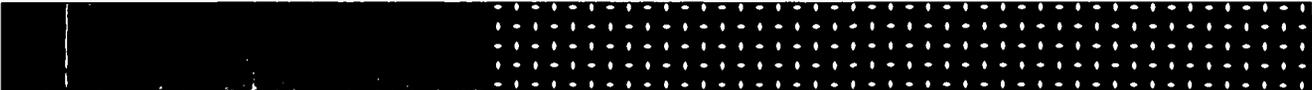




Australian
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AUSTRALIA'S ONE PARENT FAMILIES



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CATALOGUE NO. 2511.0

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- .. not applicable
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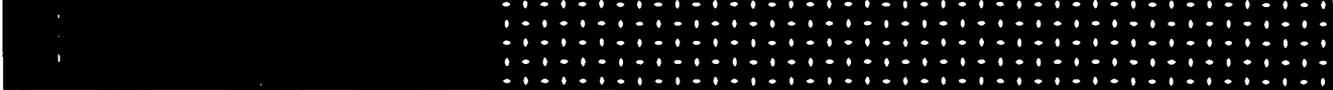
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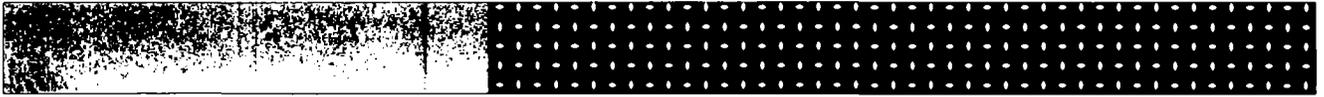
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- As well as the statistics included in this and related publications the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to Information Services, as above.



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FOREWORD

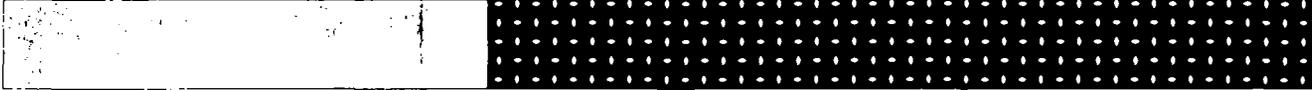
The 1986 Census of Population and Housing, the eleventh of Australia's national censuses, provided more extensive information on family and household characteristics than did any previous Australian census. In particular, because family structures were identified from information about all people who usually lived in a dwelling, even if some were away on census night, the accuracy of the count of one parent families was much improved. One adverse consequence of this, however, was that comparability with earlier censuses was affected. For this reason, the report provides a snapshot of Australia's one parent families focussed on their demographic, social and economic characteristics exposed by the 1986 Census.

The social and economic well-being of lone parents and their children is an issue of great current concern in Australian society. Much social policy is directed towards initiating change in such areas as education and employment opportunities, income support and maintenance, and public and private sector housing. The report provides statistical information and commentary which can contribute to informed public debate on the situation of one parent families in Australia.

Ian Castles

Australian Statistician

December 1991



GROWTH AND DISTRIBUTION

Household and family defined

In the 1986 Census, a household was defined as a person who lived alone or two or more people who usually lived and ate together as a domestic unit in private residential accommodation. A family was defined as two or more people related by blood, marriage, de facto, adoption or fostering relationship who were in the same household.

A household may have comprised one family only with or without non-family members e.g. boarders (a one family household), or two or more families with or without non-family members (a multiple family household).

A one parent family was defined as a family which usually consisted of a parent and dependent child(ren). It may also have included other related adults e.g. non-dependent children, ancestors.

In the 1986 Census, household and family structure was based on the number and relationship of the people usually resident in the household. This was a change from previous censuses which took into account only people present in the dwelling on census night in determining household and family structure. Along with other conceptual changes (see *Census 86 - Understanding Family Data* (Cat. No. 2178.0)), this has resulted in considerable improvements in the data on households and families, but has affected comparability with previous censuses. The structure of the classification and the numbers of people, households and families classified to each group are shown in Figure 1.1.

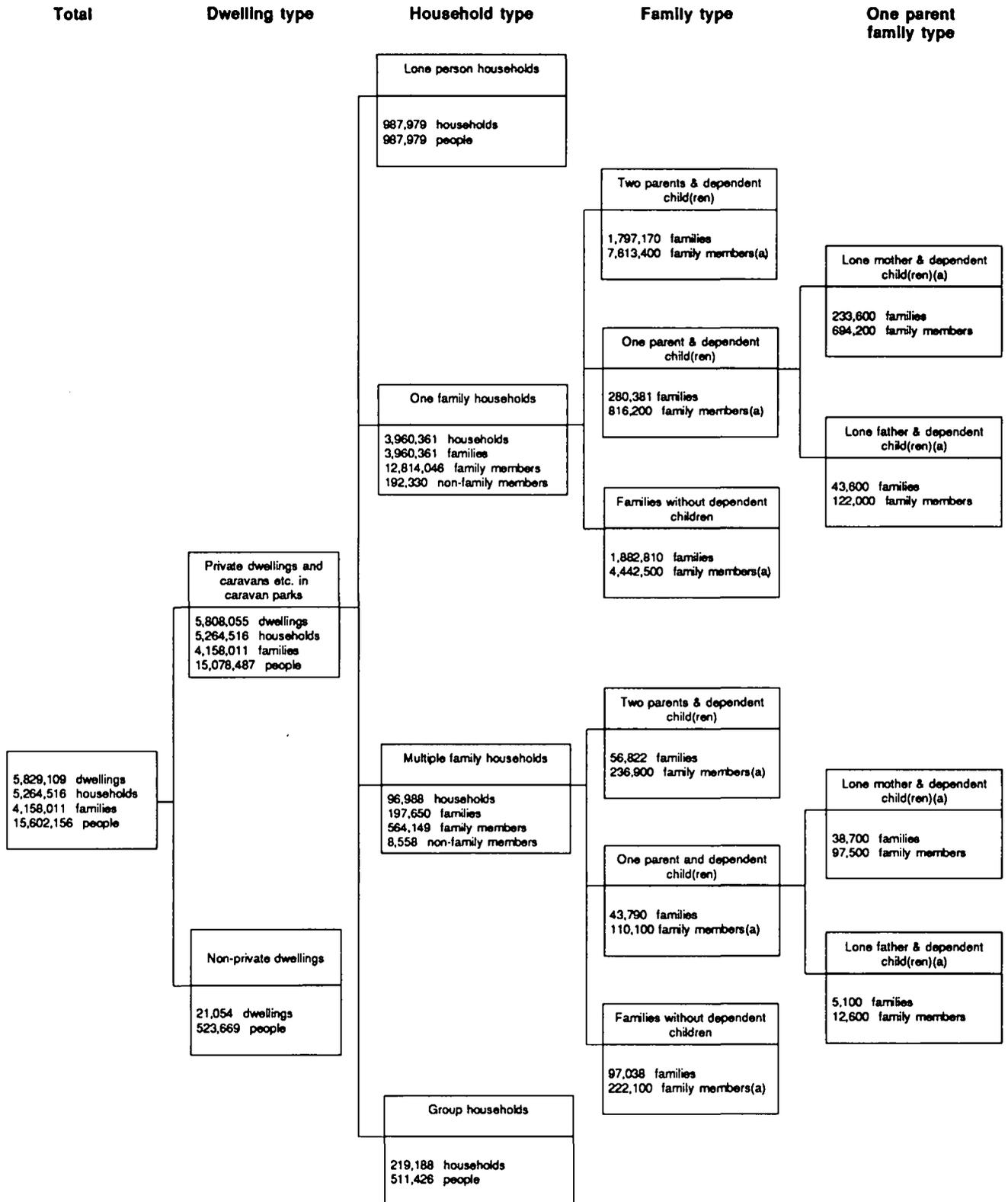
One parent families may arise through the divorce or separation of a married or de facto couple who have dependent children, by the death of a partner in such a union, or by an unpartnered adult bearing, adopting or fostering a child.

Because of the difference in the characteristics of one parent families headed by a mother (lone mother families) and those headed by a father (lone father families), most comparisons of family type featured in this report contrast lone mother and lone father families with each other as well as with two parent families.

Growth of one parent families

At the 1986 Census, 324,171 one parent families were counted (349,900 when 1981 definitions are applied to 1986 data). This means that the number of families classified as one parent families (on 1981 definitions) doubled between 1966 and 1986, and increased from 10 per cent of all families containing dependent children to 16 per cent. Using 1986 definitions, 15 per cent of families with dependent children counted in the Census were classified as one parent families.

FIGURE 1.1 CLASSIFICATION OF DWELLINGS, HOUSEHOLDS, FAMILIES AND PEOPLE



(a) Data are from a 1 per cent sample file and may differ from total counts.

Sources: CSD055, CSD063, CX4127 and AH0001

TABLE 1.1 FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN BY FAMILY TYPE, 1966-86

Year	One parent families			Couple families with dependent children		
	Number	As a proportion of all families with dependent children	Average number of family members	Number	As a proportion of all families with dependent children	Average number of family members
		'000			per cent	
1966(a)	162.9	10.4	3.4	1407.4	89.6	4.7
1971(b)	175.9	10.1	3.3	1572.6	89.9	4.4
1976	221.5	11.8	3.2	1651.3	86.2	4.5
1981	317.2	15.5	3.0	1725.5	84.5	4.3
1986(c)	349.9	16.4	3.0	1784.8	83.6	4.3
1986	324.2	14.9	2.9	1854.0	85.1	4.2

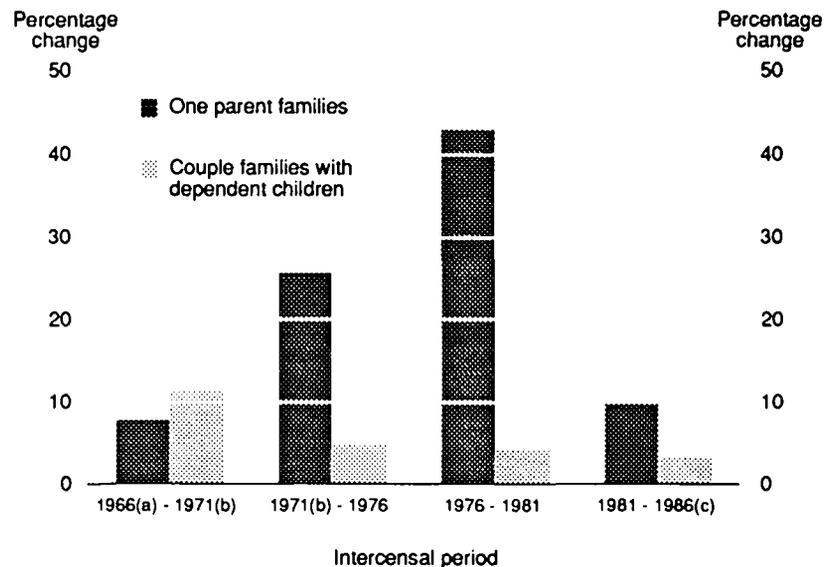
(a) Excludes Aboriginal people of more than half-descent except where they were counted in a dwelling in which non-Aboriginal or half-descent Aboriginal people were also counted. (b) Data are from a 10 per cent sample file and may differ from total counts. For purposes of calculating the number of family members, families with adult(s) other than the family head (and spouse if applicable) were considered to have had only one such other adult. Families with more than four children were considered to have had five children only. (c) To enable comparability with previous census counts, 1986 data have been redefined as far as possible according to 1981 definitions and processing procedures.

Source: Table 3 Vol. 2 Pt. 5 Families and Households (1966), Table SP025 (1971), Table 45 Population and Dwellings: Cross-classified Tables Cat. No. 2426.0 (1976), Table 17 Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings Cat. No. 2443.0 (1981), AH0001 and Tables CSD025 and VF020 (1986)

... dramatic increase between 1976 and 1981

There was a small increase in the number of one parent families between 1966 and 1971 (8 per cent), followed by a much larger increase between 1971 and 1976 (26 per cent) and an even larger increase for the period 1976-1981 (43 per cent). Using 1986 data adjusted to 1981 definitions, an increase of 10 per cent was recorded in the period 1981-86. Rates of growth of two parent families declined over the whole period.

FIGURE 1.2 CHANGE IN THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN BETWEEN CENSUSES, 1966-86



(a) Excludes Aboriginal people of more than half-descent except where they were counted in a dwelling in which non-Aboriginal or half-descent Aboriginal people were also counted. (b) Data are from a 10 per cent sample file and may differ from total counts. (c) To enable comparability with previous census counts, 1986 data have been redefined as far as possible according to 1981 definitions and processing procedures.

Source: Table 3 Vol. 2 Pt. 5 Families and Households (1966), Table SP025 (1971), Table 45 Population and Dwellings: Cross-classified Tables Cat. No. 2426.0 (1976), Table 17 Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings Cat. No. 2443.0 (1981), AH0001 (1986)

Divorce and the Family Law Act 1975

In Australia, Labour Force Survey estimates pin-point 1975-79 as the period during which the largest increases in one parent families occurred. This increase, and to a lesser extent increases after 1979, are generally considered to be related to the introduction of the Family Law Act 1975 which enabled no-fault divorce to be granted on the grounds of mutual consent. The annual number of petitions filed for dissolution of marriage, nullity of marriage and judicial separation declined between 1947 and 1960 but then more than trebled from 8,187 in 1960 to 26,855 in 1974.

The Family Law Act 1975 came into operation in January 1976 and in that year a record 63,267 divorces were granted. The number of divorces granted declined for each consecutive year until 1979, rose until 1982 and then declined again during the period 1983-86. Although the number of divorces granted in 1986 (39,417) was considerably higher than pre 1976 levels, it was less than the annual numbers granted in the periods 1976-78 and 1981-85. Research shows that the incidence of one parent families also increased in many other OECD nations during the 1970s and early 1980s (Ermisch, 1987). Thus it is highly probable that the recent proportional increases in Australian one parent families are also part of a wider international trend.

Where they lived ... States and Territories

As a proportion of all families with dependent children in 1986, one parent families were most prevalent in the Northern Territory (19 per cent) and least prevalent in Victoria (13 per cent).

For all States and Territories, over 80 per cent of one parent families were lone mother families. South Australia and Tasmania had the highest proportion of one parent families which were lone mother families (87 per cent), while the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of one parent families which were lone father families (18 per cent).

TABLE 1.2 ONE PARENT FAMILIES BY STATE AND TERRITORY

State/ Territory	Lone mother families	Lone father families	Total	As a proportion of all families with dependent children	
				Total	per cent
				'000	per cent
		— per cent —			
NSW	86.2	13.8	100.0	113.5	15.3
Vic.	85.5	14.5	100.0	73.5	13.0
Qld	85.5	14.5	100.0	55.7	15.5
SA	87.2	12.8	100.0	28.2	15.4
WA	83.7	16.3	100.0	33.4	16.4
Tas.	87.1	12.9	100.0	9.8	15.7
NT	82.0	18.0	100.0	4.2	18.6
ACT	84.8	15.2	100.0	5.9	14.9
Australia	85.7	14.3	100.0	324.2	14.9

Source: Tables CSD020 and CSD021

... urban and rural areas

One parent families were more common in urban areas than in rural areas, being most highly represented in smaller cities and larger country towns, and least represented in sparsely populated areas such as farms and stations. Both in urban and rural areas, one parent families were most likely to be lone mother families. However, a higher proportion of urban one parent families were lone mother families than of rural one parent families (87 per cent compared to 79 per cent).

TABLE 1.3 ONE PARENT FAMILIES BY GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Location	Lone mother families	Lone father families	Total	As a proportion of all families with dependent children	
				Total '000	per cent
	— per cent —				
<i>Urban areas</i>	86.6	13.4	100.0	290.0	15.8
Major urban centres	86.5	13.5	100.0	207.8	15.5
Other urban centres	86.8	13.2	100.0	82.1	16.4
<i>Rural areas</i>	78.5	21.5	100.0	34.2	10.1
Rural Localities	82.7	17.3	100.0	8.6	14.3
Other rural areas	77.1	22.9	100.0	25.6	9.2
Total(a)	85.7	14.3	100.0	324.2	14.9

(a) Families who were counted on off-shore oil rigs, drilling platforms etc., aboard a ship in Australian waters, or on an overnight journey by train or bus have been included in the total but not in urban or rural categories.

Source: CSD020 and CSD021

... local areas

Within each State and Territory, the highest proportions of one parent families were generally located in city suburbs which featured relatively high concentrations of public housing and/or medium to high density private rental accommodation, or in remote areas in which proportionally large numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were counted. Rural areas other than these generally had the greatest under-representation of one parent families, as did city suburbs characterised by high proportions of recently constructed detached dwellings owned or being purchased by an occupant.

By way of illustration, there were 5 metropolitan areas where more than 35 per cent of families with children were in one parent families. In Kingston (ACT) and Belconnen Town Centre (ACT) over 80 per cent of dwellings were medium to high density and over 30 per cent of dwellings were rented from government agencies. In Kangaroo Point (Qld), 58 per cent of dwellings were medium to high density while in Inala (Qld) and Narrows (NT) about 50 per cent of dwellings were rented from government agencies. In contrast, in 2 of the 3 metropolitan areas where one parent families accounted for less than 4 per cent of all families with children, Mcarthur (ACT) and Westlake (Qld), over 90 per cent of dwellings were either owned or being purchased and all dwellings were separate houses. In the third area, Burbank (Qld), 86 per cent of dwellings were owned or being purchased and 96 per cent were separate houses.

In the country, more than 70 per cent of the population of the 3 areas with a high proportion of one parent families (Arukun in Queensland, Halls Creek in WA and East Arnhem - balance in NT) was Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

**TABLE 1.4 ONE PARENT FAMILIES AS A PROPORTION OF ALL FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN BY STATE/TERRITORY BY STATISTICAL LOCAL AREAS(a)
(per cent)**

<i>Statistical Local Area with highest proportions</i>	<i>Proportion</i>	<i>Statistical Local Area with lowest proportions</i>	<i>Proportion</i>
New South Wales			
City of Sydney(b)	32.5	New South Wales Conargo	4.4
Municipality of Leichhardt	26.5	Nundle Shire	6.3
Municipality of North Sydney	24.7	Holbrook Shire	6.5
Victoria			
City of St Kilda	30.3	Victoria Karkaroc Shire	3.6
City of Collingwood	29.7	Dundas Shire	3.7
City of Fitzroy	29.7	East Loddon Shire	4.4
Queensland			
Aurukun Shire	45.3	Queensland Burbank	3.8
Kangaroo Point	38.1	Tambo Shire	3.9
Inala	36.4	Westlake	3.9
South Australia			
City of Kensington and Norwood	31.9	South Australia District of Peake	3.7
City of Adelaide(b)	30.0	District of Clinton	4.3
City of Enfield(b)	28.1	District of Lameroo	4.5
Western Australia			
Halls Creek Shire	32.9	Western Australia Bruce Rock Shire	3.6
City of South Perth	29.8	Quairading Shire	4.3
City of Subiaco	29.2	Chapman Valley Shire	4.5
Tasmania			
Municipality of Brighton(b)	26.0	Tasmania Municipality of Waratah	1.5
City of Launceston(b)	20.3	Municipality of Zeehan	5.8
City of Hobart(b)	19.5	Municipality of Evandale(b)	6.9
Northern Territory			
East Arnhem - Balance	38.2	Northern Territory Berrimah-Coonawarra(c)	4.9
Narrows	36.7	Nhulunbuy	6.1
Coconut Grove	33.1	Marrara	11.3
Australian Capital Territory			
Kingston	58.6	Australian Capital Territory Macarthur	1.6
Belconnen Town Centre	50.4	Fadden	5.0
Lyneham	34.6	Isabella Plains	5.3

(a) Statistical Local Areas (SLA) in which less than 100 families with dependent children were counted on census night have been excluded from consideration unless they formed part of a Local Government Area (LGA). (b) LGA comprising more than one SLA. (c) Comprises the Darwin SLA of City - Remainder.

Source: CDATA86

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Relationship between members

Three-quarters of one parent families consisted of just a parent and one or more dependent children. Lone mother families were less likely than lone father families to have included adult children (15 per cent of lone mother families compared to 20 per cent of lone father families) and slightly more likely to have included an unpartnered ancestor.

TABLE 2.1 ONE PARENT FAMILIES BY FAMILY TYPE
(per cent)

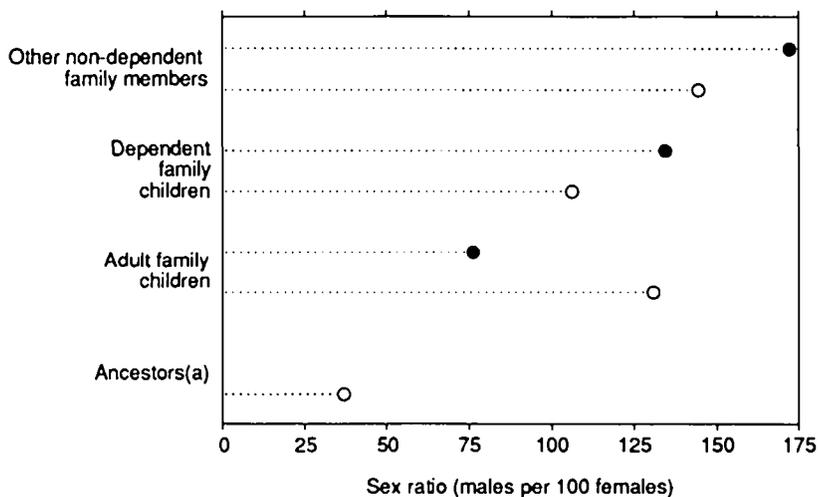
Family type	Lone mother families	Lone father families
Parent and dependent child(ren) only	77.4	71.9
Parent, dependent child(ren) & other family member(s)	22.6	28.1
Adult family child(ren) present	14.6	19.5
Ancestor(s) present	5.0	4.5
Other family member(s) present	4.4	5.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: AH0001

Boys lived with their fathers

In both lone mother and lone father families, as in couple families, there were more dependent boys than girls. However the sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) of dependent children was greater for lone father families (134) than for lone mother families (106). This difference is perhaps indicative of a greater tendency for boys to live with their father if their parents split up. Among adult children the sex ratios were markedly different. More adult sons than adult daughters lived in lone mother families while adult daughters were more common in lone father families. Of other family members, ancestors were more likely to have been female while other family members were far more likely to have been male.

FIGURE 2.1 SEX RATIOS OF FAMILY MEMBERS IN ONE PARENT FAMILIES



(a) The number of ancestors in lone father families was too small to allow reliable estimates based on a 1 per cent sample to be made.

● In lone father families
○ In lone mother families

Source: AH0001

Young mothers but older fathers

Lone mothers had a similar median age to partnered mothers (women in married or de facto couples who had at least one dependent child). With a median age of 40.4 years, lone fathers were slightly older than partnered fathers whose median age was 38.5 years. Lone mothers and lone fathers were both more likely than partnered mothers and fathers respectively to be either relatively young (under 25 years of age) or relatively old (50 years or older).

TABLE 2.2 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF PARENTS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Age of parent (years)	Mothers		Fathers	
	In one parent families	In couple families with dependent children(a)	In one parent families	In couple families with dependent children(a)
	— per cent —			
15 - 19	2.7	0.5	2.5	0.1
20 - 24	11.0	5.9	4.6	2.5
25 - 29	16.0	16.4	7.2	11.4
30 - 39	39.8	47.4	34.2	43.2
40 - 49	22.8	24.5	34.1	31.1
50 and over	7.6	5.3	17.3	11.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	— years —			
Median age	35.3	35.9	40.4	38.5

(a) Excludes parents in couple families who were absent from their household on census night.

Source: CX0081 and AH0001

Never married and previously married parents

Reasons for the higher proportions of lone parents who were relatively young or old become evident when the marital status of lone parents is also examined. There was a very high proportion of young lone parents who had never married, and a similarly high proportion of much older lone parents who were either separated, divorced or widowed. Thus, one parent families headed by young parents and those headed by much older parents constituted two quite distinct groups who would generally have had different experiences. The overwhelming majority of younger lone parents had never been married and hence were less likely to have lived as a two parent family, whereas most of the older ones would have lived as a two parent family and experienced the loss of, or separation from, their partner.

TABLE 2.3 LONE PARENTS: AGE BY SEX BY MARITAL STATUS

Age (years)	Never Married	Sep- arated(a)	Divorced	Widowed	Total	Total
MOTHERS						
— per cent —						'000
15 - 19	92.9	6.3	0.5	0.3	100.0	7.5
20 - 24	67.2	25.0	6.8	1.0	100.0	30.6
25 - 29	35.7	37.9	23.9	2.5	100.0	44.4
30 - 34	16.7	37.7	41.1	4.5	100.0	53.2
35 - 39	7.8	35.0	49.5	7.7	100.0	57.5
40 - 44	4.6	31.7	50.6	13.1	100.0	41.0
45 - 49	3.2	29.0	44.5	23.3	100.0	22.4
50 and over	2.7	22.3	26.4	48.7	100.0	21.2
Total	21.6	32.2	35.7	10.5	100.0	277.8
FATHERS						
— per cent —						'000
15 - 19	97.2	2.3	0.5	—	100.0	1.1
20 - 24	81.8	15.3	2.1	0.8	100.0	2.2
25 - 29	37.3	44.1	15.3	3.3	100.0	3.4
30 - 34	14.9	48.0	31.5	5.5	100.0	6.1
35 - 39	6.6	43.6	42.1	7.7	100.0	9.8
40 - 44	3.6	40.2	44.9	11.3	100.0	9.3
45 - 49	3.1	37.8	41.0	18.1	100.0	6.5
50 and over	3.5	30.3	30.3	35.9	100.0	8.0
Total	14.0	38.1	34.2	13.7	100.0	46.3

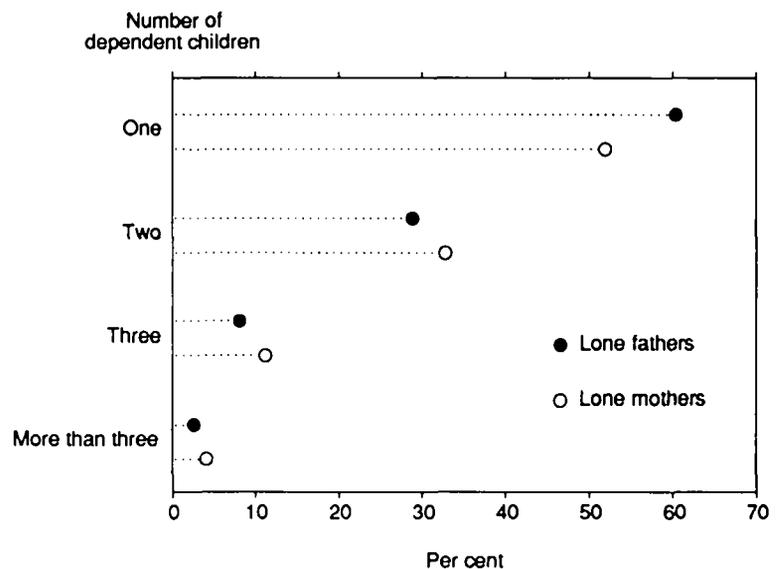
(a) Includes lone parents who stated that they were married.

Source: Table CX0081

Fewer dependent children in one parent families

One parent families tended to have fewer dependent children than two parent families. Overall, most lone parents (60 per cent of fathers and 52 per cent of mothers) had only one dependent child in 1986. A higher proportion of lone mother families than lone father families had more than one dependent child.

FIGURE 2.2 LONE PARENTS: NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN BY SEX



Source: CX0080

By comparison, most two parent families (67 per cent) had at least two dependent children. Among one parent families, only lone mothers in the age groups 25-34 years and 35-44 years were more likely to have two or more dependent children than to have just one. For all broad age groups up to 45 years, lone mothers had on average more children than lone fathers of the same age. Lone mothers and lone fathers aged 45 years or older averaged the same number of dependent children.

TABLE 2.4 PARENTS: AGE BY SEX BY NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Age (years)	Number of dependent children				Total	Mean number of dependent children(a)
	One	Two	Three	More than three		
	— per cent —					
<i>Lone mothers</i>	51.9	32.8	11.2	4.1	100.0	1.7
15 - 24	73.9	20.8	4.3	1.0	100.0	1.3
25 - 34	43.2	36.9	14.3	5.6	100.0	1.8
35 - 44	43.7	38.2	13.4	4.7	100.0	1.8
45 and over	70.7	22.0	5.4	1.9	100.0	1.4
<i>Lone fathers</i>	60.4	28.9	8.1	2.6	100.0	1.5
15 - 24	81.9	14.7	2.7	0.7	100.0	1.2
25 - 34	55.4	32.5	9.1	3.0	100.0	1.6
35 - 44	52.3	34.0	10.6	3.2	100.0	1.7
45 and over	69.3	23.2	5.5	2.0	100.0	1.4
Parents in couple families	32.9	41.7	18.7	6.7	100.0	2.0

(a) For purposes of calculation, parents with more than five dependent children were considered to have had only five dependent children.

Source: Tables CX0072 and CX0080

... and older children

Many one parent families are formed when two parent families experience parental separation or death. Thus dependent children in a one parent family have generally been dependent children in a two parent family at a younger age. For this reason, and because the average age of dependent children in such one parent families is unlikely to be lowered by the addition of newborn babies, dependent children in one parent families are on average older than those in two parent families.

In 1986, 517,900 dependent children (approximately 1 in every 8) were counted as members of one parent families. There were, however, proportionally fewer of these children aged under 5 years and proportionally more aged 15 years or older in both lone mother and lone father families than in two parent families. Overall, 23 per cent of children in one parent families were aged less than 5 years and 16 per cent were aged 15-20 years, compared to 29 per cent and 14 per cent respectively of children in two parent families. Among one parent families, the under-representation of children under school age and the over-representation of adolescent and voting age dependent children was much more pronounced in lone father families. In both lone mother families and two parent families there were considerably more dependent children aged under 5 years than aged 15-20 years whereas in lone father families there were almost two dependent children aged 15-20 years for every one aged under 5 years.

TABLE 2.5 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEPENDENT FAMILY CHILDREN(a)

Age (years)	Living in one parent families(b)			Living in couple families
	Lone mother families	Lone father families	Total	
	— per cent —			
0 - 4	24.8	13.0	23.3	28.7
5 - 14	60.1	64.2	60.6	56.9
15 - 20	15.1	22.8	16.1	14.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	— '000 —			
Total children	453.4	64.5	517.9	3,660.0

(a) Excludes dependent family children who were absent from their household on census night.

(b) For purposes of calculation, parents with more than seven dependent children present on census night were considered to have had eight dependent children present on census night.

Source: Tables CX0079 and VF0056

Religion ... more Anglicans than Catholics

For both lone parents and couple parents, Anglican and Catholic were the most commonly stated religions, together accounting for 51 per cent of lone parents and 50 per cent of couple parents. However, among lone parents there were more Anglicans than Catholics (84,200 compared to 80,100), whereas the reverse was true for parents from couple families with dependent children.

Lone parents were more likely than couple parents to have stated that they had no religion (16 per cent compared to 12 per cent), and for both groups this was the third most common response to the religion question. Two per cent of lone parents stated they were affiliated with a non-Christian religion, compared to 3 per cent of couple parents.

TABLE 2.6 PARENTS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN: RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION (per cent)

Religious affiliation	Lone parents	Couple parents
Christian	70.8	74.1
Anglican	26.2	23.1
Catholic	25.0	26.4
Orthodox	1.2	3.6
Baptist	1.7	1.4
Lutheran	1.3	1.4
Presbyterian & Reformed church	3.1	3.5
Uniting	6.4	7.8
Other	6.0	6.8
Non-Christian	1.7	2.6
Muslim	0.5	1.1
Other	1.3	1.4
No religion	16.3	12.2
Religion not stated	11.2	11.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: AH0001

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

In June 1986 there were 40,500 families with dependent children identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, of which 33 per cent were one parent families. In comparison, 15 per cent of all other Australian families were one parent families. This higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families may be explained in part by the relatively young age structure of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The high proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander one parent families also contributed to the high proportion of one parent families in the Northern Territory where the population is 22 per cent Aboriginal.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander one parent families differed from other one parent families in that they were more likely to have included other adult family members. Thirty-six per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander one parent families included other adult family members compared to 23 per cent of all other one parent families.

TABLE 2.7 FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN: FAMILY TYPE BY ABORIGINALITY

<i>Family type</i>	<i>Aboriginal/ TSI families</i>	<i>Non Aboriginal/ TSI families(a)</i>	<i>All families</i>
		— per cent —	
<i>One parent families</i>	33.0	14.5	14.9
Parent and dependent child(ren)	21.2	11.2	11.3
Parent, dependent child(ren) and adult family member(s)	11.8	3.4	3.5
<i>Couple families with dependent child(ren)</i>	67.0	85.5	85.1
Couple and dependent child(ren)	45.5	68.2	67.8
Couple, dependent child(ren) and adult family member(s)	21.5	17.3	17.3
Total families with dependent child(ren)	100.0	100.0	100.0
		— '000 —	
Total families with dependent child(ren)	40.5	2,137.6	2,178.2

(a) Includes Aboriginality not stated.

Source: CA0067 and CSD025

Birthplaces of lone mothers

Australian-born mothers were more likely to have been lone mothers than overseas-born mothers. Of Australian-born mothers, 14 per cent were lone mothers compared to 10 per cent of overseas-born mothers. However, within the overseas-born group the proportions ranged widely. Almost 20 per cent of mothers born in New Zealand and 15 per cent of German-born mothers were lone mothers. In comparison, among mothers born in Greece, Italy or Yugoslavia less than 6 per cent were lone mothers.

TABLE 2.8 SELECTED BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN(a)

<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Mother in one parent family</i>	<i>Mother in couple family with dependent children</i>	<i>Total mothers with dependent children</i>	<i>Proportion of mothers with dependent children who were lone parents</i>
		— '000 —		per cent
Australia	210.8	1,280.7	1,491.5	14.1
Overseas	59.5	531.1	590.6	10.1
Africa	1.2	18.5	19.7	6.1
America	2.4	19.0	21.4	11.2
<i>Asia</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>99.5</i>	<i>107.3</i>	<i>7.3</i>
India	*0.5	8.0	8.5	*5.9
Lebanon	*1.0	14.3	15.3	*6.5
Malaysia(b)	*0.5	8.0	8.5	*5.9
Vietnam	1.9	12.4	14.3	13.3
<i>Europe</i>	<i>41.2</i>	<i>360.5</i>	<i>401.7</i>	<i>10.3</i>
Germany(c)	2.9	17.1	20.0	14.5
Greece	1.3	35.5	36.8	3.5
Italy	2.9	49.7	52.6	5.5
Malta	*0.8	12.6	13.4	*6.0
Netherlands	2.6	16.6	19.2	13.5
Poland	*0.8	6.6	7.4	*10.8
UK & Ireland	24.8	169.1	193.9	12.8
Yugoslavia	1.5	29.4	30.9	4.9
<i>Oceania</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>33.6</i>	<i>40.5</i>	<i>17.0</i>
New Zealand	6.2	25.9	32.1	19.3

(a) Excludes mothers in couple families who were absent from their household on census night.
 (b) Includes Brunei. (c) GDR and GFR.

Source: AH0001

... use of a non-English language at home

Both lone mothers and partnered mothers who had been born in a major non-English speaking country or region were likely to have spoken a non-English language at home. However, lone mothers were less likely than partnered mothers from the same country to have spoken a language other than English at home. For example, 78 per cent of Asian-born lone mothers spoke a language other than English at home compared to 82 per cent of Asian-born partnered mothers.

... ability to speak English

Of those lone mothers who did speak a non-English language at home, 84 per cent of those born in Vietnam did not speak English well or at all. European-born lone mothers (excluding those born in the UK or Ireland) who spoke a language other than English at home were much less likely to have had difficulties with English (only 19 per cent did not speak English well or at all). These European-born lone mothers were also more likely than partnered mothers born in Europe to have considered themselves to have spoken English well. The opposite was apparent among the more recently arrived Asian-born mothers who spoke a non-English language at home. A greater proportion of such lone mothers than of such partnered mothers (48 per cent compared to 33 per cent) said that they did not speak English well, if at all.

TABLE 2.9 MOTHERS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN(a): SELECTED BIRTHPLACES BY LANGUAGE USAGE BY PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH (per cent)

<i>Birthplace</i>	<i>Mothers in one parent families</i>		<i>Mothers in couple families</i>	
	<i>Spoke a language other than English at home</i>	<i>Spoke a language other than English at home and spoke English not well or not at all</i>	<i>Spoke a language other than English at home</i>	<i>Spoke a language other than English at home and spoke English not well or not at all</i>
<i>Americas</i>				
South America	100.0	*33.3	95.2	35.0
<i>Asia</i>				
Western	78.2	47.5	82.1	33.5
Lebanon	92.9	*30.8	96.5	35.4
Other	*90.0	*44.4	97.9	32.8
Vietnam	75.0	52.1	76.1	32.5
	100.0	84.2	98.4	61.2
<i>Europe</i>				
(excl. UK & Ireland)	65.2	18.9	82.6	24.9
Southern	78.3	25.9	91.2	28.1
Greece	100.0	*38.5	97.5	40.6
Italy	82.8	*25.0	90.5	23.3
Yugoslavia	*66.7	*	95.5	23.2
Other	55.8	*11.8	62.8	14.4
Germany(b)	44.8	*	57.3	*5.1
Poland	*87.5	*	90.8	33.9

(a) Excludes mothers in couple families who were absent from their household on census night.
(b) GDR and GFR.

Source: AH0001

INCOME AND HOUSING

Most one parent families had low income

In 1986, over 60 per cent of one parent families were in the lowest income quintile for all families with dependent children. Only 12 per cent of two parent families were in this category. In contrast, while 23 per cent of two parent families were ranked in the top income quintile, the comparable figure for one parent families was 3 per cent. The pattern for dependent children by family type was similar.

TABLE 3.1 FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN: FAMILY TYPE BY PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN THE LOWEST AND HIGHEST FAMILY INCOME QUINTILES(a)

	<i>One parent families</i>		<i>Couple families with dependent children</i>	
	<i>per cent</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>per cent</i>	<i>'000</i>
<i>Families</i>				
In the lowest income quintile	63.1	204.7	11.8	219.4
In the highest income quintile	2.8	9.2	23.2	431.0
<i>Dependent children(b)</i>				
In the lowest income quintile	64.6	349.4	12.0	448.9
In the highest income quintile	2.6	13.8	22.1	826.6

(a) Income quintiles were calculated from the family incomes of families with dependent children.
 (b) For purposes of calculation, families with more than seven dependent children were considered to have eight dependent children.

Source: AH0001

Housing ... most lone mothers renting

More than half (56 per cent) of lone mother families were renting the dwelling in which they spent census night. In comparison, 36 per cent of lone father families and 20 per cent of couple families with dependent children were renting. Conversely, lone mothers were much less likely to have owned or been purchasing their dwelling. Only 41 per cent of lone mothers owned or were purchasing, compared to 60 per cent of lone fathers and 77 per cent of couple families with dependent children.

... least likely to be in a separate house

Seventy-two per cent of lone mother families lived in a separate house, a lower proportion than that of either lone father families (82 per cent) or couple families with dependent children (92 per cent).

**TABLE 3.2 ONE FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE DWELLINGS
CONTAINING FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN: FAMILY TYPE BY
NATURE OF OCCUPANCY BY STRUCTURE OF DWELLING(a)**

Family type/ Nature of occupancy	Structure of dwelling				Total	Total
	Separate house	Medium density	High rise	Other (b)		
LONE MOTHER FAMILIES						
			— per cent —			'000
Owned	15.9	1.0	*0.2	*	17.3	40.1
Being purchased	21.2	2.5	*	*0.2	24.0	55.6
Rented	32.8	21.1	1.6	0.6	56.2	130.0
From government agency	15.9	8.6	1.0	*	25.5	58.9
From private landlord	17.0	12.5	0.7	0.6	30.7	71.1
Other	2.1	*0.3	*	*	2.5	5.8
Total	72.1	24.9	2.0	1.0	100.0	231.5
LONE FATHER FAMILIES						
			— per cent —			'000
Owned	22.1	*1.0	*	*1.2	24.3	10.4
Being purchased	32.1	2.8	*	*	35.2	15.1
Rented	23.2	11.6	*	*	36.0	15.4
From government agency	9.8	3.0	*	*	12.7	5.4
From private landlord	13.4	8.7	*	*	23.2	9.9
Other	4.0	*	*	*	4.5	1.9
Total	81.5	15.5	0.7	2.4	100.0	42.8
COUPLE FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN						
			— per cent —			'000
Owned	25.9	0.6	0.1	0.3	26.8	479.0
Being purchased	49.0	1.0	0.1	0.2	50.3	896.8
Rented	14.6	4.3	0.5	0.5	19.9	354.7
From government agency	5.2	1.1	0.2	*	6.5	116.1
From private landlord	9.4	3.2	0.3	0.5	13.4	238.5
Other	2.8	0.1	*	0.1	3.0	54.0
Total	92.3	6.0	0.6	1.1	100.0	1,784.4

(a) Excludes caravans etc. in caravan parks. (b) Includes mobile units, small watercraft, sheds, tents etc. not located in a caravan park or marina, and houses or flats attached to a non-residential structure.

Source: AH0001

Housing costs ... rent repayments

One parent families who rented their home from a government agency paid considerably less rent on average (both in nominal terms and as a proportion of weekly income) than one parent families who rented privately. This difference also applied to two parent families.

Although one parent families generally paid lower rents than two parent families, these lower rent payments constituted a higher proportion of weekly income for one parent families. For those families renting from a government agency, 4 per cent of one parent families and 2 per cent of two parent families spent more than half of their income on rent. Among families renting privately, 33 per cent of one parent families spent at least half of their weekly income on rent. The comparable proportion of two parent families was 6 per cent.

TABLE 3.3 ONE FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS IN RENTED PRIVATE DWELLINGS CONTAINING FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN(a): WEEKLY RENT PAYMENTS AS A PROPORTION OF WEEKLY FAMILY INCOME(b)

Landlord type/ Proportion of weekly income spent on weekly rent payments	One parent families			Two parent families		
	Per- centage distri- bution	Median weekly family income	Median weekly rent payment	Per- centage distri- bution	Median weekly family income	Median weekly rent payment
	per cent	— dollars —		per cent	— dollars —	
<i>Renting from a government agency</i>						
50% or more	4.3	111	73	1.5	101	80
25% - 49%	17.0	144	43	10.8	230	71
Less than 25%	78.7	178	32	87.6	439	53
Total	100.0	168	34	100.0	407	54
— '000 —						
Total	63.4	112.3
	per cent	— dollars —		per cent	— dollars —	
<i>Renting from a private landlord</i>						
50% or more	33.1	144	96	6.2	187	118
25% - 49%	43.4	221	81	29.2	316	103
Less than 25%	23.5	389	69	64.6	570	83
Total	100.0	200	85	100.0	451	92
— '000 —						
Total	78.8	223.2

(a) Comprises only households who stated that they were renting their dwelling from a government agency or from a private landlord. (b) For purposes of calculation, families who received weekly income greater than \$958 were considered to have received \$959, and households who paid weekly rent greater than \$199 were considered to have paid \$200.

Source: Table CX0082

... mortgage payments

Of those families paying off their home, one parent families tended to have had lower mortgage repayments than two parent families. However, as with rent payment for those who were renting their accommodation, mortgage repayments were a greater proportional outlay for one parent families than for two parent families. In one family households in mortgaged private dwellings, the proportion of one parent families paying at least half of their weekly income on mortgage repayments was six times that of comparable two parent families (12 per cent compared to 2 per cent).

TABLE 3.4 ONE FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS IN MORTGAGED PRIVATE DWELLINGS CONTAINING FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT FAMILY CHILDREN(a): MORTGAGE PAYMENTS AS A PROPORTION OF WEEKLY FAMILY INCOME(b)

Proportion of weekly income spent on weekly mortgage payments	One parent families			Two parent families		
	Per- centage distri- bution	Median weekly family income	Median weekly mortgage payment	Per- centage distri- bution	Median weekly family income	Median weekly mortgage payment
	per cent	— dollars —		per cent	— dollars —	
50% or more	12.4	142	105	2.2	200	144
25% - 49%	29.3	236	80	14.9	380	121
Less than 25%	58.3	393	52	82.9	627	76
Total	100.0	303	66	100.0	576	83
— '000 —						
Total	71.6	885.2

(a) Comprises only households who stated that a household member was purchasing the dwelling. (b) Families who received weekly income greater than \$958 were considered to have received \$959, and households who paid monthly mortgage repayments greater than \$799 were considered to have paid \$800. For purposes of calculation, monthly mortgage payments were converted to weekly equivalents.

Source: Table CX0083

Living with another family

In 1986, 14 per cent of one parent families (43,800) lived with another family (see Figure 1.1), compared to 3 per cent of couple families with dependent children. The most common sharing arrangement for one parent families was with a couple only family. Two one parent families were sharing in 6,800 households, accounting for 18 per cent of two family households containing a one parent family.

TABLE 3.5 TWO FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS: FAMILY COMPOSITION OF HOUSEHOLD

<i>Family type sharing household</i>	<i>One parent family households</i>		<i>Couple family households with dependant child(ren)</i>	
	<i>'000</i>	<i>per cent</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>per cent</i>
One parent family	6.8	18.4	9.4	18.2
Couple only family	11.3	30.5	27.8	53.9
Couple family with dependent child(ren)	9.4	25.4	6.2	12.0
Couple family & adult family member(s) only	5.3	14.3	5.2	10.1
Related adults family	4.2	11.4	3.0	5.8
Total households	37.0	100.0	51.6	100.0

Source: AH0001

... or with boarders and other non-family individuals

One parent families in one family households were considerably more likely than equivalent two parent families to have had a non-family individual (such as an adult boarder, co-tenant or an unrelated visitor) in their household on census night. Fourteen per cent of lone mother families (in one family households) compared to 11 per cent of comparable lone father families and 2 per cent of comparable two parent families shared their home with at least one such non-family individual.

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

Labour force participation

At the 1986 Census, both lone mothers and lone fathers were less likely than partnered mothers and partnered fathers respectively to have been in the labour force. Fifty-eight per cent of lone mothers were not in the labour force compared to 46 per cent of partnered mothers. Among fathers, 19 per cent of lone fathers and 4 per cent of partnered fathers were not in the labour force. Of those parents who were in the labour force, lone parents were more likely to have been unemployed. Among one parent families, many of the differences in income levels and housing characteristics between lone mother families and lone father families (see Section 3) were associated with their labour force participation rates.

TABLE 4.1 PARENTS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN: LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY FAMILY TYPE (per cent)

Labour force status	Mothers		Fathers	
	In one parent families	In couple families(a)	In one parent families	In couple families(a)
<i>In the labour force</i>	42.4	54.2	81.5	95.5
Employed	34.8	50.3	72.6	90.1
Unemployed	7.6	3.9	8.8	5.3
<i>Not in the labour force</i>	57.6	45.8	18.5	4.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Excludes those who did not spend census night with their family.

Source: Table CSC016 and AH0001

Part-time and full-time employment

While proportionally fewer lone mothers than partnered mothers were employed, the majority (60 per cent) of employed lone mothers worked full-time hours (i.e. 35 hours or more) in the week preceding the census. Less than half of employed partnered mothers worked full-time hours. Approximately 90 per cent of employed lone fathers were full-time workers. However, lone fathers were more likely to have worked part-time (i.e. less than 35 hours) in the week preceding the census than were partnered fathers.

TABLE 4.2 EMPLOYED PARENTS(a) WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN: HOURS WORKED BY FAMILY TYPE

Hours worked(b)	Mothers		Fathers	
	In one parent families	In couple families(c)	In one parent families	In couple families(c)
	— per cent —			
<i>Part-time</i>	39.6	53.7	10.3	7.0
1 - 15	17.9	22.0	3.3	1.8
16 - 24	11.3	18.6	*1.8	1.5
25 - 34	10.5	13.2	5.2	3.6
<i>Full-time</i>	60.4	46.3	89.7	93.0
35 - 40	46.3	31.9	52.7	48.1
41 - 48	9.3	5.1	18.2	20.4
More than 48	4.8	9.3	18.8	24.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	— hours —			
Median	37.2	32.2	40.5	40.8

(a) Comprises only those who stated that they were employed and also stated that they had worked for at least one hour in their main job in the week preceding the census. (b) In the week preceding the census. (c) Excludes those who did not spend census night with their family.

Source: AH0001

**Lone mothers
... least likely to be in the
labour force**

In 1986, participation in the labour force by lone mothers, lone fathers and partnered mothers was less likely the more dependent children the parent had, particularly if one or more of their children were under 5 years of age. Labour force participation rates of lone mothers were however, considerably lower than those of partnered mothers and lone fathers with the same number of children or with children under 5 years of age. For example, lone mothers with two children had a labour force participation rate of 43 per cent compared to 56 per cent for partnered mothers with two children and 83 per cent for comparable lone fathers.

TABLE 4.3 LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES OF PARENTS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN: NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN BY FAMILY TYPE (per cent)

	Mothers		Fathers	
	In one parent families	In couple families(a)	In one parent families	In couple families(a)
<i>Number of dependent children</i>				
One	45.7	55.7	81.9	93.7
Two	42.7	56.0	82.5	96.6
Three	33.9	51.5	78.2	96.3
Four	24.3	45.6	69.9	95.1
More than four	16.9	37.7	65.0	92.0
Total	42.4	54.2	81.5	95.5
<i>Number of dependent children aged 0 - 4 years(b)</i>				
One	30.1	45.5	79.4	96.5
More than one	16.7	33.6	74.3	96.9

(a) Excludes those who did not spend census night with their family. (b) Excludes parents in couple families whose spouse did not spend census night with their family.

Source: Tables CX0079, CX0080 and CP3023 and AH0001

... least likely to have a car

Lack of access to a private motor vehicle may be a restriction in seeking employment in that it may deter job seekers from applying for work located in areas either not serviced by public transport or serviced for only limited hours during each week.

The 1986 Census found that lone mother families were least likely to have had access to a motor vehicle, with 21 per cent of them having no registered vehicle owned or used by members of the household at their home on census night. In comparison, 9 per cent of lone father families and 3 per cent of couple families had no access to a vehicle.

TABLE 4.4 FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN: NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLD MOTOR VEHICLES BY FAMILY HOUSEHOLD TYPE

Motor vehicles per household	Family type					
	One parent families				Couple families with dependent children	
	Lone mother families		Lone father families			
	In one family households	Total	In one family households	Total	In one family households	Total
	— per cent —					
None	22.6	21.4	9.5	9.1	2.6	2.6
One	60.3	56.7	58.9	56.4	36.1	35.7
Two	13.3	16.1	21.5	23.8	47.8	47.4
Three	3.0	4.3	7.3	7.9	10.0	10.4
More than three	0.8	1.5	2.8	2.8	3.6	3.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
	— vehicles —					
Average(a)	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.8

(a) For purposes of calculation, households with more than three vehicles were considered to have had four vehicles.

Source: AH0001

... and more likely to use public transport to get to work

Journey to work data shows that twelve per cent of lone mothers used public transport to get to work on 30 June 1986, compared to 8 per cent of lone fathers.

TABLE 4.5 EMPLOYED PARENTS(a) WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN: METHODS OF TRAVEL TO WORK ON 30 JUNE 1986 BY FAMILY TYPE (per cent)

Method of travel used(b)	Mothers		Fathers	
	In one parent families	In couple families(c)	In one parent families	In couple families(c)
<i>Privately arranged transport</i>	89.6	91.8	92.7	92.9
Bicycle only	*0.5	0.8	*2.0	1.9
Car (excluding taxis)	82.0	83.8	85.1	83.7
As a driver only	76.5	70.4	82.5	77.9
As a passenger only	5.6	13.7	*2.6	6.1
Motor bike	.	*0.2	.	2.5
Taxi	*0.9	0.4	.	0.3
Walked only	5.9	6.7	4.6	4.6
<i>Public transport</i>	11.5	9.6	7.9	8.7

(a) Excludes those who did not go to work on 30 June 1986, those who worked at home only on 30 June 1986 and those who travelled to work on 30 June 1986 but did not state the method of travel. (b) Because more than one method of travel may have been used in the course of a parent's journey to work, categories are not mutually exclusive and therefore percentage totals may exceed 100.0. (c) Excludes those who did not spend census night with their family.

Source: AH0001

Fewer lone parents hold qualifications

Educational attainment data collected in the 1986 Census showed that both male and female lone parents were less likely to have held post-school qualifications than corresponding male and female partnered parents. Lone mothers were the least likely to have post-school qualifications (25 per cent held post-school qualifications).

TABLE 4.6 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PARENTS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (per cent)

Educational Attainment	Mothers		Fathers	
	<i>In one parent families</i>	<i>In couple families(a)</i>	<i>In one parent families</i>	<i>In couple families(a)</i>
<i>With post-school qualifications</i>	25.4	31.1	45.6	50.1
Degree	4.4	5.0	9.1	9.5
Diploma	3.5	5.9	4.8	4.9
Certificate	13.2	16.2	27.6	31.6
Other	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.1
<i>Without post-school qualifications(b)</i>	74.6	68.9	54.4	49.9
Left school aged 17 years or more	11.3	12.7	13.4	12.3
Left school aged 15 or 16 years	51.0	44.3	28.8	25.8
Left school aged 13 or 14 years	10.9	9.0	10.8	9.0
Left school aged 12 years or less(c)	1.5	3.0	*1.4	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Excludes those who did not spend census night with their family. (b) Includes those without post-school qualifications who did not state the age they left school and those still at school. (c) Includes those who did not go to school.

Source: AH0001

... but more lone mothers undertaking current study

In June 1986, 8 per cent of lone mothers were attending an educational institution, compared with less than 5 per cent of mothers in couple families. Just over 45 per cent of lone mother students were attending a college of technical and further education (TAFE) and a further 27 per cent were attending university.

TABLE 4.7 MOTHERS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN(a): LEVEL OF ATTENDANCE AT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION (per cent)

<i>Level of attendance/ Type of institution</i>	<i>In one parent families</i>	<i>In couple families</i>
<i>Attending —</i>	7.8	4.5
Full-time	2.3	0.6
University	0.9	0.1
CAE	*0.5	0.2
TAFE College	0.6	0.2
Other	*0.3	0.1
Part-time	5.6	3.9
University	1.2	0.8
CAE	1.0	0.7
TAFE College	2.8	2.2
Other	*0.5	0.3
<i>Not attending</i>	92.2	95.5
Total	100.0	100.0

(a) Excludes mothers in couple families who were absent from their household on census night. (b) Comprises those who stated neither level of attendance nor type of institution attended. Respondents who were attending an institution and who stated their level of attendance but not the type of institution attended and respondents who stated the type of institution attended but not their level of attendance have been pro-rated.

Source: AH0001

References

Australian Bureau of Statistics. *Divorces, Australia*. Cat. No. 3307.0.

Australian Bureau of Statistics. *The Labour Force*. Cat. No. 6203.0.

Australian Bureau of Statistics. *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia*. Cat. No. 6224.0.

Ermisch J., 1987. "Demographic Aspects of the Growing Number of Lone Parent Families." Proceedings, OECD Directors for Social Affairs, Manpower and Education Conference, Paper 2.

Glossary

Adult child	A child of the couple or lone parent; must be 15 years of age or older or, if a full-time student, 21 years of age or older. He/she must not have a spouse or child(ren) in the household or be listed as a usual resident temporarily absent.
Ancestor	A parent, grand-parent etc. of the family reference person or spouse, who did not have a spouse or dependent child either with him/her on census night or usually with him/her but temporarily absent on census night.
Couple	A man and a woman aged 15 years or older, either married to each other or in a defacto relationship with each other, who either spent census night in the same household or who usually resided in the same household.
Dependent child	A person aged under 15 years, or 15-20 years and a full-time student, who is the blood related, step, adopted, foster or otherwise unrelated but dependent child of one or two adults in a family household.
Family	Two or more people related to each other by blood, marriage, defacto relationship, adoption, fostering and/or other forms of child dependency who spent census night in the same household, or, in the case of temporarily absent spouses and natural, adopted and step dependent children only, those who usually resided in the same household.
Family Income	<i>The sum of the midpoints of the income ranges of all family members aged 15 years and over. Excludes families where one or more members were temporarily absent or did not state their income, except those families where stated incomes exceeded \$50,000, the largest income category.</i>
Household	A person living alone, or two or more persons who live and eat together in private residential accommodation.
Income quintiles	Calculated by ranking a given population according to the level of income received by each member of that population and then dividing that population into five equal sized groups (quintiles). Each quintile has a mutually exclusive range of income values and together the five form an exhaustive set of income values.
Labour force participation rate	The number of employed and unemployed people aged 15 years or more divided by the total population aged 15 years or more (excluding those for whom labour force status could not be determined).
Lone father family	A one parent family whose census reference person is a male lone parent.
Lone mother family	A one parent family whose census reference person is a female lone parent.
Lone parent	A person who did not spend census night with a spouse, or did not usually reside with a temporarily absent spouse, but who had at least one dependent child with whom he/she spent census night or with whom he/she usually resided but did not do so on census night because of a temporary absence.

Major urban centre	A population cluster which contains at least 100,000 people. Includes all capital city statistical divisions except Darwin.
One parent family	A lone parent and at least one dependent child of that lone parent who spent census night in the same household or who usually resided in the same household. A one parent family may contain other adults provided that such adults are related to the lone parent, spent census night with the family, and did not spend census night with a spouse or dependent child of their own, or did not state that they had a temporarily absent spouse or dependent child of their own.
Other rural area	The balance of land outside urban centres and rural localities.
Other urban centre	A population cluster which contains between 1,000 and 99,999 people, or a known holiday resort with a smaller population which contains at least 250 dwellings, of which at least 100 were occupied on census night.
Partnered parent	A person who had a spouse and at least one dependent child either with him/her on census night or usually with him/her but temporarily absent on census night.
Private dwelling	Normally a house, flat, part of a house or even a room, but can also be a house attached to, or rooms above shops or offices, an occupied caravan in a caravan park or boat in a marina, a house boat or a tent if it is standing on its own block of land. A caravan situated on a residential allotment is also classed as a private dwelling.
Reference person	A person aged 15 years or older and present in a family household on census night, the relationship to whom was defined for each other household family member. In a one parent family the lone parent was considered to be the reference person.
Related adults family	Two or more people aged 21 years or older, or aged 15 - 20 years and not full-time students, who spent census night in the same household, who were related to each other but not as partners in a marriage or defacto relationship, and who did not spend census night with a spouse or dependent child or did not state that they had a temporarily absent spouse or dependent child.
Rural area	A rural locality or other rural area.
Rural locality	A population cluster which contains between 200 and 999 people.
Sex ratio	The number of males for every 100 females
SLA (Statistical Local Area)	A geographic area generally defined as that lying within a local government's boundaries. In a location where there is no local government, or where the local government boundaries embrace a large population, an SLA may be defined by a rural region or by the boundaries of a city suburb.
Spouse	A partner of the opposite sex aged 15 years or older in a marriage or defacto relationship.
Two parent family	A couple and at least one dependent child of that couple who spent census night in the same household or who usually resided in the same household. A two parent family may contain other adults provided that such adults are related to a member of the couple, spent census night with the family, and did not spend census night with a spouse or dependent child of their own, or did not state that they had a temporarily absent spouse or dependent child of their own.

APPENDIX A

Publications in the series

Cat.No.	Title
2501.0	<i>Census 86 — Australia in Brief (Dec. 1987)</i>
2502.0	<i>Census 86 — Australia in Profile (Aug. 1988)</i>
2503.0	<i>Census 86 — Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People (Feb. 1991)</i>
2504.0	<i>Census 86 — Population Growth and Distribution in Australia (including internal migration) (Sept. 1990)</i>
2505.0	<i>Census 86 — Multicultural Australia (Dec. 1991)</i>
2506.0	<i>Census 86 — Australian Families and Households (Sept. 1989)</i>
2507.0	<i>Census 86 — Rural Australia</i>
2510.0	<i>Census 86 — Religion in Australia (Jan. 1991)</i>
2511.0	<i>Census 86 — Australia's One Parent Families (Dec. 1991)</i>
2514.0	<i>Census 86 — Fertility in Australia (Dec. 1991)</i>

APPENDIX B

Guide to data sources

A number of sources given for tables and figures in this publication are abbreviated for ease of reference. A full list of abbreviated titles follows.

AH	Table derived from a 1 per cent sample of unidentified households in private dwellings and all people within them, plus a one per cent sample of unidentified people in non-private dwellings. Because data are sampled, estimates are subject to sampling error and may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from the total counts. For further information see <i>Census 86 - Sample Files on Magnetic Tape</i> (Cat. No. 2184.0).
CA*	Tables of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population based on census count at place of enumeration (i.e. where people actually were on census night which may not have been where they usually resided).
CDATA86	Small area data from the 1981 and 1986 Population Censuses on CD ROM (Cat. No. 2522.0).
CP3	<i>Census 86 - Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings</i> (Cat. Nos. 2479.0 - 2487.0). Available for each State and Territory, and Australia.
CSC*	Seven page format consisting of 46 tables based on census count at place of enumeration.
CSD*	Twenty-one page format consisting of 70 tables based on census count at place of enumeration.
CX	Cross-classified table on microfiche or floppy disk.
VF	Tables produced for internal use.

If you require further information about the data sources used in this publication, refer to the *Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables* (Cat. No. 2175.0) available from the nearest ABS office (see Appendix D for addresses and telephone numbers) or contact an Information Officer.

* Available for a range of geographic areas. Refer to the *Catalogue of 1986 Census Tables* (Cat. No. 2175.0) for further information.

APPENDIX C

Data Quality

Reporting errors

Responses to census questions are influenced by the perceptions, attitudes and understanding of the respondent. Although data are edited for inconsistencies, errors in interpretation and reporting that cannot be corrected will still occur. In addition, errors may also occur in the processing and compilation of the responses.

Under-enumeration

While every effort is made to minimise under-enumeration, it inevitably occurs. Some reasons for this are the inadvertent omission of very young children, treatment by the collector of an occupied dwelling as unoccupied, and failure of the census collector to find a dwelling. Refusal to complete a census schedule is not a significant cause of under-enumeration.

Introduced random error

Data in this publication may have been randomly adjusted in an unbiased manner to avoid the release of confidential information which could identify an individual person or household.

The smaller the value the greater is the chance of randomisation, and the greater the relative adjustment. With very small cells therefore the data will be insufficiently exact to support analysis and, in any case, small numbers in the original data may be significantly affected by such things as reporting errors.

Other sources of data

The ABS conducts an on-going series of household surveys on both labour force and social topics. Results are published regularly and are also available in unpublished form. These surveys provide scope for more detailed analyses of particular topics than can be obtained from census data. Examples are:

Labour Force Survey
Household Expenditure Survey
Income Distribution Survey
Child Care Survey

The ABS also publishes data obtained as administrative by-product from other government bodies. Examples of these are school statistics and birth, death and marriage statistics.

Comparability with earlier censuses

Unlike previous census counts, assignment of family type was determined both by family members enumerated on census night, and by spouses (married or defacto) and dependent children usually resident with the family but temporarily absent that night. Because visiting family members were also taken into consideration when determining family type, counts of one and two parent families in the 1986 Census are expected to differ from those that would have been obtained had family coding been restricted to people who usually resided together. For readers desiring a more complete examination of family data quality, *Census 86 - Data Quality: Families* (Catalogue No. 2604.0) is recommended.

APPENDIX D

Inquiries

NEW SOUTH WALES

Information Services
 3rd Floor, St Andrew's House
 Sydney Square
 Sydney NSW 2000
 (Box 796, GPO Sydney 2001)
 Phone (02) 268 4611
 FAX (02) 268 4668

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Information Services
 Commonwealth Centre
 55 Currie Street
 Adelaide SA 5000
 (Box 2272, GPO Adelaide 5001)
 Phone (08) 237 7100
 FAX (08) 237 7566

VICTORIA

Information Services
 Level 5, Rialto North Tower
 525 Collins Street
 Melbourne VIC. 3000
 (Box 2796Y, GPO Melbourne 3001)
 Phone (03) 615 7000
 FAX (03) 615 7798

TASMANIA

Information Services
 1st Floor, 175 Collins Street
 Hobart TAS. 7000
 (Box 66A, GPO Hobart 7001)
 Phone (002) 20 5800
 FAX (002) 20 5995

QUEENSLAND

Information Services
 13th Floor, 313 Adelaide Street
 Brisbane QLD 4000
 (Box 9817, GPO Brisbane 4001)
 Phone (07) 222 6351
 FAX (07) 229 6042

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Information Services
 6th Floor, MLC Building
 81 Smith Street
 Darwin NT 0800
 (Box 3796, GPO Darwin 0801)
 Phone (089) 81 3456
 FAX (089) 81 1218

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Information Services
 Level 1, Hyatt Centre
 30 Terrace Road
 East Perth WA 6004
 (Box K881, GPO Perth 6001)
 Phone (09) 323 5140
 FAX (09) 221 2374

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Information Services
 Unit 5, Cameron Offices
 Chandler St
 Belconnen ACT 2617
 (Box 10, PO Belconnen, ACT 2616)
 Phone (06) 252 6627
 FAX (06) 253 1404