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AUSTRALIAN FAMILY DIVERSITY: AN HISTORICAL OVERVIEW 1960-2015

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Explanatory Notes

The data documented in this report are derived from a range of sources, including data specifically requested from the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the purpose of this report. All efforts were undertaken to ensure that the most current available data were included, as at April 2015. The table below outlines the primary documents drawn upon in this report, and the latest statistics included in each.

Publication	Latest statistics date	Publication date
Australia's mothers and babies	2012	2014
Births, Aus	2013	2014
ART in Aus	2012	2014
Child protection Aus	2012-13	2014
Adoptions Aus	2013-14	2014
Family characteristics	2012-13	2015
Household income	2011-12	2013
Marriages and divorces	2013	2014

In some cases, due to changing data collection methods over the years, as well as the availability of statistics, comparable data were not always available. Where this is the case, a dash (-) is included in tables where data were unavailable.

Whilst the report covers a 55 year period, most of the data are presented – where available – in five year increments, working backwards from 2014 (given that was the year where in the majority of cases the most recent data were available). In a small number of tables data are presented by individual year, rather than five year increments. This is the case either where significant changes occurred within a five year period, or where data were available for less than one five year period.

The tables and figures presented in this report are typically accompanied by explanatory notes written by the authors so as to describe any anomalies. These should be referred to for further clarity about the data presented.

In some tables, columns may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

In places the original terminology used has been included in quotes, so as to indicate that certain terms may now be considered problematic.

Acknowledgments

We begin by acknowledging the sovereignty of the Kurna people, the First Nations people upon whose land we live and work.

We would like to thank Karen Moore, Rob Destradi, Sue Webster, and Paul Murrin at the Australian Bureau of Statistics for their support in accessing data that were not publically available.

The work undertaken for this report was funded by an Australian Research Council Future Fellowship, FT130100087.

Whilst we have aimed to be comprehensive in our historical overview of family-related data, it is possible that other data currently available were not identified. Given this report sits alongside other similar summary documents, as a whole it makes a substantive contribution to the collation of existing Australian data.

Executive Summary

Over the past three decades, increasing attention has been paid to the diversification of Australian families, particularly with regard to both modes of family formation and family structure. Researchers have provided extensive accounts of, for example, lesbian mother families, families formed through surrogacy, grandparents parenting their grandchildren, and the lives of people who were donor-conceived. These accounts, among many others, have served to expand our understanding of what counts as a family, and the specific experiences and needs of a range of family groups.

At the same time, however, changes in the political landscape have increasingly brought to the fore an emphasis upon one particular form: the heterosexual nuclear family formed through reproductive heterosex. As such, whilst on the one hand we have seen increased recognition and indeed celebration of family diversification, we have also seen something of a push back against this diversification.

The present report was developed in order to facilitate a robust, empirically-based discussion of the topic of family diversification in Australia. The report highlights two key points that address both the fact of diversification outlined above, and concerns that have arisen in response to it:

- First, changes to the face of Australian families have been slow yet consistent over the past five decades. Such changes have been brought about by developments in the realm of reproductive science, legislative change, and shifts in public attitudes. In this sense, diversification reflects the reality of Australian society, rather than being the agenda of any one group.
- Second, despite changes to the face of Australian families, much remains the same. In other words, the information presented in this report highlights both continuity and change.

In drawing upon data collected by, amongst others, the *Australian Bureau of Statistics* and the *Australian Institute for Health and Welfare*, available both publically and through request by the authors, this report presents an overview of key family-related areas. As such, it builds upon the significant work undertaken by the Australian Institute of Family Studies in their *Diversity and Change in Australian Families* report (de Vaus, 2004) by adding a historical component. Mapping changes and continuity across time provides researchers, policy makers, and members of the public with an informed understanding of Australian family diversification.



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Dr Clare Bartholomaeus

Overview

A discussion included as an appendix to the 1982 *Australian Families* survey (Cameron, 1984) provides an illuminating account of what is at stake when we seek to summarise family-related statistics. As the discussion notes, the word ‘family’ can be taken as referring either to “a group of related persons living together” or “a network of persons tied together by blood ties” (p. 77). Interestingly, having recognised this distinction, the survey itself relies upon a definition of family as “two or more persons who live in the same household and are related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption” (p. 1). This specifically excludes people classed in the survey as “non-family individuals”, defined as “a person who is not related to anyone else in the household and hence is not a member of a family” (p. 2).

What is notable about these definitions is that despite the distinction between the two understandings of family outlined above, they are collapsed in the definitions used in the survey itself, and arguably collapsed in favour of the second definition of family that privileges ‘blood ties’. Moreover, it is notable that, at least during previous data collection periods, one person households were excluded from the category of family. This excludes families who live apart, as well as people living in one person households whose families take forms other than those involving cohabiting partners or children. Furthermore, we might argue this reflects something of the human-centric nature of data collection with regard to families, where only humans are counted in available national data, thus excluding families involving, for example, one human and their animal companions.

These above points made with reference to the 1982 *Australian Families* survey are of interest to the present report, as assumptions about what counts as a family, and the purposes for which family-related demographics are measured, shapes the information available. As the aforementioned appendix discussion notes, historically, family-specific data were not recorded, with the focus instead being on population level information. In other words, whilst information about births and marriages (for example) has been documented in differing ways for over 100 years in Australia, the ways in which this information was reported has been highly dependent on the aims of the data collection.

For example, a focus on encouraging citizens to marry meant that up until the 1960s only children born in the context of a current marriage were recorded. Examples such as this highlight the fact that whilst Census and social survey data are often treated as objective records of the population, they are very much shaped by social mores. Whilst on the one hand this can limit the demographic information available (and certainly the 1982 document notes the ways in which previous Census and surveys have been limited), it can also mean that as social norms change, new ways of understanding social groupings (such as families) can be developed.

As an example of shifts in how we understand families, the 2006-07 *Family Characteristics and Transitions* survey (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2008c) defines ‘family’ as “two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household” (p. 4). Whilst this definition still excludes people who live together but who are not ‘related’, and also excludes one person households, it offers an expanded understanding of family beyond the narrow constraints of solely ‘blood ties’ or legal relationships, in addition to recognising relationships beyond registered marriages and beyond cohabitation.

Whilst a more expansive definition is still possible (i.e., to include ‘families of choice’ or to include animal companions), this more recent definition demonstrates how our understanding of family-

related measures shifts and changes as society changes, whilst nonetheless retaining (albeit sometimes in modified ways) existing categories.

In terms of the data documented in this first overview section in regards to the past 50 years, some of the most notable shifts and continuities with regards to families are:

The number of one-parent families has consistently risen, however the number of couples with or without children has remained relatively stable. Specifically, the overwhelming majority of families (almost two thirds) continue to be comprised of heterosexual couples (who have not separated) and their children. These points are evident in Table 1 and Figure 1 below, which focus on data spanning a 45 year period.

Table 1 – Main family forms, 1966 to 2011

	1966	1971	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011
Couple families without children	37.2% 664,773	26.3% 822,645	40.7% 955,336	39.4% 1,063,310	42.5% 1,271,872	32.3% 1,358,939	34.8% 1,589,882	36.4% 1,764,167	37.9% 1,943,648	38.5% 2,150,301
Couple family with children	56.6% 1,009,913	61.8% 1,931,099	52.5% 1,233,608	51.2% 1,378,501	49.3% 1,476,266	54.7% 2,307,961	50.5% 2,308,942	47.9% 2,321,165	46.1% 2,362,588	45.4% 2,534,399
One parent families	6.2% 110,531	11.9% 372,403	6.8% 160,485	9.4% 252,057	8.3% 247,182	13.1% 552,711	14.7% 672,868	15.7% 762,632	16.0% 823,254	16.1% 901,637
TOTAL*	100% 1,785,217	100% 3,126,147	100% 2,349,429	100% 2,693,868	100.1% 2,995,320	100.1% 4,219,611	100% 4,571,692	100% 4,847,964	100% 5,129,490	100% 5,586,337

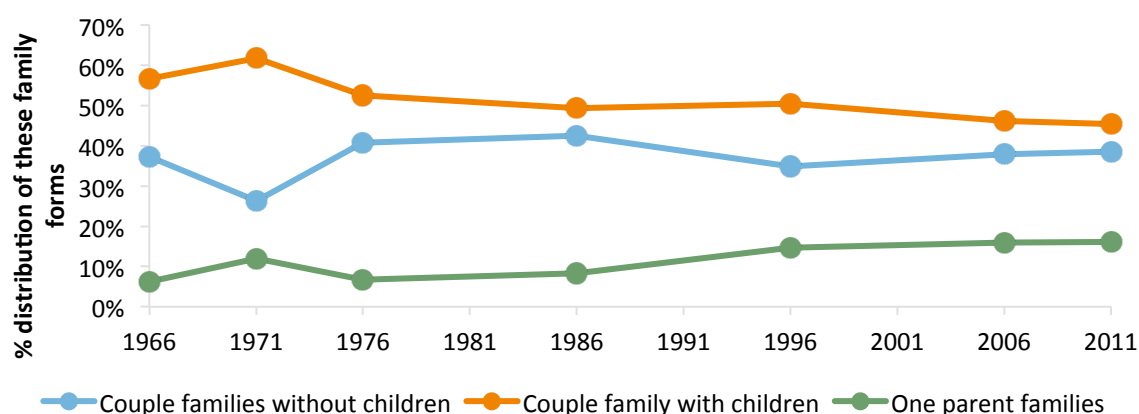
* This table focuses on the three main family forms in Australia. Each year is calculated to 100% using these three family forms only (not all columns add to 100% due to rounding). Other family form categories used by the ABS vary between years and are difficult to map historically.

Note:

- Measurements vary between years. In some years, these three categories include living with other adults (such as a grandparent) whereas other years only include, for example, couple families without children or anyone else present. In addition, children are counted slightly differently for different years: unmarried children of any age (1966); unspecified (1976; 1991); 'dependents' (1981); dependent children (1986); dependent and non-dependent children (data available separately) (1996); children under 15, dependent students, and non-dependent children combined (data available separately) (2001; 2006; 2011).
- In addition, Census data was collected about persons present in the dwelling on Census night only for 1981 and earlier, whereas for 1986 and later information on usual residents of the dwelling who were temporarily absent were also included.
- 2006 and 2011 data includes same-sex couple families.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1979, 2002, 2008a, 2012a, 2015a; Cameron, 1983; Castles, 1989b, 1993; McLennan, 1998a; O'Neill, 1972).

Figure 1 – Main family forms, by percentage, 1966 to 2011



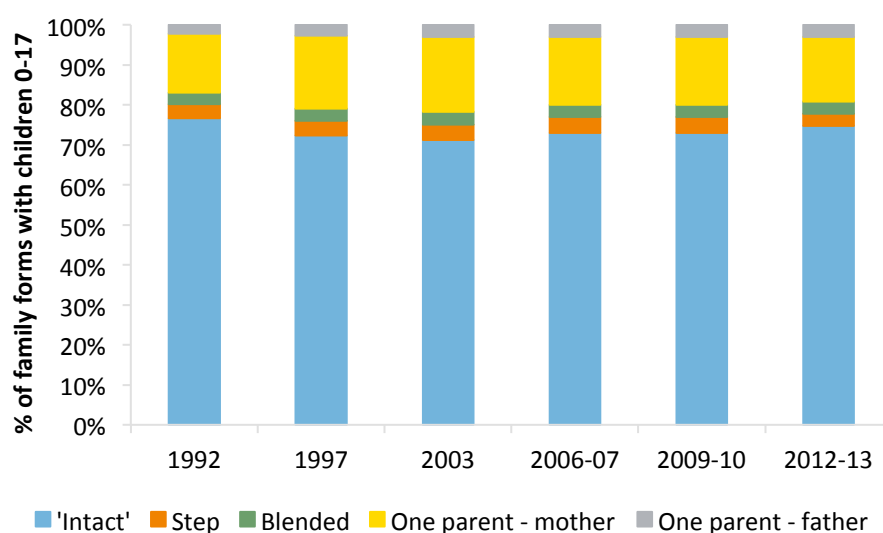
Focusing solely on families with children, Table 2 and Figure 2 highlight the relative stability in terms of population size of what are termed 'intact' families, step families, and blended families over a 20 year period. Also highlighted are the changes in the population sizes of one parent families.

Table 2 – Family forms with children 0-17, 1992 to 2012-13

	1992	1997	2003	2007	2009-10	2012-13
'Intact' families	76.3% 1,815,200	72.1% 1,741,100	70.7% 1,775,500	73% 1,871,000	73% 1,933,000	74% 2,042,000
Step families	3.5% 84,300	3.7% 88,900	3.9% 98,600	4% 94,000	4% 99,000	3% 91,000
Blended families	2.9% 68,100	3.1% 75,300	3.1% 78,100	3% 80,000	3% 91,000	3% 90,000
One parent – mothers	14.7% 349,600	18.1% 437,700	18.6% 466,400	17% 442,000	17% 441,000	16% 451,000
One parent – fathers	2.2% 53,400	2.7% 65,200	3.0% 76,100	3% 74,000	3% 77,000	3% 85,000

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Family Characteristics and previous family surveys (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1998, 2004, 2008c, 2011, 2015c).

Figure 2 – Family forms with children 0-17, by percentage, 1992 to 2012-13



Section 1: Births and relationships

As was outlined in the overview section, the terminology utilised with regards to births, deaths and relationships has changed over the course of the time period included in this report. Historically, Census and survey data on births, deaths, and marriages were referred to as such because these three areas were the focus in a normative sense. In other words, what was historically viewed as counting as a relationship in the 1960s was a heterosexual marriage. Similarly, what mattered in terms of births and deaths was primarily the growth of the nation. This does not mean that historically certain deaths (such as stillbirths) were not recorded (though it is important to note that as recently as 1965 it was not required by law in at least one State that a child who was stillborn be registered). Rather, it means that statistics produced had a very specific focus (one family form – the heterosexual nuclear family) and a very specific agenda (to document the size and growth of the population). Over time, however, increased attention has been paid to disaggregating a range of family forms, and introducing further agendas (which, we might argue, focus on diversification, rather than relying upon existing social categories). The statistics presented in this section thus highlight significant change over the past 50 years. Not only do they demonstrate the growth of the Australian population, but they also highlight changes in how the population is understood.

Births

As Table 3 and Figure 3 indicate, the total number of births continues to grow each year, however the fertility rate has decreased, meaning that fewer people are having children each year. Historically there were fewer women, but each had a relatively high number of children. The population of people who can give birth is now higher, but fewer are having children.

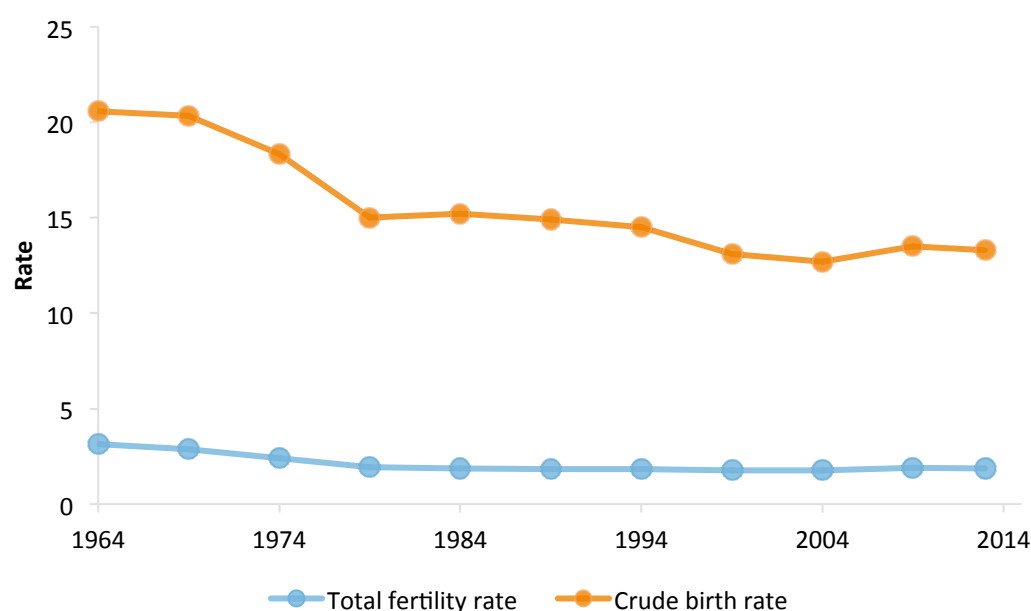
Table 3 – Total fertility rate, crude birth rate, and total births registered, 1964 to 2013

	1964	1969	1974	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009	2013
					*						
Total fertility rate (births per woman)	3.154	2.889	2.396	1.935	1.881	1.85	1.846	1.745	1.774	1.901	1.882
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 people)	20.58	20.33	18.33	15.0	15.2	14.9	14.5	13.1	12.7	13.5	13.3
Total births registered	229,149	250,176	245,177	223,100	234,034	250,900	258,051	248,870	254,246	295,738	308,065

*Rates are adjusted for late registrations of NSW births in 1984.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Births, Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1995, 2000, 2005a, 2010, 2014b), Year Book Australia (Archer, 1965, Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1971, 1975b, 1981, 1988, 1991), and Australian Historical Population Statistics (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2008b).

Figure 3 – Total fertility rate and crude birth rate, 1964 to 2013



In terms of first time mothers, over a 21 year period the mean age of such mothers has risen, the number of women aged under 20 has dropped, and the number of women aged over 40 has risen, as can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4 – First time mothers, numbers and ages, 1991 to 2012

	1991*	1994	1999	2004	2009	2012
Number of first time mothers – % of all women giving birth	40.2% 67,245	39.8% 102,473	40.8% 103,334	42.2% 106,611	41.6% 92,564	42.4% 130,522
Mean age of first time mothers (in years)	-	26.3	27.1	28.0	27.9	28.4
Women giving birth who are under 20 – % of all women giving birth	5.9% 14,923	5.3% 13,732	5.1% 12,983	4.6% 11,541	4.0% 11,768	3.6% 11,058
Women giving birth who are 40 or over – % of all women giving birth	1.4% 3,651	1.7% 4,495	2.4% 6,184	3.3% 8,318	4.0% 11,687	4.3% 13,319

* Parity (first-time mother) statistics were unavailable for NSW in 1991.

Note: This publication was first available for 1991.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Australia's mothers and babies (Day, Lancaster, & Huang, 1997; Hilder, Zhichao, Parker, Jahan, & Chambers, 2014; Lancaster, Huang, & Pedisich, 1994; Laws, Grayson, & Sullivan, 2006; Li, McNally, Hilder, & Sullivan, 2011; Nassar & Sullivan, 2001).

As Table 5 and Figure 4 indicate, over a 49 year time period the number of children born to parents who are not married has increased, and the number born to parents who are married has decreased. Nonetheless, more children are still born in the context of heterosexual marriage than not.

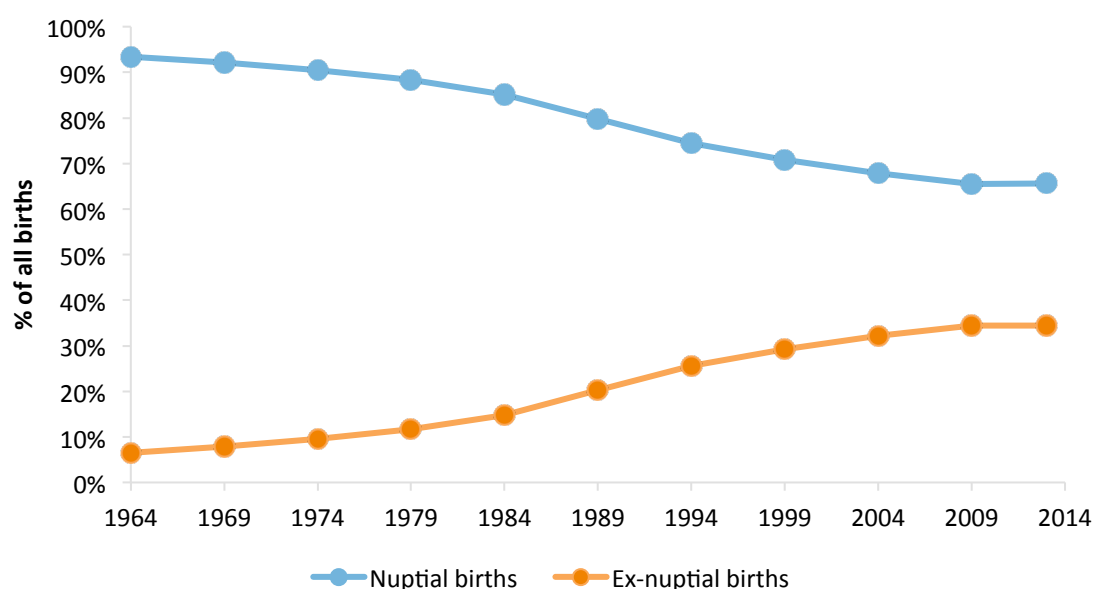
Table 5 – Nuptial status of births, 1964 to 2013

	1964	1969	1974	1979	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009	2013
Nuptial births (% of all births)	93.49%	92.17%	90.45%	88.3%	85.2%	79.8%	74.4%	70.8%	67.8%	65.5%	65.6%
Ex-nuptial births – total (% of all births)	6.51%	7.83%	9.55%	11.7%	14.8%	20.2%	25.6%	29.2%	32.2%	34.5%	34.4%
	214,224	230,591	221,769	197,021	199,405	200,065	191,959	176,179	172,481	193,560	202,046
	14,925	19,585	23,408	26,111	34,629	50,788	66,092	72,691	81,765	102,011	106,019

Note: Figures are for live/registered births.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Births, Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1995, 2000, 2005a, 2010, 2014b) and Year Book Australia (Archer, 1965; Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1971, 1975b, 1981).

Figure 4 – Nuptial status of births, by percentage of all births, 1964 to 2013



Also of note with regard to changes in the marital status of parents, Table 6 and Figure 5 indicate significant historical shifts over a 29 year period with regard to paternal acknowledgment of a child conceived outside of marriage, with the number of men denying paternity outside of married reducing considerably in the time period.

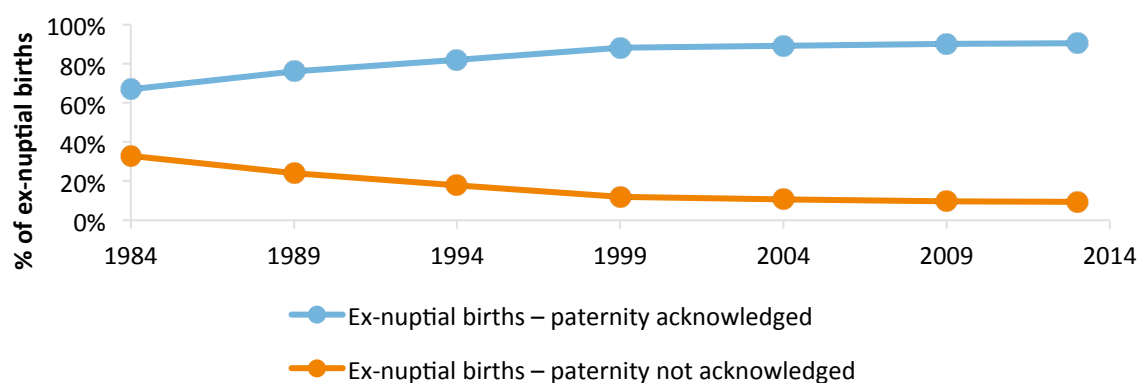
Table 6 – Ex-nuptial births, paternity acknowledged and not acknowledged, by percentage of ex-nuptial births, 1984 to 2013

	1984	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009	2013
Ex-nuptial births – paternity acknowledged (% of ex-nuptial births)	67% 23,200	76.0% 38,572	82.2% 54,333	88.2% 64,144	89.2% 72,915	90.2% 92,056	90.6% 96,075
Ex-nuptial births – paternity not acknowledged (% of ex-nuptial births)	33.0% 11,429	24.1% 12,216	18% 11,759	11.8% 8,547	10.8% 8,850	9.8% 9,955	9.4% 9,944

Note: Figures are for live/registered births.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Births, Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1995, 2000, 2005a, 2010, 2014b).

Figure 5 – Ex-nuptial births, paternity acknowledged and not acknowledged, by percentage of ex-nuptial births, 1984 to 2013



As noted above, there has been historical variance in terms of how pregnancy and birth data were recorded, particularly with regard to fetal deaths. The following and final table in this section indicates that despite considerable changes in reproductive science over the 21 year period included, the percentage of fetal deaths has not decreased.

Table 7 – Births, selected statistics, 1991 to 2012

	1991	1994	1999	2004	2009	2012
Number of women who gave birth	253,141	257,657	253,394	252,871	294,540	307,474
Crude rate of women who gave birth (per 1,000 women aged 15-44)	-	-	-	58.5	63.6	65.0
Number of babies born	256,634	261,335	257,394	257,205	299,220**	312,153***
Live births – as a % of number of babies born	99.2% 254,628	99.3% 259,590	99.1% 255,085*	99.3% 255,286	99.2% 296,791	99.3% 309,861
Fetal deaths – as a % of number of babies born	0.8% 2,006	0.7% 1,745	0.7% 1,789	0.7% 1,919	0.8% 2,341	0.7% 2,255
Fetal death rate per 1,000 births	-	6.7	7.0	7.5	7.8	7.2

*Live births includes 17 births in NSW where birth status was 'not stated'.

** 88 of these births were not categorised as live births or fetal deaths (these are not included in the % totals).

*** 37 births were not stated as live births or fetal deaths (these are not included in the % totals).

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Australia's mothers and babies (Day, et al., 1997; Hilder, et al., 2014; Lancaster, et al., 1994; Laws, et al., 2006; Li, et al., 2011; Nassar & Sullivan, 2001).

Relationships

In terms of relationships, a primary focus of Australian data is on marital status. At the time of writing, marriage in Australia was restricted to heterosexual couples. Tables 8 and 9 and Figures 6 and 7 below indicate that whilst the number of marriages has increased across the 49 year period, the actual marriage rate has decreased. With regard to divorce, whilst there was an initial spike in divorces following the introduction of no fault divorces in 1976, the number of divorces has fallen in line with the number of marriages.

Table 8 – Marriages registered and crude marriage rate, 1964 to 2013

	1964	1974	1984*	1994	2004**	2013
Marriages registered	86,013	110,673	108,655	111,174	110,958	118,962
Crude marriage rate (per 1,000 population)	7.72	8.27	7.0	6.2	5.5	5.1

*Late registrations in NSW affected figures for 1984.

** Data is subject to sampling error for 2004.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Year Book Australia (Archer, 1965; Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1975b, 1986) and Marriages and Divorces (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2009, 2014f; McLennan, 1995).

Table 9 – Divorces granted and crude divorce rate, 1964 to 2013

	1964	1974	1975	1984	1994	2004	2013
Divorces granted	7,917	17,495	24,257	43,124	48,256	52,747	47,638
Crude divorce rate (per 1,000 population)	0.7	1.3	4.5	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.1

Note: Statistics for 1964 and 1974 refer to dissolution of marriage which means divorce (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1975b p. 177).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics/Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics – Social Statistics, Australia: Divorce (Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, 1965), Year Book Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1975b, 1988), Divorces (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1975a), Marriages and Divorces Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2009, 2014f; McLennan, 1995), and Australian Historical Population Statistics (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2008b).

Figure 6 – Marriage and divorce rates, by crude rate per 1,000 population, 1964 to 2013

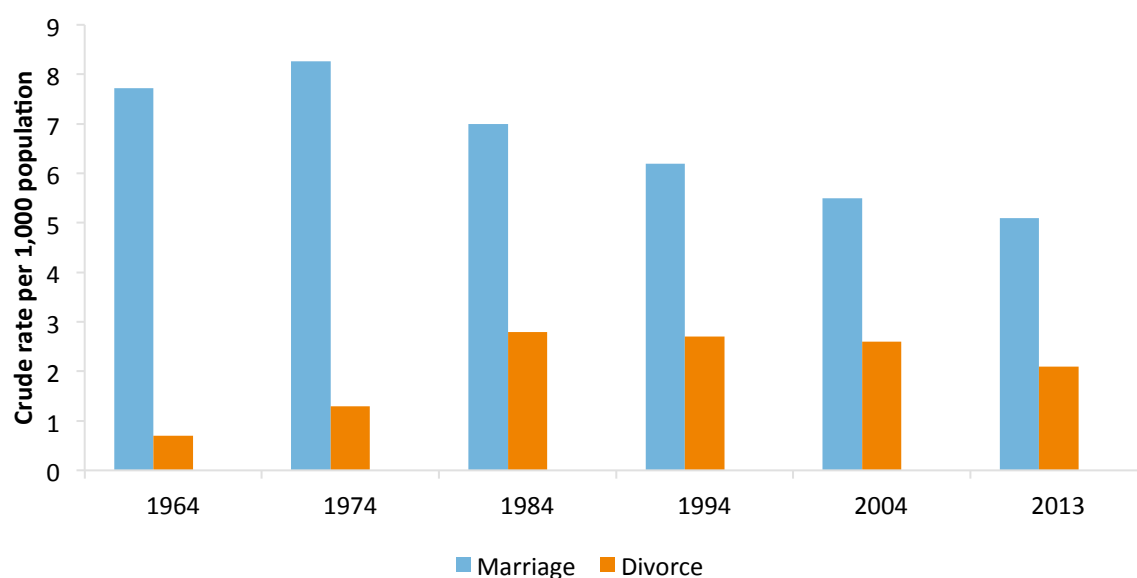
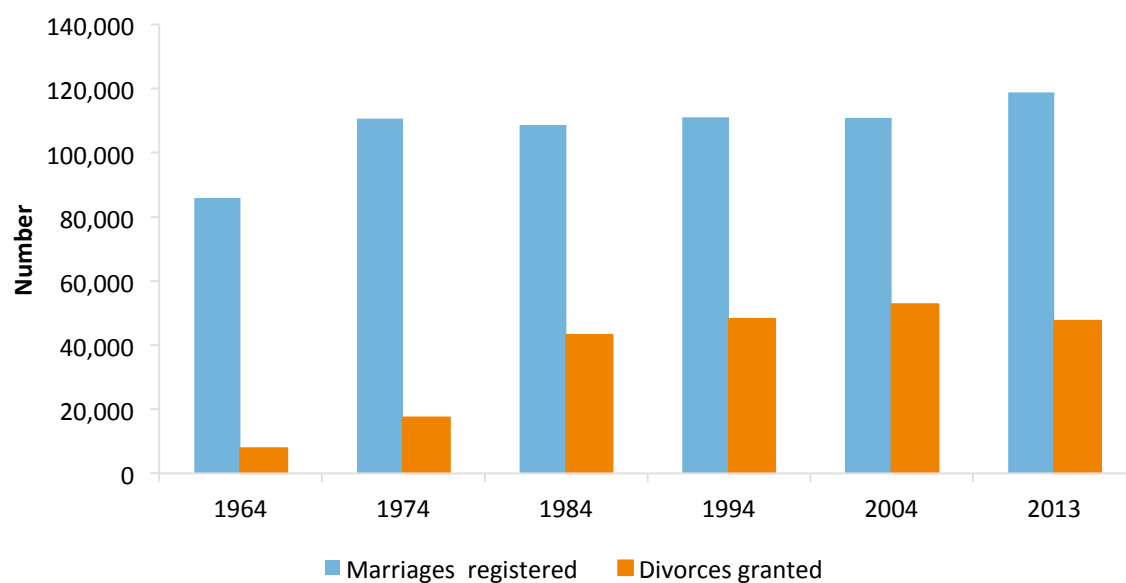


Figure 7 – Marriage registered and divorces granted, by number, 1964 to 2013



If we look at men and women separately with regard to marriage, as can be seen in Tables 10 and 11 and Figures 8 and 9, interesting differences are evident. Over the 45 year period, women were more likely than men to be widowed, whilst men were more likely than women to never be married.

Table 10 – Marital status of the population, females, 1966 to 2011

	1966	1976	1986	1996	2006	2011
Married	63.2%	62.6%	57.1%	52.2% 3,737,188	48.6% 3,956,297	47.8% 4,229,575
Separated*	2.1%	2.8%	2.8%	3.6% 254,975	3.3% 269,456	3.2% 287,004
Divorced	1.3%	2.5%	5.1%	7.0% 503,498	9.1% 740,040	9.4% 835,077
Widowed	11.4%	11.3%	10.6%	10.1% 727,045	9.2% 750,840	8.5% 752,436
Never married	22.1%	21.1%	24.4%	27.1% 1,941,876	29.8% 2,423,524	31.1% 2,753,427

* For 1966, 1976, and 1986 this is written as 'married but permanently separated'.

Note: Data is for % of female population aged 15 and over.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1997, 2008a, 2012a) and Year Book Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1988).

Figure 8 – Marital status of the population, females, by percentage, 1966 to 2011

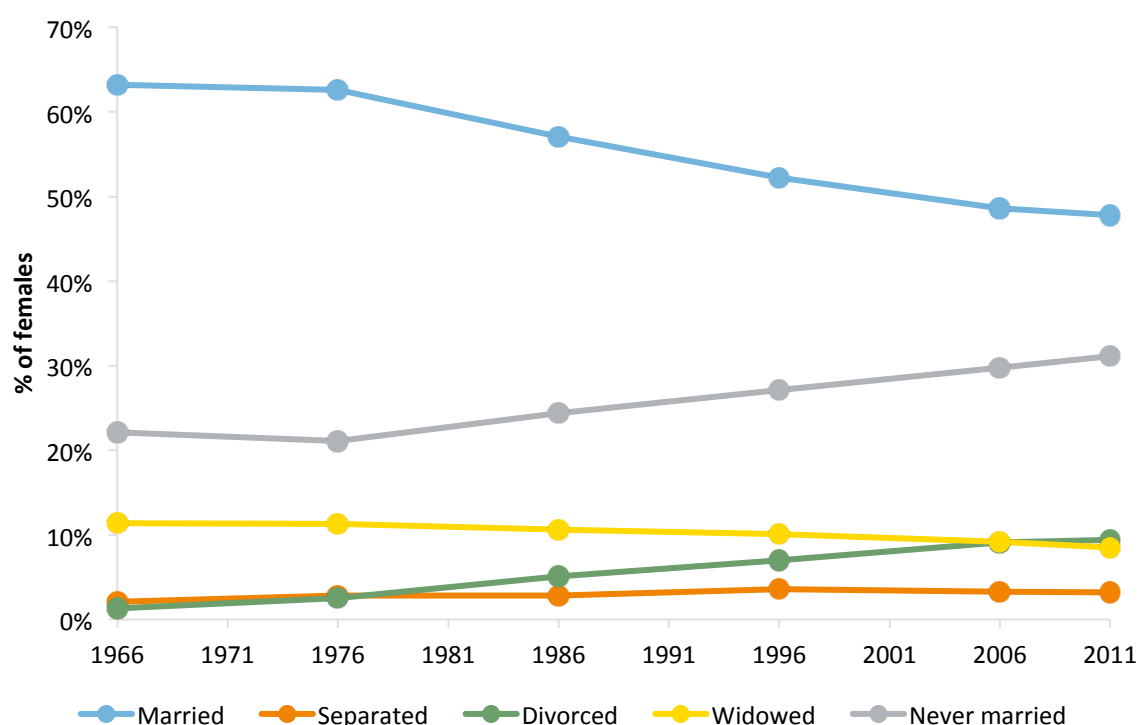


Table 11 – Marital status of the population, males, 1966 to 2011

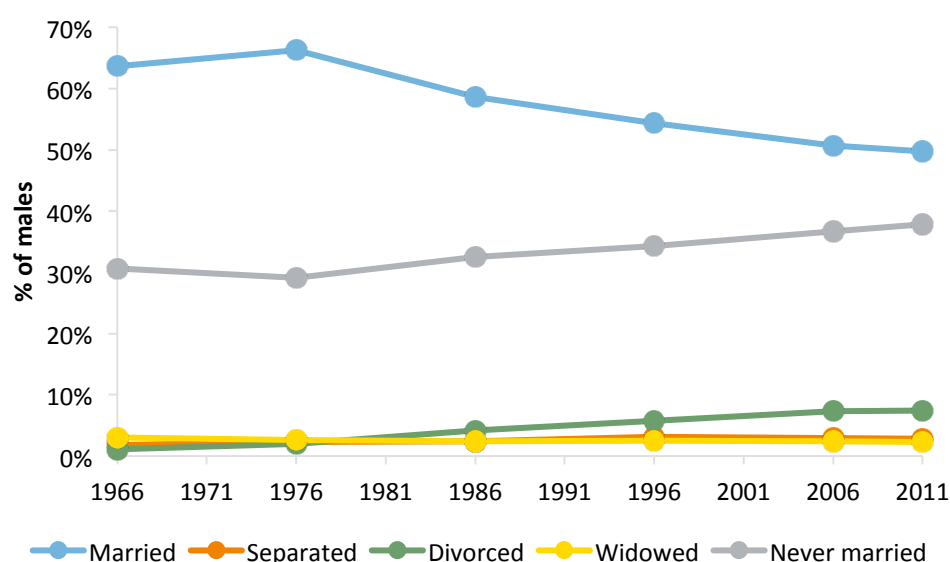
	1966	1976	1986	1996	2006	2011
Married	63.6%	66.3%	58.6%	54.3% 3,733,118	50.7% 3,944,382	49.7% 4,231,539
Separated*	1.8%	2.3%	2.4%	3.1% 216,099	2.9% 225,600	2.8% 242,275
Divorced	1.1%	2.0%	4.2%	5.7% 395,336	7.3% 566,875	7.4% 625,823
Widowed	3.0%	2.6%	2.4%	2.5% 171,326	2.4% 185,982	2.3% 197,198
Never married	30.6%	29.1%	32.5%	34.3% 2,359,842	36.7% 2,855,080	37.8% 3,209,342

* For 1966, 1976, and 1986 this is written as 'married but permanently separated'.

Note: Data is for % of male population aged 15 and over.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1997, 2008a, 2012a) and Year Book Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1988).

Figure 9 – Marital status of the population, males, by percentage, 1966 to 2011



In terms of divorces where children are involved, as reported in Table 12 and Figure 10, over the 49 year period the percentage of such divorces has reduced significantly, though due to population growth the actual number of children whose parents have divorced has considerably increased.

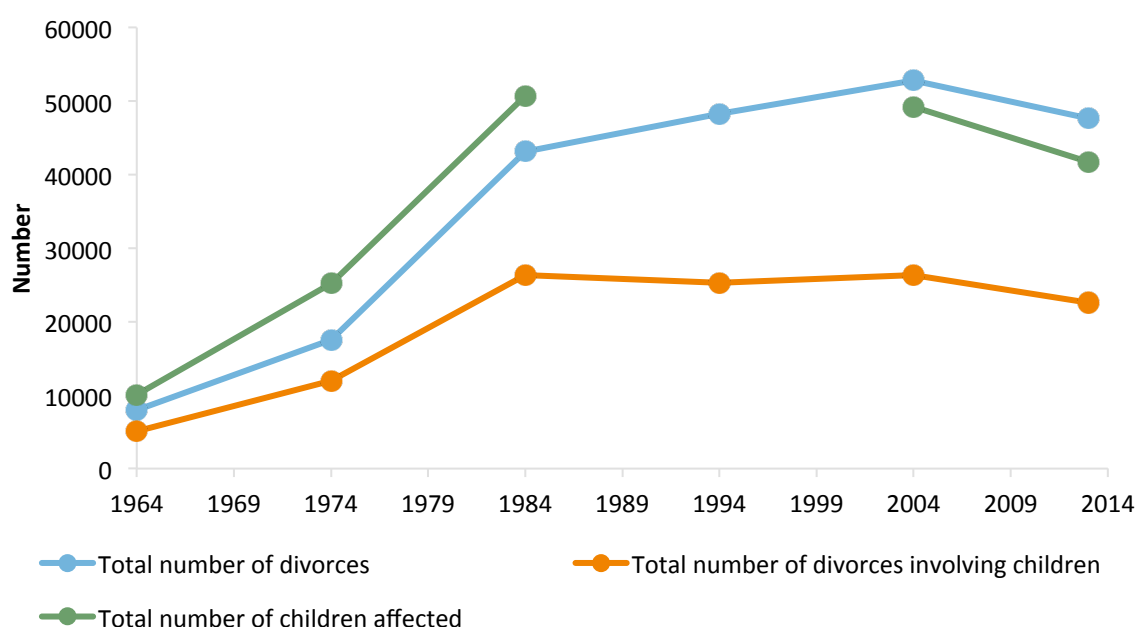
Table 12 – Divorces involving children, 1964 to 2013

	1964	1974	1984	1994	2004	2013
Total number of divorces involving children - % of all divorces	63.6% 5,032	68.2% 11,938	60.9% 26,276	52.4% 25,316	49.8% 26,289	47.4% 22,590
Total number of children affected	9,997	25,192	50,713	-	49,260	41,747
Average number of children per divorce (excludes divorces not involving children)	1.99	1.44	1.93	-	1.87	1.8

Note: For 1964 children refers to 'children of the marriage' under 21 years at time of petition Australia: Divorce (Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, 1965). For all other years here children refers to '[u]nmarried children of the marriage under 18 years' (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2008b).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics/Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics – Social Statistics, Australia: Divorce (Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, 1965), Divorces (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1974), Year Book Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1988), Marriages and Divorces Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2009, 2014f), and Australian Historical Population Statistics (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2008b).

Figure 10 – Divorces involving children, by number, 1964 to 2013



Turning to consider relationships other than those involving marriage, the social and legal recognition of such relationships (such as in de facto status) has resulted in significant changes to the statistical recognition of relationships. As can be seen in Table 13 and Figure 11, the percentage of de facto relationships has increased significantly across the 30 year period.

Table 13 – De facto relationships, 1982 to 2012-13

	1982	1992	1997	2006-07	2012-13
Number of people in de facto relationships*	3% 335,900	5% 710,800	5% 756,500	10% 1,553,000	12% 2,148,000
Couples which are de facto marriages/relationships** - % of all couples	4.7% 168,600	8.4% 345,200	9.1% 378,300	-	-

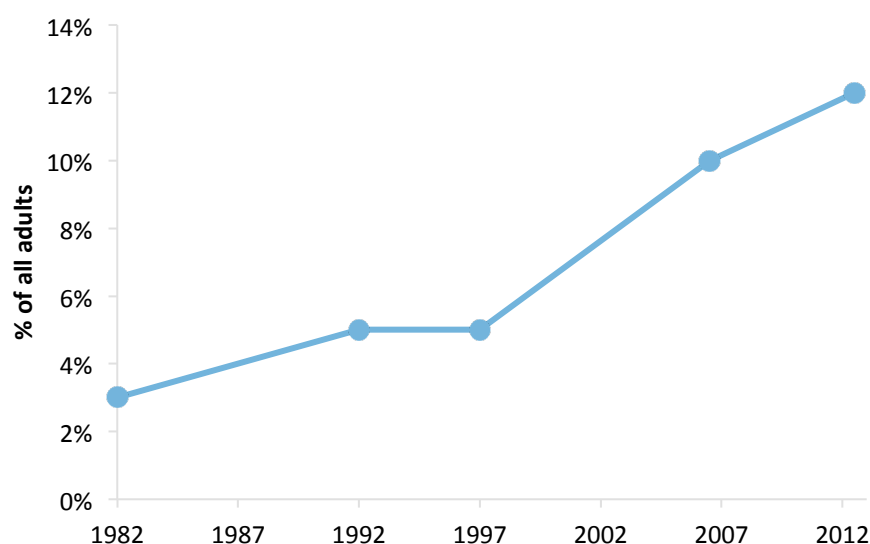
*For 1982, 1992, and 1997 this includes persons age 15 and over and for 2006-07 and 2012-13 this refers to people over 18 (and includes same-sex couples). Therefore, the percentage for 1982, 1992, and 1997 is of all people 15 and over and for 2006-07 and 2015 is of all people 18 and over.

**In some years de facto marriages are distinguished from de facto relationships.

Note: Data on de facto relationships is unavailable for 2003 and 2009-10 and there is limited data available for 2006-07 and 2012-13.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Family Characteristics and previous family surveys (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1998, 2008c, 2015c; Cameron, 1984; Castles, 1994).

Figure 11 – People in de facto couples, by percentage of all adults, 1982 to 2012-13



Note: The percentage for 1982, 1992, and 1997 is of all people 15 and over and for 2006-07 and 2015 is of all people 18 and over.

Accordingly, the number of de facto relationships involving children has also increased significantly over the 30 year period, as evident in Table 14 and Figure 12.

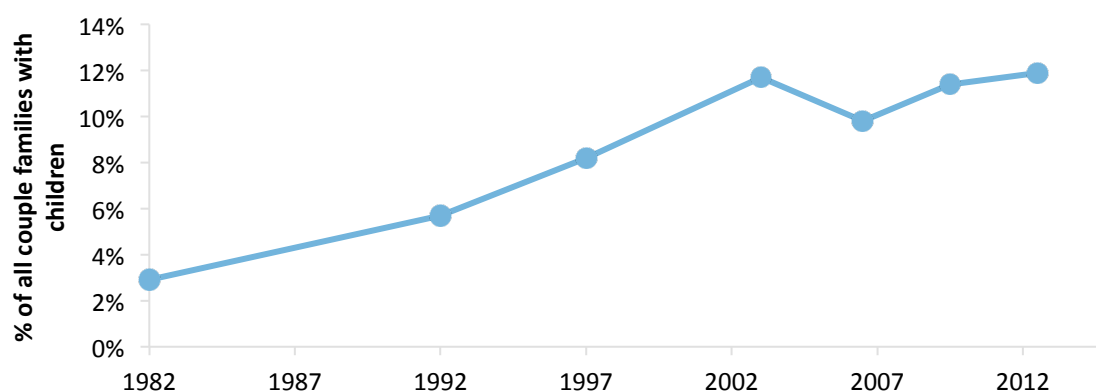
Table 14 – De facto couple families with children, 1982 to 2012-13

	1982	1992	1997	2003	2006-07	2009-10	2012-13
De facto couple families with children – % of couples with children	2.9%	5.7%	8.2%	11.7%	9.8%	11.4%	11.9%
	66,200	140,600	163,600	230,400	253,300	303,400	330,800

Note: For 1982 and 1992 de facto couples with children have been taken from the family type category of 'Couple, others'. 1997 includes dependent children only. 2003, 2006-07, 2009-10, and 2012-13 includes children aged 0-17 years only.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Family Characteristics and previous family surveys (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1998, 2004, 2015b; Castles, 1994).

Figure 12 – De facto couple families with children, by percentage of all couple families with children, 1982 to 2012-13



Section 2: Household incomes

Historically, the inclusion of income in Census and surveys has been primarily focused on two key areas: identifying individuals or groups of individuals who might benefit from welfare payments, and relatedly, identifying the role of ‘breadwinners’ within families. The previously mentioned discussion of family-related demographics that appeared in the 1982 *Australian Families* survey (Cameron, 1984) suggests that “the term ‘breadwinner’ dates back to about the thirteenth century and came into use in Australian official statistics in the 1880’s” (p. 76). This category, the discussion suggests, formalised a binary category of husband and wife as breadwinner and dependant that, whilst no longer in use within current Census and surveys, continues to both inform how men’s and women’s roles are understood socially, and thus shapes ongoing disparities in men’s and women’s incomes.

The data presented in this section highlight the ongoing disparities that exist with regard to families involving both men and women, families where there are two female parents, and families where there are two male parents. Whilst perhaps understandable, families where there are two parents are those with the highest household incomes (as can be seen in Table 15 and Figure 13), this is clearly differentiated by the gender of the parents (as can be seen in Tables 16-18 and Figures 14-16).

Table 15 – Median gross household income per week, by household form, 1986 to 2011-12

	1986	1994-95	2003-04	2011-12
Couple family with dependent children	\$546*	\$829	\$1,393	\$2,193
Couple only	\$392**	\$570***	\$865	\$1,374
One parent family with dependent children	\$190	\$340	\$612	\$1,053
Other one family households	-	-	\$1,261	\$2,050
Multiple family households	-	-	\$1,787	\$2,654
One person households	\$221	\$256	\$381	\$562
Group households	-	-	\$1,162	\$1,827
Total – All households	\$328****	\$434****	\$915	\$1,442

* Married couple with dependent children.

** Married couple without dependent children.

*** Couple without dependent children.

**** These totals include couple with dependent children, couple without dependent children, one-parent, and one-person households only.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Income surveys (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1996, 2005b, 2013c; Castles, 1989a).

Figure 13 – Median gross household income per week, by household form, 1986 to 2011-12

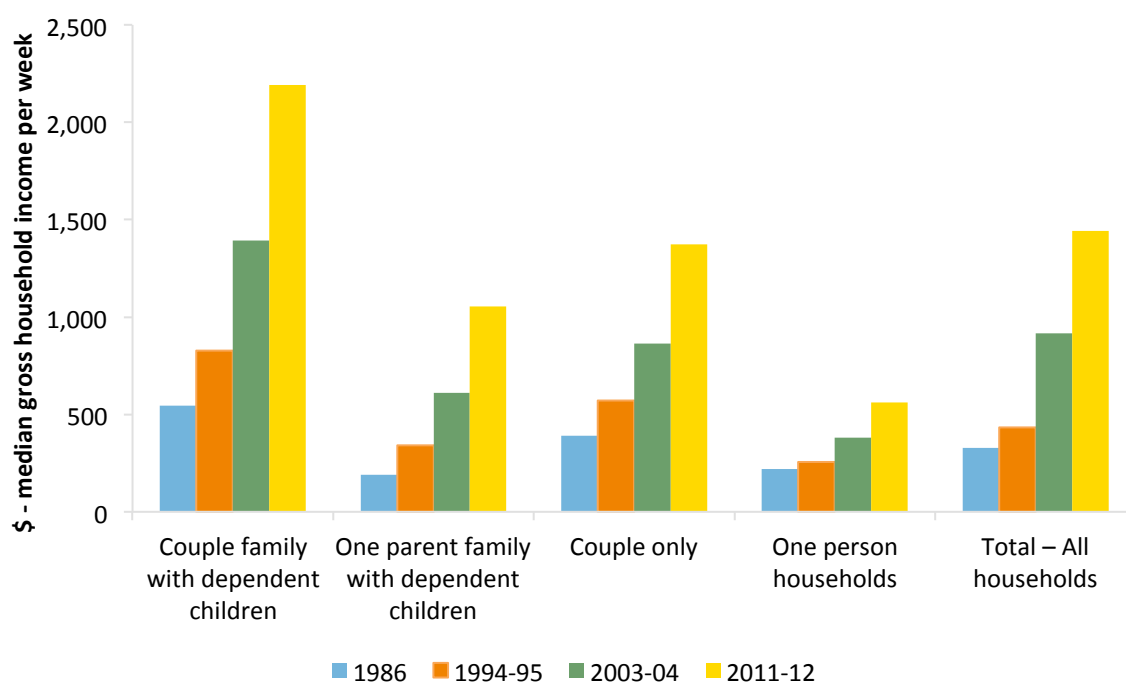


Table 16 – People in couples earning \$2,000 or more a week, in male couples, female couples, and female/male couples

2011	
Men in male couples	18%
Men in female/male couples	14%
Women in female couples	11%
Women in female/male couples	4%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Australian Social Trends (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2013b).

Figure 14 – People in couples earning \$2,000 or more a week, in male couples, female couples, and female/male couples, 2011

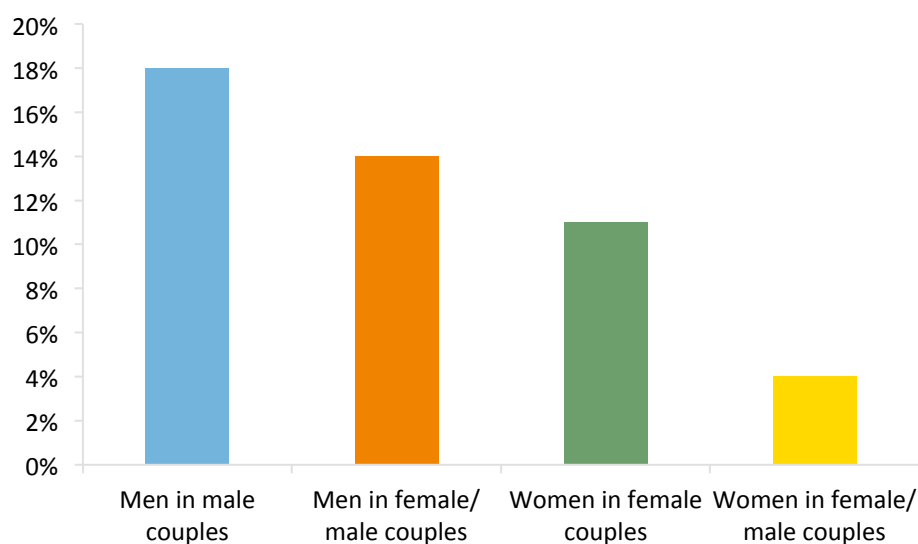


Table 17 – Couples with both partners earning \$1,000 or more a week, 2011

	2011
Male couples	40%
Female couples	35%
Female/male couples	17%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Australian Social Trends (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2013b).

Figure 15 – Couples with both partners earning \$1,000 or more a week, in male couples, female couples, and female/male couples, 2011

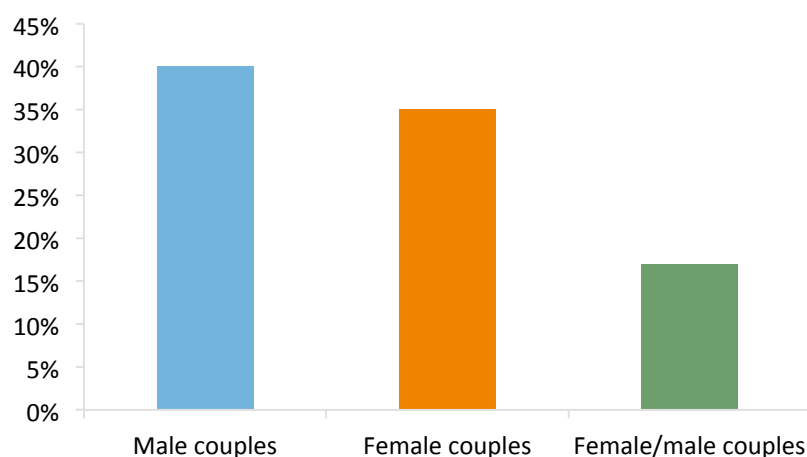
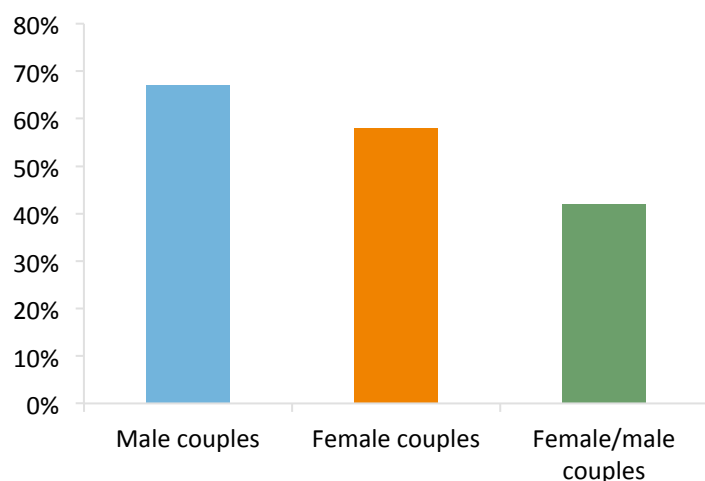


Table 18 – Couples with a combined income of \$2,000 or more a week, 2011

	2011
Male couples	67%
Female couples	58%
Female/male couples	42%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Australian Social Trends (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2013b).

Figure 16 – Couples with a combined income of \$2,000 or more a week, in male couples, female couples, and female/male couples, 2011



Section 3: Family forms

Having, in the previous sections, outlined something of the population size of Australian families, with a focus on their legal recognition (i.e., through marriage or de facto status) and whether or not children are involved, in this section greater detail is provided about differing family forms. Building on the first section, then, this third section highlights the increased diversification of Australian families as noted in the Executive Summary. Though also as noted there, married heterosexual couples with children still remain the most common family form, this is not to minimise the significant diversification of Australian families that continues to occur.

As noted in the first section, it is often the case that one person households are not included in family-related data. This may be because, more broadly, family is viewed through a lens of proximity, meaning that cohabitation is taken as constituting family, and moreover that only human-human relationships are seen as constituting family. Table 19 below suggests that one person households are a significant growing population, thus warranting ongoing attention.

Table 19 – One person households, by percentage of all households, 1966 to 2011

	1966	1976	1986	1996	2006	2011
One person households	15.7%	19.8%	18.8%	22.1%	24.4%	24.3%
as % of all households	516,774	842,405	987,979	1,432,816	1,740,481	1,888,698

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1979, 2007, 2013a; Castles, 1989b; McLennan, 1998a; O'Neill, 1972).

Couples without children at home

Turning to consider couple families where there are not children living in the home, the number of such couples has risen over the 45 year period included in Table 20 and 21 and Figure 17 below.

Table 20 – Couples without children at home, by percentage of all families, 1966 to 2011

	1966	1976	1986	1996	2006	2011
Couple families without children	24.0%	28.0%	30.6%	34.1%	37.2%	37.8%
– % of all families	664,773	955,336	1,271,872	1,589,882	1,943,648	2,150,301

Note:

- This is listed as 'Head and spouse' for 1966 and 1976.
- 2006 and 2011 includes same-sex couple families.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics/Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics – Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1979, 2008a, 2012a; Castles, 1989b; McLennan, 1998a; O'Neill, 1972).

Figure 17 – Couples without children at home, by percentage of all families, 1966 to 2011

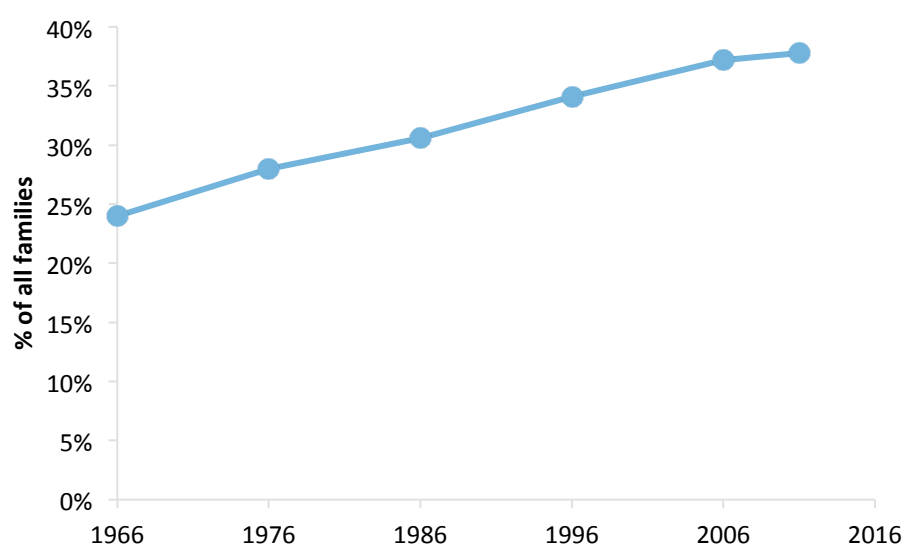


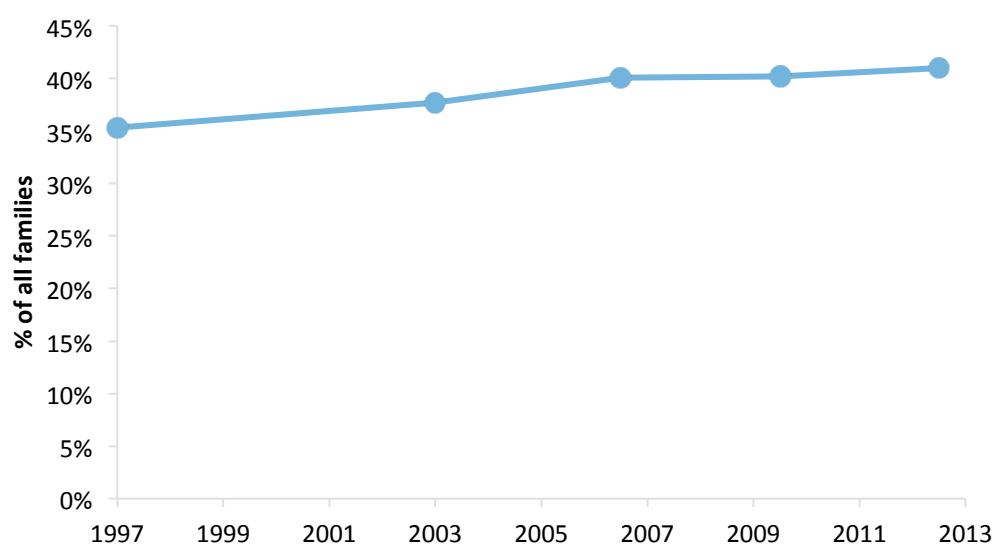
Table 21 – Couple only families, by percentage of all families, 1997 to 2012-13

	1997	2003	2006-07	2009-10	2012-13
Couple only families – % of all families	35.3%	37.7%	40.1%	40.2%	41%
	1,769,000	2,088,000	2,369,000	2,553,000	2,725,000

Note: Includes same-sex couples.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Family Characteristics and previous family surveys (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011, 2015c).

Figure 18 – Couple only families, by percentage of all families, 1997 to 2012-13



Couples with children

Data on couples who have children have been somewhat sporadically reported. Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data suggest that such families (including both dependent and non-dependent children) constituted 36.4% of all families in 1966, and 36.2% of all families in 1976 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1979; O'Neill, 1972). In 1986 figures available pertain only to couple families with dependent children, who constituted 35.5% of all families (Castles, 1989b). Comparable data have been more rigorously collected since 1997 (using surveys focusing on families, rather than Census data), as evident in Tables 22 and 23 and Figures 19 and 20. These more recent data suggest that the percentage of couple families with children has remained fairly stable over time.

Table 22 – Couple families with children, by percentage of all families, 1997 to 2012-13

	1997	2003	2006-07	2009-10	2012-13
Couple families with dependent children – % of all families	39.7% 1,988,000	37.4% 2,069,000	36.9% 2,177,000	36.1% 2,290,000	36% 2,441,000
Couple families with non-dependent children only – % of all families	8.3% 416,000	8.6% 477,000	8.0% 471,000	8.3% 526,000	8% 526,000
TOTAL couple families with children – % of all families	48.0% 2,404,000	46.0% 2,546,000	44.8% 2,647,000	44.4% 2,816,000	44% 2,966,000

Note: Includes same-sex couples.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Family Characteristics and previous family surveys (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011, 2015c).

Figure 19 – Couple families with children, by percentage of all families, 1997 to 2012-13

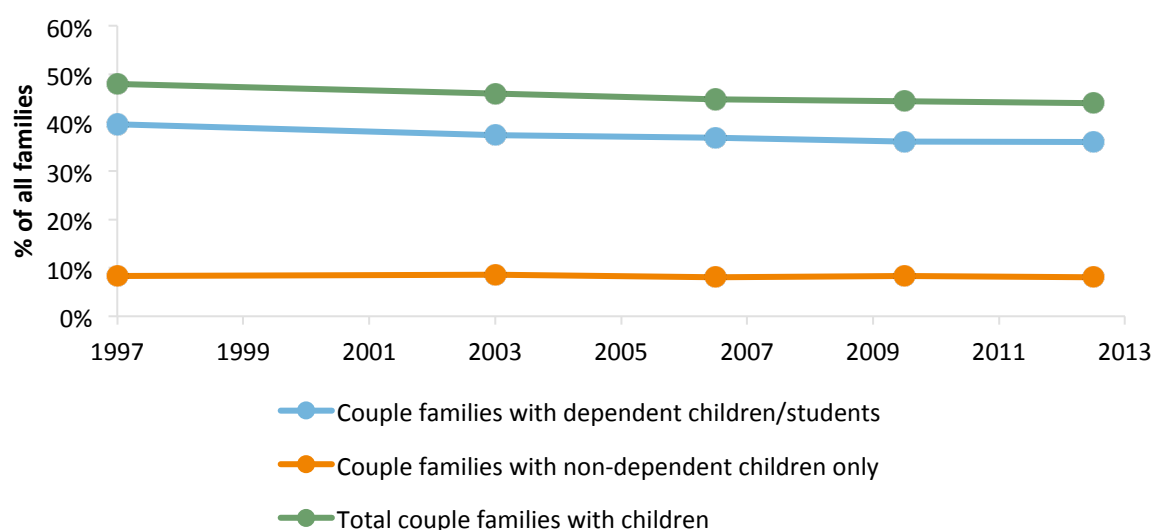
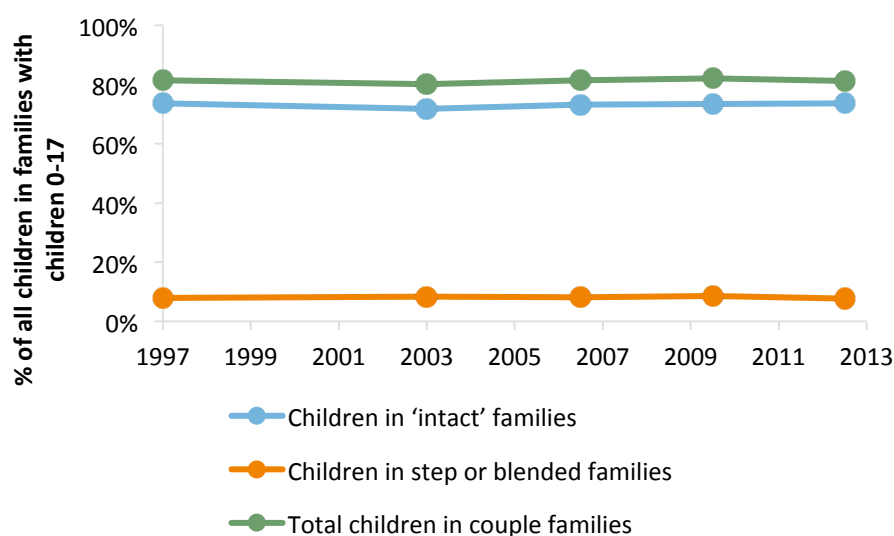


Table 23 – Number of children 0-17 in couple families, by percentage of all children in families with children 0-17, 1997 to 2012-13

	1997	2003	2006-07	2009-10	2012-13
Children 0-17 in 'intact' families	73.6% 3,397,000	71.8% 3,334,000	73.3% 3,484,000	73.4% 3,680,000	73.6% 3,815,000
Children 0-17 in step or blended families	7.9% 364,000	8.3% 383,000	8.2% 390,000	8.6% 430,000	7.7% 401,000
TOTAL Children 0-17 in couple families	81.5% 3,761,000	80.1% 3,717,000	81.5% 3,874,000	82.0% 4,110,000	81.3% 4,216,000

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Family Characteristics and previous family surveys (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011, 2015c).

Figure 20 – Number of children 0-17 in couple families, 1997 to 2012-13



One parent families

As with couple families with children, Census data on one parent families with children have also been somewhat inconsistently recorded over time. In 1966 such families constituted 4.0% of all families, in 1976 4.7% of all families, and in 1986 6.0% of all families. Where data are available for these time periods, female one parent families constitute the majority of one parent families (80.0% of all one parent families in 1966 and 85.5% of all one parent families in 1976 (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1979; Castles, 1989b; O'Neill, 1972).

From 1997 onwards, clearer and more consistent data are available on one parent families. Table 24 and Figure 21, for example, indicate that the number of one parent families as a percentage of all families has remained fairly consistent over the 15 year period included in the table and figure.

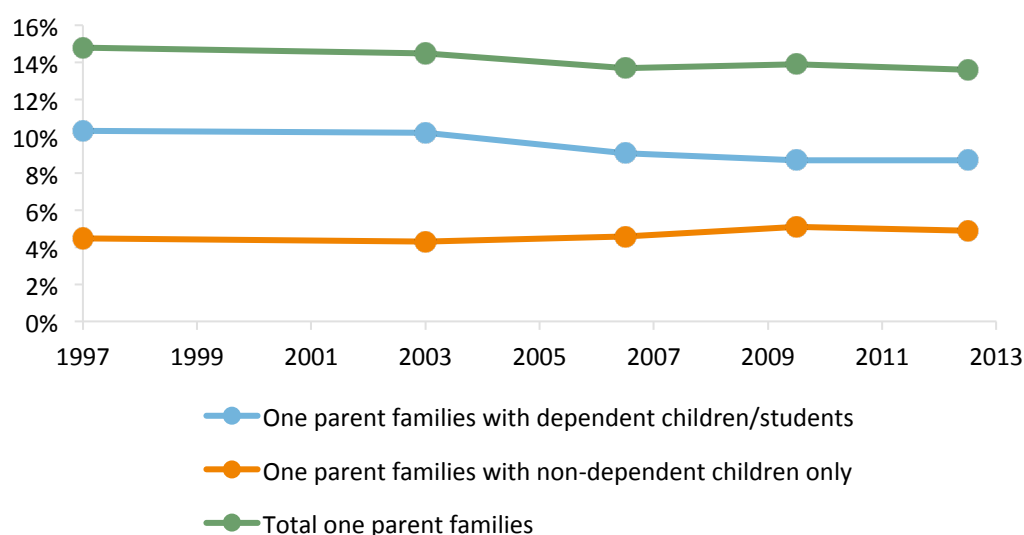
Table 24 – One parent families, by percentage of all families, 1997 to 2012-13

	1997	2003	2006-07	2009-10	2012-13
One parent families with dependent children/students – % of all families	10.3% 517,000	10.2% 562,000	9.1% 535,000	8.7% 555,000	8.7% 580,000
One parent families with non-dependent children only – % of all families	4.5% 223,000	4.3% 239,000	4.6% 274,000	5.1% 324,000	4.9% 331,000
TOTAL one parent families – % of all families	14.8% 740,000	14.5% 800,000	13.7% 808,000	13.9% 879,000	13.6% 911,000

Note: Numbers have been rounded by the ABS so totals may not add up.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Family Characteristics and previous family surveys (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011, 2015c).

Figure 21 – One parent families, by percentage of all families, 1997 to 2012-13



Echoing the data from 1966, 1976, and 1986 noted above, in the 15 year period 1997-2012 one parent families involving a woman continue to constitute the majority of one parent families. However there has been an increase in the number of one parent families involving a man in this same time period, though these families have not increased as an overall percentage of all families, as can be seen in Table 25 and Figure 22.

Table 25 – One parent families with children of all ages. by gender of parent, 1997 to 2012-13

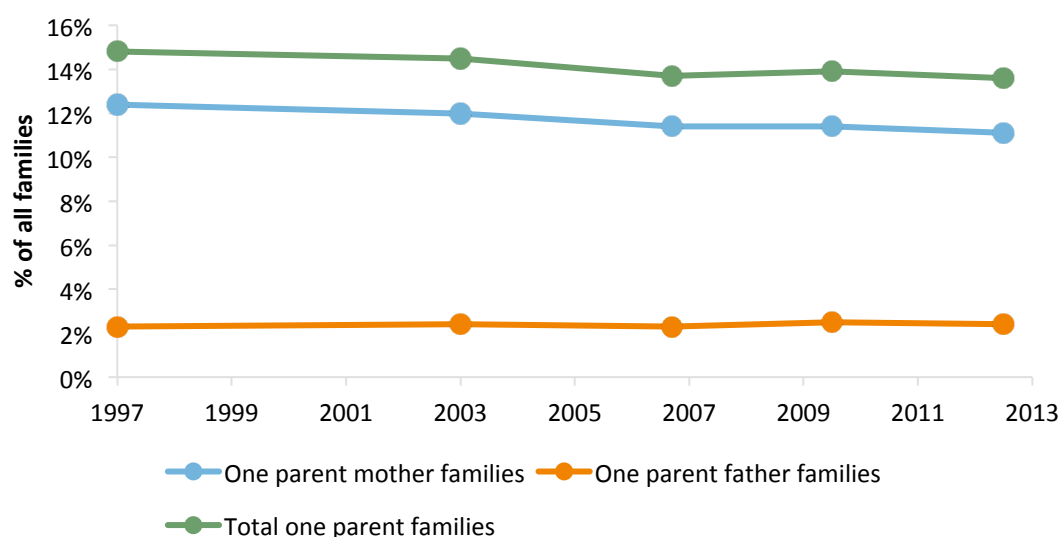
	1997	2003	2006-07	2009-10	2012-13
One parent mother families – % of all one parent families	84.2% 623,000	83.3% 666,000	83.4% 674,000	82.1% 722,000	82.1% 747,000
One parent father families – % of all one parent families	15.8% 117,000	16.8% 134,000	16.6% 134,000	17.7% 156,000	17.7% 161,000
One parent mother families – % of all families*	12.4% 623,000	12.0% 666,000	11.4% 674,000	11.4% 722,000	11.1% 747,000
One parent father families – % of all families	2.3% 117,000	2.4% 134,000	2.3% 134,000	2.5% 156,000	2.4% 161,000
Total one parent families – % of all families	14.8% 740,000	14.5% 800,000	13.7% 808,000	13.9% 879,000	13.6% 909,000

*All families is couples with children, couples without children, and one parent families.

Note: This data includes children 0-14, dependent students 15-24, non-dependent students 15-24, and 25 and over.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Family Characteristics and previous family surveys (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2011, 2015c).

Figure 22 – One parent families with children of all ages, by gender of parent, by percentage of all families, 1997 to 2012-13



Step families and blended families

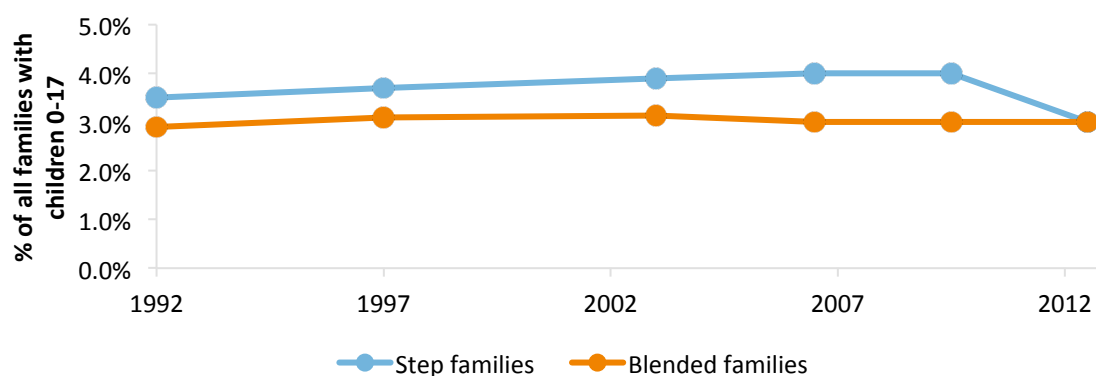
Australian data have historically and in the present maintained a distinction between ‘step’ and ‘blended’ families involving children. The former refers to families where all of the children are only related to either one of the parents who have re-partnered following separation. The latter refers to families that would otherwise be referred to as step families, but where the parents have since had at least one child together (either through adoption or through conception). The numbers of both family forms have remained relatively consistent over the 20 year period included in Table 26 and Figure 23.

Table 26 – Step and blended family forms with children 0-17, by percentage of all families with children 0-17, 1992 to 2012-13

	1992	1997	2003	2006-07	2009-10	2012-13
Step families	3.5% 84,300	3.7% 88,900	3.9% 98,600	4% 94,000	4% 99,000	3% 91,000
Blended families	2.9% 68,100	3.1% 75,300	3.1% 78,100	3% 80,000	3% 91,000	3% 90,000

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Family Characteristics and previous family surveys (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 1998, 2004, 2008c, 2011, 2015c).

Figure 23 – Step and blended family forms with children 0-17, by percentage of all families with children 0-17, 1992 to 2012-13



Similar to the figures above on one parent families, step families where the children were born to the woman in the family are greater in number than step families where the children were born to the man in the family, as can be seen in Table 27.

Table 27 – Step parent families with children 0-17, by gender of birth parent, 2003 to 2012-13

	2003	2006-07	2009-10	2012-13
Step families – birth child(ren) of mother only	3.2% 80,000	2.9% 75,100	2.8% 74,100	2.4% 67,800
Step families – birth child(ren) of father only	0.5% 12,100	0.5% 12,300	0.5% 14,300	0.5% 15,100*
Step families – birth child(ren) of both father and mother	0.3% 6,500	0.2% 6,200	0.4% 10,900*	0.1% 3,500**

* This estimate has a relative standard error of 25%-50% and should be used with caution.

** This estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Note: Includes same-sex couples.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Family Characteristics and previous family surveys (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014d, 2014e, 2015d).

Female couple and male couple families

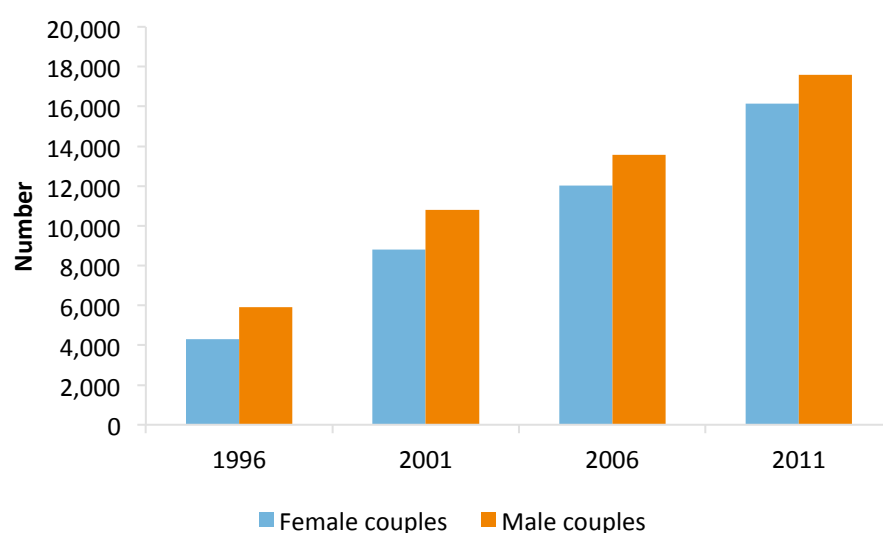
Since 1996, Australian national data have been collected with regard to male couples and female couples. Given the ways in which such couples are determined (such as on Census data), it is likely that currently available figures significantly under represent the actual population sizes of female couples and male couples. Nonetheless, Table 28 and Figure 24 indicate the growing sizes of both groups.

Table 28 – Female couples and male couples, 1996 to 2011

	1996	2001	2006	2011
Female couples	4,301	8,792	12,032	16,130
Male couples	5,912	10,802	13,575	17,583
Total female and male couples	10,213	19,594	25,607	33,668
Total - % of all couples	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2012b, 2014a) and Year Book Australia (Trewin, 2005).

Figure 24 – Female couples and male couples, by number of couples, 1996 to 2011



Similarly, available data indicate that growing numbers of female couples and male couples involve children, as can be seen in Table 28.

Table 29 – Same-sex couple families with children, 1996 to 2011

	1996	2001	2006	2011
Total same-sex couple families with children	925	2,187	2,868	4,083
% of same-sex couple families – out of all couple families with children	0.04%	0.09%	0.12%	0.16%
% of same-sex couple families with children – out of all same-sex couples	9.1%	11.2%	11.2%	12.1%

Note: Children includes children 0-14, dependent students (15-24), and non-dependent children (15 and over).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014a, 2014c).

As was the case with regard to one parent families and step and blended families, female couples with children are far greater in number than are male couples with children, though both are rising in number, as can be seen in Table 30 and Figure 25.

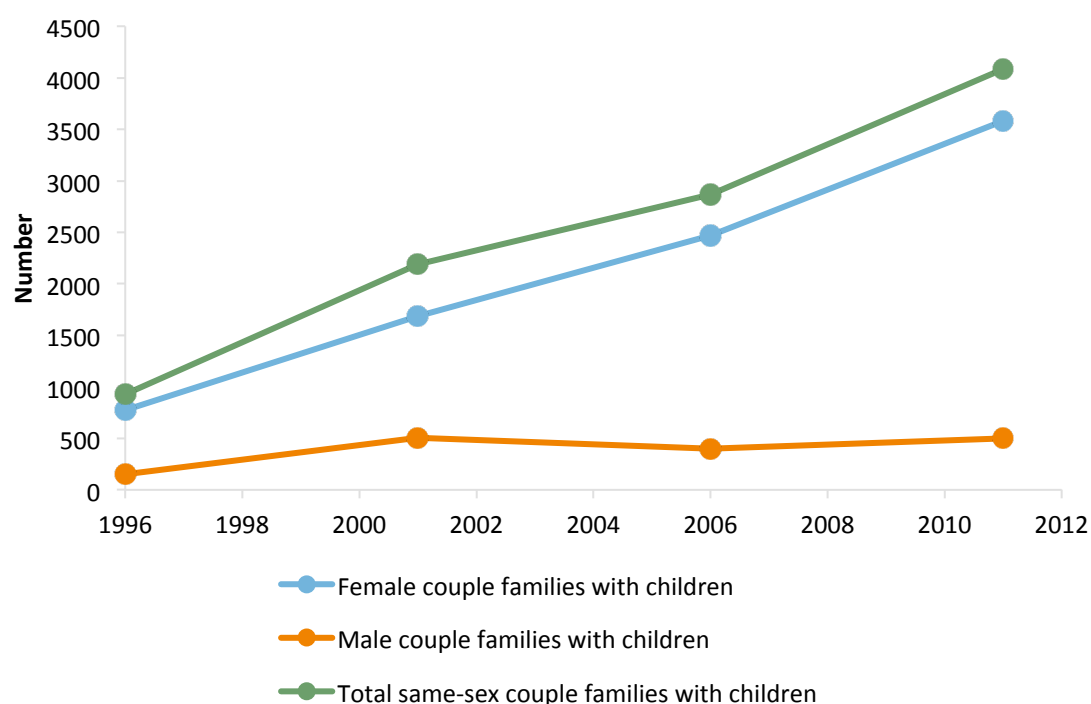
Table 30 – Female couple and male couple families with children, 1996 to 2011

	1996	2001	2006	2011
Female couple families with children - % of all same-sex couple families with children	83.7% 774	77.0% 1,684	86.1% 2,468	87.7% 3,581
Male couple families with children - % of all same-sex couple families with children	16.3% 151	23.0% 503	13.9% 400	12.3% 502
Female couple families with children– % of all female couples	18.0%	19.2%	20.5%	22.2%
Male couple families with children– % of all male couples	2.5%	4.7%	2.9%	2.9%

Note: Children includes children 0-14, dependent students (15-24), and non-dependent children (15 and over).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014a, 2014c).

Figure 25 – Female couple and male couple families with children, by number of families, 1996 to 2011



In terms of the numbers of children in female couples or male couples, these have steadily risen over the 15 year recorded period, as evident in Tables 31-33, and Figure 26.

Table 31 – Children in female couple and male couple families, by % of all children in same-sex couple families, 1996 to 2011

	1996	2001	2006	2011
Children in female couple families	86.2% 1,201	75.9% 2,615	87.4% 3,834	89.0% 5,599
Children in male couple families	13.8% 193	24.1% 829	12.6% 554	11.0% 695

Note: Children includes children under 15, dependent students (15-24), and non-dependent children (15+).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014c).

Figure 26 – Children in female couple and male couple families, by number of children, 1996 to 2011

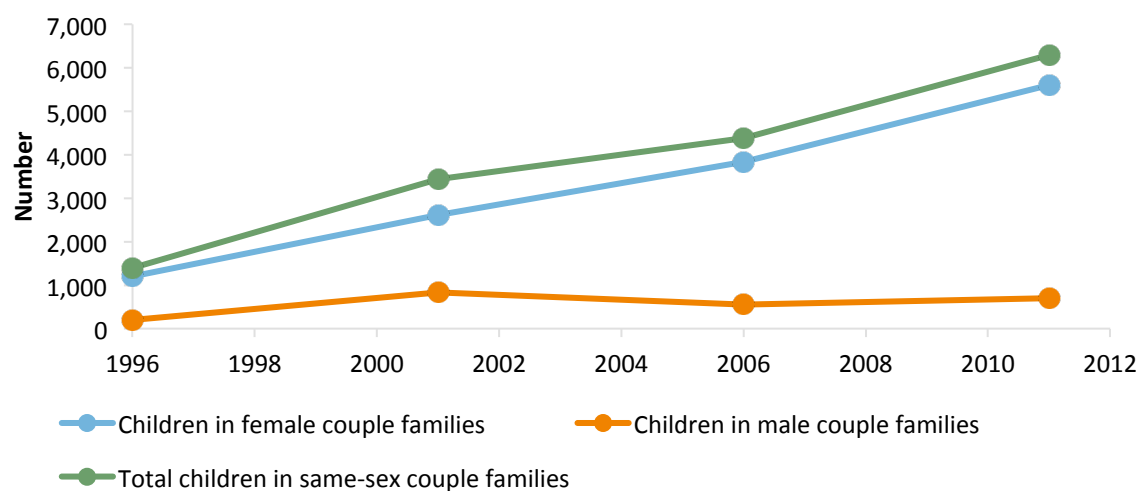


Table 32 – Children in female couple families with children, by age of children, 1996 to 2011

	1996	2001	2006	2011
Child under 15 - % of all children in couple families with children under 15	0.029% 897	0.062% 1,866	0.097% 2,875	0.135% 4,288
Dependent student 15-24 - % of all children in couple families with dependent students 15-24	0.024% 159	0.053% 377	0.076% 542	0.095% 748
Non-dependent child (15+) - % of all children in couple families with non-dependent children (15+)	0.019% 145	0.048% 372	0.053% 417	0.070% 563
Total female couples with children - % of all children in couple families with children	0.027% 1,201	0.058% 2,615	0.086% 3,834	0.118% 5,599

Note: The ABS randomly adjusted some of the cells in this table to prevent the release of confidential data.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014c).

Table 33 – Children in male couple families with children, by age of children, 1996 to 2011

	1996	2001	2006	2011
Child under 15 - % of all children in couple families with children under 15	0.004% 127	0.017% 512	0.012% 345	0.015% 462
Dependent student 15-24 - % of all children in couple families with dependent students 15-24	0.003% 23	0.018% 130	0.014% 97	0.014% 108
Non-dependent child (15+) - % of all children in couple families with non-dependent children (15+)	0.006% 43	0.024% 187	0.014% 112	0.015% 125
Total male couples with children - % of all children in couple families with children	0.004% 193	0.018% 829	0.012% 554	0.015% 695

Note: The ABS randomly adjusted some of the cells in this table to prevent the release of confidential data.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014c).

Section 4: How children become part of families

The previous section explored the forms that families take, and suggested that whilst children born to a married woman and man still constitute the majority of Australian families, there are a significant minority of other diverse family forms, including one person households, couple households without children, and step and blended families, and that female couples and male couples with children constitute a rapidly growing population.

This section now considers how children become a part of families. Given that data on births to married men and women have been summarised in the Section 1, this section focuses on other ways in which children become part of families.

Adoption and adoptive families

Statistics on adoption were first recorded at a national level in 1968. Importantly, the categories used to describe adoption have changed over time. Categories used up until 1997-98 were *relative adoptions* (adoptions by step-parents or other relatives) and *non-relative adoptions* (adoptions by carers; adoptions by people who have no pre-existing relationship with the child). Categories used from 1998-99 were *'known' child adoptions* (adoptions by step-parents or other relatives; adoptions by carers) and *local and intercountry adoptions* (adoptions by people who have no pre-existing relationship with the child) (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2005a 2).

Table 34 and Figure 27 below highlight the significant decrease in all forms of adoption in Australia over a 45 year period.

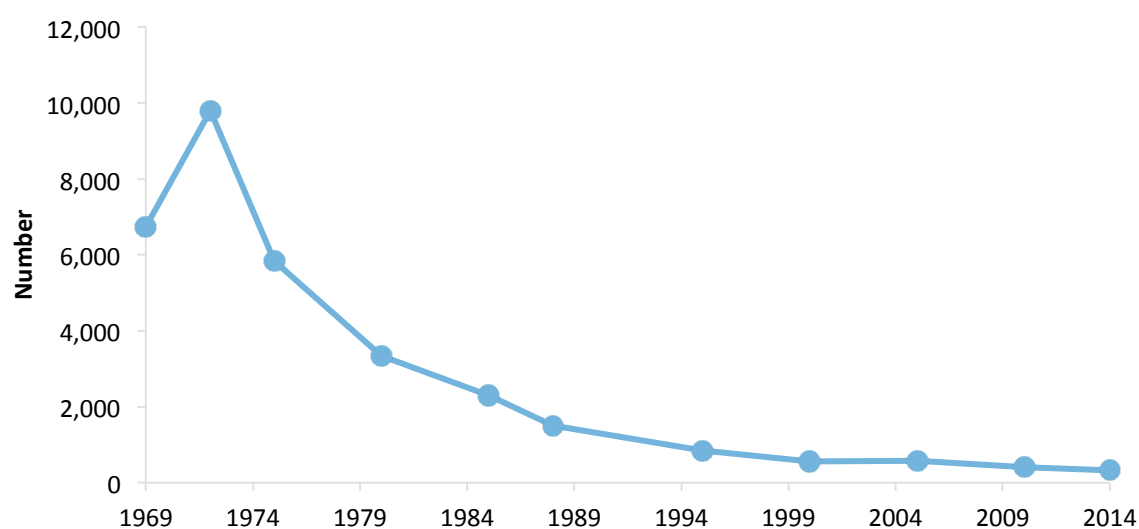
Table 34 – All finalised adoptions, 1968-69 to 2013-14

	1968- 69	1971 -72	1974 -75	1979 -80	1984 -85	1987- 88	1989 -90	1994 -95	1999 -00	2004 -05	2009 -10	2012 -13	2013 -14
All finalised adoptions	6,733	9,798	5,839	3,337	2,294	1,504*	1,294	855	566	585	412	339	317

* This was likely to be higher because data from Victoria on intercountry adoptions was not included.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Adoptions Australia (Angus & Golley, 1996; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2001a, 2005a, 2010a, 2013a, 2014a), Australian Bureau of Statistics and WELSTAT – Adoptions, Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics & WELSTAT, 1982, 1986), WELSTAT – Adoptions (Turner, 1990), and Australian Bureau of Statistics – Australian Social Trends (McLennan, 1998b).

Figure 27 – All finalised adoptions, 1968-69 to 2013-14



Breaking all adoptions down into their constituent categories, we can see in Table 35 and Figure 28 that local or ‘domestic’ adoptions have experienced the greatest drop in numbers, whilst intercountry adoptions during the same period experienced an increase in the mid 2000s, after which has followed a drop in numbers.

Table 35 – Local, ‘known’, and intercountry adoptions, by percentage of finalised adoptions, 1979-80 to 2013-14

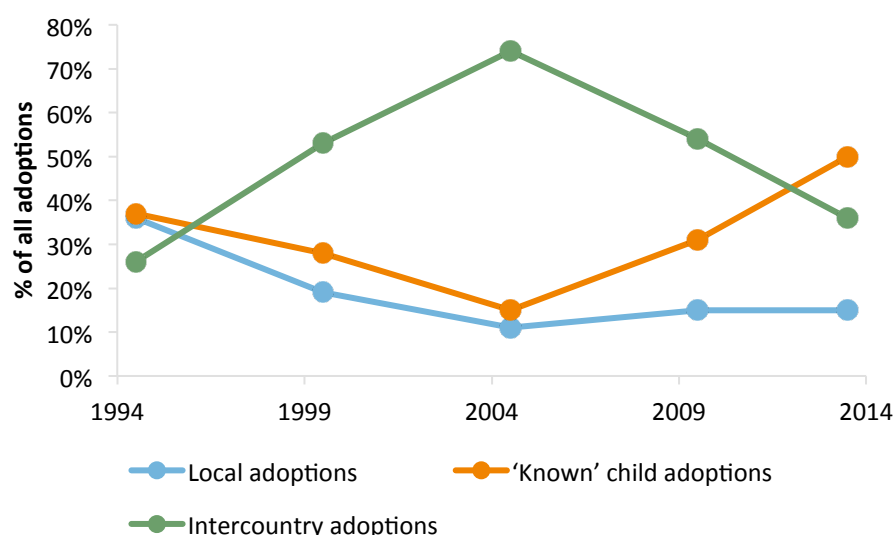
	1979-80	1984-85	1987-88	1994-95	1999-00	2004-05	2009-10	2013-14
Local adoptions	49.4% 1,647*	-	-	36% 311	19% 106	11% 65	15% 61	15% 46
‘Known’ child adoptions	49.0% 1,624**	50.4% 1,157**	44.3% 605**	37% 320	28% 159	15% 86	31% 129	50% 157
Intercountry adoptions	2.0% 66	-	-	26% 224	53% 301	74% 434	54% 222	36% 114

* This been calculated from the total number of adoptions.

** Adopted by relatives.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Adoptions Australia (Angus & Golley, 1996; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2001a, 2005a, 2010a, 2014a), Australian Bureau of Statistics and WELSTAT – Adoptions, Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics & WELSTAT, 1982, 1986), WELSTAT – Adoptions (Turner, 1990), and Australian Bureau of Statistics – Australian Social Trends (McLennan, 1998b).

Figure 28 – Local, ‘known’, and intercountry adoptions, by percentage of all adoptions, 1994-95 to 2013-14



Other interesting trends are evident if we focus just on adoptions where the child had an existing relationship with the parent. As can be seen in Table 36, carer adoptions have experienced a significant increase, potentially as a result of legislative change allowing for adoption from foster care in some states.

Table 36 – ‘Known’ adoptions, relationship with adoptive parents, by percentage of ‘known’ adoptions, 1984-85 to 2013-14

	1984-85	1994-95	2004-05	2013-14
Step-parent	94.1% 1,089	98% 313	60.5% 52	40.8% 64
Other relative	5.9% 68	2% 7	5.8% 5	1.3% 2
Carer	N/A*	N/A*	33.7% 29	56.7% 89
Other	-	0% 0	0% 0	1.3% 2
TOTAL	100% 1,157	100% 320	100% 86	100% 157

* ‘Known’ adoptions were previously connected to relative adoptions only.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Adoptions Australia (Angus & Golley, 1996; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2005a, 2014a) and Australian Bureau of Statistics and WELSTAT – Adoptions, Australia (Australian Bureau of Statistics & WELSTAT, 1986).

In many respects changes to the rates of intercountry adoptions can be explained by changes to whether or not Australians are able to adopt from countries that are not signatories to the Hague Convention on the Rights of Children. As Table 37 and Figure 29 indicate, adoptions from countries that are not signatories have dropped over the 15 year period, whilst adoptions from countries that are signatories have increased.

Table 37 – Intercountry adoptions, Hague and non-Hague adoptions, 1999-00 to 2013-14

	1999-00	2004-05	2009-10	2013-14
Hague adoptions - % of intercountry adoptions	21.9% 66	13.4% 58	56.3% 125	50.0% 57
Non-Hague adoptions - % of intercountry adoptions	78.1% 235	86.6% 376	35.6% 79	50.0% 57
Intercountry adoptions - % of all adoptions	53% 301	74% 434	54% 222	36% 114

Note: The Hague Convention (Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption) sets out standards and procedures for intercountry adoption, focusing on the best interests of the child. Australia became a signatory to the Hague Convention in December 1998 and data has been reported since 1998-99 (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2014a p. 5).

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Adoptions Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2001a, 2005a, 2010a, 2014a).

Figure 29 – Intercountry adoptions, Hague and non-Hague adoptions, by percentage of intercountry adoptions, 1999-00 to 2013-14

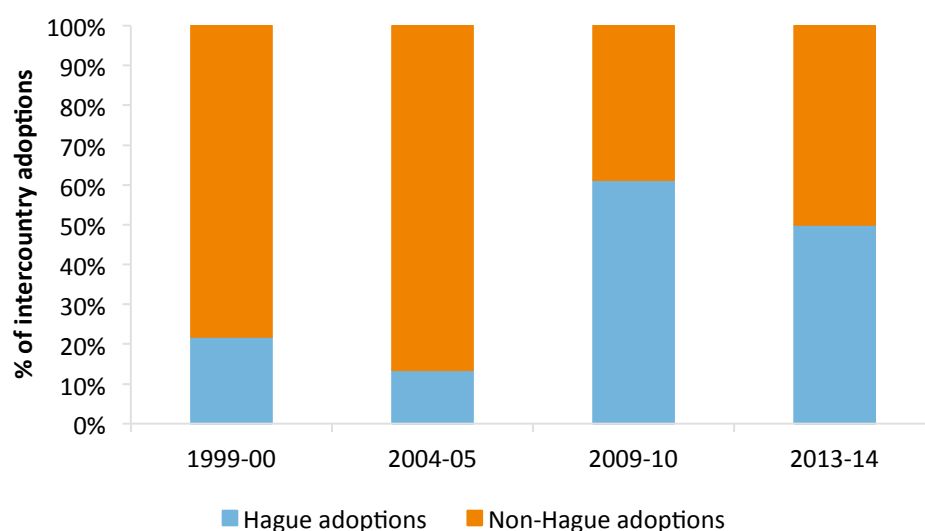


Table 38 provides greater detail on the countries from which children have been adopted by Australian citizens across a 20 year period.

Table 38 – Countries of overseas adoptions, by percentage of intercountry adoptions, 1994-95 to 2013-14

	1994-95	1999-00	2004-05	2009-10	2013-14
Bolivia		1.7% 5			
China		0.3% 1	32.3% 140	14.4% 32	9.7% 11
Colombia	7% 16	5.6% 17	0.7% 3	2.3% 5	
Ethiopia		15.3% 46	13.6% 59	14.9% 33	2.6% 3
Fiji	3% 6	1.7% 5	0.2% 1		
Guatemala	5% 11	0.7% 2	0.2% 1		
Hong Kong		1.0% 3	0.7% 3	1.4% 3	
India	13% 29	12.3% 37	7.1% 31	9.9% 22	6.1% 7
Lebanon		0.3% 1			
Lithuania		0% 0	1.2% 5		
Malta		0.3% 1			
The Philippines	10% 22	9.6% 29	11.1% 48	22.1% 49	15.8% 18
Poland		% 0.72			
Romania		12.0% 36			
South Korea	32% 71	25.6% 77	22.1% 96	13.5% 30	11.4% 13
Sri Lanka	8% 18	1.0% 3	0.5% 2	1.4% 3	
Taiwan		0.7% 2	2.3% 10	11.7% 26	36.0% 41
Thailand	11% 25	11.0% 33	7.1% 31	7.2% 16	9.7% 11
USA		0.3% 1			
Other countries	12% 25	0% 0	0.9% 4	1.4% 3	8.8% 10

Note: Some countries listed in the table without numbers for a specific time period may be included in 'other countries' in the original source.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Adoptions Australia (Angus & Golley, 1996; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2001a, 2010a, 2014a).

Table 39 outlines the relationship status of Australian adoptive parents. It is unsurprising that a majority of adoptions are undertaken by married couples, given local and international restrictions on non-married people adopting children.

Table 39 – Relationship status of adoptive parents in local and intercountry adoptions, 2004-05 to 2013-14

	2004-05	2009-10	2013-14
LOCAL ADOPTIONS			
Married couples	98.5% 64	95.1% 58	95.7% 44
De facto couples	1.5% 1	4.9% 3	4.3% 2
Single persons	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0
INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS – HAGUE			
Married couples	100% 58	93.6% 117	96.5% 55
De facto couples	0% 0	0.8% 1	0% 0
Single persons	0% 0	5.6% 7	3.5% 2
INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS – NON-HAGUE			
Married couples	93.6% 352	89.7% 87	96.5% 55
De facto couples	1.6% 6	2.1% 2	0% 0
Single persons	4.8% 18	8.2% 8*	3.5% 2
INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS – TOTAL			
Married couples	94.5% 410	91.9% 204	96.5% 110
De facto couples	1.4% 6	1.4% 3	0% 0
Single persons	4.1% 18	6.8% 15	3.5% 4
ALL ADOPTIONS** – TOTAL			
Married couples	95.0% 474	92.6% 262	96.3% 154
De facto couples	1.4% 7	3.1% 9	1.3% 2
Single persons	3.6% 18	5.3% 15	2.5% 4

*Single person may include widowed parents.

**These figures exclude known adoptions.

Note: Adoption requirements can relate to marital status, which impacts on these figures.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Adoptions Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2005a, 2010a, 2014a).

Table 40 outlines the range of forms that adoptive families take, and highlights that such families may be comprised of children with a range of differing relationships to the adults in the household.

Table 40 – Other children present in adoptive families, local and intercountry adoptions, by percentage of all adoptions, 2004-05 to 2013-14

	2004-05*	2009-10**	2013-14**
ALL ADOPTIONS***			
No other children present	52% 203	62.0% 119	54.2% 65
Other adopted children only	27% 104	25.0% 48	26.7% 32
Birth children only	18% 69	10.0% 19	15.0% 18
Birth children and other adopted children	3% 11	3.1% 6	4.2% 5

* These figures exclude some NSW families where data was unavailable.

** These figures exclude adoptions from NSW because data was unavailable. In addition, for 2013-14, family composition is unknown in one case.

*** These figures exclude known adoptions.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Adoptions Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2005a, 2010a, 2014a).

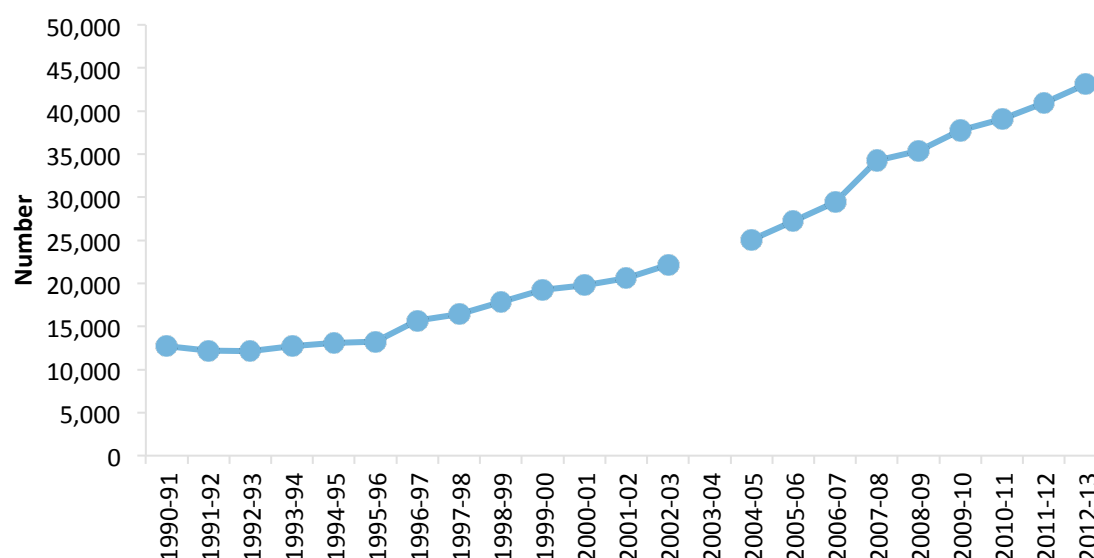
Fostering and foster families

Different to adoption, families formed through long-term foster care are somewhat less well documented in Australia. Whilst child protection data are well documented (i.e., with regard to the removal of children and the orders they are placed on), details about foster care households are somewhat harder to ascertain, as we will see further below.

In terms of child protection data, Figure 30 demonstrates that the numbers at which care and protection orders have been granted have steadily risen over the 22 year period, potentially in line with both population growth and more stringent monitoring of child protection concerns.

With regard to where children who are placed on care and protection orders live, the data presented in Table 41 suggest that whilst historically children were more likely to live in foster care rather than in relative or kinship care, this has shifted so that now approximately equal numbers of children on care and protection orders live in foster care or kinship care.

Figure 30 – Children on care and protection orders, by number of children, 1990-91 to 2012-13



Note: Data from NSW was unavailable for 2003-04 and therefore totals are not provided because they are misleading (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2005b).

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Child protection Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001b, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010b, 2011, 2012, 2013b, 2014b) and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Children under care and protection orders/Children on care and protection orders (Angus, Dunn, & Moyle, 1996; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 1992, 1993, 1994a, 1994b, Broadbent & Bentley, 1997).

One of the impetuses for the move away from adoption historically was recognition of the fact that the theft of Indigenous children from their families and adoption by non-indigenous families constituted a breach of human rights. Yet despite this recognition, Indigenous children continue to be removed from their families at rates far exceeding those of non-indigenous children. Whilst the actual number of Indigenous children on care and protection orders is much smaller than non-indigenous children (as can be seen in Table 42), the rate per 1000 children is significantly higher for Indigenous children than it is for non-indigenous children (see Figure 31).

Table 41– Children on care and protection orders by living arrangements, foster care and relatives/kin care, 1996-97 to 2012-13

Year	Foster care*	Relatives/kin	TOTAL (including other living arrangements**)
1996-97	42.9% 6,242	18.0% 2,618	14,546
1997-98	39.3% 6,034	28.1% 4,320	15,347
1998-99	37.8% 6,273	31.8% 5,278	16,610
1999-00	40.7% 7,841	30.6% 5,900	19,262
2000-01	41.6% 8,235	32.4% 6,412	19,783
2001-02	41.9% 8,613	33.1% 6,812	20,557
2002-03	40.0% 8,851	35.5% 7,846	22,130
2003-04***	44.5% 6,510	24.3% 3,559	14,627
2004-05	44.1% 11,043	35.4% 8,874	25,065
2005-06	43.7% 11,889	35.0% 9,506	27,188
2006-07	39.0% 11,474	35.3% 10,393	29,406
2007-08	36.7% 12,571	32.6% 11,182	34,279
2008-09	39.0% 13,825	33.3% 11,797	35,409
2009-10	38.4% 14,483	33.7% 12,713	37,730
2010-11	37.7% 14,710	34.0% 13,293	39,058
2011-12	36.3% 14,874	34.2% 14,008	40,962
2012-13	38.7% 16,709	38.3% 16,500	43,136

* Foster care is labelled 'foster care/community care' for some years (1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10).

** Children not in foster care or living with relatives/kin were most often living with their parents or in residential care.

***Data are unavailable for NSW in 2003-04, hence impacting on the reliability of the data for this time period.

Note:

- Dates are for 30 June 1997-30 June 2013. Children are 0-17. This table includes data for relatives/kin who were paid/reimbursed as well as those who were not.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Child protection Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001b, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005b, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010b, 2011, 2012, 2013b, 2014b).

Table 42 – Children on care and protection orders, by number of children, by Indigenous status, 1990-91 to 2012-13

Year	Total	Indigenous	Non-indigenous	Unknown indigenous status
1990-91	12,680	-	-	-
1991-92	12,159	-	-	-
1992-93	12,132	-	-	-
1993-94	12,750	-	-	-
1994-95	13,068	2,048	11,020	-
1995-96	13,241	-	-	-
1996-97	15,718	2,548	13,170	-
1997-98	16,449	2,868	13,581	-
1998-99	17,811	_*	_*	_*
1999-00	19,262	3,861	15,401	-
2000-01	19,783	4,146	15,637	-
2001-02	20,557	4,264	16,293	-
2002-03	22,130	4,803	17,327	-
2003-04**	-	-	-	-
2004-05	25,065	5,564	19,501	-
2005-06	27,188	6,520	20,668	-
2006-07	29,406	7,301	20,668	1,229
2007-08	34,279	9,011	24,816	452
2008-09	35,409	10,271	25,052	86
2009-10	37,730	11,451	26,215	-
2010-11	39,058	12,280	26,531	
2011-12	40,962	13,268	27,531	
2012-13	43,136	14,455	28,480	201

* Indigenous data was unavailable for Victoria, therefore a total is unavailable.

** Data from NSW was unavailable for 2003-04 and therefore totals are not provided because they are misleading.

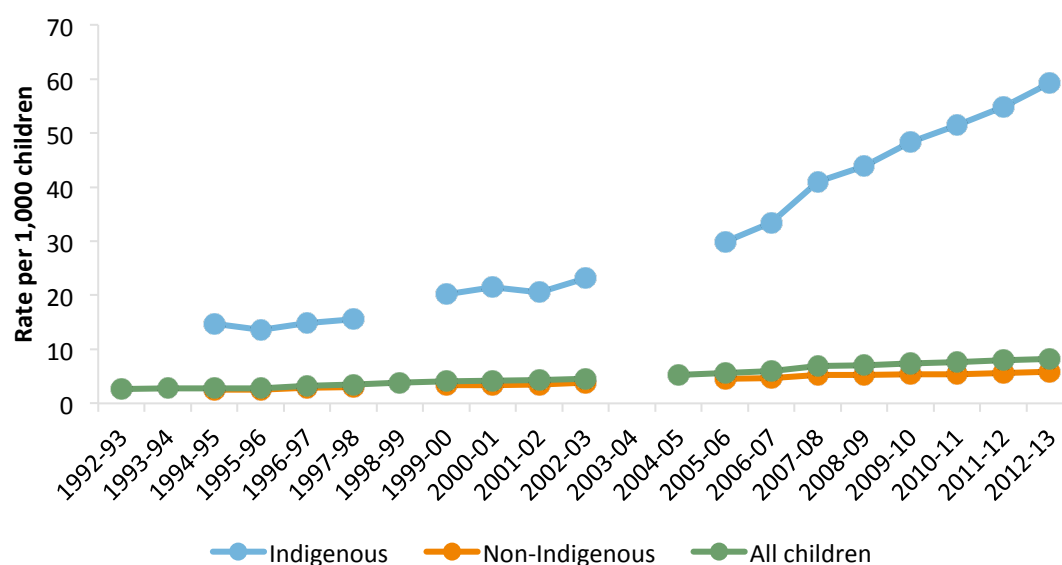
Note:

- Dates are for 30 June 1991-30 June 2013.
- Children are 0-17.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Child protection Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001b, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005b, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010b, 2011, 2012, 2013b, 2014b) and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Children under care and protection orders/Children on care and protection orders (Angus, Dunn, & Moyle, 1996; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 1992, 1993, 1994a, 1994b; Broadbent & Bentley, 1997).

As can be seen in figure 31, in 1994-95 14.7 Indigenous children per 1000 were on care and protection orders. In 2012-13 this number was 59.2.

Figure 31 – Children on care and protection orders, Indigenous status, by rate per 1,000 children, 1992-93 to 2012-13



Note:

- Data from NSW was unavailable for 2003-04 and therefore national rates are unavailable.
- Indigenous data was unavailable for Victoria in 1998-99, therefore national rates are unavailable.
- Rates for Indigenous status were given for each state/territory only for 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Child protection Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001b, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005b, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010b, 2011, 2012, 2013b, 2014b) and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Children under care and protection orders/Children on care and protection orders (Angus, et al., 1996; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 1994a, 1994b; Broadbent & Bentley, 1997).

The difficulty in ascertaining information about foster families may in part be a product of the historical role of foster care. As can be seen above with regard to adoption, historically legal adoption was the preferred mode of determining the best interests of children who could not live with their birth parents. With diminishing public and institutional support for adoption, however, long-term foster care has to a large degree taken its place. The difference, however, may be that whilst adoptive families are institutionally considered families as such, and whilst foster families may consider themselves to be families, it is not necessarily the case that, at a statistical or institutional level, they are treated as such. Yet despite these difficulties in identifying data appropriate to determining the scope of foster families in Australia, recent data as reported in Table 43 indicate that foster households constitute a growing population of Australian families.

Table 43 – Foster carer households and relative/kinship households with one or more placements, 2010-11 to 2012-13

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Foster carer households with one or more placements	8,440 (at 30 June 2011) 11,163 (during 2010-11)	8,824 (at 30 June 2012) 11,664 (during 2011-12)	9,561 (at 30 June 2013) 12,737 (during 2012-13)
Relative/kinship households with one or more placements	10,407 (at 30 June 2011)* 11,452 (during 2010-11)**	11,106 (at 30 June 2012) 12,278 (during 2011-12)	11,973 (at 30 June 2013) 14,353 (during 2012-13)
Number of children in each placement (at 30 June)			
<i>Foster carer households</i>			
1 foster child	49.4% 4,171	49.1% 4,335	52.9% 3,036
2 foster children	27.6% 2,332	28.0% 2,468	26.0% 1,492
3-4 foster children	18.2% 1,543	18.5% 1,631	17.0% 973
5 or more foster children	4.7% 401	4.4% 388	4.1% 235
Total	100% 8,449	100% 8,824	100% 5,736****
<i>Relative/kinship carer households</i>			
1 foster child	62.9% 6,548	62.5% 6,936	65.9% 3,824
2 foster children	23.2% 2,415	23.7% 2,630	21.5% 1,248
3-4 foster children	12.3% 1,276	12.3% 1,363	11.3% 654
5 or more foster children	1.6% 168	1.6% 177	1.4% 80
Total	100% 10,407	100% 11,106***	100% 5,806****

*The NT did not provide data.

** The NT and Queensland did not provide data.

***NT data is not available for relative/kinship carer households for 2011-12.

****NSW did not provide data for 2012-13 for the number of children in each placement.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Child protection Australia (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2012, 2013b, 2014b).

Assisted reproductive technology

In the case where children come into families through assisted reproductive technologies, Australian data are typically combined with New Zealand data, hence the two are combined in this section. In 1979, there were two treatment cycles resulting in a clinical pregnancy with one live birth. This progressively increased to 405 clinical pregnancies and 226 live births in 1984 (National Perinatal Statistics Unit, 1985). Perhaps most notable about data on assisted reproductive technologies is that despite the proliferation of such technologies, and despite improvements in techniques, percentage of live births resulting from such technologies has changed relatively little since their initial development, as can be seen in Table 44 and Figure 32.

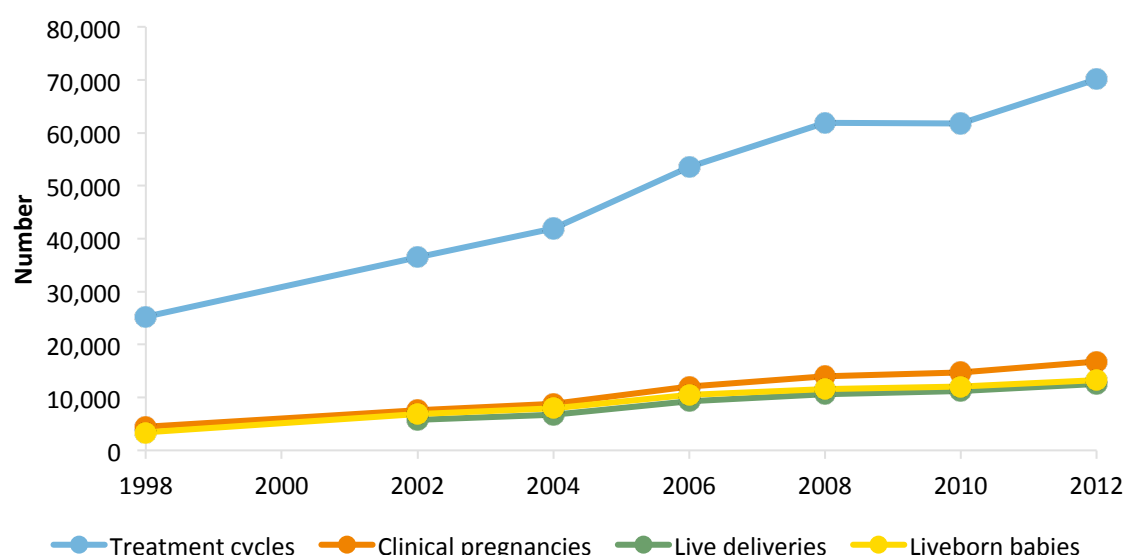
Table 44 – Assisted reproductive technology cycles, pregnancies, live deliveries, and live births, 1998 to 2012

	1998	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Number of treatment cycles	25,235	36,483	41,904	53,543	61,929	61,774	70,082
Treatment cycles resulting in a clinical pregnancy - % of all cycles	17.8% 4,461	20.8% 7,577	21.0% 8,794	22.6% 12,086	22.6% 13,983	23.9% 14,752	23.9% 16,717
Treatment cycles resulting in live deliveries - % of cycles	-	15.7% 5,737	16.2% 6,792	17.3% 9,277	17.2% 10,633	18.1% 11,169	17.9% 12,521
Number of liveborn babies/live births (i.e. includes multiple births)	3,403	6,816	7,913	10,522	11,528	12,056	13,312

Note: In 2002, 'treatment cycle' was made broader to include cancelled ART cycles, unsuccessful oocyte pick-ups and embryo thaws, and donor insemination (Bryant, Sullivan, & Dean, 2004 36).

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Assisted reproductive technology in Australia and New Zealand (Bryant, et al., 2004; Macaldowie, Wang, Chambers, & Sullivan, 2012; Wang, Chambers, & Sullivan, 2010; Wang, Dean, Badgery-Parker, & Sullivan, 2008; Wang, Dean, Grayson, & Sullivan, 2006), National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit – Assisted reproductive technology in Australia & New Zealand (Macaldowie, Wang, Chughtai, & Chambers, 2014), and Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Assisted conception Australia and New Zealand (Hurst & Lancaster, 2001).

Figure 32 – Assisted reproductive technology cycles, pregnancies, live deliveries, and live births, 1998 to 2012



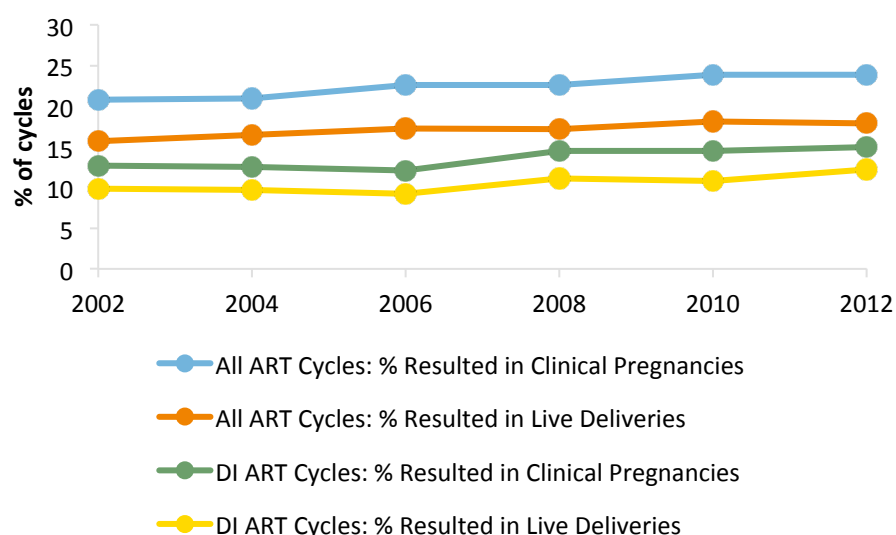
To understand the relative lack of improved success with regard to assisted reproductive technologies, it is important to consider the outcomes of such technologies involving donor insemination as compared to those that do not. As Table 45 and Figure 33 suggest, success rates are higher for cycles that do not involve donor insemination.

Table 45 – Pregnancies and births, all assisted reproductive technology and donor insemination, 2002 to 2012

	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
All ART cycles	36,483	41,904	53,543	61,929	61,774	70,082
All ART Cycles: % Resulted in clinical Pregnancies	20.8%	21.0%	22.6%	22.6%	23.9%	23.9%
	7,577	8,794	12,086	13,983	14,752	16,717
All ART Cycles: % Resulted in Births	15.7%	16.5%	17.3%	17.2%	18.1%	17.9%
	5,737	6,932	9,277	10,633	11,169	12,521
DI total cycles	3,419	3,170	3,022	2,390	2,405	2,283
DI ART Cycles: % Resulted in clinical Pregnancies	12.7%	12.5%	12.1%	14.5%	14.5%	15.0%
	435	396	366	347	349	343
DI ART Cycles: % Resulted in Births (live deliveries)	9.9%	9.7%	9.2%	11.1%	10.8%	12.2%
	340	307	278	266	259	279

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Assisted reproductive technology in Australia and New Zealand (Bryant, et al., 2004; Macaldowie, et al., 2012; Wang, et al., 2010; Wang, et al., 2008; Wang, et al., 2006) and National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit – Assisted reproductive technology in Australia & New Zealand (Macaldowie, et al., 2014).

Figure 33 – Pregnancies and births, all assisted reproductive technology and donor insemination, 2002 to 2012



Finally with regard to assisted reproductive technologies, it is important to note that the fetal death rate of children conceived through such technologies is higher than for children who are not conceived via such technologies, as can be seen in Table 46.

Table 46 – Fetal death rates assisted reproductive technology and non-assisted reproductive technology, by rate per 1,000 births, 2007 to 2012

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
ART fetal death rate	9.5*	8.7**	10.8*	12.2*	9.4**	12.9**
Non-ART fetal death rate	7.4	7.4	7.8	7.4	7.4	7.2

* These figures are from the four jurisdictions where data was available on ART.

** These figures are from the five jurisdictions where data was available on ART.

Note: Fetal deaths refer to babies with a birth weight of at least 400 grams or the gestational age is 20 weeks or more.

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Australia's mothers and babies (Hilder, et al., 2014; Laws, Li, & Sullivan, 2010; Laws & Sullivan, 2009; Li, et al., 2011; Li, Zeki, Hilder, & Sullivan, 2012, 2013).

Surrogacy

Of all the ways in which children come into families, surrogacy is arguably the most difficult to identify representative data. In part this is because of the relative recency of surrogacy as a way of having children. Perhaps more importantly, however, the relative dearth of data is explained by the fact that only altruistic surrogacy is currently legal in Australia. Given the difficulties associated with identifying a friend or family member who may be willing to carry a child for another person, and the fact that a woman who acts as a surrogate in Australia can only be reimbursed for her expenses (i.e., she cannot be paid a fee for undertaking a pregnancy), it is unsurprising that relatively few altruistic surrogacies are recorded each year, as indicated in Table 47.

Table 47 – Altruistic surrogacy , 2007 to 2012

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of initiated cycles	74	114	126	119	177	163
% of ART treatment types	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
Number of clinical pregnancies	14	16	23	16	34	30
Number of live deliveries	7	8	18	14	21	19
Number of liveborn babies	7	8	19	16	22	19

Source: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare – Assisted reproductive technology in Australia and New Zealand (Macaldowie, et al., 2012; Wang, Chambers, Dieng, & Sullivan, 2009; Wang, et al., 2010; Wang, Macaldowie, Hayward, Chambers, & Sullivan, 2011) and National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit – Assisted reproductive technology in Australia & New Zealand (Macaldowie, Wang, Chambers, & Sullivan, 2013; Macaldowie, et al., 2014).

The majority of births resulting from surrogacy arrangements entered into by Australian citizens occur outside of Australia. This is because a small number of other countries allow for women to be paid to undertake a pregnancy. Ascertaining data on such pregnancies undertaken by Australian citizens is difficult, however, due to the fact that the births do not occur in Australia. Table 48 documents citizenship applications for children born to Australian citizens outside of the country, likely most of which involved surrogacy arrangements

Table 48 – Applications for citizenship lodged for applicants 18 years or under by country of birth, 2007-08 to 2011-12

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
India	126	228	285	401	519
Thailand	297	355	364	432	459
Ukraine	9	5	4	15	20
US	1,328	1,944	1,901	1,852	1,821
TOTAL	1,760	2,532	2,554	2,700	2,819

Note: Many, but not all, of these are likely to refer to surrogacy arrangements.

Source: Department of Immigration and Citizenship – Applications for citizenship by descent (Department of Immigration and Citizenship, c2012).

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