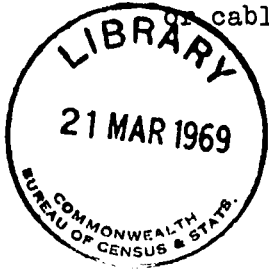


COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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SOCIAL STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA

NO. 69 : DIVORCE

SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1968

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bulletin contains statistics of dissolutions of marriage (commonly known as divorce), nullities of marriage and judicial separations for the September quarter 1968 and some comparative figures for previous periods. For further statistics in respect of past periods, see previous issues in this series and the annual bulletin "Demography". Detailed statistics for 1967 were shown in "Social Statistics No. 63 - Divorce 1967", issued on 6 August 1968.

2. The Commonwealth Matrimonial Causes Act 1959 came into operation on 1 February 1961. This Act provided a uniform law throughout Australia with respect to divorce and other matrimonial causes, and superseded the matrimonial causes laws of the States and Territories except in so far as the transitional provisions of the Act kept them in force for the purpose of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dissolution, nullity and judicial separation granted after that date include some decrees made on petitions under the superseded laws and are to that extent not uniformly based.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 1968 the number of such decrees had become insignificant.

3. Under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959-1966 a court may grant decrees of dissolution of marriage, judicial separation, nullity of marriage, 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 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 counted as a separate petition.

I. PETITIONS FILED

TABLE 1. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Year - 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
1966	4,892	2,621	1,173	1,133	787	357	46	123	11,132
1967	5,427	2,700	1,424	1,178	888	319	55	162	12,153
Quarter ended -									
September 1967	1,326	748	392	307	252	73	18	45	3,161
December 1967	1,230	670	382	271	200	92	8	41	2,894
March 1968	1,379	573	348	276	252	83	11	45	2,967
June 1968	r1,416	735	367	290	255	86	17	45	r3,211
September 1968	1,400	735	371	312	238	122	18	45	3,241

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

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

Petirion for -	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	Quarter ended -				
						Sept. 1967	Dec. 1967	March 1968	June 1968	Sept. 1968
Dissolution of marriage -										
Husband petitioner	4,000	4,215	4,413	4,510	4,798	1,263	1,139	1,148	r1,246	1,308
Wife petitioner	5,602	5,933	6,426	6,622	7,355	1,898	1,755	1,819	r1,965	1,933
<u>Total</u>	9,602	10,148	10,839	11,132	12,153	3,161	2,894	2,967	r3,211	3,241
Nullity of marriage -										
Husband petitioner	11	14	16	25	21	5	4	5	4	7
Wife petitioner	28	30	35	30	44	11	11	11	11	10
<u>Total</u>	39	44	51	55	65	16	15	16	15	17
Dissolution or nullity -										
Husband petitioner	5	5	15	9	9	2	2	1	4	1
Wife petitioner	10	12	10	12	11	3	4	1	4	8
<u>Total</u>	15	17	25	21	20	5	6	2	8	9
Judicial separation -										
Husband petitioner	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife petitioner	26	34	20	24	39	6	15	11	10	10
<u>Total</u>	29	34	21	25	39	6	15	11	10	10
Dissolution or judicial separation -										
Husband petitioner	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife petitioner	..	1	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	1	1	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	1
Total petitions -										
By husband - Number	4,020	4,234	4,445	4,545	4,828	1,270	1,145	1,154	r1,254	1,316
Per cent	42	41	41	40	39	40	39	39	39	40
By wife - Number	5,666	6,010	6,491	6,691	7,451	1,918	1,785	1,842	r1,990	1,962
Per cent	58	59	59	60	61	60	61	61	61	60
<u>TOTAL</u>	9,686	10,244	10,936	11,236	12,279	3,188	2,930	2,996	r3,244	3,278

TABLE 3. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1968

Petition for	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of marriage -									
Husband petitioner	538	280	163	112	128	62	9	16	1,308
Wife petitioner	862	455	208	200	110	60	9	29	1,933
<u>Total</u>	1,400	735	371	312	238	122	18	45	3,241
Nullity of marriage -									
Husband petitioner	2	2	1	..	..	1	..	1	7
Wife petitioner	4	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	10
<u>Total</u>	6	5	2	..	2	1	..	1	17
Dissolution or nullity -									
Husband petitioner	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wife petitioner	2	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	8
<u>Total</u>	2	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	9
Judicial separation -									
Wife petitioner	3	2	4	..	..	..	..	1	10
<u>Total</u>	3	2	4	..	..	..	..	1	10
Dissolution or									
judicial separation -									
Wife petitioner	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Total petitions -									
By husband - Number	540	283	164	112	128	63	9	17	1,316
Per cent	38	38	43	36	53	51	(a)	(a)	40
By wife - Number	871	464	215	201	112	60	9	30	1,962
Per cent	62	62	57	64	47	49	(a)	(a)	60
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,411	747	379	313	240	123	18	47	3,278

(a) Percentage not calculated.

II. DECREES GRANTED

TABLE 4. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Year - 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
1966	4,515	2,131	1,031	1,069	637	317	58	101	9,859
1967	4,555	2,039	1,074	929	726	248	20	97	9,688
Quarter ended -									
September 1967	1,077	793	312	235	193	63	7	24	2,704
December 1967	1,138	336	299	213	196	69	4	17	2,272
March 1968	1,480	829	344	217	273	57	8	44	3,252
June 1968	1,379	477	171	189	108	70	1	26	2,421
September 1968	1,070	659	286	237	196	95	6	47	2,596

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

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

Degree for -	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	Quarter ended -				
						Sept. 1967	Dec. 1967	March 1968	June 1968	Sept. 1968
Dissolution of marriage -										
Husband petitioner	3,257	3,377	3,523	4,010	3,892	1,108	913	1,293	908	1,016
Wife petitioner	4,216	4,536	4,966	5,841	5,791	1,595	1,359	1,958	1,513	1,579
Granted on petitions of both	3	4	2	8	5	1	..	1	..	1
<u>Total</u>	7,476	7,917	8,491	9,859	9,688	2,704	2,272	3,252	2,421	2,596
Nullity of marriage -										
Husband petitioner	7	11	10	18	16	5	3	8	6	1
Wife petitioner	25	33	25	32	34	8	10	11	4	6
<u>Total</u>	32	44	35	50	50	13	13	19	10	7
Judicial separation -										
Wife petitioner	7	6	8	12	8	2	3	5	4	4
<u>Total</u>	7	6	8	12	8	2	3	5	4	4
Total decrees -										
For husband - Number	3,264	3,388	3,533	4,028	3,908	1,113	916	1,301	914	1,017
Per cent	43	43	41	41	40	41	40	40	40	39
For wife - Number	4,248	4,575	4,999	5,885	5,833	1,605	1,372	1,974	1,521	1,589
Per cent	57	57	59	59	60	59	60	60	60	61
Granted on petitions of both	3	4	2	8	5	1	..	1	..	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	7,515	7,967	8,534	9,921	9,746	2,719	2,288	3,276	2,435	2,607

(a) Decrees absolute.

**TABLE 6. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL
SEPARATIONS GRANTED (a) : SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1968**

Degree for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Dissolution of marriage -									
Husband petitioner	394	270	118	87	77	50	3	17	1,016
Wife petitioner	676	388	168	150	119	45	3	30	1,579
Granted on petitions of both	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	1,070	659	286	237	196	95	6	47	2,596
Nullity of marriage -									
Husband petitioner	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wife petitioner	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	6
<u>Total</u>	4	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	7
Judicial separation -									
Wife petitioner	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	4
<u>Total</u>	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	4
Total decrees -									
For husband - Number	395	270	118	87	77	50	3	17	1,017
Per cent	37	41	41	36	39	53	(b)	(b)	39
For wife - Number	681	389	169	152	119	45	3	31	1,589
Per cent	63	59	59	64	61	47	(b)	(b)	61
Granted on petitions of both	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,076	660	287	239	196	95	6	48	2,607

(a) Decrees absolute

(b) Percentages not calculated

TABLE 7. - GROUNDS ON WHICH DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE, NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE
AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS WERE GRANTED (a) : SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1968

Ground	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE									
Single grounds -									
Desertion	529	312	148	82	55	35	1	13	1,175
Adultery	234	195	47	77	64	25	1	18	661
Separation	156	128	63	27	63	18	2	4	461
Cruelty	74	10	12	36	5	4	..	9	150
Drunkenness	14	5	9	2	2	..	..	1	33
Failure to pay maintenance	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Non-compliance with restitution decree	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Refusal to consummate	5	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	9
Insanity	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Frequent convictions	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Rape	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other single grounds	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	4
Dual grounds -									
Desertion and adultery	8	..	1	1	3	3	..	..	16
Desertion and separation	7	..	1	5	..	5	1	..	19
Desertion and cruelty	8	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	10
Desertion and drunkenness	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	6
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Desertion and frequent convictions	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Adultery and cruelty	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cruelty and drunkenness	25	..	..	2	1	2	1	1	32
Other dual grounds	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	3
Three grounds or more	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	4
<u>Total</u>	1,070	659	286	237	196	95	6	47	2,596
NULLITY OF MARRIAGE									
Bigamy	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Incapacity to consummate	2	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	5
<u>Total</u>	4	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	7
JUDICIAL SEPARATION									
Desertion	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Adultery	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Cruelty	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cruelty and drunkenness	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
<u>Total</u>	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	4

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 8. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a) : AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION
OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1968

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	Not stated	No.	%
Under 20
20 - 24	2	78	13	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96	4
25 - 29	..	149	230	14	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	396	15
30 - 34	..	27	198	162	23	6	1	1	..	..	..	418	16
35 - 39	..	6	50	171	177	32	5	2	2	..	1	446	17
40 - 44	..	1	14	50	153	150	44	4	..	1	..	417	16
45 - 49	..	1	3	10	48	122	105	18	5	1	..	313	12
50 - 54	3	11	33	89	80	11	..	..	227	9
55 - 59	4	1	9	19	42	45	12	..	132	5
60 & over	1	1	1	5	15	19	39	70	..	151	6
<u>Total (No. wives) (%)</u>	2	262	509	418	416	357	279	166	102	84	1	2,596	..
	..	10	20	16	16	14	11	6	4	3	..	..	100

(a) Decrees absolute; 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, SEPTEMBER QUARTER 1968

Duration of marriage (years)	Dissolutions of marriage with -							Total marriages dissolved		Total number of children (b)
	No children	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children	5 children	6 or more children	No.	Per cent	
Under 5	140	59	20	5	1	..	..	225	9	118
5 - 9	233	241	159	50	11	3	1	698	27	774
10 - 14	97	111	169	97	36	14	4	528	20	980
15 - 19	70	69	124	84	48	19	13	427	16	940
20 - 24	58	76	85	61	31	14	4	329	13	648
25 - 29	88	61	34	14	4	..	2	203	8	201
30 and over	143	32	9	1	1	..	..	186	7	57
<u>Total marriages dissolved</u>	No. 829	649	600	312	132	50	24	2,596	..	..
	% 32	25	23	12	5	2	1	..	100	..
<u>Total number of children (b)</u>	..	649	1,200	936	528	250	155	..	..	3,718

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

(b) At time of petition. The term "children" refers to "children of the marriage" as defined in the Matrimonial Causes Act, living and under 21 years.

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COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600 20 MARCH 1969

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 Extension 2268 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.