 was \$15,752,771, as follows: from the Government, \$1,947,009; municipalities and shires, \$1,945,681; fire insurance companies and firms, \$11,670,234; and from other sources, \$189,847. The disbursements for the year were \$15,001,399. 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 Commonwealth 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 1972 Volunteer Brigades equipped by means of this fund numbered 2,420 with an active membership of about 60,000 persons. The expenditure from the Fund for equipment, up to 30 June 1972, amounted to \$12,148,414.

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 1972 the Board had under its control 46 stations, 1,226 permanent staff, and 250 special service and clerical, etc. staff. The total receipts for 1971-72 were \$11,002,859, comprising contributions \$9,618,062, receipts for services \$857,798, and interest and sundries \$526,999. The expenditure was \$11,266,419.

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 1972 the Country Fire Authority Act applied to 157 insurance companies and 212 urban and 1,049 rural fire brigades. Permanent staff of the Authority totalled 319 (including administrative), while the effective strength of volunteer personnel was 113,221. Income for the year 1971-72 amounted to \$4,596,792. Total expenditure other than loan redemption and capital expenditure amounted to \$4,293,652.

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 1972 there were 81 fire brigade boards. The number of stations was 191 and the brigade strength was 1,174 permanent staff and 1,320 auxiliary and 27 volunteer staff. The total revenue for the year 1971-72 was \$8,906,391 received mainly from the following sources: Government \$1,064,363, local authorities \$1,064,363, insurance companies \$6,419,752. Loan receipts (Government and other) were \$739,549. The total expenditure for the year was \$8,308,874, the chief items being salaries and wages \$6,598,217, and interest and redemption of loans \$767,998.

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 1972 there were 1,084 bush fire brigades. Expenditure by the State Government including contributions by bush fire brigades for equipment during 1971-72 amounted to \$131,334.

South Australia

The Fire Brigades Act, 1936-1958 provides for a board of five members, that the expenses and maintenance of brigades are defrayed in the proportion of two-ninths by the Treasury, five-ninths by insurance companies and two-ninths by the municipalities concerned, and that when the Treasury proportion exceeds its statutory contribution of approximately \$31,000, the excess is borne five-sevenths by insurance companies and two-sevenths by the municipalities. At 30 June 1972 there were altogether 39 fire brigade stations, of which 18 were metropolitan and 21 country.

The strength of the permanent staff at 30 June 1972 was 575, comprising 403 officers and men, 116 country auxiliary firemen and 56 other employees (including maintenance workers). The total revenue for the year 1971-72 was \$2,695,962, including contributions of \$2,357,553 made up as follows: insurance companies \$1,414,140, Treasury \$395,000 and municipalities \$548,413. The Treasury contribution includes a special grant of \$292,308.

Western Australia

The *Fire Brigades Act 1942-1972* provides for the constitution of fire districts which are under the control of the Western Australian Fire Brigades Board. There were 69 fire districts at 30 June 1972. 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 81 and 163 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 1972 the Board had 581 employees and there were 1,555 volunteer brigade officers and firemen. The revenue for the year ended 30 June 1972 was \$4,228,959 and the expenditure \$4,288,178.

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 2,407 at 30 June 1972, and the establishment of bush fire brigades, 915 at 30 June 1972. 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 1971-72 amounted to \$1,563,727. There were, at 30 June 1972, 23 boards controlling 40 stations, and their aggregate staffs numbered 685 (officers and firemen), comprising 227 permanent personnel, 418 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 15, headed by the State Fire Control Officer and includes five regional fire officers and an assistant

regional officer. At 30 June 1972 there were 299 rural fire brigades composed of 6,883 registered volunteers. The Board's budget in 1971-72 was \$397,450. 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.

Patents, trade marks and designs

Patents

Patents for inventions are granted under the *Patents Act* 1952-1969, which applies to the Commonwealth of Australia and the Territories of Norfolk Island and Papua New Guinea. The Act is administered by a Commissioner of Patents. The amending Act of 1969 came into operation on 1 January 1970. 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 \$20.00. Examination no longer automatically follows lodgment of applications. The Commissioner may now direct an applicant to request examination in which case the examination fee is \$60.00, or the applicant may request it of his own accord, in which case the fee is \$80.00. If examination is not requested within five years after lodgment, the application lapses.

Annual taxes are payable commencing with a fee of \$8.00 after the expiration of two years from the date of lodgment of the complete specification and rising to \$50.00 after the expiration of 15 years from that date.

PATENTS: AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1972

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Applications	16,712	17,446	16,443	16,407	16,165
Applications accompanied by provisional specifications	3,899	3,637	3,628	3,933	4,195
Letters patent sealed	5,537	7,127	6,130	10,641	10,920

Trade marks and designs

Under the *Trade Marks Act* 1955-1966 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. A new classification of goods was adopted in 1958, and trade marks registered under repealed Acts are reclassified on renewal. Under the *Designs Act* 1906-1968 the Commissioner of Patents is also Registrar of Designs.

TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS: AUSTRALIA, 1968 TO 1972

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Trade marks—					
Received	8,301	9,246	9,117	8,866	9,204
Registered	4,612	4,809	5,823	5,710	5,012
Designs—					
Received	1,769	1,975	2,007	1,977	2,228
Registered	1,614	1,440	1,604	1,578	1,608

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.

