

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL  
AFFAIRS**

**Inquiry into the Combatting Child Sexual Exploitation Legislation Amendment Bill  
2019**

**Attorney General's Department**

**Senator Carr asked the following question at the hearing on Tuesday 27 August 2019:**

Do you have any figures on how many authorised under-the-age-of-18 marriages there are in Australia? Presumably they'd all be registered, wouldn't they?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The Attorney-General's Department does not collect or hold any data about the number of marriages registered in Australia.

The department has sought advice from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). The ABS collects data on all marriages registered in Australia, including by age. This data is provided to the ABS by each State and Territory's Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The ABS has provided the following information in relation to the number of marriages registered in Australia involving 16- and 17-year-olds.

Of the 585,106 marriages registered in Australia between 2013 and 2017, there were:

- no marriages where the male partner was 16 years of age
- 14 marriages where the female partner was 16 years of age
- 6 marriages where the male partner was 17 years of age, and
- 62 marriages where the female partner was 17 years of age.