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VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES

Legal provisions

The system of compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853. The statutory duties under the Registration Act are performed by the Government Statist, who has supervision over registration officers, registrars of marriages, and (relating to their registration duties) the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by the Government Statist or by an Assistant Government Statist or an authorised registration officer are *prima facie* evidence in the courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the Government Statist's Office in Melbourne there is kept for reference a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1 July 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods, as far back as 1837.

The various Acts relating to the registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria were consolidated in 1958.

In November 1959, a Bill was placed before the Victorian Parliament to reorganise the system of registration of births and deaths in Victoria. This new legislation, known as the *Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act 1959*, which came into operation on 1 October 1960, was designed to allow registrations of births and deaths to be effected by post instead of through those persons who previously held office as Registrars of Births and Deaths. No alteration, however, was made to the system of registration of marriages. In 1961, the Commonwealth Parliament passed the *Marriage Act 1961*. A few minor provisions (relating mainly to certain extensions of the application of the prohibited degrees) came into operation on the date the Act received the Royal Assent (6 May 1961), and the remainder of the Act came into operation on 1 September 1963. On this date, the Act superseded the marriage laws of all the States, the two mainland Territories, and Norfolk Island.

Statistical summary

The principal vital statistics in Victoria from 1975 to 1979 are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Year	Number registered				Infant death rate (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)
	Marriages	Live births	Deaths	Infant deaths (a)	
1975	27,806	61,897	29,499	806	13.0
1976	28,760	60,667	30,753	702	11.6
1977	27,558	59,518	29,478	653	11.0
1978	27,178	58,861	29,096	616	10.5
1979	27,019	57,767	29,078	652	11.3

(a) Included in deaths. An infant death is the death of a live born child under one year of age.

Marriages

Marriages registered in Victoria in 1979 numbered 27,019, a decrease of 159 on the number registered in 1978.

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF MARRIAGES

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1975	36,958	27,806	15,230	9,843	9,026	3,242	406	1,462	103,973
1976	38,487	28,760	16,703	10,902	9,517	3,477	541	1,586	109,973
1977	36,159	27,558	15,737	10,126	10,063	3,166	618	1,491	104,918
1978	35,904	27,178	15,431	9,800	9,404	3,148	576	1,517	102,958
1979	36,906	27,019	16,082	9,778	9,239	3,254	553	1,565	104,396

VICTORIA—RELATIVE AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, 1979

Ages of bridegrooms (a) (years)	Ages of brides (a) (years)														Total bridegrooms	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 to 24	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 39	40 to 44	45 to 49	50 and over		
16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17	—	—	1	2	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
18	1	2	26	64	75	35	8	18	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	236
19	—	1	32	79	151	191	99	79	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	640
20	—	—	28	89	269	383	346	268	39	5	—	—	—	—	—	1,427
21 to 24	—	4	76	212	723	1,451	1,974	5,069	653	83	14	4	—	—	—	10,263
25 to 29	—	—	23	58	190	323	553	3,221	2,097	418	72	22	5	3	—	6,985
30 to 34	—	1	3	4	25	46	84	691	1,112	662	215	52	13	4	—	2,912
35 to 39	—	—	—	—	3	14	18	146	377	416	254	122	34	16	—	1,400
40 to 44	—	—	—	1	2	2	5	40	110	203	230	181	68	36	—	878
45 to 49	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	17	51	115	150	150	121	77	—	688
50 to 54	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	25	35	77	111	122	151	—	524
55 to 59	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	3	5	13	27	51	81	218	—	400
60 to 64	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	5	4	19	33	184	—	249
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	6	16	377	—	408
Total brides	1	8	189	510	1,446	2,451	3,089	9,556	4,483	1,960	1,049	718	493	1,066	—	27,019

(a) The marriage of bridegrooms under 18 years of age and brides under 16 years of age is restricted by the provisions of the Commonwealth *Marriage Act 1961*.

VICTORIA—PERCENTAGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1979

Age group (years)	Percentage of total	
	Bridegrooms	Brides
14	—	(a)
15	—	0.03
16	—	0.70
17	0.03	1.89
18	0.87	5.35
19	2.37	9.07
20	5.28	11.43
21 to 24	37.98	35.37
25 to 29	25.85	16.59
30 to 34	10.78	7.25
35 to 39	5.18	3.88
40 to 44	3.25	2.66
45 to 49	2.55	1.82
50 to 54	1.94	1.28
55 to 59	1.48	1.13
60 and over	2.43	1.53
Total	100.00	100.00

(a) Less than 0.01 per cent.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF PERSONS UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE (a)

Year	Age in years						Total		
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Number	Percentage of all marriages
BRIDEGROOMS									
1975	—	—	5	36	443	1,165	2,297	3,946	14.19
1976	—	—	1	28	429	943	1,982	3,383	11.76
1977	—	—	4	22	334	816	1,779	2,955	10.72
1978	—	—	2	16	275	726	1,505	2,524	9.29
1979	—	—	—	9	236	640	1,427	2,312	8.56
BRIDES									
1975	2	17	419	1,030	2,605	3,574	3,900	11,547	41.53
1976	1	17	363	862	2,229	3,209	3,490	10,171	35.37
1977	1	11	289	679	2,017	2,925	3,402	9,324	33.83
1978	4	4	227	597	1,775	2,705	3,129	8,441	31.06
1979	1	8	189	510	1,446	2,451	3,089	7,694	28.48

(a) An amendment to the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961, which came into effect on 1 July 1973, redefined a minor as "a person who has not attained the age of eighteen years" (previously 21 years).

VICTORIA—AVERAGE AGE AT MARRIAGE (a)

Year	Bridegrooms				Brides			
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced men	All bridegrooms	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced women	All brides
1975	24.8	57.5	39.2	27.2	22.2	51.0	36.1	24.5
1976	25.1	57.7	39.4	28.6	22.6	51.2	35.4	25.7
1977	25.1	57.6	38.5	28.6	22.7	50.1	34.8	25.7
1978	25.3	57.9	38.4	28.8	22.8	51.6	34.8	26.0
1979	25.5	58.0	38.6	28.9	23.0	51.7	35.0	26.2

(a) Arithmetic mean.

The age in relation to which approximately half the number of bachelors was younger, and approximately half was older (the median age), was 24.0 years in 1978 and 24.1 years in 1979. The corresponding age for spinsters was 21.7 years and 22.0 years. More bachelors were married at 22 years and spinsters at 21 years (the modal ages) than at any other age in both years.

The following tables show the previous marital status of bridegrooms and brides marrying from 1975 to 1979 and the proportions by previous marital status for periods since 1940:

VICTORIA—PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES

Period	Bridegrooms			Brides			Total marriages
	Bachelors	Widowers	Divorced men	Spinsters	Widows	Divorced women	
1975	24,386	922	2,498	24,392	1,035	2,379	27,806
1976	22,990	1,019	4,751	23,146	1,151	4,463	28,760
1977	21,778	912	4,868	22,033	1,019	4,506	27,558
1978	21,223	882	5,073	21,460	1,040	4,678	27,178
1979	21,137	862	5,020	21,323	1,036	4,660	27,019

VICTORIA—BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES BY PREVIOUS MARITAL STATUS: NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES, 1940 to 1979

Marriages between—	1978		Previous marital status	Percentage of total			
	Number	Percentage		1940-1949	1950-1959	1960-1969	1979
BRIDEGROOMS							
Bachelors and spinsters	19,049	70.5	Bachelors	90.5	89.5	91.6	78.2
Bachelors and widows	250	0.9	Widowers	4.9	4.5	3.4	3.2
Bachelors and divorced women	1,838	6.8	Divorced men	4.6	6.0	5.0	18.6
Widowers and spinsters	130	0.5	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Widowers and widows	417	1.5	BRIDES				
Widowers and divorced women	315	1.2	Spinsters	91.4	89.2	91.2	78.9
Divorced men and spinsters	2,144	7.9	Widows	3.9	4.4	3.6	3.8
Divorced men and widows	369	1.4	Divorced women	4.7	6.4	5.2	17.2
Divorced men and divorced women	2,507	9.3	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total marriages	27,019	100.0					

For many years civil marriage ceremonies were performed at certain country centres and at the Office of the Government Statist in Melbourne. This situation changed during 1973 and 1974 with the appointment of a number of additional civil celebrants, the majority of whom operate in the Melbourne metropolitan area. These additional civil celebrants may marry couples at any location.

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES

Year	Total civil marriages		Performed in the Office of the Government Statist in Melbourne	
	Number	Percentage of total marriages	Number	Percentage of total civil marriages
1975	5,459	19.63	2,767	50.69
1976	7,812	27.16	2,954	37.81
1977	8,174	29.66	2,363	28.91
1978	8,852	32.57	2,094	23.66
1979	9,221	34.13	1,999	21.68

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES: RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL, 1979 (a)

Category of celebrant	Number	Proportion of total marriages
Ministers of religion —		
Recognised denominations (b) —		
Roman Catholic Church	6,418	23.75
Uniting Church in Australia (c)	4,087	15.13
Church of England in Australia	3,737	13.83
Orthodox Churches (d)	790	2.92
The Presbyterian Church of Australia (c)	466	1.72
Churches of Christ in Australia	457	1.69
The Baptist Union of Australia	407	1.51
Lutheran Churches (d)	199	0.74
Jewry	195	0.72
The Salvation Army	174	0.64
Unitarians	149	0.55
Jehovah's Witnesses	87	0.32
Islam	63	0.23
Seventh Day Adventist Church	70	0.26
Other denominations	499	1.85
Total ministers of religion	17,798	65.87
Civil officers	9,221	34.13
Total marriages	27,019	100.00

(a) This table shows only denominations where the number of marriages for the latest year exceeded 50. Those with less than 50 marriages registered have been grouped in the category "other denominations".

(b) Under authority of the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961.

(c) The Uniting Church in Australia was formed in June 1977 joining the Methodist, Congregational, and Presbyterian Churches into one body. The Methodist Churches have unanimously joined the Uniting Church; however, some Congregational and Presbyterian Churches have elected to remain autonomous.

(d) Includes churches grouped under this heading in the proclamation made under the Commonwealth *Marriage Act* 1961.

Divorce

The Commonwealth *Family Law Act* 1975 came into operation throughout Australia on 5 January 1976, repealing the previous Matrimonial Causes legislation which had been operative since 1 February 1961. A Family Court of Australia was established to administer Family Law, including applications for dissolution of marriage and nullity of marriage. Under this new Act, there is only one ground for divorce — that of irretrievable breakdown of a marriage (i.e., irretrievable breakdown of a marriage is established under

the law if the husband and wife have separated and have lived apart from each other for a continuous period of not less than twelve months immediately preceding the date of the filing of the application for dissolution of marriage and there is no reasonable likelihood of reconciliation). The adoption of a single ground for dissolution of marriage (where fault is no longer taken into account) contrasts strongly with the previous Matrimonial Causes legislation which provided that a dissolution could be granted on one or more of fourteen grounds (e.g., adultery, desertion, cruelty, etc.).

The Act provides that all applications for nullity of marriage shall be based on the ground that the marriage is void. A void marriage is invalid because of failure to meet a legal requirement, for example, the requirement that parties must not be lawfully married to another person. The Family Law Act makes no provisions for applications for nullity of voidable marriage, as did the Matrimonial Causes legislation.

Successful applicants for decrees of dissolution of marriage are, in the first instance, awarded a decree nisi. A decree nisi becomes absolute at the expiration of a period of one month from the making of the decree, unless it is rescinded, appealed against, or the court is not satisfied that proper arrangements have been made for the welfare of children of the marriage. Decrees nisi are not awarded in respect of proceedings for nullity of marriage.

At the commencement of the Family Law Act in January 1976, there were a significant number of pending applications for dissolution or nullity of marriage which had been submitted under the previous Matrimonial Causes legislation. Family Law legislation provided that such applications could be dealt with under either the new or the old legislation.

During 1976, 3,712 decrees were granted under Matrimonial Causes legislation and 12,921 decrees were granted under Family Law legislation in Victoria. The total figure for 1976 shows a marked increase over figures for previous years. However, caution should be used in interpreting this figure, since part of the increase may be due to deferment of applications for divorces pending the introduction of the new legislation. As well, statistics of divorces granted on an annual basis do not necessarily indicate precise trends in divorce rates as the figures may be affected from year to year by various administrative factors, for example, the occurrence of law vacations, and the availability of courts or judges (i.e., a rise in one year may be due wholly or in part to the clearing of a backlog of cases from an earlier period).

AUSTRALIA—DIVORCES (DECREEES GRANTED)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1975	10,737	5,683	2,689	1,819	2,241	591	87	460	24,307
1976 —									
Matrimonial Causes	5,148	3,712	2,961	1,407	1,774	331	35	375	15,743
Family Law	17,009	12,921	6,658	4,741	3,044	1,430	388	1,333	47,524
1977	15,785	10,859	7,302	4,422	3,975	1,134	345	1,353	45,175
1978	13,806	10,830	6,110	3,806	3,387	1,132	291	1,271	40,633
1979	12,615	9,471	5,817	3,797	3,397	1,167	263	1,346	37,873

VICTORIA—DIVORCE: DECREES GRANTED: DISSOLUTION AND NULLITY OF MARRIAGE BY SEX OF APPLICANT, 1979

Sex of applicant	Dissolution	Nullity	Total
Males	3,656	—	3,656
Females	5,815	—	5,815
Persons	9,471	—	9,471

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED:
AGES OF PARTIES (AT DATE OF DECREE), 1979

Ages of husbands (years)	Ages of wives (years)										Total husbands
	Under 21	21-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55 and over	Not stated	
Under 21	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
21-24	71	419	49	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	542
25-29	32	673	1,101	103	17	2	—	—	—	3	1,931
30-34	6	105	910	948	95	12	1	—	—	3	2,080
35-39	2	16	137	670	561	70	14	2	3	2	1,477
40-44	—	2	33	139	447	402	59	11	7	3	1,103
45-49	—	1	10	26	92	324	324	60	16	2	855
50-54	1	2	1	6	39	110	210	226	69	1	665
55 and over	—	1	2	10	13	23	92	211	440	5	797
Not stated	—	2	3	—	3	1	—	—	3	1	13
Total wives	118	1,223	2,246	1,905	1,267	944	700	510	538	20	9,471

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: DECREES GRANTED:
DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1979

Duration of marriage (years)	Number of children							Total dis- solutions	Total children
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over		
1	74	9	3	1	—	—	1	88	24
2	391	89	24	10	—	1	—	515	172
3	409	158	41	8	1	1	—	618	273
4	433	163	64	8	—	1	—	669	320
5	294	165	89	7	1	—	—	556	368
6	244	146	121	26	4	—	2	543	497
7	203	161	162	29	1	3	1	560	597
8	177	128	184	47	5	1	—	542	662
9	118	110	154	48	7	2	—	439	600
10	87	81	206	65	20	4	1	464	797
11	54	58	175	75	15	—	1	378	699
12	31	48	161	75	21	6	3	345	728
13	31	47	141	76	18	3	1	317	651
14	34	38	100	77	32	11	2	294	665
15-19	101	144	393	290	134	53	16	1,131	2,703
20-24	235	256	240	109	41	7	8	896	1,313
25-29	342	141	61	26	7	—	—	577	369
30 and over	472	50	13	2	1	1	—	539	91
Total dissolutions of marriage	3,730	1,992	2,332	979	308	94	36	9,471	..
Total children	—	1,992	4,664	2,937	1,232	470	234	..	11,529

NOTE. Children are those living and under 18 at the time of the petition. Includes children deemed to be children of the marriage in accordance with section 5 of the Commonwealth *Family Law Act 1975*.

Births

The following table shows the number of births in each State and Territory from 1975 to 1979:

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1975	80,918	61,897	36,403	19,986	20,338	6,982	2,118	4,370	233,012
1976	78,492	60,667	35,243	18,947	20,670	6,702	2,607	4,482	227,810
1977	77,996	59,518	34,935	19,260	20,651	6,735	2,558	4,638	226,291
1978	77,773	58,861	34,465	18,558	20,611	6,788	2,692	4,433	224,181
1979	77,134	57,767	35,195	18,478	20,469	6,757	2,843	4,487	223,130

**VICTORIA—BIRTHS BY SEX, MASCULINITY, AND AVERAGE AGE
OF FATHER AND MOTHER**

Year	Males	Females	Total	Masculinity (a)	Confinements average age (b)		
					Nuptial		Ex-nuptial
					Father	Mother	Mother (c)
1975	31,904	29,993	61,897	106.37	29.6	26.7	23.2
1976	31,068	29,599	60,667	104.96	29.7	26.8	23.3
1977	30,803	28,715	59,518	107.27	29.9	27.0	23.2
1978	30,202	28,659	58,861	105.38	30.1	27.3	23.2
1979	29,709	28,058	57,767	105.88	30.3	27.5	23.3

(a) Number of male births per 100 female births.

(b) Arithmetic mean.

(c) Information is not available to allow the calculation of the average age of fathers of ex-nuptial children.

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND
PREVIOUS ISSUE, 1979**

Age group of mother (years)	Number of married mothers with previous issue numbering—										Total married mothers	
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 and over		Not stated
Under 20	1,575	344	20	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,941
20-24	7,915	4,994	1,194	175	26	2	—	—	—	—	—	14,306
25-29	7,741	8,398	4,251	1,044	196	46	11	2	—	—	—	21,689
30-34	2,358	3,596	3,157	1,340	370	119	51	8	5	2	—	11,006
35-39	533	650	647	448	219	115	65	38	23	20	—	2,758
40-44	71	73	98	71	55	43	21	23	16	18	—	489
45-49	2	4	2	4	2	4	1	1	3	5	—	28
50 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not stated	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Total	20,195	18,062	9,369	3,084	869	329	149	72	47	45	1	52,222
Proportion of total married mothers	38.67	34.59	17.94	5.91	1.66	0.63	0.29	0.14	0.09	0.09	—	100.0

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS:
NUMBER OF MOTHERS IN AGE GROUPS,
TOTAL ISSUE, AND AVERAGE ISSUE, 1979**

Age group of mother (years)	Number of mothers	Total issue	Average issue
Under 20	1,941	2,344	1.21
20-24	14,306	22,438	1.57
25-29	21,689	43,033	1.98
30-34	11,006	27,569	2.50
35-39	2,758	8,563	3.10
40-44	489	2,006	4.10
45-49	28	162	5.79
50 and over	—	—	—
Not stated	5	12	2.40
Total	52,222	106,127	2.03

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: RELATIVE
AGE GROUPS OF PARENTS, 1979**

Age group of father (years)	Age group of mother (years)									Total fathers
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over	Not stated	
Under 20	221	59	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	285
20-24	1,239	5,225	642	72	8	—	—	—	—	7,186
25-29	396	7,100	11,124	1,183	85	14	—	—	—	19,902
30-34	73	1,575	8,125	5,897	463	28	—	—	2	16,163
35-39	8	253	1,397	2,951	1,215	68	—	—	1	5,893

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS: RELATIVE
AGE GROUPS OF PARENTS, 1979—*continued*

Age group of father (years)	Age group of mother (years)								Total fathers	
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50 and over		Not stated
40-44	1	57	277	672	704	207	6	—	—	1,924
45-49	3	16	74	161	207	137	15	—	—	613
50 and over	—	11	38	64	69	34	7	—	—	223
Not stated	—	10	7	6	7	1	—	—	2	33
Married mothers	1,941	14,306	21,689	11,006	2,758	489	28	—	5	52,222

VICTORIA—NUPTIAL FIRST BIRTHS: AGE GROUP OF MOTHER AND
DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 1979

Age group of mother (years)	Duration of marriage															Total nuptial first births		
	Months											Years						
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3		4	5 and over
Under 20	35	44	67	104	155	238	132	44	53	76	69	65	402	83	5	2	1	1,575
20-24	25	53	62	97	160	292	202	79	147	207	172	185	2,098	1,898	1,281	661	296	7,915
25-29	15	25	31	42	66	96	78	42	66	127	104	98	1,078	1,147	1,151	1,242	2,333	7,741
30-34	12	13	14	15	20	45	55	21	38	42	46	31	467	308	234	169	828	2,358
35-39	3	2	6	10	8	26	13	11	10	15	17	11	124	59	38	32	148	533
40-44	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	3	3	3	2	17	14	11	6	8	71
45-49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
50 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	90	137	180	268	411	698	480	198	317	470	411	392	4,187	3,509	2,720	2,112	3,615	20,195

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE CONFINEMENTS (a)

Year	Cases of twins	Cases of triplets	Total multiple cases	Total con- finements	Multiple cases per 1,000 total confinements
1975	573	6	579	61,315	9.44
1976	663	5	(b) 669	60,017	11.15
1977	524	5	(b) 530	58,992	8.98
1978	610	12	622	58,248	10.68
1979	573	5	578	57,202	10.10

(a) Excludes confinements where the births were stillborn children only.

(b) Includes 1 case of quadruplets.

On the average over the five years 1975 to 1979, mothers of twins were one in 101 of all mothers whose confinements were recorded, mothers of triplets were one in 8,963, and mothers of all multiple births were one in 99.

The following tables show details of ex-nuptial births in each State and Territory for the years 1975 to 1979 and the ages of mothers of ex-nuptial children in Victoria:

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1975	8,291	4,395	5,034	1,943	2,527	758	495	262	23,705
1976	7,991	4,426	4,664	1,789	2,621	706	614	253	23,064
1977	8,219	4,391	4,656	1,896	2,528	783	577	264	23,314
1978	8,612	4,718	4,836	2,050	2,654	877	703	294	24,744
1979	9,036	5,033	5,128	2,098	2,783	934	781	318	26,111

AUSTRALIA—EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BIRTHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1975	10.25	7.10	13.83	9.72	12.43	10.86	23.37	6.00	10.17
1976	10.18	7.30	13.23	9.44	12.68	10.53	23.55	5.64	10.12
1977	10.54	7.38	13.33	9.84	12.24	11.63	22.56	5.69	10.30
1978	11.07	8.02	14.03	11.05	12.88	12.92	26.11	6.63	11.04
1979	11.71	8.71	14.57	11.35	13.60	13.82	27.47	7.09	11.70

VICTORIA—AGES OF MOTHERS OF EX-NUPTIAL CONFINEMENTS

Age of mother (years)	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979
13	—	—	3	3	3
14	16	18	20	12	15
15	87	102	94	89	63
16	291	233	243	216	245
17	409	388	404	381	390
18	462	403	420	471	484
19	404	433	404	482	478
20	336	325	366	403	455
21–24	960	1,031	973	1,183	1,271
25–29	795	822	834	806	944
30–34	398	412	381	409	448
35–39	158	171	159	171	153
40–44	41	37	35	40	22
45 and over	1	1	6	1	2
Not stated	3	9	4	—	7
Total	4,361	4,385	4,346	4,667	4,980

VICTORIA—ADOPTIONS AND LEGITIMATIONS

Year	Number of children	
	Adopted (a)	Legitimated (b)
1975	1,229	489
1976	1,130	517
1977	1,179	415
1978	991	407
1979	1,096	433

(a) Legal adoptions registered under the provisions of the Commonwealth *Adoption of Children Act 1964*.

(b) Legitimations registered. Under the provisions of the Commonwealth *Marriage Act 1961*, which came into operation on 1 September 1963, a child whose parents were not married to each other at the time of its birth becomes legitimated on the subsequent marriage of its parents. The legitimation takes place whether or not there was a legal impediment to the marriage of the parents at the time of the child's birth and whether or not the child was still living at the time of the marriage, or in the case of a child born before 1 September 1963, at that date.

Deaths

By law, deaths occurring in Australia must be registered in the State in which they occur. The following statistics have been prepared from cause of death information supplied by medical practitioners and coroners for persons whose deaths were registered in the calendar years shown:

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF DEATHS

Year of registration	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1975	40,497	29,499	16,421	9,947	7,972	3,339	610	736	109,021
1976	42,122	30,753	17,239	9,999	7,740	3,389	567	853	112,662
1977	40,380	29,478	16,408	9,784	7,899	3,269	784	788	108,790
1978	40,394	29,096	16,619	9,763	7,794	3,311	536	912	108,425
1979	38,817	29,078	16,388	9,661	8,022	3,167	595	842	106,570

Causes of death

Classification

Causes of death in Australia from 1979 onwards have been classified according to the Ninth (1975) Revision of the World Health Organisations (WHO) International Classification of Diseases (ICD9). Particulars relate to the underlying cause of death, which WHO has defined as the disease or injury which initiated the train of morbid events leading directly to death. Accidental and violent deaths are classified according to external

cause, that is, to the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury, rather than the nature of the injury. ICD9 has replaced the Eighth (1965) Revision which was used from 1968 to 1978.

Characteristics of the basic classifications remain broadly similar to ICD8; however there is considerable extra detail at the fourth digit level. Major reconstructions have been made to the areas relating to diseases of the nervous system and sense organs; complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium; diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue; and certain conditions originating in the perinatal period.

In 1979, 15,970 male and 13,108 female deaths were registered in Victoria.

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH: NUMBERS AND RATES, 1979

World Health Assembly Mortality List	Cause of death (a)	ICD9 category code numbers	Number of deaths	Proportion of total	Rate per 1,000,000 of mean population
01-07	Infectious and parasitic diseases	001-139	126	0.43	33
01	Intestinal infectious diseases	001-009	23	0.08	6
02	Tuberculosis	010-018	23	0.08	6
034	Whooping cough	033	1	—	—
038	Septicaemia	038	29	0.10	8
042	Measles	055	2	0.01	1
	All other infectious and parasitic diseases	(b)	48	0.17	12
08-14	Malignant neoplasms	140-208	6,368	21.90	1,652
091	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	151	417	1.43	108
093	Malignant neoplasm of colon	153	721	2.48	187
094	Malignant neoplasm of rectum, rectosigmoid junction, and anus	154	271	0.93	70
101	Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus, and lung	162	1,337	4.60	347
113	Malignant neoplasm of female breast	174	511	1.76	133
120	Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri	180	76	0.26	20
141	Leukaemia	204-208	229	0.79	59
	All other malignant neoplasms	(c)	2,806	9.65	728
181	Diabetes mellitus	250	545	1.87	141
181	Nutritional marasmus	261	1	—	—
192	Other protein-calorie malnutrition	262,263	15	0.05	4
200	Anaemias	280-285	62	0.21	16
220	Meningitis	320-322	23	0.08	6
25-30	Diseases of the circulatory system	390-459	14,842	51.04	3,852
250	Acute rheumatic fever	390-392	4	0.01	1
251	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	393-398	135	0.46	35
26	Hypertensive disease	401-405	495	1.70	128
27	Ischaemic heart disease	410-414	8,142	28.00	2,113
270	Acute myocardial infarction	410	5,567	19.15	1,445
29	Cerebrovascular disease	430-438	3,461	11.90	898
300	Atherosclerosis	440	650	2.24	169
	All other diseases of the circulatory system	(d)	1,955	6.72	507
321	Pneumonia	480-486	529	1.82	137
322	Influenza	487	12	0.04	3
323	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	490-493	750	2.58	195
	All other diseases of the respiratory system	(e)	763	2.62	198
341	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	531-533	149	0.51	39
342	Appendicitis	540-543	15	0.05	4
347	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	571	311	1.07	81
350	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis	580-589	166	0.57	43
360	Hyperplasia of prostate	600	29	0.10	8
39	Direct obstetric deaths	{ 640-646 651-676	4	0.01	1
44	Congenital anomalies	740-759	267	0.92	69
45	Certain conditions, originating in the perinatal period	760-779	248	0.85	64
453	Birth trauma	767	7	0.02	2
46	Signs, symptoms, and ill-defined conditions	780-799	150	0.52	39
	All other diseases	Residual	1,409	4.85	366
E47-E53	Accidents and adverse effects	E800-E949	1,733	5.96	450
E471	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	E810-E819	920	3.16	239
E50	Accidental falls	E880-E888	411	1.41	107
E54	Suicide	E950-E959	460	1.58	119
E55	Homicide	E960-E969	59	0.20	15
	All other external causes	E970-E999	42	0.14	11
Total all causes			29,078	100.00	7,546

(a) No deaths were recorded in the following categories in 1979: 036. Meningococcal infection (036), 037. Tetanus (037), 041. Smallpox (050), 052. Malaria (084), and 38. Abortion (630-639).

(b) 020-032, 034, 035, 039-049, 051-054, 056-083, 085-139.

(c) 140-150, 152, 155-161, 163-173, 175, 179, 181-203.

(d) 415-429, 441-459.

(e) 460-478, 494-519.

It was necessary to include causes from the basic list in the preparation of the table below, as the mortality list would not necessarily highlight the main cause, e.g. 28. Diseases of pulmonary circulation and other forms of heart disease, does not appear by itself in the previous table yet the category is a main cause of death for persons aged 55 years and over.

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1979

World Health Assembly List	Age group and cause of death	Deaths from specified cause			
		In age group		At all ages	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
Under 1 year					
45	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	247	37.9	248	99.6
44	Congenital anomalies	202	31.0	267	75.7
46	Signs, symptoms, and ill-defined conditions	127	19.5	150	84.7
01-07	Infectious and parasitic diseases	14	2.1	126	11.1
E47-E53	Accidents and adverse effects (excluding E471)	12	1.8	813	1.5
22	Diseases of the nervous system	10	1.5	368	2.7
1-4 years					
E47-E53	Accidents and adverse effects (excluding E471)	34	27.4	813	4.2
E471	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	25	20.2	920	2.7
44	Congenital anomalies	14	11.3	267	5.2
08-14	Malignant neoplasms	13	10.5	6,368	0.2
22	Diseases of the nervous system	10	8.1	368	2.7
01-07	Infectious and parasitic diseases	5	4.0	126	4.0
5-14 years					
E471	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	64	33.3	920	7.0
E47-E53	Accidents and adverse effects (excluding E471)	40	20.8	813	4.9
08-14	Malignant neoplasms	32	16.7	6,368	0.5
22	Diseases of the nervous system	13	6.8	368	3.5
44	Congenital anomalies	12	6.3	267	4.5
323	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	7	3.6	750	0.9
15-24 years					
E471	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	303	47.2	920	32.9
E47-E53	Accidents and adverse effects (excluding E471)	86	13.4	813	10.6
E54	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	83	12.9	460	18.0
08-14	Malignant neoplasms	46	7.2	6,368	0.7
22	Diseases of the nervous system	23	3.6	368	6.3
21	Mental disorders	14	2.2	197	7.1
25-34 years					
E471	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	133	24.7	920	14.5
E54	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	93	17.3	460	20.2
08-14	Malignant neoplasms	82	15.2	6,368	1.3
E47-E53	Accidents and adverse effects (excluding E471)	61	11.3	813	7.5
28	Diseases of pulmonary circulation and other forms of heart disease	21	3.9	1,557	1.3
27	Ischaemic heart disease	17	3.2	8,142	0.2
35-44 years					
08-14	Malignant neoplasms	199	26.4	6,368	3.1
27	Ischaemic heart disease	123	16.3	8,142	1.5
E471	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	88	11.7	920	9.6
E54	Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	77	10.2	460	16.7
29	Cerebrovascular disease	49	6.5	3,461	1.4
E47-E53	Accidents and adverse effects (excluding E471)	46	6.1	813	5.7
45-54 years					
08-14	Malignant neoplasms	683	32.7	6,368	10.7
27	Ischaemic heart disease	522	25.0	8,142	6.4
29	Cerebrovascular disease	135	6.5	3,461	3.9
347	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	107	5.1	311	34.4
E54	Suicide and self-inflicted injury	87	4.2	460	18.9
E471	Motor vehicle traffic accidents	85	4.1	920	9.2
55-64 years					
08-14	Malignant neoplasms	1,443	32.9	6,368	22.7
27	Ischaemic heart disease	1,418	32.3	8,142	17.4
29	Cerebrovascular disease	347	7.9	3,461	10.0
28	Diseases of pulmonary circulation and other forms of heart disease	131	3.0	1,557	8.4
323	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	110	2.5	750	14.7
347	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	84	1.9	311	27.0

VICTORIA—MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS, 1979—*continued*

World Health Assembly List	Age group and cause of death	Deaths from specified cause			
		In age group		At all ages	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent (a)
65-74 years					
27	Ischaemic heart disease	2,481	34.4	8,142	30.5
08-14	Malignant neoplasms	1,954	27.1	6,368	30.7
29	Cerebrovascular disease	778	10.8	3,461	22.5
28	Diseases of pulmonary circulation and other forms of heart disease	249	3.5	1,557	16.0
323	Bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma	214	3.0	750	28.5
181	Diabetes mellitus	161	2.2	545	29.5
75 years and over					
27	Ischaemic heart disease	3,580	28.6	8,142	44.0
29	Cerebrovascular disease	2,129	17.0	3,461	61.5
08-14	Malignant neoplasms	1,914	15.3	6,368	30.1
28	Diseases of pulmonary circulation and other forms of heart disease	1,033	8.3	1,557	66.3
300	Atherosclerosis	572	4.6	650	88.0
321	Pneumonia	369	3.0	529	69.8

Diseases of the heart

During 1979, there were 10,191 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 135 due to chronic rheumatic heart disease, 353 to hypertensive heart disease, 5,567 to acute myocardial infarction, 2,575 to other ischaemic heart disease, 55 to pulmonary heart disease and 1,501 to other forms of heart disease. Deaths in 1979 from this cause by sex and age group are shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HEART DISEASES BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1979

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Rheumatic fever with heart involvement (391)	M	1	—	1	1	—	3
	F	—	—	—	1	—	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease (393-398)	M	5	9	10	14	13	51
	F	9	7	16	29	23	84
Hypertensive heart disease (402,404)	M	7	32	36	57	51	183
	F	—	7	9	39	115	170
Acute myocardial infarction (410)	M	60	271	737	1,213	1,077	3,358
	F	16	48	216	592	1,337	2,209
Other ischaemic heart disease (411-414)	M	61	170	359	444	484	1,518
	F	4	33	106	232	682	1,057
Pulmonary heart disease (415-416)	M	2	3	2	6	7	20
	F	2	6	4	8	15	35
Other forms of heart disease (420-429)	M	50	46	88	136	343	663
	F	14	21	37	99	667	838
Total	M	186	531	1,233	1,871	1,975	5,796
	F	45	122	388	1,000	2,839	4,394

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD9 category code numbers.

Malignant neoplasms

Since the introduction of the Ninth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD9) in 1979, deaths classified as malignant neoplasms do not include deaths from polycythaemia vera and myelofibrosis. Deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1979 numbered 6,368.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms are prominent at most age periods, but, as the table on page 202 shows, they characteristically increase with age, reaching a maximum number in the two oldest age groups. Ninety-four per cent of the deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1979 were at ages 45 years and over.

**VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1979**

Site of disease (a)	Sex	Age group (years)				Total
		Under 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Lip, oral cavity, and pharynx (140-149)	M	—	4	56	44	104
	F	—	1	10	22	33
Oesophagus (150)	M	—	1	33	66	100
	F	—	—	8	55	63
Stomach (151)	M	—	4	76	167	247
	F	—	5	29	136	170
Intestine, except rectum (152, 153)	M	1	10	104	222	337
	F	—	11	109	274	394
Rectum and rectosigmoid junction and anus (154)	M	—	4	62	89	155
	F	—	5	30	81	116
Trachea, bronchus, and lung (162)	M	1	12	416	639	1068
	F	1	8	126	134	269
Breast (174,175)	M	—	1	—	3	4
	F	—	52	182	277	511
Cervix uteri (180)	F	1	11	32	32	76
Body of uterus and unspecified parts of uterus (179,182)	F	—	2	26	36	64
Ovary and other uterine adnexa (183)	F	—	9	86	94	189
Prostate (185)	M	—	2	28	275	305
Bladder (188)	M	—	2	25	89	116
	F	—	1	4	44	49
Other and unspecified urinary organs (184,186,187,189)	M	2	5	32	46	85
	F	1	—	13	56	70
Brain and other unspecified parts of nervous system (191,192)	M	11	13	56	30	110
	F	8	13	33	24	78
Leukaemia (204-208)	M	18	18	30	63	129
	F	13	9	21	57	100
Other neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic system (200-203)	M	8	17	60	81	166
	F	2	7	49	86	144
All other and unspecified sites	M	14	29	250	318	611
	F	12	25	140	328	505
Total	M	55	122	1,228	2,132	3,537
	F	38	159	898	1,736	2,831

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD9 category code numbers.

Cerebrovascular diseases

In 1979, 1,396 male and 2,065 female deaths were ascribed to cerebrovascular diseases. The table on pages 200 and 201 shows that cerebrovascular diseases first appear as one of the main causes of death at ages 35 years and over; they become an increasing proportion of deaths in the older age groups accounting for 17 per cent of deaths at ages 75 years and over. Deaths from these diseases by age group and sex are shown in the following table:

**VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1979**

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Subarachnoid haemorrhage (430)	M	15	15	21	7	3	61
	F	16	25	32	31	15	119
Cerebral haemorrhage (431,432)	M	18	28	51	71	86	254
	F	6	17	45	70	217	315
Cerebral occlusion (433-434)	M	6	14	34	80	140	274
	F	1	4	16	66	318	405
Acute but ill-defined cerebrovascular disease (436)	M	3	20	80	224	338	665
	F	5	9	52	173	709	948

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES
BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 1979—*continued*

Cause of death (a)	Sex	Age group (years)					Total
		Under 45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over	
Other and ill-defined cerebrovascular diseases, including late effects (435, 437, 438)	M	1	3	6	33	99	142
	F	1	—	10	23	204	238
Total	M	43	80	192	415	666	1,396
	F	29	55	155	363	1,463	2,065

(a) Figures in parentheses are ICD9 category code numbers.

Diseases of the respiratory system

In 1979, deaths from diseases of the respiratory system numbered 2,054. Of these deaths, 18 were due to acute respiratory infections, 529 to pneumonia, 12 to influenza, 750 to bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma, 549 to chronic airways obstruction not elsewhere classified, and 196 to other diseases.

Diseases of the digestive system

In 1979, there were 516 male and 381 female deaths from diseases of the digestive system. Deaths from causes in this group in 1979 were: 149 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 15 from appendicitis, 78 from intestinal obstruction and hernia, 87 from non-infective enteritis and colitis, 311 from chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, and 257 from other diseases.

Diabetes mellitus

During 1979, diabetes was responsible for 243 male and 302 female deaths.

Diseases of the genito-urinary system

In 1979, there were 330 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis were responsible for 166 deaths, infections of the kidney for 67, calculi of the urinary system for 20, hyperplasia of prostate for 29, and other diseases of the genito-urinary system for 48.

Tuberculosis

The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1979 was 23. Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1979 numbered 20.

Deaths from external causes

External causes of death such as accidents, poisonings, and violence, including homicide and suicide, accounted for 8 per cent of all deaths registered in 1979. However, these causes were responsible for 65 per cent of the deaths of persons aged 1 to 34 years.

The table "Main causes of death in age groups" on pages 200 and 201 shows that external causes (cause groups E 47-54) predominate in the various age groups after the first year of life to middle age, but become progressively less prominent in the older age groups. In 1979, 65 per cent of all deaths from external causes were male.

Transport accidents

In 1979, registration of deaths from all transport accidents numbered 1,011 compared with 956 in 1978, 1,106 in 1977, 960 in 1976, and 938 in 1975. During 1979, deaths connected with transport represented 58 per cent of the total deaths from accidents. Of the 1,011 deaths, 941 involved motor vehicles.

Injury undetermined whether accidentally or purposely inflicted

In many cases it is not possible to determine whether death from an external cause was accidentally or purposely inflicted, i.e., whether the death was due to accident, suicide, or homicide. The Ninth Revision has a separate category to include cases where the mode of infliction was undetermined. Deaths allocated to these categories in 1979 totalled 41.

Suicide and self-inflicted injury

In 1979, deaths from suicide or wilfully self-inflicted injury numbered 313 males and 147 females. Of the 313 male deaths in 1979, 115 were connected with firearms and explosives, and 63 with poisoning by solid or liquid substances. The latter accounted for 77 of the 147 female deaths.

Homicide

The number of deaths registered in 1979 ascribed to homicide was 59 (37 males and 22 females).

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM HOMICIDE (a)

Year	Males	Females	Total
1975	33	15	48
1976	37	16	53
1977	38	27	65
1978	27	22	49
1979	37	22	59

(a) Deaths from injuries inflicted by another person with intent to injure or kill, by any means.

NOTE. Deaths from criminal abortion are excluded from this category and included with deaths from maternal causes.

Infant deaths

The mortality of children under one year, in proportion to live births, has declined markedly in both Australia and Victoria. The infant death rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) in Victoria has fallen from 133 in 1885-1889 to 11 in 1975-1979 (a reduction of 92 per cent). In other words, of every 100 infants who died in the earlier period, only 8 would have died in the latter.

A significant part of the reduction in the rate in recent years has been due to fewer infants dying within the first four weeks of life.

AUSTRALIA—NUMBER OF INFANT DEATHS

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1975	1,231	806	547	222	271	128	58	62	3,325
1976	1,152	702	535	276	273	77	59	76	3,150
1977	953	653	478	221	251	99	107	59	2,821
1978	1,004	616	445	227	231	97	53	62	2,735
1979	878	652	380	166	249	95	64	52	2,536

AUSTRALIA—INFANT DEATH RATES (a)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1975	15.2	13.0	15.0	11.1	13.3	18.3	27.4	14.2	14.27
1976	14.7	11.6	15.2	14.6	13.2	11.5	22.6	17.0	13.83
1977	12.2	11.0	13.7	11.5	12.2	14.7	41.8	12.7	12.47
1978	12.9	10.5	12.9	12.2	11.2	14.3	19.7	14.0	12.20
1979	11.4	11.3	10.8	9.0	12.2	14.1	22.5	11.6	11.37

(a) Number of deaths under one year of age per 1,000 live births.

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS

Year	Melbourne Statistical Division		Remainder of Victoria		Victoria (a)	
	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births	Number of deaths under one year	Rate per 1,000 live births
1975	580	13.3	209	11.9	806	13.0
1976	471	11.2	214	12.0	702	11.6
1977	456	11.0	182	10.4	653	11.0
1978	410	10.1	191	10.9	616	10.5
1979	439	11.0	190	11.1	652	11.3

(a) The figures for Victoria include deaths registered in Victoria where the mother's usual residence was interstate, unknown, or overseas. In previous *Year Books*, these registrations have been included in the Melbourne Statistical Division or the Remainder of Victoria columns.

NOTE. Births and deaths registered in Victoria are allotted to the place of usual residence of the parties. In the cases of births and infant deaths, the mother's residence is considered to be that of the child.

Infant death rates have shown a decrease in each quinquennial period from 1885 onwards. In 1954, the rate fell below 20 per 1,000 live births for the first time. In 1979, the rate was 11.3.

The decrease in the infant death rate since the earlier periods has been shared proportionally by each age group except that of "under one week". The rate for infants "one week and under one month" declined from 11.1 in 1910-1914 to 1.4 in 1975-1979, a decrease of 87 per cent, and that for infants "one month and under one year" from 41.2 to 3.6, a decrease of 91 per cent. Between the ages of one month and one year, Victoria lost 64 out of every 1,000 children born in 1900-1904, 33 in 1915-1919, and 4 in 1975-79. The rate per 1,000 live births for infants "under one week" has declined from 21.5 in the quinquennium 1910-1914 to 6.5 in 1975-1979. In 1979, the mortality of infants "under one week" comprised 51 per cent of the total infant mortality.

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATH RATES BY AGE

Year	Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births					Total
	Under one week	One week and under one month	One month and under three months	Three months and under six months	Six months and under twelve months	
1975	7.5	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.1	13.0
1976	6.9	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	11.6
1977	6.5	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	11.0
1978	6.0	1.2	1.1	1.3	0.8	10.5
1979	5.8	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.1	11.3

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGES BY SEX, 1979

Particulars	Under one week	One week and under one month	One month and under three months	Three months and under six months	Six months and under twelve months	Total under one year
Males—						
Number	197	50	50	45	33	375
Rate (a)	6.6	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.1	12.6
Percentage of total	52.5	13.3	13.3	12.0	8.8	100.0
Females—						
Number	137	37	33	37	33	277
Rate (a)	4.9	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	9.9
Percentage of total	49.5	13.4	11.9	13.4	11.9	100.0

(a) Number of deaths in each age group per 1,000 live births for each sex.

The rate for male infants is consistently higher than that for females, and in the period 1975-1979 exceeded the female rate by 27 per cent.

Perinatal deaths

Legislation was passed in Victoria in 1971 which introduced a new definition of a perinatal death and a new type of death certificate which doctors were required to use for all perinatal deaths occurring on or after 1 May 1971.

Perinatal deaths comprise:

- (1) *Stillbirths*. Any child born of its mother after the twentieth week of pregnancy which did not, at any time after being born, breathe or show any other sign of life; and where the duration of pregnancy is not reliably ascertainable, and includes any foetus of 400 grams weight or more.
- (2) *Neonatal deaths*. The death of a live born child within 28 days of birth, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy.

VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATHS (a)

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
1975	713	463	83	546	1,259
1976	616	418	91	509	1,125
1977	567	386	72	458	1,025
1978	575	353	72	425	1,000
1979	490	334	87	421	911

VICTORIA—PERINATAL DEATH RATES (a)

Year	Stillbirths	Neonatal deaths			Total perinatal deaths
		Under one week	One week but less than one month	Total neonatal deaths	
1975	11.4	7.5	1.3	8.8	20.1
1976	10.1	6.9	1.5	8.4	18.4
1977	9.4	6.5	1.2	7.7	17.1
1978	9.7	6.0	1.2	7.2	16.8
1979	8.4	5.8	1.5	7.3	15.6

(a) Number of stillbirths and perinatal deaths per 1,000 births (live and still) and number of neonatal deaths per 1,000 live births.

Cremations

There are four crematoria in Victoria — three in the Melbourne metropolitan area and one in Ballarat. The number of cremations in relation to total deaths from 1975 to 1979 is shown in the following table:

VICTORIA—CREMATIONS AND DEATHS

Year	Total cremations	Total deaths registered	Percentage of cremations to deaths registered
1975	11,508	29,499	39.01
1976	12,097	30,753	39.34
1977	11,699	29,478	39.69
1978	11,644	29,096	40.02
1979	11,683	29,078	40.18

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