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CHAPTER XV.

WELFARE SERVICES.

A. COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICES.

§ 1. Introduction.

Under the provisions of section 51 of the Constitution, the Commonwealth Government is empowered to legislate on :—

“ (xxiii) Invalid and old-age pensions:

(xxiiia) The provision of maternity allowances, widows' pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services (but not so as to authorize any form of civil conscription), benefits to students and family allowances: ”.

The latter paragraph was inserted in the constitution after being accepted by the electors at a referendum on the 28th September, 1946. The enabling Act was assented to on the 19th December, 1946.

Before 1947, each social service benefit was paid under a separate Act. On the 1st July, 1947, with the passage of the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947, all Acts providing social service benefits were amalgamated. This Act eliminated certain anomalies and obsolete provisions and changed the title “ old-age pension ” to “ age pension ”. The word “ Consolidation ” was dropped from the short title of the Act in 1954. The Act is at present styled the Social Services Act 1947-1957.

The social service benefits provided by the Commonwealth Government, and the date on which each came into operation, are :—

Age pension	.. ..	1st July, 1909
Child endowment (for other than first child)	.. ..	1st July, 1941
Child endowment (for first child)	.. ..	20th June, 1950
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service	.. ..	10th December, 1948
Funeral benefit	.. ..	1st July, 1943
Invalid pension	.. ..	15th December, 1910
Maternity allowance	.. ..	10th October, 1912
Sickness benefit	.. ..	1st July, 1945
Special benefit	.. ..	1st July, 1945
Unemployment benefit	.. ..	1st July, 1945
Widow's pension	.. ..	30th June, 1942

Information concerning these benefits appears in later sections of this chapter (pp. 547-558). Particulars of benefits provided under the National Health Service appear in Chapter XIV.—Public Health, pp. 521-527.

§ 2. Commonwealth Expenditure on Social and Health Services.

1. **National Welfare Fund.**—The National Welfare Fund was established by the National Welfare Fund Act 1943 to finance a scheme of national welfare. In introducing this measure to Parliament, the Prime Minister said that part of the scheme was to be introduced immediately, and part was to be deferred until after the end of the war. A certain balance, which would therefore accrue to the fund, would be invested in Commonwealth securities, and would thus provide finance for the war effort.

The fund operated from 1st July, 1943. At its commencement, it was used to finance funeral benefits and maternity allowances. Other social and health benefits were made a charge on the fund from time to time. At present, expenditure on all benefits except repatriation and a few minor social and health benefits is met from the fund. The fund is used only to finance the benefits themselves; it is not used to finance the cost of administering the benefits, nor on capital works associated with the benefits.

For particulars of the income of the fund, *see* Chapter XXI., Public Finance, Part A, § 2, III., para. 6. The following table sets out expenditure from the fund during 1956-57.

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES,
1956-57.
(£'000.)**

Service.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Over-seas.	Total.
Social Services—										
Age and Invalid Pensions	45,296	26,773	16,332	9,622	7,254	3,698	38	122	75	109,210
Child Endowment ..	20,759	15,168	8,836	5,250	4,461	2,173	164	217	9	57,037
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service ..	145	175	64	91	71	22	..	..	..	568
Funeral Benefits ..	136	94	48	30	23	10	..	..	..	341
Maternity Allowances ..	1,252	948	533	319	271	131	9	17	2	3,482
Unemployment Benefits ..	670	531	419	114	337	23	..	2	..	2,096
Sickness Benefits ..	640	340	234	136	97	47	1	4	..	1,499
Special Benefits(a) ..	116	155	80	26	14	13	..	1	..	405
Widows' Pensions ..	3,642	2,035	1,504	735	612	303	6	15	10	8,862
National Health Services—										
Hospital Benefits ..	4,046	2,359	1,443	815	772	320	34	24	..	9,813
Medical Benefits ..	2,716	1,434	665	590	601	140	..	..	..	6,146
Medical Benefits for Pensioners ..	1,380	734	366	261	194	58	..	6	..	2,999
Nutrition of Children ..	1,093	599	386	199	158	155	1	16	..	2,607
Pharmaceutical Benefits ..	3,994	2,757	1,321	843	698	244	..	67	..	9,924
Pharmaceutical Benefits for Pensioners ..	825	378	279	162	114	35	..	..	..	1,793
Tuberculosis Campaign—										
Allowances ..	527	361	244	159	92	78	..	..	..	1,461
Maintenance (b) ..	1,607	1,092	1,080	319	470	171	..	16	..	4,755
Miscellaneous(c) ..	42	36	75	7	13	19	10	(d)723	..	925
Total ..	88,886	55,969	33,909	19,678	16,252	7,640	263	1,230	96	223,923

(a) Includes special benefits to migrants in reception and training centres. (b) Paid to the State Governments as a contribution towards the maintenance of institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis. (c) This item covers the cost of district laboratory services, the free supply of prophylactic materials and biological products (e.g., insulin, poliomyelitis and diphtheria prophylactic), the supply and maintenance of hearing aids for children, subsidies to voluntary organizations conducting home-nursing services, and certain costs associated with the blood transfusion services of the Australian Red Cross Society. (d) Includes an amount of £650,642 for the production of poliomyelitis vaccine.

Expenditure from the fund during each of the years 1952-53 to 1956-57 is shown in the following table. A graph showing expenditure from the fund from 1940-41 to 1956-57 is to be found on page 559.

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.
(£'000.)**

Service.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
Social Services—					
Age and Invalid Pensions	72,424	81,293	88,006	101,625	109,210
Child Endowment (a)	53,244	50,761	52,530	60,381	57,037
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service ..	454	429	451	505	568
Funeral Benefits	270	288	304	319	341
Maternity Allowances	3,248	3,226	3,362	3,410	3,482
Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits	6,255	4,543	2,640	2,563	4,000
Widows' Pensions	6,334	6,626	6,862	7,723	8,862
National Health Services—					
Hospital Benefits	7,223	8,330	9,321	9,553	9,813
Medical Benefits	1,740	1,434	4,210	5,413	6,146
Medical Benefits for Pensioners	523	495	2,516	2,874	2,999
Mental Institution Benefits	1,521	1,999	2,237	2,405	2,607
Nutrition of Children	6,487	8,219	9,445	10,380	9,924
Pharmaceutical Benefits	729	1,011	1,295	1,508	1,793
Pharmaceutical Benefits for Pensioners ..					
Tuberculosis Campaign—					
Allowances	1,908	1,877	1,904	1,690	1,461
Maintenance	2,968	3,703	3,753	4,007	4,755
Miscellaneous	183	216	258	510	925
Total ..	165,511	176,565	189,391	214,866	223,923

(a) See footnote to table on p. 551.

2. **Capital Expenditure.** Particulars of Commonwealth expenditure on capital works are given in Chapter XIV., Public Health, Division B, Section 2, para. 3 Mental Health

and para. 6, Anti-tuberculosis Campaign. Grants are made to private organizations for the construction of homes for elderly people (*see* Division B of this Chapter, § 1, para. 4, p. 561).

3. Administrative Expenditure. Information concerning the cost of administering each benefit separately is not compiled. Particulars of the cost of administering the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services may be found in Chapter XXI, Public Finance, Division A, Section 2, III., para. 5.

§ 3. Age and Invalid Pensions.

Age pensions are payable to men, 65 years of age and over, and women, 60 years of age and over, who have resided in Australia continuously for at least 20 years, which need not be immediately prior to the date of claim for a pension. Absence in a Territory of the Commonwealth, any periods of absence during which a person's home remained in Australia, and absences in certain other circumstances including, in the case of a claimant who has had at least 18 years' residence, occasional absences aggregating up to 2 years plus 6 months for every year of residence in excess of 18 years, are counted as residence.

Invalid pensions are payable to persons, 16 years of age and over, who have resided in Australia for a continuous period of five years (including any occasional absences not exceeding, in total, six months), and who are permanently incapacitated for work or permanently blind. The degree of permanent incapacity has to be not less than 85 per cent. and the claimant must have become permanently incapacitated or permanently blind while in Australia or during a temporary absence from Australia, but this condition is waived if he has resided in Australia for not less than 20 years (continuous or otherwise), whether any such period was before or after the occurrence of the permanent incapacity or blindness.

Pensions may be granted to aboriginal natives of Australia who have been granted exemption from State control laws, or who, in any State where exemption is not provided for, are considered, by reason of their character, intelligence and social development, to be suitable persons to receive pensions.

A pension is not payable to :—an alien (except a woman who, before marriage, was a British subject) ; a person who has deprived himself of property or income, or who has brought about his incapacity, in order to qualify for a pension ; a person in receipt of income of £409 10s. per annum (£819 per annum for a married couple) ; a person who owns property, apart from his permanent home and other exempt property, to the net value of more than £1,750 (£3,500 for married persons) ; or a person who has deserted his spouse or children for the six months preceding the date of the claim (age pension only).

Since 24th October, 1957, the maximum rate of pension has been £227 10s. per annum. The wife of an invalid pensioner (or an age pensioner who is permanently incapacitated for work or permanently blind) may be granted a wife's allowance of not more than £91 per annum (£1 15s. a week). A child's allowance of £29 18s. per annum (11s. 6d. a week) is also paid to an invalid pensioner who is maintaining a child under 16 years of age. If a pensioner is maintaining more than one child, his pension is increased by £26 a year (10s. a week) for each additional child. At 30th June, 1957, 376,022 age pensioners (80.7% of all age pensioners) and 79,529 invalid pensioners (90.1% of all invalid pensioners) were receiving an annual pension of £208 or more.

A pensioner who is an inmate of a benevolent home is paid so much of his pension as does not exceed £79 6s. per annum (£1 10s. 6d. a week) and the balance, if any, of the pension is paid to the institution for his maintenance.

Age and invalid pensions (other than invalid pensions paid to blind persons) and allowances paid to wives of invalid pensioners (but not the child's allowance of 11s. 6d. a week) are subject to a means test. They are reduced by the amount by which a pensioner's income from sources other than his pension exceeds £182 per annum (£3 10s. a week). For this purpose, certain types of allowances received are not counted as income. These include gifts or allowances received from the pensioner's children, benefits from friendly societies, payments for illness, infirmity or old age from a trade union, State food relief, maternity allowances, child endowment or any other payment received for children maintained by the pensioner, allowances received under the national health service, interest on war gratuities, income received from property owned by a pensioner or his spouse and income such as dividends on shares and interest from bonds or on money in the bank.

The annual rate of pension or allowance is further reduced by £1 for every complete £10 by which the value of property owned by a pensioner or his spouse exceeds £200, and the pension cuts out altogether if the value of the property exceeds £1,750. For this purpose, certain types of property are disregarded. They include the permanent home of the

pensioner, his furniture and personal effects, the surrender value (up to £750) of life insurance policies, the capital value of annuities or contingent interests, the present value of any reversionary interests, inheritances not received and war gratuities.

For the purposes of the administration of the means test, the income and property of a married person is deemed to be half the total income and property of the husband and wife (unless they are legally separated). This provision means that the pension of a married pensioner, whether or not his spouse is a pensioner, will not be reduced because of his income from other sources unless that income exceeds £364 per annum (£7 per week), nor will his pension be reduced on account of the value of his property unless that value exceeds £400.

The following statement shows the rates of pension at 1st July, 1909, and the rates as they have been varied since that date, subject in all cases, to income and property qualifications :—

MAXIMUM RATES OF PENSION PAYABLE.(a)

Date from which Operative.	Maximum Pension Payable.		Limit of In- come (in- clud- ing Pen- sion) per Annum.	Date from which Operative.	Maximum Pension Payable.		Limit of In- come (in- clud- ing Pen- sion) per Annum.
	Per Week.	Per Annum.			Per Week.	Per Annum.	
	s. d.	£ s.	£ s.		s. d.	£ s.	£ s.
1st July, 1909 ..	10 0	26 0	52 0	7th January, 1943(c) ..	26 0	67 12	100 2
12th October, 1916 ..	12 6	32 10	58 10	1st April, 1943(c) ..	26 6	68 18	101 8
1st January, 1920 ..	15 0	39 0	65 0	19th August, 1943(c) ..	27 0	70 4	102 14
13th September, 1923 ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	25th November, 1943(c) ..	26 6	68 18	101 8
8th October, 1925 ..	20 0	52 0	84 10	25th November, 1943(e) ..	27 0	70 4	102 14
23rd July, 1931 ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	5th July, 1945 ..	32 6	84 10	117 0
13th October, 1932(b) ..	15 0	39 0	71 10	13th August, 1946 ..	32 6	84 10	117 0
26th October, 1933 ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	3rd July, 1947 ..	37 6	97 10	149 10
4th July, 1935(c) ..	18 0	46 16	79 6	21st October, 1948 ..	42 6	110 10	188 10
24th September, 1936 ..	19 0	49 8	81 18	2nd November, 1950 ..	50 0	130 0	208 0
9th September, 1937 ..	20 0	52 0	84 10	2nd November, 1951 ..	60 0	156 0	234 0
26th December, 1940 ..	21 0	54 12	87 2	2nd October, 1952 ..	67 6	175 10	253 10
3rd April, 1941(c) ..	21 6	55 18	88 8	29th October, 1953 ..	70 0	182 0	286 0
11th December, 1941 ..	23 6	61 2	93 12	14th October, 1954 ..	70 0	182 0	286 0
2nd April, 1942(c) ..	24 0	62 8	94 18	27th October, 1955 ..	80 0	208 0	390 0
2nd April, 1942(d) ..	25 0	65 0	97 10	24th October, 1957 ..	87 6	227 10	409 10
1st October, 1942(c) ..	25 6	66 6	98 16				

(a) Excludes amounts payable for wives and children of invalid pensioners. (b) Additional pension of £6 10s. per annum (2s. 6d. per week) was payable to a pensioner with no income. Pensioners with income of less than 2s. 6d. per week were paid additional pension of 2s. 6d. less the amount of income. (c) Variation according to change in retail price index number. (d) Increase paid on 9th July, 1942, retrospective to 2nd April, 1942. (e) Rate restored to £70 4s. per annum under National Security (Supplementary) Regulations 112A—Statutory Rule 315 of 1943.

NOTE.—Provision for variations according to retail price index numbers was repealed on 6th April, 1944.

During 1956–57, 50,799 age pension claims were granted, 1,882 pensioners were transferred from the invalid pension list, and 36,642 pensions expired through cancellations and deaths. The number of age pensioners at 30th June, 1957, was 465,781, of whom 160,308 (or 34 per cent.) were males, and 305,473 (or 66 per cent.) were females. Pensioners in benevolent homes have been included in these figures; in past years they were excluded.

The recorded ages of the 50,799 persons (19,699 males and 31,100 females) to whom age pensions were granted during the year 1956–57 varied considerably, ranging from 8,305 at age 60 to eight who were over 97; 36,862 were in the 60–69 years age-group. The conjugal condition of these new pensioners was as follows :—Males—single, 2,205; married, 14,207; and widowed, 3,287: Females—single, 3,748; married, 16,401; and widowed, 10,951.

During 1956-57, 11,726 invalid pension claims were granted, 7,049 pensions ceased through cancellation or death, and 1,882 invalid pensioners were transferred to the age pension list. The number of invalid pensioners at 30th June, 1957, was 88,236, of whom 50,423 (or 57 per cent.) were males and 37,813 (or 43 per cent.) were females. Pensioners in benevolent homes have been included for the first time in the 30th June, 1957, figures.

The recorded ages of the 11,726 persons (6,883 males and 4,843 females) to whom invalid pensions were granted during 1956-57 varied widely, 968 (8 per cent.) were in the 16-19 years age-group, 2,241 (19 per cent.) were in the 20-44 years age-group; 5,951 (51 per cent.) were in the 45-59 years age-group, 2,043 (17 per cent.) were in the 60-64 years age-group, and 523 (5 per cent.) were over 65 years of age.

The conjugal condition of persons to whom invalid pensions were granted during the year was as follows :—Males—single, 2,273 ; married, 4,106 ; and widowed, 504 : Females—single, 1,813 ; married, 2,180 ; and widowed, 850.

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS, 30th JUNE, 1957.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Age Pensions in force—									
Males	67,003	35,351	26,863	14,017	11,938	4,844	70	222	160,308
Females	118,603	83,437	43,075	29,628	20,254	10,003	68	405	305,473
Persons	185,606	118,788	69,938	43,645	32,192	14,847	138	627	465,781
Masculinity(a) ..	56.49	42.37	62.36	47.31	58.94	48.43	102.94	54.81	52.48
Invalid Pensions in force—									
Males	25,353	10,807	7,176	2,736	2,850	1,422	31	48	50,423
Females	17,209	8,400	5,937	2,637	2,189	1,390	12	39	37,813
Persons	42,562	19,207	13,113	5,373	5,039	2,812	43	87	88,236
Masculinity(a) ..	147.32	128.65	120.87	103.75	130.20	102.30	258.33	123.08	133.35

(a) Number of males to each 100 females.

The sum disbursed in age and invalid pensions in 1956-57, including the amount paid to homes for the maintenance of pensioners and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners, represented an expenditure of £11 9s. 1d. per head of population as compared with £10 18s. 2d. in 1955-56.

The following table gives details of age and invalid pensions for the years 1952-53 to 1956-57 :—

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year ended 30th June—	Pensioners at End of Year.				Amount Paid to Pensioners. (b)	Total Payment to Pensioners and Homes.(b)	Average Fortnightly Pension as at 30th June.		
	Age.		Invalid.	Total.			Age.	Invalid.	Age and Invalid Com- bined.
	No.	Rate. (a)							
			No.	No.	£	£	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1953 ..	374,791	410	70,232	445,023	72,087,074	72,423,900	128 4	130 11	128 9
1954 ..	397,784	423	73,732	471,516	80,898,725	81,293,003	134 2	136 10	134 7
1955 ..	425,556	439	78,498	504,054	87,614,112	88,006,077	134 7	137 7	135 1
1956 ..	446,207	449	82,775	528,982	101,242,275	101,625,068	153 7	156 10	154 1
1957 ..	465,781	460	88,236	554,017	108,779,470	109,209,972	152 10	157 8	153 7

(a) Number of pensioners per 1,000 persons of pensionable age (males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over). (b) Includes allowances to wives of invalid pensioners. (c) Excludes age and invalid pensioners in benevolent homes, at 30th June, 1953, 6,309; 1954, 6,463; 1955, 6,132; and 1956, 6,244.

§ 4. Child Endowment.

A person who is resident in Australia and has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of sixteen years, or an approved institution of which children are inmates shall be qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each child.

Endowment may be paid in respect of a child whose father is not a British subject if the child was born in Australia, the mother is a British subject, or the child is likely to remain permanently in Australia. A child born during the mother's temporary absence from Australia is deemed to have been born in Australia. Endowment is payable to aboriginal natives of Australia unless they are nomadic, or unless the child concerned is wholly or mainly dependent on the Commonwealth or a State, and also in respect of children of members of the naval, military or air forces of the United Kingdom who are serving with the Australian forces from the time of arrival of the children in Australia. There are provisions to meet cases of families divided by reason of divorce, separation, unemployment or death of a parent. There is no means test.

From 1st July, 1941, the rate of endowment was 5s. a week for each child in excess of one in a family, and for each child under sixteen years in an approved institution. The rate was increased to 7s. 6d. a week on 25th June, 1945, and to 10s. a week on 9th November, 1948. Since 20th June, 1950, the rates of endowment have been 5s. a week for the first child in a family, 10s. a week for each other child in a family, and 10s. a week for each child in an institution.

The number of families with one or more endowed children at 30th June, 1957, was 1,378,169, an increase of 38,362 or 2.9 per cent. during the year. The following table shows particulars of the numbers of persons in each State and Territory who were receiving child endowment at the 30th June, 1957:—

CHILD ENDOWMENT: SUMMARY, 30th JUNE 1957.

State or Territory.	Family Groups.			Institutions.		Total Number of Endowed Children.
	Number of Claims in force.	Endowed Children.		Number.	Number of Endowed Child Inmates.	
		Number.	Average number per claim.			
New South Wales ..	518,942	1,081,141	2.08	119	5,606	1,086,747
Victoria	373,121	791,026	2.12	88	4,852	795,878
Queensland ..	199,689	453,717	2.27	48	3,280	456,997
South Australia ..	127,356	274,291	2.15	45	1,393	275,684
Western Australia ..	102,157	227,575	2.23	63	3,347	230,922
Tasmania	48,743	111,367	2.28	19	453	111,820
Northern Territory ..	2,705	5,881	2.17	15	2,214	8,095
Australian Capital Territory ..	5,297	11,717	2.21	..	..	11,717
Overseas	159	331	2.08	..	..	331
Total ..	1,378,169	2,957,046	2.15	397	21,145	2,978,191

CHILD ENDOWMENT: LIABILITY AND EXPENDITURE, 1956-57.

(£.)

State or Territory.	Annual Liability at 30th June, 1957.(a)			Total Payments to Endowees and Institutions during 1956-57.
	Family Groups.	Institutions.	Total.	
New South Wales ..	21,363,420	145,756	21,509,176	20,758,876
Victoria ..	15,716,103	126,152	15,842,255	15,168,739
Queensland ..	9,200,685	85,280	9,285,965	8,836,240
South Australia ..	5,475,938	36,218	5,512,156	5,249,971
Western Australia ..	4,588,909	87,022	4,675,931	4,461,588
Tasmania ..	2,261,883	11,778	2,273,661	2,172,628
Northern Territory ..	117,741	57,564	175,305	163,412
Australian Capital Territory ..	235,781	..	235,781	216,624
Overseas ..	6,539	..	6,539	8,884
Total ..	58,966,999	549,770	59,516,769	57,036,962

(a) A number of endowments are paid every twelve weeks. During two years out of every three there are four such payments, but every third year there are five. Since the size of the amount so paid (£24,200,000 in 1956-57) causes considerable fluctuations in the figures for expenditure on child endowment from year to year, figures for annual liability reflect trends in expenditure on child endowment more accurately than do figures for expenditure.

The following table shows, as at 30th June, 1957, the number of claims in force and the number of endowed children classified according to the number of endowed children in the family:—

CHILD ENDOWMENT: NUMBER OF ENDOWED CHILDREN IN FAMILIES, 30th JUNE, 1957.

Number of Endowed Children in Family.			Claims in Force.		
Number of Endowed Children.			Number of Endowed Children.		
1 ..	494,990	494,990	10 ..	317	3,170
2 ..	464,540	929,080	11 ..	91	1,001
3 ..	247,411	742,233	12 ..	19	228
4 ..	106,436	425,744	13 ..	9	117
5 ..	39,370	196,850	14 ..	5	70
6 ..	15,618	93,708	16 ..	1	16
7 ..	5,959	41,713	21 ..	1	21
8 ..	2,513	20,104			
9 ..	889	8,001			
Total ..			1,378,169	2,957,046	

§ 5. Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service.

The Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service has been set up to help persons who are too disabled to work or who have had to give up their employment because of sickness or injury. It aims at restoring disabled persons so they can earn a living and lead useful lives. They are given suitable treatment and training, the cases selected being those in which the person's disability is remediable and there are reasonable prospects of his engaging in a suitable vocation within three years after the commencement of treatment or training.

The benefits are available to invalid pensioners, persons receiving unemployment or sickness benefits, persons receiving tuberculosis allowances and persons over 14 but under 16 years of age who, without treatment and training, would be likely to qualify for an invalid pension on reaching the age of 16 years. Other persons may participate in the scheme upon reimbursement of the cost of treatment and training. During the treatment stage of rehabilitation the payment of pension or benefit is continued. If, however, vocational training is provided the pension or benefit is suspended and the trainee is paid instead a rehabilitation allowance equivalent to the amount of invalid pension for which he is qualified, or which would be payable if he were qualified to receive an invalid pension, together with the amount of any wife's and child's allowances, plus a training allowance of £1 10s. per week.

Living-away-from-home allowances are paid where necessary. Fares and living expenses (including those of an attendant where required) incurred in connexion with treatment, training or attendance for an interview or for medical examination may also be paid. A person receiving treatment or training may be provided, free of charge, with necessary artificial replacements, surgical aids and appliances. He may also be provided with books, equipment and tools of trade, costing not more than £40. If these are retained by him, he is required to pay the cost, but payments may be made by small instalments after he has commenced employment.

If the treatment or vocational training does not result in the trainee being able to engage in employment, his right to the continuance of his pension or benefit is not prejudiced.

The numbers of persons receiving benefits who were examined, accepted, trained and placed in employment during the year 1956-57 are shown in the following table :—

COMMONWEALTH REHABILITATION SERVICE : AUSTRALIA, 1956-57.

Type.	Examined.	Accepted.	Completed Training.	Placed in Employment.	
				After Training.	Without Training.
Invalid Pensioners	10,135	262	60	55	63
Unemployment and Sickness Beneficiaries	8,042	862	95	100	444
Recipients of Tuberculosis Allowance	661	172	145	185	53
Persons Aged 14-15 years ..	143	93	13	15	24
Persons provided with rehabilitation on payment of the cost ..	153	116	..	1	82
Total	19,134	1,505	313	356	666

§ 6. Funeral Benefits.

A funeral benefit of up to £10 is payable to the person who has paid, or is liable to pay, the cost of the funeral of an age or invalid pensioner or of a claimant who, but for his death, would have been granted an age or invalid pension, or of a person who at the time of his death was receiving, or was a claimant for, a tuberculosis allowance, if he would otherwise have been qualified to receive an age or invalid pension. Where the cost of the funeral has been partly met by payment from a contributory funeral benefit fund of an organization other than a friendly society, funeral benefit is payable to the extent of the amount (not above £10) by which the cost of the funeral exceeded the amount paid from the fund. A funeral benefit is not payable to a person administering a contributory funeral benefit fund.

The following table shows the number of funeral benefits which were paid in each State and Territory for the years 1952-53 to 1956-57.

FUNERAL BENEFITS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA.

State.	Benefits Granted.				
	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.
New South Wales	11,405	11,397	13,108	13,148	13,927
Victoria	7,537	8,269	7,921	8,216	9,262
Queensland	3,813	4,051	4,590	4,501	4,830
South Australia	2,394	2,529	2,668	2,864	2,974
Western Australia	1,817	1,871	2,045	2,335	2,366
Tasmania	864	913	1,053	918	1,002
Northern Territory	(a)	(a)	3	6	2
Australian Capital Territory ..	(b)	(b)	20	31	28
Australia	27,830	29,030	31,408	32,019	34,391

(a) Included with South Australia.

(b) Included with New South Wales.

In 1956-57 the average amount paid per grant was £9 18s. 5d.

§ 7. Maternity Allowances.

Maternity allowances are paid to provide financial assistance towards the expenses associated with the birth of children and are additional to the benefits provided under the Commonwealth hospital benefits scheme. They are not subject to a means test.

The allowance is £15 if the mother has no other children, £16 if she has one or two other children and £17 10s. if she has three or more other children under the age of sixteen years. The amount is increased by £5 in respect of each additional child born at a birth. An advance payment of £10 on account of a maternity allowance may be made four weeks before the expected date of birth. The balance is payable immediately after the birth. Payment may be made in respect of the birth of a still-born child, or a child which lives for less than twelve hours, if the period of intra-uterine life of the child was at least 5½ months.

A maternity allowance is payable to a woman who, at the date of giving birth to a child, is residing in Australia, is temporarily abroad or who is on board a ship proceeding from a port in Australia or an Australian Territory to another port in Australia, or another Australian Territory, or on board a ship proceeding to Australia, provided she receives no maternity benefit in respect of the birth from the country whence she came. An alien mother may receive the allowance if she was a British subject prior to her marriage, or if she or her husband resided in Australia for at least twelve months immediately prior to the birth of the child, but this last condition may be waived if the mother is likely to remain in Australia. The allowances may be paid to aboriginal natives of Australia who have been granted exemption from State control laws or who, in any State where exemption is not provided for, are considered suitable persons to receive the allowance by reason of their character, standard of intelligence and social development.

The following table gives details of the amount paid in each State for the years 1952-53 to 1956-57:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: AMOUNT PAID IN EACH STATE.

(£'000.)

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Over- seas.	Total.
1953	a 1,195	872	497	(b) 305	249	128	(c)	(d)	2	3,248
1954	a 1,173	874	497	(b) 301	254	125	(c)	(d)	2	3,226
1955	1,250	892	513	297	261	128	7	13	1	3,362
1956	1,207	935	526	304	276	137	8	15	2	3,410
1957	1,252	949	532	319	271	131	9	17	2	3,482

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.
with South Australia.(b) Includes Northern Territory.
(d) Included with New South Wales.

(c) Included

The following table shows the number of maternity allowance claims paid in each State or Territory during the years 1952-53 to 1956-57:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : NUMBER OF CLAIMS PAID IN EACH STATE.

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Over- seas.	Total.
1953	a 74,011	55,297	31,058	b 19,068	15,535	7,983	(c)	(d)	90	203,042
1954	a 72,380	54,219	30,889	b 18,749	15,803	7,726	(c)	(d)	48	199,814
1955	76,614	55,720	31,782	18,506	16,261	7,940	481	787	88	208,179
1956	75,591	58,385	32,764	19,036	17,180	8,328	510	961	110	212,865
1957	77,387	59,648	32,882	19,929	16,853	8,166	579	1,067	106	216,617

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.
with South Australia.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.
(d) Included with New South Wales.

(c) Included

The following table shows the number of claims paid in each State at the several rates of maternity allowances during the year 1956-57:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : NUMBER OF CLAIMS PAID AT EACH RATE, 1956-57.

State or Territory.	Single Births.			Multiple Births.							Total Claims Paid.
	£15.	£16.	£17 10s.	Twins.			Triplets.			Quad- rup- lets.	
				£20.	£21.	£22 10s.	£25.	£26.	£27 10s.		
New South Wales ..	25,119	36,476	14,874	246	435	223	1	7	5	1	77,387
Victoria ..	19,150	28,674	11,130	187	345	153	2	4	3	..	59,648
Queensland ..	9,591	15,281	7,662	91	151	99	..	6	1	..	32,882
South Australia ..	5,961	9,767	4,007	51	95	48	..	..	..	..	19,929
Western Australia ..	4,867	8,222	3,572	43	83	65	..	1	..	..	16,853
Tasmania ..	2,351	3,761	1,971	23	33	27	..	..	..	..	8,166
Northern Territory ..	170	264	137	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	579
Australian Capital Territory ..	331	521	206	7	1	..	1	..	..	..	1,067
Overseas ..	40	58	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106
Total ..	67,580	103,024	43,567	654	1,145	615	4	18	9	1	216,617

§ 8. Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits.

Unemployment and Sickness benefits are paid to men over 16 and under 65 years of age, and women over 16 and under 60 years of age who, through unemployment, sickness or accident, suffer temporary loss of regular earnings. They must have been living in Australia during the preceding twelve months or be likely to remain permanently in Australia. A person in receipt of an age, invalid or widow's pension, or a service pension (as distinct from a war pension) under the Repatriation Act, or a tuberculosis allowance is ineligible to receive a benefit.

To qualify for an unemployment benefit, a person must establish that he is unemployed and that his unemployment is not due to his being a direct participant in a strike, that he is capable and willing to undertake suitable work, and that he has taken reasonable steps to obtain such work. Registration with the local Commonwealth District Employment Officer is necessary.

To qualify for a sickness benefit, a person must establish that he is temporarily incapacitated for work by reason of sickness or accident and that he has thereby suffered a loss of salary, wages or other income.

A married woman is not eligible to receive a sickness benefit if it is reasonably possible for her husband to maintain her. Where her husband is able to maintain her only partially, a benefit may be paid at such rate as is considered reasonable in the circumstances. In exceptional cases, a married woman may qualify for an unemployment benefit in her own right.

A benefit may be paid to those aboriginal natives of Australia who are considered suitable by reason of character, standard of intelligence and social development.

The maximum weekly rates of benefit payable and permissible income since the 17th October, 1957, have been as follows:—

Age and Marital Status of Claimant.					Maximum Weekly Benefit Payable.	Permissible Weekly Income.
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Person over 21 years of age	..	..	..	}	3 5 0	2 0 0
Married person under 21 years of age	..	..	..
Unmarried person 18–20 years of age	..	..	..		2 7 6	1 0 0
Unmarried person 17 years of age	..	..	..		1 15 0	1 0 0
Unmarried person 16 years of age	..	..	..		1 15 0	1 0 0

An additional benefit of £2 7s. 6d. per week may be paid for a dependent spouse and 10s. for one dependent child under 16 years of age. If no allowance is paid for a dependent spouse, a similar benefit may be paid for a claimant's housekeeper, provided there are one or more children under 16 years of age in the home and the woman is substantially dependent on the claimant but is not employed by him.

The weekly rate of benefit is reduced by the amount by which a beneficiary's income from sources other than his pension exceeds the amount shown in the final column of the relevant line in the above table. For unemployment benefit purposes, the incomes of the claimant and his spouse are taken into account, unless they are permanently separated. For sickness benefit purposes, the income of the claimant only is taken into account, while up to £2 per week is disregarded of any payment received from an approved friendly society or other similar approved body in respect of the incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable. "Income" does not include child endowment, or other payments in respect of children, the Commonwealth hospital benefits and pharmaceutical benefits, or a tuberculosis allowance or an amount paid in reimbursement of medical, dental or similar expenses paid. There is no means test on property.

Where a person qualified for sickness benefit receives or is entitled to receive (in respect of the same period and the same incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable) any payment by way of compensation (including workers' compensation), damages, or otherwise under any law (except payments for which he has contributed), the amount of the compensation, etc., is not taken into account as income but is deducted from the rate of sickness benefit otherwise payable.

There is a waiting period of seven days in respect of which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable. Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries are eligible to participate in the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service under the same conditions as invalid pensioners. Payment of an unemployment or sickness benefit may be refused if the claimant or beneficiary, on being required, fails to undergo a medical examination or to receive treatment or undertake training or to do any suitable work.

A special benefit may be granted to a person not qualified for unemployment or sickness benefit who is not in receipt of an age, invalid or widow's pension or a service pension, if by reason of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances, or for any other reason, he is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants.

The following table shows the number admitted to benefit during 1956–57, the number of persons on benefit at 30th June, 1957, and the amount paid for each benefit during 1956–57.

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND SPECIAL BENEFITS, 1956-57.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Admissions to Benefit—									
Unemployment—									
Males	23,086	20,316	18,698	5,448	12,918	1,113	12	131	81,722
Females	5,640	3,622	2,853	1,062	916	171	1	43	14,308
Persons	28,726	23,938	21,551	6,510	13,834	1,284	13	174	96,030
Sickness—									
Males	15,642	8,827	7,734	4,023	3,226	1,441	46	78	41,017
Females	5,163	2,923	1,809	875	664	307	7	26	11,774
Persons	20,805	11,750	9,543	4,898	3,890	1,748	53	104	52,791
Special—(a)									
Males	926	369	684	234	77	62	..	4	2,356
Females	445	681	227	68	44	44	1	11	1,521
Persons	1,371	1,050	911	302	121	106	1	15	3,877
Total—(a)									
Males	39,654	29,512	27,116	9,705	16,221	2,616	58	213	125,095
Females	11,248	7,226	4,889	2,005	1,624	522	9	80	27,603
Persons	50,902	36,738	32,005	11,710	17,845	3,138	67	293	152,698
Persons on benefit at end of year—									
Unemployment—									
Males	4,713	4,012	2,306	730	2,206	351	..	6	14,324
Females	1,517	1,061	545	324	235	59	..	6	3,747
Persons	6,230	5,073	2,851	1,054	2,441	410	..	12	18,071
Sickness—									
Males	2,130	1,147	855	459	366	188	1	14	5,160
Females	755	398	234	149	88	51	1	9	1,685
Persons	2,885	1,545	1,089	608	454	239	2	23	6,845
Special—(a)									
Males	220	86	98	57	27	15	..	1	504
Females	447	445	326	100	67	78	..	4	1,467
Persons	667	531	424	157	94	93	..	5	1,971
Total—(a)									
Males	7,063	5,245	3,259	1,246	2,599	554	1	21	19,988
Females	2,719	1,904	1,105	573	390	188	1	19	6,899
Persons	9,782	7,149	4,364	1,819	2,989	742	2	40	26,887
Benefits Paid—									
Unemployment	£ 669,798	£ 530,959	£ 418,997	£ 113,653	£ 336,846	£ 23,045	105	2,633	2,096,036
Sickness	£ 639,342	£ 339,414	£ 234,000	£ 136,332	£ 96,907	£ 47,243	1,361	3,927	1,498,526
Special (b)	£ 116,087	£ 155,126	£ 80,237	£ 25,459	£ 14,055	£ 13,030	33	838	404,865
Total Benefits Paid b	£ 1,425,227	£ 1,025,499	£ 733,234	£ 275,444	£ 447,808	£ 83,318	1,499	7,398	3,999,427

(a) Excludes special benefits paid to migrants in reception and training centres.

(b) Includes payments to migrants in reception and training centres.

The following table shows the number of persons who were admitted to benefit, the average member receiving benefit at the end of each week and the amount paid for each benefit for Australia during each of the years 1952-53 to 1956-57.

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND SPECIAL BENEFITS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number Admitted to Benefits.			Average of Number of Persons on Benefit at end of each week.			Amount Paid in Benefits.		
	Un-employment.	Sick-ness.	Special. (a)	Un-employment.	Sick-ness.	Special. (a).	Un-employment.	Sick-ness.	Special. (b)
1952-53 ..	175,082	50,325	2,989	29,510	7,054	1,372	£ 4,569,747	£ 1,393,294	£ 292,431
1953-54 ..	62,133	56,536	3,631	13,812	7,967	1,859	2,505,463	1,675,593	362,398
1954-55 ..	24,300	57,766	3,548	3,871	7,967	1,966	679,438	1,607,842	352,587
1955-56 ..	37,384	55,985	3,679	3,948	7,303	1,984	671,820	1,519,073	372,220
1956-57 ..	96,030	52,791	3,877	12,452	7,006	2,015	2,096,036	1,498,526	404,865

(a) Excludes special benefits paid to migrants in reception and training centres.

(b) Includes payments to migrants in reception and training centres.

(c) Does not include special variations of advances for payments in regional areas, made at the end of the year.

§ 9. Widows' Pensions.

Widows' pensions are payable to the following classes of women. The rates shown have been in operation since 15th October, 1957.

Class "A"—A widow who has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years—£240 10s. per annum (£4 12s. 6d. a week) plus £26 per annum (10s. a week) for each child after the first in her custody, care and control.

Class "B"—A widow who has no children under 16 years of age in her custody, care and control, and who is not less than 50 years of age or who, after having attained the age of 45 years, ceased to receive a Class "A" widow's pension by reason of the fact that she no longer had the custody, care and control of a child—£195 per annum (£3 15s. a week).

Class "C"—A widow who is under 50 years of age and has no children under the age of 16 years in her custody, care and control, but is in necessitous circumstances at the time of or within 26 weeks after the death of her husband—£3 15s. a week for not more than 26 weeks. If at the time of her husband's death the widow is with child, this period will be extended until the birth of the child. She will then become eligible for a class "A" widow's pension.

Class "D"—A woman whose husband has been serving a term of imprisonment for at least six months, if she has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years or is not less than 50 years of age—£195 per annum (£3 15s. a week).

The term "widow" includes; (i) a woman who was wholly or mainly maintained by a man as his wife on a permanent and bona fide domestic basis for not less than the three years before his death; (ii) a woman who has been deserted by her husband without just cause for not less than six months; (iii) a divorcee who has not remarried; and (iv) a woman whose husband is an inmate of a mental hospital.

The residential qualification is five years' continuous residence in Australia immediately prior to the date of lodgment of the claim, but this period may be reduced to one year under certain circumstances.

A widow's pension is not payable to an alien, unless she was a British subject before her marriage, a woman who is in receipt of an age or invalid pension, a tuberculosis allowance, or a war widow's pension, a woman who has deprived herself of property or income in order to qualify for a pension, a deserted wife or a divorcee who has not taken reasonable action to obtain maintenance from her husband or former husband, a woman who is not of good character, or a woman who is not deserving of a pension. Widows' pensions may be granted to aboriginal native women of Australia under the same conditions as age pensions.

Widows' pensions are subject to a means test. They are reduced by the amount by which a pensioner's income from sources other than her pension exceeds £182 per annum (£3 10s. a week). In determining the amount of income, the income of a Class "A" widow is reduced by £26 per annum (10s. a week) less the amount of any payment other than child endowment received by her in respect of her child.

The pension of a woman in Class "B" or "D" is further reduced by £1 per annum for every complete £12 by which the value of her property exceeds £200.

No pension is payable to a woman who owns property valued at more than £1,750. The types of income and property disregarded in the case of widows' pensions are the same as in the case of age and invalid pensions except that any amount in excess of 15s. a week received by a deserted wife, or a divorcee from her husband or former husband, for the maintenance of a child is taken into account in the claimant's income.

The pension payable to a Class "A" widow may be continued after her child reaches 16 years and until the age of 18 years is reached if the child continues with full-time education at a school or university, is still dependent on the widow and is not in employment.

The number of widows' pensions by class, current at 30th June, 1957, was as follows:—Class "A", 20,648; Class "B", 24,269; Class "C", 223; Class "D", 276; total, 45,416.

The amount paid in pensions during 1956-57 was £8,862,402. The following table shows details of widows' pensions paid in each State and Territory in the year 1956-57:—

WIDOWS' PENSIONS AT 30th JUNE, 1957.

State or Territory.	Pensions Current.			Average Fort-nightly Pension.	Amount paid in Pensions during 1956-57.	
	Class "A".	All Classes.	Total per 10,000 of Population.		Amount.	Per head of Population.
New South Wales ..	8,616	18,389	51	£ 7 16 7	£ 3,641,724	20 4
Victoria ..	4,619	10,879	51	7 13 4	2,035,597	15 5
Queensland ..	3,659	7,544	54	7 17 0	1,503,523	21 9
South Australia ..	1,689	3,783	43	7 13 10	735,021	17 1
Western Australia ..	1,237	3,243	47	7 7 10	612,271	17 11
Tasmania ..	772	1,476	45	7 19 1	303,367	18 7
Northern Territory ..	12	24	13	8 2 3	5,935	6 6
Australian Capital Territory ..	44	78	21	7 16 7	14,579	8 1
Overseas ..	(a)	(a)	..	(a)	10,385	..
Total ..	20,648	45,416	47	7 15 1	8,862,402	18 7

(a) Included in figures for State in which pensioner is permanently domiciled.

§ 10. Reciprocal Agreements with Other Countries.

1. **New Zealand.**—An agreement between the governments of Australia and New Zealand for reciprocity in social services came into operation on 1st July, 1949.

The reciprocal arrangements cover age and invalid pensions, widows' pensions, child endowment and unemployment and sickness benefits, and apply to both permanent and temporary changes of residence.

Residence in one country counts as residence in the other country in relation to entitlement to benefits in which a residential qualification applies.

Persons from one country taking up permanent residence in the other country become eligible for any of the specified benefits of the new country under the same conditions (with one or two exceptions) as apply to citizens of that country.

Persons in receipt of any of the specified benefits in one country may continue to receive those benefits while temporarily absent in the other country. These payments are made on an agency basis by the appropriate authority of the country in which the person is temporarily resident.

2. **United Kingdom.**—A reciprocal agreement on social services between the United Kingdom and Australia came into operation on 7th January, 1954.

Under this agreement, former residents of the United Kingdom who were in the National Insurance Scheme when they left the United Kingdom are deemed, for the purposes of qualifying for age, invalid and widows' pensions, child endowment and unemployment and sickness benefits, to comply with the Australian residential requirements. Subject to the means test, persons who would be entitled to receive United Kingdom pensions on account of age, invalidity or widowhood if they were living in the United Kingdom have their United Kingdom pensions supplemented by the Commonwealth Government.

Australians going to the United Kingdom for permanent residence are treated in the United Kingdom as if they had been insured under the National Insurance Scheme while in Australia, so that they can qualify for various National Insurance benefits.

Families who go from one country to the other qualify for child endowment, or family allowances, as soon as they arrive in their new country.

There is also provision for the safeguard of social service rights for persons going from one country to the other for temporary residence.

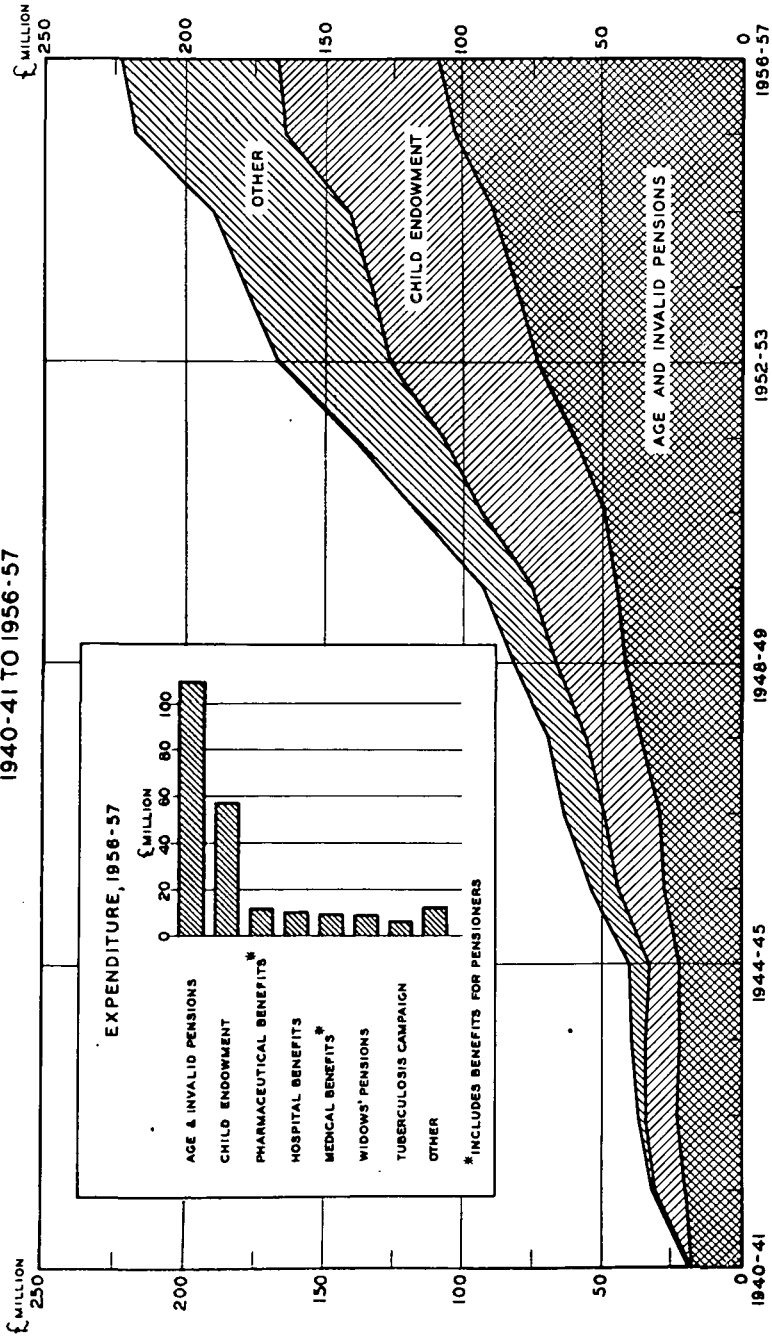
B. OTHER SERVICES.

§ 1. Benevolent Homes.

1. **General.**—Numerous establishments exist for the housing and protection of persons no longer able to provide for themselves. These homes are supported by government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, bequests, etc. In many cases relatives of poor and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

1940-41 TO 1956-57



An entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation of all forms of charitable aid provided by benevolent institutions is difficult because these services differ considerably.

2. **Principal Institutions.**—Particulars respecting the accommodation and the number of inmates of the principal institutions were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 22, p. 485).

3. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1955–56 are given in the following table.

BENEVOLENT HOMES : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1955-56.
(£.)

Particulars.	N.S.W.(a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Australia.
Revenue—							
Government Aid ..	737,312	868,962	412,497	95,871	309,734	235,011	2,659,387
Municipal Aid ..	..	1,079	..	..	..	..	1,079
Public Subscriptions, Legacies..	245,279	48,638	46,575	..	806	..	1,294,740
Fees (b) ..		483,514	179,563	28,223	158,833	40,279	
Other ..		17,412	39,933	3,986	1,584	115	
Total ..	982,591	1,419,605	678,568	128,080	470,957	275,405	3,955,206
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages	478,178	665,023	304,005	86,269	215,204	173,438	1,922,117
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings ..	71,546	59,428	10,653	14,137	11,595	6,033	173,392
All Other ..	309,599	305,211	308,637	26,817	90,604	102,022	1,142,890
Capital (c) ..	123,268	388,712	59,837	857	153,554	..	726,228
Total ..	982,591	1,418,374	683,132	128,080	470,957	281,493	3,964,627

(a) These figures relate to the three State hospitals and homes only. (b) Includes Commonwealth hospital benefits and age and invalid pension receipts. (c) Includes such items as purchase of land, cost of new buildings and additions to buildings.

4. **The Aged Persons Homes Act.**—The Aged Persons Homes Act 1954 operated from 16th December, 1954. The purpose of the Act is to encourage the provision of homes at which aged persons may reside in conditions approaching normal domestic life as nearly as possible.

To be eligible for assistance under this Act an organization must be—

- (a) carried on otherwise than for purposes of profit or gain to the individual members ; and
- (b) a religious organization, an organization the principal objects or purposes of which are charitable or benevolent, an organization of former members of the defence forces established in every State or a State branch of such an organization, or an organization approved by the Governor-General for the purpose of this Act.

An organization conducted or controlled by, or by persons appointed by, the Government of the Commonwealth or of a State or a local governing body established under the law of a State, is not eligible for assistance under this Act.

The Director-General of Social Services may make a grant of money to an organization as assistance towards meeting the cost of the construction or purchase of a home to be used permanently for the accommodation of aged persons. When the Act was introduced, the grant was made on a £1 for £1 basis with money raised by the organization, not counting money which the organization received from a governmental body or borrowed. Since 22nd October, 1957, the grant has been £2 for every £1 raised by the organization. Before a grant is made, the Director-General must be satisfied that the sum of the money expended, and the money presently available for expenditure, by the organization towards the capital cost of the home, together with the amount of the grant, will be not less than the capital cost of the home. Expenditure by the Commonwealth Government was £436,236 in 1954–55, £397,994 in 1955–56 and £751,136 in 1956–57.

§ 2. Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.

1. **General.**—The methods of caring for orphans and neglected children differ extensively, some are placed in orphanages and industrial schools, while others are boarded out with their mothers or female relatives or with approved foster-mothers. The children in orphanages and similar institutions may receive, in addition to primary education, some craft training. In all cases employment is found for the children on their discharge from the institution, and they remain for some time under the supervision of the proper authorities. The conditions under which orphans, neglected children and children boarded out live are subject to frequent departmental inspections.

2. **Principal Institutions.**—Particulars concerning the principal institutions in each State were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (*see* No. 22, p. 486).

3. **Children under Government Authority.**—The following table summarizes the transactions of State Departments during 1955-56 in connexion with children under their control or supervision. In addition to neglected children, the figures include uncontrollable and convicted children who are wards of a government authority, as well as poor children whose parents obtain assistance from the government without giving up the legal right of custody.

CHILDREN UNDER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY : SUMMARY, 1955-56.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
<i>A. Children maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In State shelters, industrial schools, reformatories, etc.(b)	932	509	1,111	274	67	32	5,725
In licensed or approved institutions	676	1,500		70	340	214	
Boarded out—							
With own mothers ..	5,960	3,177	(c)3,853	24	1,751	..	21,324
With licensed foster-mothers, guardians, relatives and friends ..	1,887	449	316	3,792		115	
<i>Total children maintained or subsidized by the State</i>	<i>9,455</i>	<i>5,635</i>	<i>5,280</i>	<i>4,160</i>	<i>2,158</i>	<i>361</i>	<i>27,049</i>
<i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In licensed or approved institutions	(d) 1,633	..	..	63	623	..	2,319
Boarded out	204	493	..	1,973	286	..	2,956
On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts)	3,203	..	172	292	862	..	4,529
In service or apprenticed	42	230	296	208	92	..	868
Adopted or otherwise placed	415	23	..	460	101	..	999
<i>Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State</i>	<i>5,497</i>	<i>746</i>	<i>468</i>	<i>2,996</i>	<i>1,964</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>11,671</i>
<i>Total children under State control or supervision ..</i>	<i>14,952</i>	<i>6,381</i>	<i>5,748</i>	<i>7,156</i>	<i>4,122</i>	<i>361</i>	<i>38,720</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross cost of children's relief	1,202,547	769,840	450,793	276,483	136,502	37,560	2,873,725
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..	78,897	32,752	27,956	45,332	18,176	3,571	206,684
<i>Net Cost to State..</i>	<i>1,123,650</i>	<i>737,088</i>	<i>422,837</i>	<i>231,151</i>	<i>118,326</i>	<i>33,989</i>	<i>2,667,041</i>

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1956.
with female relatives.

(b) Includes inmates of hospitals.
(d) Includes 526 after-care ex-institution inmates.

(c) Boarded out

The total expenditure on children's relief in the foregoing table shows considerable variation amongst the States owing to the different methods of treating assistance to mothers with dependent children. In South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania, large amounts have been excluded from the total expenditure on this account owing to the difficulty of obtaining separate amounts for allowances made in respect of the dependent children only.

§ 3. Protection of Aborigines.

For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race, there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where these people are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic, and receive food and clothing when they call, while others only rarely come near the stations. The aboriginal race is extinct in Tasmania. The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1955-56 was as follows (figures in brackets are for the year 1956-57):—New South Wales, £181,585 (£174,967); Victoria, £16,219 (£13,039); Queensland, £657,917 (£632,107); South Australia, £214,809 (£177,535); Western Australia, £447,993 (£417,864); Northern Territory, £508,743 (£421,412); Australian Capital Territory, £4,684 (£3,427); Australia, £2,031,950 (£1,840,351).

§ 4. Lifesaving.

There are three lifesaving societies in Australia—The Royal Life Saving Society, the Australian Life Saving Society and the Surf Life Saving Association. The object of these societies is the saving of life from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation. Among other things, they aim to encourage an ability to swim and a knowledge of lifesaving techniques on the part of pupils in schools and colleges. Numerous certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually throughout Australia.

§ 5. Royal Humane Society.

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia with head office at 188 Collins Street Melbourne has as its main object the granting of awards to all who with bravery, skill and perseverance promptly risk their own lives in saving or attempting to save those of their fellow creatures. The classes of awards are (a) Gold Medal; (b) Silver Medal; (c) Bronze Medal; and (d) Certificate of Merit. The Clarke Medal is awarded for the outstanding case of the year, and the Rupert Wilks Trophy is awarded for the most outstanding bravery by a child under 13 years of age. About 50 awards are made annually.

§ 6. The Order of St. John.

The Priory in Australia of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem is the governing body of the various activities of the Order which comprises the St. John Ambulance Association, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Hospitallers' Clubs in all States and Commonwealth Territories.

Members of the St. John Ambulance Association teach first aid to the injured, home nursing, hygiene and child welfare.

Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade provide first aid at public functions.

The Hospitallers' Clubs in each State undertake the collection of funds for the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem, and other duties which tend to bring together all persons interested in the work of the order.

The Order of St. John has established ambulance transport services in some States, acts as an ancillary to such services in other States, and provides technical reserves for the medical services of the Crown.

The Lifesaving Medal is awarded by the Order as warranted.

§ 7. Other Charitable Institutions.

Owing to the variety of name and function of other charitable institutions it has been found impracticable to give detailed results. The aid given in kind—food, clothing, tools of trade, etc.—is considerable, whilst the shelter and treatment afforded range from a bed for a night for casual callers in establishments ministering minor charity to indoor treatment over long periods in those that exist for the relief of the aged and the infirm. The institutions not so particularized include homes for the deaf, dumb and blind, infant homes, homes for the destitute and aged poor, industrial colonies, night shelters, crèches, rescue homes for females, free kindergartens, auxiliary medical charities, free dispensaries, benevolent societies and nursing systems, ambulance and health societies, boys' brigades, humane and animals' protection societies, prisoners' aid associations, shipwreck relief societies, bush fire, flood and mining accident relief funds.