

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

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SOCIAL STATISTICS : AUSTRALIA

NO. 6 : DIVORCE, THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1962

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. This bulletin presents statistics of divorce for the first three months of 1962, and for previous periods. The previous bulletin in this series on divorce statistics related to the year 1961.
  2. In 1959, the Commonwealth Parliament passed the Matrimonial Causes Act 1959, which came into operation on 1st February, 1961. This Act established uniform grounds throughout the whole of the Commonwealth for the termination of marriage, and supersedes the matrimonial causes laws of the States and Territories except in so far as the transitional provisions of the Act keep them in force for the purpose of completing pending proceedings.
  3. Until 1st February, 1961 the grounds for dissolution of marriage varied between each State and Territory. For example: -
    - (i) Insanity was not a ground in New South Wales or the Australian Capital Territory;
    - (ii) in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory a suit for dissolution of marriage could forthwith be instituted against a respondent who failed to comply with an order for restitution of conjugal rights;
    - (iii) separation for over five years was a ground only in Western Australia;
    - (iv) separation for over five years under a decree of judicial separation or an order granting relief from co-habitation was a ground only in South Australia; and
    - (v) impotence was a ground for dissolution of marriage in Western Australia, but a ground for nullity of marriage in each other State and Territory.
  4. In addition, some dissolutions granted under previous Commonwealth legislation in a particular State could be on grounds not provided for in that State's legislation.
  5. The grounds on which dissolutions and nullities of marriage and judicial separations were granted in each State and Territory are shown in Table 8. The proportions of marriages dissolved in each State and Territory on these grounds are shown in Table 9.
  6. Of the 1,766 decrees absolute for dissolution granted during the three months ended March, 1962, 1,190 were from petitions under new legislation.
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## I. PETITIONS FILED

TABLE 1. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1962

Petition for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>Dissolution of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	462	214	120	85	80	33	4	5	1,003
Wife Petitioner	570	241	135	112	80	30	4	8	1,180
<u>Total</u>	1,032	455	255	197	160	63	8	13	2,183
<u>Nullity of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Wife Petitioner	4	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	6
<u>Total</u>	5	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	9
<u>Dissolution or Nullity -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
<u>Judicial Separation -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wife Petitioner	1	2	1	1	..	1	..	..	6
<u>Total</u>	2	2	1	1	..	1	..	..	7
<u>Total Petitions -</u>									
Husband Petitioner No.	464	218	120	85	80	33	4	5	1,009
Per cent.	45	47	47	43	50	52	50	38	46
Wife Petitioner No.	575	244	137	114	80	31	4	8	1,193
Per cent.	55	53	53	57	50	48	50	62	54
<u>Total</u>	1,039	462	257	199	160	64	8	13	2,202

TABLE 2. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE,

NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION : AUSTRALIA

Petition for -	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	Quarter Ended -				
						March 1961	June 1961	Sep. 1961	Dec. 1961	March 1962
<u>Dissolution of Marriage -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	3,671	3,833	3,843	3,709	4,394	1,044	1,176	1,141	1,033	1,003
Wife Petitioner	4,228	4,570	4,465	4,385	5,110	1,176	1,260	1,377	1,297	1,180
<u>Total</u>	7,899	8,403	8,308	8,094	9,504	2,220	2,436	2,518	2,330	2,183
<u>Nullity of Marriage -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	40	40	22	23	13	3	1	6	3	3
Wife Petitioner	56	35	43	32	44	13	10	15	6	6
<u>Total</u>	96	75	65	55	57	16	11	21	9	9
<u>Dissolution or Nullity -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	3	..	2	1	..	2
Wife Petitioner	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	3	1	1
<u>Total</u>	..	..	..	..	7	..	2	4	1	3
<u>Judicial Separation -</u>										
Husband Petitioner	6	13	7	7	2	2	..	..	..	1
Wife Petitioner	26	36	24	31	9	2	3	2	2	6
<u>Total</u>	32	49	31	38	11	4	3	2	2	7
<u>Total Petitions -</u>										
Husband Petitioner No.	3,717	3,886	3,872	3,739	4,412	1,049	1,179	1,148	1,036	1,009
Per cent.	46	46	46	46	46	47	48	45	44	46
Wife Petitioner No.	4,310	4,641	4,532	4,448	5,167	1,191	1,273	1,397	1,306	1,193
Per cent.	54	54	54	54	54	53	52	55	56	54
<u>Total</u>	8,027	8,527	8,404	8,187	9,579	2,240	2,452	2,545	2,342	2,202

**TABLE 3. - GROUNDS ON WHICH PETITIONS WERE FILED FOR DISSOLUTION  
OF MARRIAGE, NULLITY OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATION :**  
**THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1962**

Grounds	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<b>Petitions for Dissolution of Marriage</b>									
<b>Single Grounds -</b>									
Desertion	469	193	108	66	64	25	4	3	932
Adultery	215	78	44	40	45	17	3	2	444
Separation	126	66	42	42	34	11	1	1	323
Cruelty	54	7	6	25	1	1	..	2	96
Drunkenness	11	1	1	2	3	..	..	1	19
Failure to comply with restitution decree	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Failure to pay maintenance	..	2	..	..	7	1	..	..	10
Frequent convictions	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	5
Insanity	4	..	1	3	2	1	..	..	11
Refusal to consummate	4	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	7
<b>Dual Grounds -</b>									
Desertion and adultery	8	17	4	4	1	..	..	2	36
Desertion and separation	57	65	39	6	..	4	..	..	171
Desertion and cruelty	14	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	20
Desertion and drunkenness	8	2	2	..	..	1	..	1	14
Desertion and failure to pay maintenance	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Desertion and other grounds	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Adultery and separation	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	4
Adultery and cruelty	3	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	8
Adultery and refusal to consummate	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Separation and failure to pay maintenance	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Separation and insanity	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	3
Cruelty and drunkenness	27	2	2	1	..	..	..	..	32
<b>Multiple Grounds (a)</b>	17	10	2	3	..	1	..	1	34
<b>Total</b>	1,032	455	255	197	160	63	8	13	2,183
<b>Petitions for Nullity of Marriage</b>									
Bigamy	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Incapacity to consummate	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Invalid Marriage	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
<b>Total</b>	5	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	9
<b>Petitions for Dissolution or Nullity of Marriage</b>									
Refusal or incapacity to consummate	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Desertion or bigamy	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Desertion or incapacity to consummate	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<b>Total</b>	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
<b>Petitions for Judicial Separation</b>									
Desertion	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Adultery	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Cruelty	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	3
<b>Total</b>	2	2	1	1	..	1	..	..	7

(a) Three grounds or more

TABLE 4. - PETITIONS FILED FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Year - 1957	3,824	1,654	672	767	623	291	19	49	7,899
1958	4,102	1,579	952	791	644	267	31	37	8,403
1959	3,884	1,650	976	789	671	283	12	43	8,308
1960	3,746	1,798	863	781	560	274	26	46	8,094
1961	4,215	2,289	1,084	865	620	321	40	70	9,504
Quarter ended -									
March, 1961	1,060	467	227	216	139	83	8	20	2,220
June, 1961	1,046	649	305	182	146	89	5	14	2,436
September, 1961	1,098	610	298	226	179	78	16	13	2,518
December, 1961	1,011	563	254	241	156	71	11	23	2,330
March, 1962	1,032	455	255	197	160	63	8	13	2,183

NOTE: The table above excludes petitions filed for nullity of marriage and judicial separation.

## II. DISSOLUTIONS, ETC. GRANTED

TABLE 5. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS GRANTED : THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1962

Decree for -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>Dissolution of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	302	190	135	67	80	31	5	5	815
Wife Petitioner	337	252	154	79	83	34	4	8	951
<u>Total</u>	639	442	289	146	163	65	9	13	1,766
<u>Nullity of Marriage -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Wife Petitioner	2	1	1	3	..	1	..	..	8
<u>Total</u>	2	2	2	3	..	1	..	..	10
<u>Judicial Separation -</u>									
Husband Petitioner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total Decrees -</u>									
Husband Petitioner No.	302	191	136	67	80	31	5	5	817
Per cent.	47	43	47	45	49	47	56	38	46
Wife Petitioner No.	339	253	155	83	83	35	4	8	960
Per cent.	53	57	53	55	51	53	44	62	54
<u>Total</u>	641	444	291	150	163	66	9	13	1,777

(a) Decrees absolute.

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

Decree for -	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	Quarter Ended -				
						March 1961	June 1961	Sep. 1961	Dec. 1961	March 1962
<b>Dissolution of Marriage -</b>										
Husband Petitioner	2,875	3,225	3,291	3,078	3,049	781	622	913	733	815
Wife Petitioner	3,423	3,695	4,024	3,555	3,623	939	777	1,069	838	951
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,298</b>	<b>6,920</b>	<b>7,315</b>	<b>6,633</b>	<b>6,673(b)</b>	<b>1,721(b)</b>	<b>1,399</b>	<b>1,982</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>1,766</b>
<b>Nullity of Marriage -</b>										
Husband Petitioner	24	25	21	26	14	4	2	4	4	2
Wife Petitioner	40	36	32	37	22	5	4	6	7	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Judicial Separation -</b>										
Husband Petitioner	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wife Petitioner	10	11	2	11	2	1	..	..	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Decrees -</b>										
Husband Petitioner No.	2,901	3,252	3,312	3,106	3,063	785	624	917	737	817
Per cent.	46	46	45	46	46	45	44	46	47	46
Wife Petitioner No.	3,473	3,742	4,058	3,603	3,647	945	781	1,075	846	960
Per cent.	54	54	55	54	54	55	56	54	53	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,374</b>	<b>6,994</b>	<b>7,370</b>	<b>6,709</b>	<b>6,711(b)</b>	<b>1,731(b)</b>	<b>1,405</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>1,777</b>

(a) Decree absolute.

(b) Includes one dissolution granted on petitions by both parties.

**TABLE 7. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE GRANTED (a)**

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<b>Year - 1957</b>	2,975	1,345	682	529	541	179	18	29	6,298
1958	3,217	1,698	759	483	536	176	15	36	6,920
1959	3,363	1,861	739	503	584	222	14	29	7,315
1960	3,243	1,296	696	610	540	210	5	33	6,633
1961	3,156	1,248	779	679	466	286	23	36	6,673
<b>Quarter ended -</b>									
March, 1961	726	403	201	188	132	61	2	8	1,721
June, 1961	740	178	165	126	98	80	3	9	1,399
September, 1961	1,031	329	200	240	103	61	11	7	1,982
December, 1961	659	338	213	125	133	84	7	12	1,571
March, 1962	639	442	289	146	163	65	9	13	1,766

(a) Decrees absolute.

NOTE: The table above excludes nullities of marriage and judicial separations.

**TABLE 8. - GROUNDS ON WHICH DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a), NULLITIES OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL SEPARATIONS WERE GRANTED : THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1962**

Grounds	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<u>Dissolution of Marriage</u>									
<u>Single Grounds</u>									
Desertion	311	236	145	68	44	31	3	4	842
Adultery	151	85	44	32	64	13	3	4	396
Separation	79	59	48	23	44	15	1	..	269
Cruelty	17	1	2	20	1	1	1	3	46
Drunkenness	7	2	1	..	1	1	..	..	12
Failure to comply with restitution decree	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Failure to pay maintenance	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	4
Frequent convictions	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Insanity	7	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	8
Presumption of death	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	3
Refusal to consummate	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2
<u>Dual Grounds</u>									
Desertion and adultery	4	17	2	..	2	2	..	..	27
Desertion and separation	15	26	40	..	2	..	1	1	85
Cruelty and drunkenness	8	1	2	..	..	1	..	1	13
Other dual grounds	11	7	3	2	..	..	..	..	23
<u>Multiple Grounds (b)</u>									
	3	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	9
<u>Total</u>	639	442	289	146	163	65	9	13	1,766
<u>Nullity of Marriage</u>									
Bigamy	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Incapacity to consummate	2	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	8
Invalid marriage	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
<u>Total</u>	2	2	2	3	..	1	..	..	10
<u>Judicial Separation</u>									
Adultery and cruelty	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1

(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) Three grounds or more.

**TABLE 9. - PERCENTAGES OF DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) GRANTED ON VARIOUS GROUNDS : THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1962**

Grounds	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Desertion (b)	68	78	82	64	57	74	56	38	71
Adultery	24	19	16	22	39	20	33	31	23
Other	8	3	2	14	4	6	11	31	6
<u>Total</u>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(a) Decrees absolute.

(b) Includes desertion and adultery, separation, and failure to comply with restitution decree.

## III. AGES OF PARTIES

TABLE 10. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF MARRIAGE (a), AUSTRALIA, THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1962

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 and over	Not Stated	No.	Per cent.
Under 20	83	21	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	105	6
20-24	332	405	62	13	..	2	..	..	..	..	814	46
25-29	97	229	117	34	6	2	..	..	..	2	487	27
30-34	16	65	48	30	9	2	..	..	..	..	170	10
35-39	3	22	20	20	10	6	..	..	..	..	81	4
40-44	..	4	4	11	14	16	3	..	1	..	53	3
45-49	..	3	1	3	2	5	2	1	..	..	17	1
50-54	..	1	2	1	2	1	3	3	1	..	14	1
55 and over	1	..	1	..	..	2	1	4	2	..	11	1
Not Stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	14	1
Total (No. Wives (%))	532 (30)	750 (43)	256 (15)	112 (6)	43 (2)	36 (2)	9 (1)	8 (..)	4 (..)	16 (1)	1,766 (..)	.. (100)

(a) Marriages for which decrees absolute for dissolution were granted.

TABLE 11. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : AGES OF PARTIES AT TIME OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (a), AUSTRALIA, THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1962

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 and over	Not Stated	No.	Per cent.
Under 20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20-24	2	22	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26	1
25-29	1	65	112	12	2	..	1	..	..	..	193	11
30-34	..	26	113	148	26	3	1	..	..	..	317	18
35-39	..	5	37	130	146	27	3	2	..	1	351	20
40-44	..	..	8	31	130	103	17	3	..	..	292	17
45-49	..	..	..	8	31	74	79	22	6	1	221	13
50-54	..	1	..	1	17	28	55	34	14	..	150	8
55 and over	..	..	1	2	6	11	21	54	107	..	202	11
Not Stated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	14	1
Total (No. Wives (%))	3 (..)	119 (7)	273 (15)	332 (19)	358 (20)	246 (14)	177 (10)	115 (7)	127 (7)	16 (1)	1,766 (..)	.. (100)

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 12. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : AGE (a) OF HUSBAND, AUSTRALIA

Period	Under 25 Years	25-29 Years	30-34 Years	35-39 Years	40-44 Years	45-49 Years	50-54 Years	55 Years and over	Not Stated	Total
Year - 1957	119	866	1,334	1,171	988	737	495	477	111	6,298
1958	110	940	1,528	1,372	1,026	775	545	495	129	6,920
1959	131	929	1,626	1,494	1,075	852	586	550	72	7,315
1960	143	931	1,377	1,324	989	822	473	503	71	6,633
1961	135	812	1,356	1,294	977	814	568	637	80	6,673
Quarter ended -										
March, 1961	38	211	381	337	257	197	139	143	18	1,721
June, 1961	25	175	276	256	203	201	109	129	25	1,399
September, 1961	45	230	387	405	277	241	184	188	25	1,982
December, 1961	27	196	312	296	240	175	136	177	12	1,571
March, 1962	26	193	317	351	292	221	150	202	14	1,766

(a) At time of decree absolute.



TABLE 13. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE : AGE (a) OF WIFE, AUSTRALIA

Period	Under 25 Years	25-29 Years	30-34 Years	35-39 Years	40-44 Years	45-49 Years	50-54 Years	55 Years and over	Not Stated	Total
Year - 1957	475	1,263	1,371	1,082	874	601	290	234	108	6,298
1958	492	1,401	1,556	1,239	875	634	318	279	126	6,920
1959	539	1,425	1,679	1,322	986	678	369	245	72	7,315
1960	582	1,261	1,439	1,210	865	652	300	253	71	6,633
1961	524	1,228	1,337	1,156	910	684	365	386	83	6,673
Quarter ended -										
March, 1961	132	326	362	301	252	160	98	72	18	1,721
June, 1961	106	254	281	273	161	144	84	70	26	1,399
September, 1961	160	359	393	327	273	205	104	132	29	1,982
December, 1961	126	289	301	255	224	175	79	112	10	1,571
March, 1962	122	273	332	358	246	177	115	127	16	1,766

(a) At time of decree absolute.

## IV. DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND NUMBER AND AGE OF CHILDREN

TABLE 14. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) : DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN (b), AUSTRALIA, THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1962

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 Children & over	No.	Per cent.	
Under 5	64	20	4	1	..	..	..	89	5	31
5 - 9	219	145	70	15	3	1	..	453	26	347
10 - 14	133	119	123	55	12	7	2	451	25	625
15 - 19	82	80	87	52	21	7	4	333	19	555
20 - 24	47	51	50	41	10	3	5	207	12	359
25 - 29	46	27	17	5	3	2	..	100	6	98
30 and over	109	12	7	3	1	..	1	133	7	46
Total (No. Marriages Dissolved %)	700	454	358	172	50	20	12	1,766	..	..
Total Number of Children (b)	..	454	716	516	200	100	75	..	..	2,061

(a) Decrees absolute. (b) At time of petition. The term "children" used in the Commonwealth legislation refers to living "children of the marriage" under 21 years. However, as many dissolutions in this period were granted to petitions filed under old legislation, it has not been possible to make the data in the table above conform exactly to this definition. For instance, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia included children whether living or dead; and only Queensland included adopted children.

TABLE 15. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) : DURATION OF MARRIAGE, AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of Marriages Dissolved whose Duration was -								Total Marriages Dissolved
	Under 5 Years	5-9 Years	10-14 Years	15-19 Years	20-24 Years	25-29 Years	30 Years and over	Not Stated	
Year - 1957	452	2,098	1,503	1,044	589	328	279	5	6,298
1958	475	2,207	1,830	1,125	621	357	303	2	6,920
1959	489	2,275	1,978	1,236	667	384	283	3	7,315
1960	533	2,016	1,804	991	682	354	252	1	6,633
1961	481	1,928	1,693	1,032	783	371	384	1	6,673
Quarter ended -									
March, 1961	123	498	450	268	215	91	76	..	1,721
June, 1961	85	405	360	236	154	81	78	..	1,399
September, 1961	150	566	504	312	222	115	113	..	1,982
December, 1961	123	459	379	216	192	84	117	1	1,571
March, 1962	89	453	451	333	207	100	133	..	1,766

(a) Decrees absolute.

TABLE 16. - DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE (a) : NUMBER OF CHILDREN (b), AUSTRALIA

Period	Dissolutions of Marriage with -								Total Marriages Dissolved	Total Number of Children
	No Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	4 Children	5 Children	6 Children and over	Not Stated		
Year - 1957	2,195	1,737	1,391	584	232	77	78	4	6,298	8,127
1958	2,387	1,882	1,477	687	291	107	88	1	6,920	9,197
1959	2,510	1,927	1,627	741	330	92	88	..	7,315	9,797
1960	2,213	1,733	1,452	719	291	120	105	..	6,633	9,302
1961	2,589	1,717	1,398	641	204	79	45	..	6,673	7,945
Quarter ended -										
March, 1961	667	467	349	161	51	17	9	..	1,721	1,998
June, 1961	512	358	318	127	51	20	13	..	1,399	1,767
September, 1961	743	517	429	203	55	20	15	..	1,982	2,405
December, 1961	667	375	302	150	47	22	8	..	1,571	1,775
March, 1962	700	454	358	172	50	20	12	..	1,766	2,061

(a) Decrees absolute. (b) At time of petition. The figures shown for periods until 1960 inclusive are based on the definition of children set down in the legislation of the various States. Since 1961 a uniform definition of children has been attempted, but see note (b) to Table 14.

TABLE 17. - CHILDREN OF DISSOLVED MARRIAGES (a) : AUSTRALIA,  
THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH, 1962

Petitioner	Age of Children at Time of Petition -																	Total Number of Children	
	Under 12 mths.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5 yrs.	6 yrs.	7 yrs.	8 yrs.	9 yrs.	10 yrs.	11 yrs.	12 yrs.	13 yrs.	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16-20 yrs.		Not Stated (b)
Husband	3	9	18	32	48	43	49	51	47	58	64	40	45	35	49	33	132	133	889
Wife	2	13	30	57	73	61	68	70	68	71	67	55	67	56	73	49	142	150	1,172
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>2,061</b>

(a) This table refers to children under 21 years of marriages for which decrees absolute for dissolution have been granted in 1962. (b) Includes mainly children in respect of petitions for dissolution of marriage filed under the superseded matrimonial causes laws of the States, which did not all require this information to be supplied. Most of the not stated cases refer to dissolutions in New South Wales.

K.M. ARCHER  
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

17TH OCTOBER, 1962

**NOTE:** Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning UO413 Extension 468 or, in each State Capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.