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CHAPTER XVIII.

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 28th September, 1946. The enabling Act was assented to on 19th December, 1946.

Before 1947, each social service benefit was paid under a separate Act. On 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 1947–1958.

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. 669–682). Particulars of benefits provided under the National Health Service appear in Chapter XVII.—Public Health, pages 643–649.

§ 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 1957–58.

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES,
1957-58.
(£'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	50,353	29,796	18,343	10,716	8,077	4,034	45	147	66	121,577
Child Endowment	21,219	15,719	9,117	5,430	4,572	2,237	180	248	12	58,734
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service	154	182	68	102	80	22	..	..	..	608
Funeral Benefits	129	88	46	28	23	11	..	..	..	325
Maternity Allowances	1,281	969	547	323	271	138	11	18	2	3,560
Unemployment Benefits	1,727	1,011	1,282	306	482	104	2	6	..	4,920
Sickness Benefits	792	406	305	157	131	59	2	5	..	1,857
Special Benefits(a)	162	222	97	37	19	16	..	1	..	554
Widows' Pensions	3,901	2,331	1,676	844	708	339	6	19	8	9,832
National Health Services—										
Hospital Benefits	4,313	2,662	1,559	928	929	368	38	26	..	10,823
Medical Benefits	3,117	1,682	744	707	657	179	..	..	..	7,086
Medical Benefits for Pensioners	1,450	786	392	278	216	70	..	6	..	3,198
Nutrition of Children	1,138	675	400	212	153	159	1	18	..	2,756
Pharmaceutical Benefits	5,292	3,629	1,664	1,035	864	317	..	110	..	12,911
Pharmaceutical Benefits for Pensioners	965	455	335	183	139	46	..	..	..	2,123
Tuberculosis Campaign—										
Allowances	447	296	227	145	76	64	..	..	..	1,255
Maintenance (b)	1,715	1,027	770	357	444	182	..	16	..	4,511
Miscellaneous(c)	31	41	96	7	13	19	11	d 637	..	855
Total	98,186	61,977	37,668	21,795	17,854	8,364	296	1,257	88	247,485

(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 £536,927 for the production of poliomyelitis vaccine.

Expenditure from the fund during each of the years 1953-54 to 1957-58 is shown in the following table. A graph showing expenditure from the fund from 1940-41 to 1957-58 is to be found on page 673.

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

Service.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
Social Services—					
Age and Invalid Pensions	81,293	88,006	101,625	109,210	121,577
Child Endowment (a)	50,761	52,530	60,381	57,037	58,734
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service	429	451	505	568	608
Funeral Benefits	288	304	319	341	325
Maternity Allowances	3,226	3,362	3,410	3,482	3,560
Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits	4,543	2,640	2,563	4,000	7,331
Widows' Pensions	6,626	6,862	7,723	8,862	9,832
National Health Services—					
Hospital Benefits	8,330	9,321	9,553	9,813	10,823
Medical Benefits	1,434	4,210	5,413	6,146	7,086
Medical Benefits for Pensioners	2,115	2,516	2,874	2,999	3,198
Mental Institution Benefits	495	225	..	..	..
Nutrition of Children	1,999	2,237	2,405	2,607	2,756
Pharmaceutical Benefits	8,219	9,445	10,380	9,924	12,911
Pharmaceutical Benefits for Pensioners	1,011	1,295	1,508	1,793	2,123
Tuberculosis Campaign—					
Allowances	1,877	1,904	1,690	1,461	1,255
Maintenance	3,703	3,753	4,007	4,755	4,511
Miscellaneous	216	258	510	925	855
Total	176,565	189,319	214,866	223,923	247,485

(a) See footnote to table on p. 675.

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

and para. 6, Anti-tuberculosis Campaign. Grants are made to private organizations for the construction of homes for elderly people (*see* para. 4, p. 683).

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 or her 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 (£4 7s. 6d. a week). 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 per annum (10s. a week) for each additional child. Supplementary assistance of £26 per annum (10s. a week) is payable to single pensioners and to married pensioners whose spouses do not receive pension or allowance, if the pensioner pays rent and is deemed to be entirely dependent on his pension. At 30th June, 1958, 392,097 age pensioners (78.9% of all age pensioners) and 67,957 invalid pensioners (87.7% of all invalid pensioners) were receiving an annual pension of £227 10s. 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

no pension is payable 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 a 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 Income (including Pension) per Annum.	Date from which Operative.	Maximum Pension Payable.		Limit of Income (including Pension) per Annum.
	Per Week.	Per Annum.			Per Week.	Per Annum.	
1st July, 1909	s. d.	£ s.	£ s.	7th January, 1943(c)	s. d.	£ s.	£ s.
12th October, 1916 ..	10 0	26 0	52 0	1st April, 1943(c)	26 0	67 12	100 2
1st January, 1920 ..	12 6	32 10	58 10	19th August, 1943(c)	26 6	68 18	101 8
13th September, 1923	15 0	39 0	65 0	25th November, 1943(c)	27 0	70 4	102 14
8th October, 1925 ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	25th November, 1943(e)	26 6	68 18	101 8
23rd July, 1931 ..	20 0	52 0	84 10	5th July, 1945 ..	27 0	70 4	102 14
13th October, 1932(b)	17 6	45 10	78 0	13th August, 1946	32 6	84 10	117 0
26th October, 1933 ..	15 0	39 0	71 10	3rd July, 1947 ..	32 6	84 10	136 10
4th July, 1935(c)	17 6	45 10	78 0	21st October, 1948	37 6	97 10	149 10
24th September, 1936	18 0	46 16	79 6	2nd November, 1950	42 0	110 10	188 10
9th September, 1937 ..	19 0	49 8	81 8	1st November, 1951	50 0	130 0	208 0
26th December, 1940 ..	20 0	52 0	84 10	2nd October, 1952	60 0	156 0	234 0
3rd April, 1941(c)	21 0	54 12	87 2	29th October, 1953	67 6	175 10	253 10
11th December, 1941	21 6	55 18	88 8	14th October, 1954	70 0	182 0	286 0
2nd April, 1942(c)	23 6	61 2	93 12	27th October, 1955	70 0	182 0	364 0
2nd April, 1942(d)	24 0	62 8	94 8	24th October, 1957	80 0	208 0	390 0
1st October, 1942(e)	25 0	65 0	97 10		87 6	227 10	409 10
	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. a week) was payable to a pensioner with no income. Pensioners with income of less than 2s. 6d. a 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 1957–58, 51,333 age pension claims were granted, 1,258 pensioners were transferred from the invalid pension list, and 42,017 pensions expired through cancellations and deaths. The number of age pensioners at 30th June, 1958, was 496,757, of whom 160,998 (or 32 per cent.) were males, and 335,759 (or 68 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 51,333 persons (19,781 males and 31,552 females) to whom age pensions were granted during the year 1957–58 varied considerably, ranging from 8,456 at age 60 to eight who were over 97; 37,882 were in the 60–69 age-group. The conjugal condition of these new pensioners was as follows :—Males—single, 2,432; married, 13,956; and widowed, 3,393 : Females—single, 3,846; married, 17,757; and widowed, 9,949.

During 1957-58, 12,640 invalid pension claims were granted, 5,844 pensions ceased through cancellation or death, and 1,258 invalid pensioners were transferred to the age pension list. The number of invalid pensioners at 30th June, 1958, was 77,451, of whom 41,907 (or 54 per cent.) were males and 35,544 (or 46 per cent.) were females. Pensioners in benevolent homes have been included.

The recorded ages of the 12,640 persons (7,457 males and 5,183 females) to whom invalid pensions were granted during 1957-58 varied widely, 1,164 (9 per cent.) were in the 16-19 years age-group, 2,215 (17 per cent.) were in the 20-44 years age-group; 6,377 (51 per cent.) were in the 45-59 years age-group, 2,278 (18 per cent.) were in the 60-64 years age-group, and 606 (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, 2,470; married, 4,433; and widowed, 554; Females—single, 1,855; married, 2,468; and widowed, 860.

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS, 30th JUNE, 1958.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Age Pensions in force—									
Males	65,183	35,973	27,758	14,818	12,094	4,884	87	201	160,998
Females	140,727	87,563	45,046	30,689	21,030	10,230	74	400	335,759
Persons	205,910	123,536	72,804	45,507	33,124	15,114	161	601	496,757
Masculinity(a)	46.32	41.08	61.62	48.28	57.51	47.74	117.57	50.25	47.95
Invalid Pensions in force—									
Males	15,123	11,333	7,806	2,990	3,105	1,478	38	34	41,907
Females	13,670	8,686	6,424	2,872	2,414	1,405	15	58	35,544
Persons	28,793	20,019	14,230	5,862	5,519	2,883	53	92	77,451
Masculinity(a)	110.63	130.47	121.51	104.11	128.62	105.20	253.33	58.62	117.90

(a) Number of males to each 100 females.

The sum disbursed in age and invalid pensions in 1957-58, including the amount paid to homes for the maintenance of pensioners and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners, represented an expenditure of £12 9s. 7d. per head of population as compared with £11 9s. 1d. in 1956-57.

The following table gives details of age and invalid pensions for the years 1953-54 to 1957-58:—

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 Combined.
	No.	Rate. (a)							
1954 ..	397,784	423	No. 73,732	c471,516	£ 80,898,725	£ 81,293,003	s. d. 134 2	s. d. 136 10	s. d. 134 7
1955 ..	425,556	439	78,498	c504,054	87,614,112	88,006,077	134 7	137 7	135 1
1956 ..	446,207	449	82,775	c528,982	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
1958(d) ..	496,757	482	77,451	574,208	121,110,320	121,577,042	166 11	171 9	167 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, 1954, 6,463; 1955, 6,132; and 1956, 6,244. (d) On 30th June, 1958, 13,205 invalid pensioners in New South Wales were transferred to their correct designation of age pensioners.

§ 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. Endowment is payable 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.

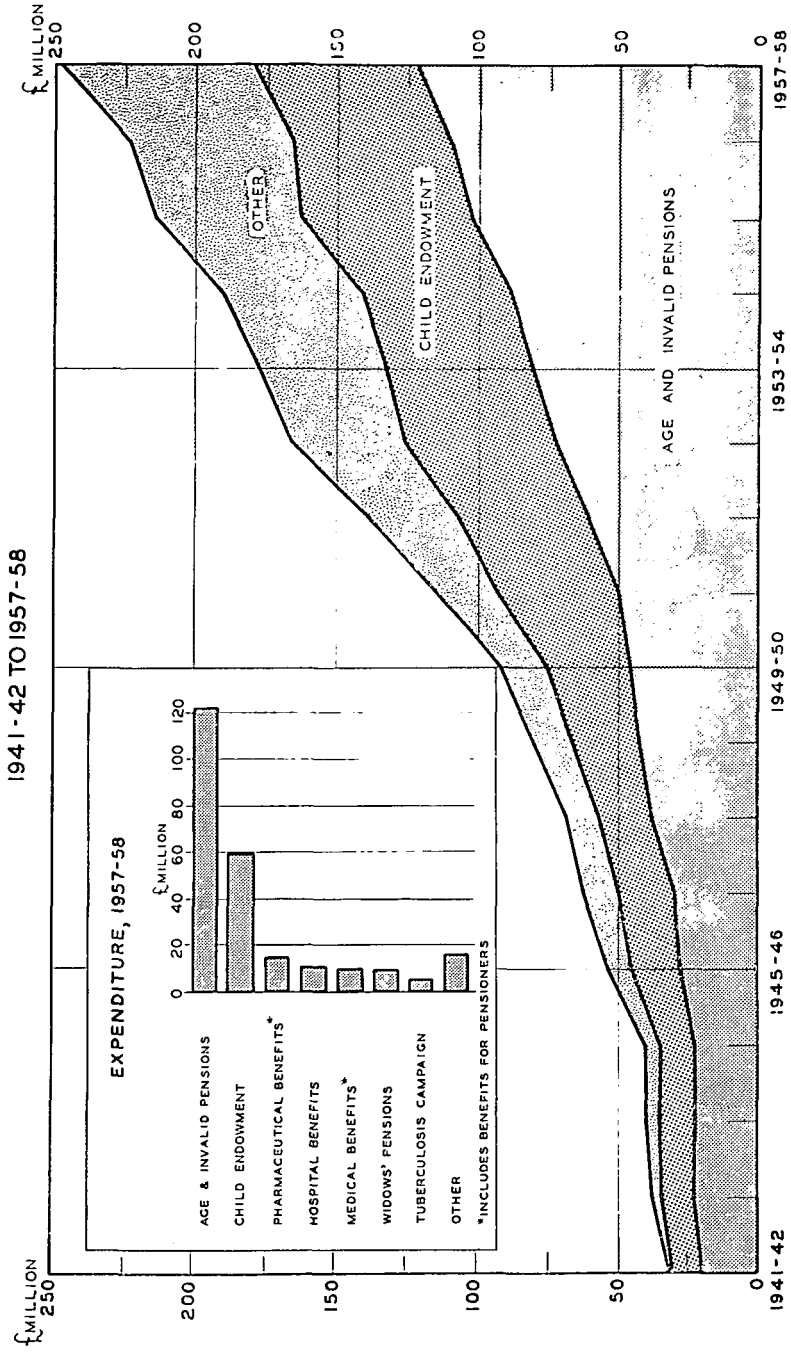
Endowment is restricted to dependent children under 16 years of age. From 1st July, 1941, the rate of endowment was 5s. a week for each child in excess of one in a family, and for each child under 16 in an approved institution. The rate was increased to 7s. 6d. a week in June, 1945, and to 10s. a week in November, 1948. Since 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 receiving child endowment at 30th June, 1958, was 1,415,378, an increase of 37,209 or 2.7 per cent. during the year. The following table shows, for each State and Territory, the number of claims for child endowment in force and the number of endowed children at 30th June, 1958.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: CLAIMS AND ENDOWED CHILDREN, 30th JUNE, 1958.

State or Territory.	Family Groups.			Institutions.		Total. Endowed Children.
	Claims in force.	Endowed Children.		Number.	Endowed Child Inmates.	
		Number.	Average number per claim.			
New South Wales ..	531,556	1,111,199	2.09	123	5,973	1,117,172
Victoria	383,926	818,258	2.13	99	5,032	823,290
Queensland	204,503	466,846	2.28	48	3,306	470,152
South Australia ..	132,079	286,358	2.17	46	1,492	287,850
Western Australia ..	104,472	234,265	2.24	64	3,467	237,732
Tasmania	49,812	114,832	2.31	19	443	115,275
Northern Territory ..	3,043	6,658	2.19	16	2,533	9,191
Australian Capital Territory ..	5,818	12,923	2.22	..	..	12,923
Overseas	169	360	2.13	..	..	360
Total ..	1,415,378	3,051,699	2.16	415	22,246	3,073,945

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES



The following table shows, as at 30th June, 1958, 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: ENDOWED CHILDREN IN FAMILIES, 30th JUNE, 1958.

Number of Endowed Children in Family.	Claims in Force.	Endowed Children.	Number of Endowed Children in Family.	Claims in Force.	Endowed Children.
1	507,244	507,244	10	355	3,550
2	472,221	944,442	11	93	1,023
3	256,175	768,525	12	32	384
4	110,873	443,492	13	7	91
5	42,037	210,185	14	2	28
6	16,238	97,428	15	1	15
7	6,468	45,276	18	1	18
8	2,681	21,448			
9	950	8,550	Total ..	1,415,378	3,051,699

The following table shows the annual liability in respect of Child Endowment at 30th June, 1958, and the actual expenditure thereon for the year 1957-58 in each State and Territory.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: LIABILITY AND EXPENDITURE, 1957-58.

(£.)

State or Territory.	Annual Liability at 30th June, 1958.			Total Payments to Endowees and Institutions during 1957-58.
	Family Groups.	Institutions.	Total.	
New South Wales ..	21,980,946	155,298	22,136,244	21,219,047
Victoria	16,283,670	130,832	16,414,502	15,718,843
Queensland	9,479,457	85,956	9,565,413	9,117,571
South Australia ..	5,728,281	38,792	5,767,073	5,429,826
Western Australia ..	4,732,754	90,142	4,822,896	4,571,540
Tasmania	2,338,076	11,518	2,349,594	2,236,919
Northern Territory ..	133,549	65,858	199,407	179,975
Australian Capital Territory	260,364	..	260,364	247,816
Overseas	7,163	..	7,163	12,024
Total	60,944,260	578,396	61,522,656	58,733,561

The following table shows, for Australia, the number of claims, the number of endowed children and the annual liability at 30th June for each of the years from 1954 to 1958 and the actual expenditure for the years 1953-54 to 1957-58.

CHILD ENDOWMENT SUMMARY: AUSTRALIA.

At 30th June.	Family Group Claims.	Institutions.	Endowed Children.	Annual Liability for Endowment. (a)	Total Payments. (a) (b)
				£	£
1954	1,280,439	387	2,716,974	53,995,617	50,760,799
1955	1,304,227	392	2,788,561	55,547,635	52,529,902
1956	1,339,807	392	2,875,664	57,349,773	60,380,685
1957	1,378,169	397	2,978,191	59,516,769	57,036,962
1958	1,415,378	415	3,073,945	61,522,656	58,733,561

(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 causes considerable fluctuations in the figures for expenditure from year to year, figures for annual liability reflect trends in expenditure on child endowment more accurately than do figures for expenditure.

(b) Year ended 30th June.

§ 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, vocation a 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. a 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 in 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 1957-58 are shown in the following table :—

COMMONWEALTH REHABILITATION SERVICE : AUSTRALIA, 1957-58.

Type.	Examined.	Accepted.	Completed Training.	Placed in Employment.	
				After Training.	Without Training.
Invalid Pensioners	11,520	326	91	75	48
Unemployment and Sickness Beneficiaries	6,756	934	132	128	449
Recipients of Tuberculosis Allowance	663	166	79	99	46
Persons Aged 14-15 years	188	91	24	19	32
Persons provided with rehabilitation on payment of the cost.. .. .	127	72	2	1	65
Total	19,254	1,589	328	322	640

§ 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 1953-54 to 1957-58.

FUNERAL BENEFITS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA.

State.	Benefits Granted.				
	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.
New South Wales	11,397	13,108	13,148	13,927	12,895
Victoria	8,269	7,921	8,216	9,262	8,740
Queensland	4,051	4,590	4,501	4,830	4,565
South Australia	2,529	2,668	2,864	2,974	2,802
Western Australia	1,871	2,045	2,335	2,366	2,358
Tasmania	913	1,053	918	1,002	1,097
Northern Territory	(a)	3	6	2	6
Australian Capital Territory ..	(b)	20	31	28	33
Australia	29,030	31,408	32,019	34,391	32,496

(a) Included with South Australia.

(b) Included with New South Wales.

§ 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 1953-54 to 1957-58:—

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.
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
1958	1,281	969	547	323	271	138	11	18	2	3,560

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory with South Australia.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(c) Included

(d) Included with New South Wales.

The following table shows the number of maternity allowance claims paid in each State or Territory during the years 1953-54 to 1957-58:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: 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.
1954	<i>a</i> 72,380	54,219	30,889	<i>b</i> 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
1958	79,220	60,666	34,000	20,001	16,829	8,509	666	1,137	121	221,149

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

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: CLAIMS PAID AT EACH RATE, 1957-58.

State or Territory.	Single Births.			Multiple Births.						Total Claims Paid.
	£15.	£16.	£17 10s.	Twins.			Triplets.			
				£20.	£21.	£22 10s.	£25.	£26.	£27 10s.	
New South Wales	25,699	37,382	15,206	235	440	246	2	7	3	79,220
Victoria	19,741	28,588	11,572	186	374	195	1	3	6	60,666
Queensland	9,765	15,738	8,128	70	171	121	..	3	4	34,000
South Australia	6,103	9,528	4,118	67	117	64	..	2	2	20,001
Western Australia	4,704	8,249	3,665	53	99	57	2	..	..	16,829
Tasmania	2,421	3,862	2,124	12	53	37	..	..	..	8,509
Northern Territory	219	303	138	2	1	3	..	..	..	666
Australian Capital Territory	356	557	211	3	7	2	..	..	1	1,137
Overseas	47	53	19	1	1	..	..	..	..	121
Total	69,055	104,260	45,181	629	1,263	725	5	15	16	221,149

§ 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.
Unmarried person under 18 years of age	1 15 0	1 0 0
Unmarried person 18-20 years of age	2 7 6	1 0 0
All others	3 5 0	2 0 0

An additional benefit of £2 7s. 6d. a 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 a 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 weekly 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. Special benefits are also paid to migrants who are in reception centres and are awaiting their first placement in employment in Australia. During this time, they receive a short instruction in English and the Australian way of life to facilitate their assimilation into the community and employment.

During the year 1957-58, special benefits were granted to 14,016 migrants at a cost of £159,300.

The following table shows the number admitted to benefit during 1957-58, the number of persons on benefit at 30th June, 1958, and the amount paid for each benefit during 1957-58.

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND SPECIAL BENEFITS, 1957-58.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<i>Persons Admitted to Benefit—</i>									
Unemployment—									
Males	40,775	20,386	34,503	8,418	12,062	2,912	120	235	119,411
Females	9,411	5,992	4,728	2,055	1,620	573	7	80	24,466
Persons	50,186	26,378	39,231	10,473	13,682	3,485	127	315	143,877
Sickness—									
Males	16,063	9,325	7,756	3,864	3,477	1,506	52	108	42,151
Females	5,295	3,160	1,956	873	722	319	11	30	12,366
Persons	21,358	12,485	9,712	4,737	4,199	1,825	63	138	54,517
Special—(a)									
Males	775	330	694	217	67	57	1	10	2,151
Females	555	739	198	104	61	46	..	16	1,719
Persons	1,330	1,069	892	321	128	103	1	26	3,870
Total—(a)									
Males	57,613	30,041	42,953	12,499	15,606	4,475	173	353	163,713
Females	15,261	9,891	6,882	3,032	2,403	938	18	126	38,551
Persons	72,874	39,932	49,835	15,531	18,009	5,413	191	479	202,264
<i>Persons on benefit at end of year—</i>									
Unemployment—									
Males	8,695	4,712	3,913	1,586	2,601	525	8	11	22,051
Females	2,974	2,187	992	672	404	114	1	23	7,367
Persons	11,669	6,899	4,905	2,258	3,005	639	9	34	29,418
Sickness—									
Males	2,448	1,336	1,022	519	464	205	6	15	6,015
Females	872	525	303	126	110	42	..	8	1,986
Persons	3,320	1,861	1,325	645	574	247	6	23	8,001
Special—(a)									
Males	259	94	104	59	31	20	..	1	568
Females	506	499	300	110	74	89	..	3	1,581
Persons	765	593	404	169	105	109	..	4	2,149
Total—(a)									
Males	11,402	6,142	5,039	2,164	3,096	750	14	27	28,634
Females	4,352	3,211	1,595	908	588	245	1	34	10,934
Persons	15,754	9,353	6,634	3,072	3,684	995	15	61	39,568
Benefits Paid—									
Unemployment	£ 1,726,525	1,011,801	1,281,756	305,549	482,735	103,820	1,976	5,613	4,919,775
Sickness	£ 792,335	406,032	304,761	157,379	130,959	58,744	1,821	5,232	1,857,263
Special (b)	£ 161,818	221,733	97,213	36,999	18,696	16,410	35	802	553,706
Total Benefits Paid b £	2,680,678	1,639,566	1,683,730	499,927	632,390	178,974	3,832	11,647,730,744	

(a) Excludes 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 number receiving benefit at the end of each week and the amount paid for each benefit for Australia during each of the years 1953-54 to 1957-58.

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND SPECIAL BENEFITS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number Admitted to Benefits.			Average 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)
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
1957-58	143,877	54,517	3,870	23,847	7,262	2,106	4,919,775	1,857,263	553,706

(a) Excludes 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; (iv) a woman whose husband is an inmate of a mental hospital; and (v) a woman whose husband is in prison for at least six months.

The residential qualification is five years' continuous residence in Australia immediately prior to the date of judgment 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, 1958, was as follows:—Class "A", 20,970; Class "B", 25,579; Class "C", 138; Class "D", 241; total, 46,928.

The amount paid in pensions during 1957-58 was £9,832,095. The following table shows details of widows' pensions paid in each State and Territory in the year 1957-58:—

WIDOWS' PENSIONS AT 30th JUNE, 1958.

State or Territory.	Pensions Current.			Average Fort-nightly Pension.	Amount paid in Pensions during 1957-58.	
	Class "A".	All Classes.	Total per 10,000 of Population.		Amount.	Per head of Population.
				£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
New South Wales	8,106	18,593	50	8 10 4	3,900,954	1 1 5
Victoria	4,931	11,252	41	8 6 3	2,331,171	0 17 3
Queensland	3,882	7,784	55	8 12 1	1,676,067	1 3 11
South Australia	1,809	4,066	45	8 7 11	843,390	0 19 0
Western Australia	1,365	3,542	50	8 2 7	707,480	1 0 3
Tasmania	817	1,581	47	8 12 6	338,494	1 0 3
Northern Territory	17	31	16	9 4 1	6,598	0 6 11
Australian Capital Territory	43	79	19	8 11 9	19,328	0 9 10
Overseas	(a)	(a)	..	(a)	8,613	..
Total	20,970	46,928	48	8 9 0	9,832,095	1 0 2

(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.

2. *United Kingdom.*—A new reciprocal agreement on social services between the United Kingdom and Australia came into operation on 1st April, 1958, replacing the original agreement which operated from 7th January, 1954.

Under this agreement, residence in one country now counts as residence in the other country as the basis for entitlement to benefits in which a residential qualification applies.

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.

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.

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 1956-57 are given in the following table.

BENEVOLENT HOMES : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1956-57.
(£.)

Particulars.	N.S.W.(a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Australia.
Revenue—							
Government Aid ..	836,739	1,180,656	441,038	114,685	183,302	271,937	3,028,357
Municipal Aid ..	..	1,113	..	..	..	..	1,113
Public Subscriptions, Legacies ..	..	43,429	30,991	..	751	..	..
Fees (b) ..	293,453	525,670	186,789	31,264	184,637	42,817	1,405,923
Other ..	..	14,822	44,969	3,949	2,244	138	..
Total ..	1,130,192	1,765,690	703,787	149,898	370,934	314,892	4,435,393
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages	522,226	775,732	335,596	89,491	243,066	200,026	2,166,137
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings ..	73,263	53,510	12,713	20,505	8,301	8,022	176,314
All Other ..	359,312	347,199	329,820	35,742	100,636	106,580	1,279,289
Capital (c) ..	175,391	604,798	21,253	4,160	18,931	..	824,533
Total ..	1,130,192	1,781,239	699,382	149,898	370,934	314,628	4,446,273

(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 which operated from 16th December, 1954, was amended in October, 1957. 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, including land, to be used permanently for the accommodation of aged persons. The grant is made on a £2 for £1 basis with money raised by the organization, not counting money which the organization received from a governmental body or borrowed. 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, £751,136 in 1956-57, and £1,148,042 in 1957-58.

§ 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 1956-57 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, 1956-57.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
A. Children maintained or subsidized by the State.							
In State shelters, industrial schools, reformatories, etc.(b)	1,015	440	335	277	64	19	2,150
In licensed or approved institutions	706	1,755	836	62	394	247	4,000
Boarded out—							
With own mothers ..	6,363	3,659	3,672	21	} 2,112	125	25,035
With licensed foster-mothers, guardians, relatives and friends ..	2,059	492	592	5,940			
Total children maintained or subsidized by the State	10,143	6,346	5,435	6,300	2,570	391	31,185
B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.							
In licensed or approved institutions	(c) 1,711	..	..	76	617	..	2,404
Boarded out	251	594	..	2,070	357	..	3,272
On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts)	3,682	..	211	407	816	..	5,116
In service or apprenticed	37	235	181	226	78	..	757
Adopted or otherwise placed	420	35	..	413	41	..	909
Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State	6,101	864	392	3,192	1,909	..	12,458
Total children under State control or supervision ..	16,244	7,210	5,827	9,492	4,479	391	43,643
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross cost of children's relief	1,243,568	807,609	476,222	247,009	134,106	44,647	2,953,161
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..	77,179	39,626	28,876	39,748	15,967	5,211	206,607
Net Cost to State ..	1,166,389	767,983	447,346	207,261	118,139	39,436	2,746,554

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1957.
after-care ex-institution inmates.

(b) Includes inmates of hospitals.

(c) Includes 659

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 particulars 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 1957-58 was as follows (figures in brackets are for the year 1956-57):—New South Wales, £205,028 (£181,585); Victoria, £24,999 (£16,219); Queensland, £672,798 (£657,917); South Australia, £262,657 (£214,809); Western Australia, £528,766 (£447,993); Northern Territory, £684,308 (£508,743); Australian Capital Territory, £4,166 (£4,684); Australia, £2,382,722 (£2,031,950).

§ 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 Hospitaliers' 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 Hospitaliers' 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 names and functions of other charitable institutions it has been found impracticable to give detailed particulars. 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 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.