

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

To be treated as strictly CONFIDENTIAL and NOT to be published, broadcast or cabled before NOON on FRIDAY, 21ST OCTOBER, 1966.

SOCIAL STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA

NO. 44 : DIVORCE

MARCH QUARTER 1966



CONTENTS

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
..	Explanatory Notes	2
	<u>I. PETITIONS FILED : DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION</u>	
1.	Petitions Filed : States, March quarter 1966	3
2.	Petitions Filed : Australia, 1961 to March quarter 1966	3
3.	Petitions Filed for Dissolution of Marriage : States, 1961 to March quarter 1966	4
	<u>II. DECREES GRANTED : DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE, NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION</u>	
4.	Decrees Granted : States, March quarter 1966	4
5.	Decrees Granted : Australia, 1961 to March quarter 1966	5
6.	Dissolutions Granted : States, 1961 to March quarter 1966	5
7.	Grounds on which Decrees were Granted : States, March quarter 1966	6
8.	Dissolutions Granted : Ages of Parties at time of Dissolution, Australia, March quarter 1966	7
9.	Dissolutions Granted : Duration of Marriage and Number of Children, Australia, March quarter 1966	7

o-o-o-o-o

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bulletin contains statistics of divorce for the March Quarter, 1966 and for previous periods. For further details in respect of past periods, see previous issues in this series and the annual bulletin "Demography". Details for 1965 were shown in "Social Statistics No. 43 - Divorce, 1965", issued on 28th July, 1966.

2. The Commonwealth Matrimonial Causes Act 1959 came into operation on 1st February, 1961 and was amended in 1965. The 1959 Act provided a uniform law throughout Australia with respect to divorce and other matrimonial causes, and superseded the matrimonial causes laws of the States and Territories except in so far as the transitional provisions of the Act kept them in force for the purpose of completing pending proceedings. Therefore, statistics of petitions filed since February 1961 are on a uniform basis for all States and Territories, but statistics of decrees of dissolution, nullity and judicial separation granted after that date include some decrees made on petitions under the superseded laws and are to that extent not uniformly based. By 1966, the number of such decrees had become insignificant.

3. Under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959-1965, a court may grant decrees of dissolution of marriage (commonly known as divorce), judicial separation, nullity of marriage, restitution of conjugal rights and jactitation of marriage (i.e. that a person should refrain from making the false claim that a marriage has taken place between him and another person). Orders may be made for the custody and welfare of children, maintenance, the settlement of property and damages for adultery.

4. The statistics in this bulletin refer only to petitions filed, and final decrees granted, for dissolution, nullity and judicial separation. Statistics of petitions filed relate only to the original petition in a suit, i.e. a cross-petition contained in an answer by the respondent is not taken as a separate petition.

I. PETITIONS FILED

TABLE 1. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : MARCH QUARTER, 1966.

Petition for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
Dissolution of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	413	214	148	98	78	36	9	12	1,008
Wife Petitioner	712	300	156	189	87	45	5	16	1,510
<u>Total</u>	1,125	514	304	287	165	81	14	28	2,518
Nullity of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Wife Petitioner	3	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	7
<u>Total</u>	5	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	10
Dissolution or Nullity -									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	3
Wife Petitioner	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
<u>Total</u>	2	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	5
Judicial Separation -									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
<u>Total</u>	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
Total Petitions -									
Husband Petitioner Number	415	214	149	101	78	36	9	12	1,014
Per Cent	37	41	49	35	47	44	(a)	(a)	40
Wife Petitioner Number	719	302	158	190	87	45	5	17	1,523
Per Cent	63	59	51	65	53	56	(a)	(a)	60
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,134	516	307	291	165	81	14	29	2,537

(a) Percentage not calculated.

TABLE 2. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : AUSTRALIA

Petition for -	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	Quarter ended -				
						March 1965	June 1965	Sept. 1965	Dec. 1965	March 1966
Dissolution of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	4,394	4,072	4,000	4,215	4,413	1,073	1,062	1,192	1,086	1,008
Wife Petitioner	5,110	5,176	5,602	5,933	6,426	1,513	1,612	1,700	1,601	1,510
<u>Total</u>	9,504	9,248	9,602	10,148	10,839	2,586	2,674	2,892	2,687	2,518
Nullity of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	13	15	11	14	16	3	6	4	3	3
Wife Petitioner	44	35	28	30	35	8	3	12	12	7
<u>Total</u>	57	50	39	44	51	11	9	16	15	10
Dissolution or Nullity -										
Husband Petitioner	3	6	5	5	15	1	3	6	5	3
Wife Petitioner	4	5	10	12	10	4	2	1	3	2
<u>Total</u>	7	11	15	17	25	5	5	7	8	5
Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	2	2	3	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Wife Petitioner	9	18	26	34	20	6	6	2	6	4
<u>Total</u>	11	20	29	34	21	6	6	3	6	4
Dissolution or Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
<u>Total</u>	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Petitions -										
Husband Petitioner Number	4,412	4,095	4,020	4,234	4,445	1,077	1,071	1,203	1,094	1,014
Per cent	46	44	42	41	41	41	40	41	40	40
Wife Petitioner Number	5,167	5,234	5,666	6,010	6,491	1,531	1,623	1,715	1,622	1,523
Per cent	54	56	58	59	59	59	60	59	60	60
<u>TOTAL</u>	9,579	9,329	9,686	10,244	10,936	2,608	2,694	2,918	2,716	2,537

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

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Year - 1961	4,215	2,289	1,084	865	620	321	40	70	9,504
1962	4,093	2,148	1,083	910	651	276	39	48	9,248
1963	4,339	2,163	1,061	1,005	623	271	50	90	9,602
1964	4,484	2,357	1,121	1,034	653	322	53	124	10,148
1965	4,679	2,501	1,266	1,107	736	328	61	161	10,839
Quarter ended -									
March 1965	1,114	566	303	265	204	77	15	42	2,586
June 1965	1,140	616	302	309	160	89	13	45	2,674
September 1965	1,287	658	346	280	194	81	19	27	2,892
December 1965	1,138	661	315	253	178	81	14	47	2,687
March 1966	1,125	514	304	287	165	81	14	28	2,518

(a) This table excludes petitions filed for nullity of marriage, judicial separation and any petitions for two or more alternative types of relief.

II. DECREES GRANTED

TABLE 4. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED (a) :

MARCH QUARTER 1966

Decree for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	382	222	138	100	98	21	8	13	982
Wife Petitioner	627	284	148	207	100	39	9	16	1,430
Granted on Petition of Both	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
<u>Total</u>	1,009	508	286	307	199	60	17	29	2,415
Nullity of Marriage -									
Husband Petitioner	1	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	5
Wife Petitioner	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
<u>Total</u>	1	2	3	2	..	..	..	..	8
Judicial Separation -									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
<u>Total</u>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Total Decrees -									
Husband Petitioner Number	383	222	140	102	98	21	8	13	987
Per cent	38	44	48	33	49	35	(b)	(b)	41
Wife Petitioner Number	627	286	149	207	100	39	9	17	1,434
Per cent	62	56	52	67	51	65	(b)	(b)	59
Granted on Petition of Both Number	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,010	510	289	309	199	60	17	30	2,424

(a) Decrees absolute. (b) Percentage not calculated.

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

Decree for -	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	Quarter ended -				
						March 1965	June 1965	Sept. 1965	Dec. 1965	March 1966
Dissolution of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	3,068	3,308	3,257	3,377	3,523	890	712	1,012	909	982
Wife Petitioner	3,643	3,935	4,216	4,536	4,966	1,203	1,026	1,424	1,313	1,430
Granted on Petition of Both	1	2	3	4	2	2	..	..	..	3
<u>Total</u>	6,712	7,245	7,476	7,917	8,491	2,095	1,738	2,436	2,222	2,415
Nullity of Marriage -										
Husband Petitioner	15	12	7	11	10	..	4	2	4	5
Wife Petitioner	22	28	25	33	25	4	8	4	9	3
<u>Total</u>	37	40	32	44	35	4	12	6	13	8
Judicial Separation -										
Husband Petitioner	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	2	3	7	6	8	..	3	1	4	1
<u>Total</u>	2	5	7	6	8	..	3	1	4	1
Total Decrees -										
Husband Petitioner										
Number	3,083	3,322	3,264	3,388	3,533	890	716	1,014	913	987
Per cent	46	46	43	43	41	42	41	42	41	41
Wife Petitioner										
Number	3,667	3,966	4,248	4,575	4,999	1,207	1,037	1,429	1,326	1,434
Per cent	54	54	57	57	59	58	59	58	59	59
Granted on Petition of Both										
Number	1	2	3	4	2	2	..	..	..	3
<u>TOTAL</u>	6,751	7,290	7,515	7,967	8,534	2,099	1,753	2,443	2,239	2,424

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 6. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Year - 1961	3,156	1,248	779	718	466	286	23	36	6,712
1962	3,113	1,615	920	685	582	248	38	44	7,245
1963	3,293	1,616	910	765	553	260	38	41	7,476
1964	3,024	2,130	981	887	542	229	31	93	7,917
1965	3,440	2,089	1,052	852	604	279	41	134	8,491
Quarter ended -									
March 1965	806	477	306	258	146	60	10	32	2,095
June 1965	767	452	167	147	112	61	6	26	1,738
September 1965	1,064	593	260	245	152	76	10	36	2,436
December 1965	803	567	319	202	194	82	15	40	2,222
March 1966	1,009	508	286	307	199	60	17	29	2,415

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

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

Ground	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE									
Single grounds -									
Desertion	506	246	130	99	64	27	9	8	1,089
Adultery	200	137	64	83	72	12	3	9	580
Separation	173	103	70	69	50	12	3	5	485
Cruelty	54	5	8	39	2	1	1	4	114
Drunkenness	19	5	8	7	1	..	1	..	41
Intoxication by drugs	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Failure to pay maintenance	2	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	5
Non-compliance with restitution decree	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Refusal to consummate	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Insanity	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Frequent convictions	1	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Imprisonment	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	9	6	3	2	3	1	..	..	24
Desertion and separation	9	..	..	1	1	2	..	1	14
Desertion and cruelty	3	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	6
Desertion and drunkenness	4	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5
Desertion and other	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	3
Adultery and separation	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Adultery and other	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	3
Separation and other	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Cruelty and drunkenness	16	1	2	1	1	1	..	1	23
Cruelty and frequent convictions	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Three grounds or more	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4
<u>Total</u>	1,009	508	286	307	199	60	17	29	2,415

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE

Bigamy	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Invalid marriage	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Incapacity to consummate	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	5
Pregnancy	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	1	2	3	2	..	..	..	..	8

JUDICIAL SEPARATION

Cruelty	1	1
---------	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	---	---

(a) Decrees absolute.

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

Age of Husband (Years)	Age of Wife (Years)										Total Husbands	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60 & over	Number	Per cent
Under 20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20-24	2	48	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	2
25-29	..	114	180	13	1	1	..	..	..	..	309	13
30-34	1	19	195	151	20	8	3	..	..	..	397	16
35-39	..	9	56	184	143	32	5	..	..	..	429	18
40-44	..	1	12	52	183	146	23	6	..	..	423	17
45-49	..	1	2	12	40	111	99	19	4	2	290	12
50-54	..	..	1	8	7	49	88	65	16	3	237	10
55-59	..	..	..	2	4	9	23	47	37	12	134	6
60 and over	..	1	..	..	1	5	10	28	35	59	139	6
<u>Total</u> (Number of Wives)	3	193	452	423	399	361	251	165	92	76	2,415	..
(Per cent)	..	8	19	17	17	15	10	7	4	3	..	100

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

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

Duration of Marriage (Years)	Dissolutions of Marriage with -							Total Marriages Dissolved		Total Number of Children (b)
	No Child- ren	1 Child	2 Child- ren	3 Child- ren	4 Child- ren	5 Child- ren	6 or more Children	Number	Per cent	
Under 5	103	44	14	1	2	..	..	164	7	83
5 - 9	254	219	135	32	10	2	..	652	27	635
10 - 14	130	118	144	75	29	10	3	509	21	815
15 - 19	100	92	106	65	29	19	12	423	18	798
20 - 24	59	61	96	59	21	6	9	311	13	607
25 - 29	91	54	32	13	7	1	1	199	8	196
30 and over	118	27	10	2	..	..	..	157	6	53
<u>Total Marriages Dissolved</u> (Number)	855	615	537	247	98	38	25	2,415	..	..
(Per cent)	35	26	22	10	4	2	1	..	100	..
<u>Total Number of Children (b)</u>	..	615	1,074	741	392	190	175	..	..	3,187

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

(b) Living children under 21 at time of petition. The term "children" used in the Commonwealth legislation refers to living "children of the marriage" under 21 years; but the table above includes a small number of dissolutions granted to petitions filed under superseded legislation in which the term "children" was used differently.

J. P. O'Neill
ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

21ST OCTOBER, 1966.

NOTE. - Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 496155 Extension 1 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.