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CHAPTER 13

WELFARE SERVICES

This chapter relates to welfare services other than those concerned specifically with education, health and repatriation. The latter are dealt with, in the main, in the relevant chapters of this Year Book. Apart from a summary of government expenditure on welfare services, the chapter is devoted to a description in some detail of the services provided by the Commonwealth. For information on the many important welfare services provided by State and local governments, especially in the fields of child and Aboriginal welfare, reference should be made to the Year Books or Statistical Registers of the States and the annual reports of the State departments concerned. Information on pension and superannuation schemes provided for government and semi-government employees, mine workers, parliamentarians, and employees of private business is included in the chapter Private Finance.

There are numerous welfare services provided by charitable and other non-government institutions and organisations. There are institutions providing shelter and care for needy, aged, infirm or handicapped persons, neglected children, destitute persons, wayward boys and girls, and the like. Many organisations, too, provide aid in kind (food, clothing, etc.), auxiliary medical and nursing services, and other assistance to relieve suffering and hardship. Considerable work is also done by such organisations in the rehabilitation or establishment in the community of various types of people such as prisoners and migrants, and in the prevention and alleviation of cruelty and maltreatment of any sort. A brief description of the activities of such organisations is included at the end of this chapter.

Further information on subjects dealt with in this chapter is included in the annual bulletins *Australian National Accounts* (7.1); *Public Authority Finance: Commonwealth Authorities* (5.12); *Public Authority Finance* (5.33); *Public Authority Finance: State Governments; Social Services* (5.37). Current and summarised information on Commonwealth social services is contained in the *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* (1.3) and the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics* (1.4).

Commonwealth expenditure on welfare services

This section deals with various government payments for the relief of the aged, indigent, infirm, widowed and unemployed, assistance to families, Aboriginal welfare, etc. For summary statements of cash payments to persons made by public authorities under various functional heads, see *Australian National Accounts* and other annual bulletins mentioned above. Expenditure by State governments on certain welfare services is shown on page 411. Commonwealth expenditure on welfare services is financed through the National Welfare Fund from general or special departmental appropriations, other trust funds, and specific purpose grants to the States. Outlay by Commonwealth Authorities on Aboriginal advancement is shown on page 410. Analyses of Commonwealth expenditure by function and economic type are given in Chapter 18—Public Authority Finance and, in more detail, in the bulletin *Public Authority Finance: Commonwealth Authorities*. The following tables set out details of welfare cash benefits to persons during the year 1970-71 and for the five years 1966-67 to 1970-71.

COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITIES, WELFARE: CASH BENEFITS TO PERSONS, 1970-71
(\$'000)

Service, etc.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Qld	S.A. (a)	W.A.	Tas.	N.T. (a)	A.C.T. (a)	Abroad	Total
Age and invalid pensions	269,960	179,578	112,669	64,714	48,979	21,835	1,888	1,999	654	702,276
Child endowment	67,961	55,924	29,199	18,284	16,423	6,686	1,485	2,451	54	198,467
Commonwealth rehabilitation service	1,175	1,012	471	463	386	122	..	..	18	3,646
Funeral benefits	648	440	260	150	107	43	..	5	..	1,653
Maternity allowances	2,981	2,407	1,226	718	743	274	85	118	2	8,554
Tuberculosis campaign—allowances	229	158	131	52	30	32	26	1	..	659
Unemployment benefits, sickness and special benefits	7,923	5,817	4,688	2,408	1,699	764	89	89	..	23,478
Widows' pensions	32,945	24,366	13,698	8,969	6,172	3,327	437	496	104	90,514
Sheltered employment allowances	272	..	..	244	74	..	..	..	..	590
Deserted wives' benefits	909	1,112	645	294	544	188	..	..	..	3,691
Personal care	423	438	288	242	123	76	..	1	..	1,592
Delivered meals	127	110	23	43	29	8	..	1	..	341
Emergency assistance to wool-growers(b)	6,188	1,936	4,683	1,676	6,259	569	..	16	..	21,327
Other(c) . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,673
Total welfare	391,741	273,298	167,981	98,257	81,568	33,924	4,010	5,177	832	1,060,461

(a) State totals for New South Wales and South Australia also include most of the unallocable expenditure on cash benefits to persons resident in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory respectively. (b) For details see Chapter 22, Rural Industry. (c) Expenditures on this item are unallocable and are included in total only.

**COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITIES, WELFARE: CASH BENEFITS TO PERSONS
1966-67 TO 1970-71
(\$'000)**

<i>Service, etc.</i>	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71
Age and invalid pensions	481,840	513,984	558,587	641,982	702,276
Child endowment	199,282	187,920	193,263	220,143	198,467
Commonwealth rehabilitation service	1,844	1,944	2,260	2,758	3,646
Funeral benefits	1,334	1,338	1,571	1,512	1,653
Maternity allowances	7,294	7,349	7,960	8,000	8,554
Tuberculosis campaign—allowances	1,193	1,091	921	771	659
Unemployment benefits, sickness and special benefits	19,044	18,832	16,830	18,592	23,478
Widows' pensions	56,438	61,061	69,080	81,753	90,514
Sheltered employment allowances . . . . .	..	104	288	436	590
Deserted wives' benefits . . . . .	..	201	1,149	1,882	3,691
Personal care . . . . .	..	..	..	1,133	1,592
Delivered meals . . . . .	..	..	..	196	341
Emergency assistance to woolgrowers(a) . . . . .	..	..	..	..	21,327
Other	2,076	2,267	3,051	2,938	3,673
Total welfare	770,344	796,092	854,960	982,094	1,060,461

(a) For details see Chapter 22, Rural Industry.

Commonwealth social services

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 in 1946.

Before 1947, Commonwealth social service benefits were paid under various Acts. On 1 July 1947 with the passage of the *Social Services Consolidation Act 1947*, all Acts providing social service benefits were amalgamated. The Act is at present styled the *Social Services Act 1947-1972*.

Reciprocal social services agreements with other countries

New Zealand. An agreement between the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for reciprocity in social services came into operation on 3 September 1943 and was amended from 1 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 may be treated as residence in the other country in relation to entitlement to benefits in which a residential qualification applies. Persons from one country taking up a 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.

United Kingdom. A reciprocal agreement on social services between the United Kingdom and Australia came into operation on 7 January 1954. Amendments became effective from 1 April 1958 and 1 October 1962. Under the current agreement residence in one country may be treated 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.

Social service benefits provided

The social service benefits provided by the Commonwealth Government under the *Social Services Act 1947-1972*, and the date on which each came into operation, are:

Age pension	1 July 1909
Invalid pension	14 October 1910
Allowances for wife and first child of pensioners who are invalided	8 July 1943
Allowances for second and subsequent children of pensioners who are invalided	11 October 1956
Allowances for wife and children of other age pensioners	14 October 1965
Guardians' allowances for widowed and other unmarried age and invalid pensioners with children in their care	14 October 1965
Special payments to a surviving pensioner	10 October 1968
Widows' pensions	30 June 1942
Supplementary assistance (age, invalid and widows' pensions)	15 October 1958
Supplementary allowance (long-term sickness benefit)	28 September 1970
Widows' pensions—allowances for second and sub- sequent children	2 October 1956
Funeral benefit	1 July 1943
Maternity allowance	10 October 1912
Child endowment	1 July 1941
Child endowment—student children	14 January 1964
Unemployment benefit	1 July 1945
Sickness benefit	1 July 1945
Sickness benefit (long-term)	28 September 1970
Special benefit	1 July 1945
Sheltered employment allowance	30 June 1967
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service	10 December 1948
Training scheme for widow pensioners	27 September 1968

Age and invalid pensions

Age pensions are payable to men, sixty-five years of age and over, and women, sixty years of age and over, who have lived in Australia continuously for at least ten years, which need not be immediately prior to the date of claim for a pension. If a person has completed five years, but not ten years, continuous residence, and has lived in Australia for periods which exceed a total of ten years, the period of continuous residence otherwise required is reduced by the total of his periods of residence in Australia in excess of ten years. Any periods of absence during which a person's home remains in Australia, and absences in certain other circumstances, are counted as residence, and any absence in an external Territory of the Commonwealth, while not counting as residence, does not interrupt continuity of residence in Australia. Residence in New Zealand or the United Kingdom may be treated as residence in Australia.

Invalid pensions are payable to persons, sixteen years of age and over, who have lived in Australia for a continuous period of five years (including certain absences) at any time, and who are permanently incapacitated for work to the extent of at least eighty-five per cent, or permanently blind. If the incapacity or blindness first occurred outside Australia, except during a temporary absence, the residence qualification is the same as for an age pension.

Current rates of pension. The maximum standard rate was increased to \$949 per annum (\$18.25 a week) from 4 May 1972. This is payable to a single, widowed or divorced pensioner, a married man whose wife receives a wife's allowance, or a married pensioner whose spouse is not receiving an age or invalid pension, a tuberculosis allowance, or a service pension. The standard rate may also be paid to each of a married pensioner couple who are living apart for an indefinite period due to illness or infirmity of either or both. The maximum rate for a married pensioner couple was increased to \$1,664 per annum (\$32 a week) from 4 May 1972, (i.e., \$832 per annum or \$16 a week each). For a married person whose spouse receives a tuberculosis allowance, or a service pension, the maximum rate is also \$832 per annum (\$16 a week).

A wife's allowance may be granted, subject to the means test, to the wife of an invalid pensioner or of an age pensioner permanently incapacitated, blind, or who has the care of a child, if she is not receiving an age or invalid pension, or a service pension under the *Repatriation Act 1920-1972* (see Chapter 5, Repatriation). The maximum annual rate of a wife's allowance is \$416 per annum (\$8 a week).

Additional pension for each dependent child under 16 years is payable, subject to the means test, at the rate of \$234 per annum (\$4.50 a week). Widowed or other unmarried age or invalid pensioners with a dependent child may receive a guardian's allowance up to \$4 a week, or up to \$6 a week if the child is under 6 years of age or is an invalid child requiring full-time care. Guardian's allowance is also subject to the means test. Eligibility for the additional pension for children is extended to include a child over sixteen years until he reaches twenty-one years, provided he is wholly or substantially dependent on the pensioner and is receiving full-time education at a school, college or university. Supplementary assistance of up to \$2 a week, subject to a special means test, is available to pensioners receiving the maximum standard rate pension if they pay rent or pay for board and lodging or for lodging.

At 30 June 1971, 393,107 age and 97,175 invalid pensioners in the standard rate category were receiving a pension of \$16 a week or more and 160,252 age and invalid pensioners were in receipt of supplementary assistance. In the married rate category 233,972 age and 21,560 invalid pensioners were receiving a pension of \$14.25 a week or more.

On the death of one member of a married pensioner couple the surviving pensioner spouse becomes entitled to receive, for up to six fortnightly instalments, the equivalent of the two pensions that would have been paid if the spouse had not died. For the purpose of this provision the term 'pensioner' includes a person in receipt of age, invalid or service pension; a wife's allowance; a rehabilitation allowance; or a sheltered employment allowance.

A table showing the maximum rates of pension operating since 1 July 1969 at dates prior to 14 October 1965 is included on page 608 of Year Book No. 51. Details of the respective rates and allowances payable since 14 October 1965 are included in subsequent Year Books.

Means test. Age and invalid pensions (other than pensions paid to blind persons) and allowances paid to wives are subject to a means test which applies to income and property. The rate of pension payable in any case depends on the claimant's *means as assessed*. When calculating means as assessed assets or property owned by the applicant are equated with income by treating each complete \$20 of assets above \$400 as equivalent to an income of \$2 a year. This amount is the property component. Means as assessed may consist entirely of the property component, entirely of income, or of various combinations of property component and income. The annual maximum rate of pension is affected when means exceed the allowable sum of:

For a single, widowed or divorced person	\$520
For a married pensioner couple	\$884 (\$442 each)

The effect of the means test in the case of a single, widowed or divorced person, is to reduce the annual maximum standard rate of pension by half of the amount of any means as assessed in excess of \$520. No pension is payable where the value of property is \$24,580 or more (\$28,740 or more if qualified for a guardian's allowance at the lower rate and \$30,820 if qualified for the guardian's allowance at the higher rate). Supplementary assistance is reduced by the amount by which means as assessed exceed \$52. For a pensioner couple, the combined maximum married rate of pension is reduced by half of any means as assessed in excess of \$884. No pension is payable where the value of property is \$42,920 or more.

Certain types of income are excepted. The main exceptions are: income from property; gifts or allowances from children, parents, brothers, or sisters; benefits (other than annuities) from friendly societies; child endowment or other payments for children; Commonwealth health benefits and amounts received from registered benefit organisations. A pensioner's income may also be reduced by up to \$208 per annum (\$4 a week) for each dependent child under sixteen years (twenty-one years if a full-time student).

Certain types of property are disregarded. They include the permanent home of the pensioner, his furniture and personal effects, the surrender value (up to \$1,500) of life insurance policies, the capital value of annuities or contingent interests, and the value of reversionary interests.

For the purposes of the means test the income and property of a married person are considered to be half the total income and property of the husband and wife unless they are legally separated or in other special circumstances.

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1971

<i>Pensions in force</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Age—									
Males .	87,288	62,377	41,817	23,447	18,071	7,667	690	683	242,040
Females .	212,866	151,475	87,000	54,315	40,153	17,227	887	1,748	565,671
Persons .	300,154	213,852	128,817	77,762	58,224	24,894	1,577	2,431	807,711
Invalid—									
Males .	31,157	17,756	11,746	6,151	4,499	2,523	346	205	74,383
Females .	25,239	13,586	10,026	5,023	3,656	1,793	214	155	59,692
Persons .	56,396	31,342	21,772	11,174	8,155	4,316	560	360	134,075

NEW PENSIONERS, BY SEX AND MARITAL STATUS: AUSTRALIA, 1970-71

<i>Marital status</i>	<i>Age pensioners</i>			<i>Invalid pensioners</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	
Single(a) . . .	3,224	4,888	8,112	5,921	4,117	10,038	18,150
Married . . .	21,375	26,503	47,878	9,183	5,070	14,253	62,131
Widowed . . .	3,107	12,355	15,462	786	1,237	2,023	17,485
Divorced . . .	529	993	1,522	582	479	1,061	2,583
Total . . .	28,235	44,739	72,974	16,472	10,903	27,375	100,349

(a) Includes married but permanently separated.

The average age of new age pensioners was 68.1 years for men and 65.7 years for women.

NEW INVALID PENSIONERS, BY AGE GROUP: AUSTRALIA, 1970-71

		<i>16-19 years</i>	<i>20-44 years</i>	<i>45-59 years</i>	<i>60-64 years</i>	<i>65 years and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Males .	number	1,250	2,997	6,534	5,267	424	16,472
Females .	number	1,183	2,530	6,796	201	193	10,903
Persons .	number	2,433	5,527	13,330	5,468	617	27,375
	<i>Per cent</i>	9	20	49	20	2	100

NOTE. Persons at or above the qualifying age for age pensions, when granted invalid pensions, are generally those with insufficient residence to qualify for age pension.

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1966-67 TO 1970-71

Year	Pensioners at end of year			Total payments during year(b)	Average weekly pension as at end of year			
	Age Number	Rate(a)	Invalid		Age(c)	Invalid (c)	Age and invalid combined (c)	
			No.	No.	\$'000	\$	\$	\$
1966-67	651,363	(d)532	112,314	763,677	481,840	12.38	13.30	12.52
1967-68	(e)682,265	546	(e)114,745	(e)797,010	513,984	(f)12.22	13.37	(f)12.39
1968-69	(g)705,311	555	(g)121,744	(g)827,055	558,587	13.00	14.70	13.26
1969-70	779,007	602	133,766	912,773	641,982	13.61	15.70	13.91
1970-71	807,711	615	134,075	941,786	702,276	14.36	16.54	14.67

(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 and supplementary assistance. (c) Includes supplementary assistance, additional pensions for children, and guardian's allowance, where applicable. (d) For earlier years persons of pensionable age—see footnote (a)—excludes Aborigines, while the number of pensioners includes Aborigines throughout. (e) The 1967-68 figures are adjusted by reducing the number of invalid pensioners by 3,178 and increasing the number of age pensioners by 1,485 following the introduction of computer processing in New South Wales. (f) Decrease in average rates for age pensions at 30 June 1968 was due to the increased number of new pensioners who became eligible for part pensions as a result of amending legislation approved in April 1967. (g) The 1968-69 figures are adjusted by reducing the number of invalid pensioners by 1,583 and increasing the number of age pensioners by 1,223 following the introduction of computer processing in Victoria.

Widows' pensions

Rates and conditions. Widows' pensions are payable according to the following classes. The rates shown are those payable from 25 April 1972 when widows' pensions were increased.

Class 'A'. A widow who has the custody, care and control of one or more eligible children under the age of sixteen years or eligible student child—The maximum amount payable is the standard rate pension of \$949 per annum (\$18.25 a week) and a mother's allowance of up to \$208 per annum (\$4 a week) which is increased to \$312 per annum (\$6 a week) if caring for a child under six years of age or an invalid child requiring full-time care. In addition, extra pension of \$234 per annum (\$4.50 a week) for each child under sixteen years is payable subject to the means test. Payment may be made for a child over sixteen years until he or she reaches twenty-one years, if he or she is wholly or substantially dependent on the widow and is receiving full-time education at a school, college or university.

Class 'B'. A widow who has no eligible children under sixteen years of age or full-time student children in her custody, care and control, and who is not less than fifty years of age or who, after having attained the age of forty-five years, ceased to receive a Class 'A' widow's pension because she no longer had the custody, care and control of a child—The maximum amount payable is \$832 per annum (\$16 a week).

Class 'C'. A widow who is under fifty years of age and has no eligible children under the age of sixteen years, or full-time student children, in her custody, care and control, but is in necessitous circumstances within the twenty-six weeks after the death of her husband—\$16.00 a week for not more than twenty-six weeks after the death of her husband. If the widow is pregnant this period may be extended until the child's birth. She may then become eligible for a Class 'A' widow's pension.

Widow pensioners may receive supplementary assistance of up to \$104 per annum (\$2 a week), subject to a special means test, if they pay rent or pay for board and lodging or for lodging.

For classes 'A' and 'B' the term 'widow' includes a wife who has been deserted by her husband without just cause for a period of at least six months; a divorcee; a woman whose husband has been imprisoned for at least six months; and a woman whose husband is in a mental hospital. Certain dependent females also may qualify for 'A', 'B' or 'C' Class pensions.

A period of residence in Australia before claiming pension is not required if a woman and her husband were residing permanently in Australia when she became a widow. In other circumstances, five years continuous residence immediately preceding lodgment of the claim is required, but this is waived in the case of a woman whose husband has died overseas if she has resided continuously in Australia for ten years at any time and returns to Australia to live.

A widow's pension is not payable to a woman receiving an age or invalid pension, a sheltered employment allowance, a tuberculosis allowance, or a war widow's pension, or to a deserted wife or divorcee who has not taken reasonable action to obtain maintenance from her husband or former husband.

Means test. Widows' pensions are subject to a means test on income and property. The rate of pension payable in any case depends on the claimant's *means as assessed*. When calculating the means as assessed of a claimant for Class 'A' widow's pension, no amount in respect of property is taken into account where the value of the widow's property is \$4,500 or less. If the value of property exceeds \$4,500 the widow's total assets or property are equated with income by treating each complete \$20 of assets above \$2,000 as equivalent to an income of \$2 a year. This amount is the property component. Means as assessed may consist entirely of the property component, entirely of income, or of various combinations of the property component and income. The method for calculating the means as assessed of a claimant for Class 'B' widow's pension is the same as for single, widowed or divorced claimants for age or invalid pension (*see* page 394). In the case of a Class 'A' widow the maximum rate of pension plus the appropriate mother's allowance and additional pension for children, are affected when the widow's means as assessed exceed the allowable sum of \$520. The annual maximum standard rate of pension plus the allowances mentioned above are reduced by half of the amount of any means as assessed in excess of \$520. No pension is payable where the widow has property valued at \$30,340 or more, or if caring for a child under six years of age or an invalid child requiring full-time care, where she has property valued at \$32,420 or more. For a Class 'B' widow the annual maximum rate of pension is reduced by half of the amount of any means as assessed in excess of \$520. No pension is payable where the widow has property valued at \$22,240 or more. There is no specific means test for the Class 'C' pension, which is paid only where it is evident that a widow has insufficient means of support. The types of income and property disregarded for means test purposes are the same as for age and invalid pensions. Supplementary assistance is reduced by the amount by which *means as assessed* exceed \$52.

The average age of new widow pensioners admitted during 1970-71 was: Class 'A', 36.5 years; Class 'B', 56.6 years; Class 'C', 41.8 years; and for all classes, 44.0 years.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS: STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1970-71

State, Territory, etc.	Number admitted —all classes (a)	Pensions current at end of year				Average weekly pension at end of year (b)	Amount paid in pensions during year (b) (c)
		Class 'A'	Class 'B'	Class 'C'	All classes		
						\$	\$'000
New South Wales	6,165	17,154	15,684	35	32,873	19.68	32,945
Victoria	5,231	12,847	11,640	22	24,509	19.64	24,366
Queensland	2,726	7,090	6,428	21	13,539	20.02	13,698
South Australia	1,740	4,623	4,415	2	9,040	19.61	8,969
Western Australia	1,408	3,050	3,328	14	6,392	19.03	6,172
Tasmania	728	1,842	1,295	1	3,138	20.87	3,327
Northern Territory	109	241	154	..	395	22.83	437
Australian Capital Territory	116	299	213	1	513	19.55	496
Abroad . . . . .	..	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	..	104
Total	18,223	47,146	43,157	96	90,399	19.72	90,514

(a) Excludes transfers from one class to another. (b) Includes supplementary assistance and allowances. (c) Includes payments to benevolent homes for maintenance of pensioners. (d) Included in the figures for the State or Territory in which the pensioner is normally domiciled.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1966-67 TO 1970-71

Year	Number admitted —all classes (a)	Pensions current at end of year				Average weekly pension at end of year (b)	Amount paid in pensions during year (b) (c)
		Class 'A'	Class 'B'	Class 'C'	All classes		
						\$	\$'000
1966-67	15,727	34,526	38,259	105	72,890	15.81	56,438
1967-68	16,104	(d)35,899	(d)39,065	105	(d)75,069	(e)15.79	61,061
1968-69	15,993	38,038	39,768	91	77,897	17.63	69,080
1969-70	22,466	44,064	42,771	86	86,921	18.96	81,753
1970-71	18,223	47,146	43,157	96	90,399	19.72	90,514

(a) Excludes transfers from one class to another. (b) Includes supplementary assistance and allowances. (c) Includes payments to benevolent homes for maintenance of pensioners. (d) During 1967-68, a reduction of 769 Class 'A' and 233 Class 'B' pensioners was made following the introduction of computer processing in New South Wales. (e) Decrease in average rate due mainly to the increased number of new pensioners who became eligible for part pension as a result of amending legislation approved in April 1967.

For details of training scheme for widow pensioners, *see* page 405.

Funeral benefits

A benefit of up to \$40 is payable to an eligible age, invalid or widow pensioner who is liable for the funeral costs of another such deceased pensioner, a deceased child or a deceased spouse; a benefit of up to \$20 is payable to any (other) person liable for the funeral costs of a deceased age or invalid pensioner in respect of whose burial a funeral benefit may be granted.

FUNERAL BENEFITS GRANTED: STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1965-66 TO 1970-71
(Number)

<i>State, Territory, etc.</i>	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71
New South Wales	17,015	18,567	17,092	21,830	20,215	22,430
Victoria	11,354	12,386	12,292	13,897	12,844	14,881
Queensland	6,596	7,188	7,129	7,930	7,754	8,505
South Australia	3,751	4,031	4,531	4,855	4,643	4,937
Western Australia	2,709	3,129	3,151	3,397	3,442	3,741
Tasmania	1,340	1,347	1,345	1,438	1,437	1,408
Northern Territory	8	2	7	5	15	8
Australian Capital Territory	92	108	122	136	148	175
Abroad	2	6	3	3	4	3
Total	42,867	46,764	45,672	53,491	50,502	56,088

Total cost of funeral benefits granted during 1970-71 was \$1,653,231.

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 health scheme. They are not subject to a means test.

A maternity allowance is payable to a woman who gives birth to a child if she resides, or intends to reside permanently in Australia and gives birth to the child in Australia, and to a woman who gives birth to a child on board a ship travelling to Australia if she intends to reside permanently in Australia, provided she receives no benefit similar to a maternity allowance from the country from which she came. A woman who gives birth to a child during a temporary absence from Australia may also be eligible. An alien mother may receive the allowance if she or her husband resided in Australia for at least twelve months immediately prior to the birth of the child, or if she is likely to remain in Australia permanently. 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 child had developed for at least five and a half months.

Rates of allowance. The allowance is \$30 if the mother has no other children under sixteen, \$32 if she has one or two other children under sixteen, and \$35 if she has three or more other children under sixteen. In the case of multiple births the allowance is increased by \$10 for each additional child born. An advance payment of \$20 may be made four weeks before the expected date of birth. The balance is payable immediately after the birth.

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: CLAIMS PAID AT EACH RATE
STATES AND TERRITORIES, ETC., 1970-71

<i>State, Territory, etc.</i>	Multiple births											<i>Total claims paid</i>
	<i>Single births</i>			<i>Twins</i>			<i>Triplets</i>			<i>Quad-ruplets</i>		
	\$30	\$32	\$35	\$40	\$42	\$45	\$50	\$52	\$55	\$60	\$62	
New South Wales	37,592	43,672	12,281	345	506	216	1	2	3	..	..	94,618
Victoria	28,698	35,653	10,651	255	391	167	3	4	1	..	1	75,824
Queensland	14,416	17,056	6,672	89	142	81	1	1	..	..	..	38,458
South Australia	8,890	10,796	2,740	77	126	44	..	2	1	..	..	22,676
Western Australia	9,190	10,828	3,179	66	103	50	..	1	..	..	..	23,417
Tasmania	3,205	3,928	1,377	26	45	11	2	..	..	..	..	8,594
Northern Territory	922	1,113	617	5	6	4	..	..	1	..	..	2,668
Australian Capital Territory	1,457	1,766	464	13	19	5	1	..	..	..	..	3,725
Abroad	51	18	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72
Total	104,421	124,830	37,984	876	1,338	578	8	10	6	..	1	270,052

**MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: CLAIMS PAID, AUSTRALIA
1965-66 TO 1970-71**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number single births</i>	<i>Multiple births</i>	<i>Total claims paid</i>	<i>Amount paid</i>
1965-66	221,889	2,422	224,311	\$'000 7,159
1966-67	226,339	2,446	228,785	7,294
1967-68	228,324	2,452	230,776	7,349
1968-69	248,599	2,688	251,287	7,960
1969-70	249,149	2,755	251,904	8,000
1970-71	267,235	2,817	270,052	8,554

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 of a full-time student child over sixteen but under twenty-one years, or an approved institution of which children are inmates, is qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each such child. Full-time student children are those receiving full-time education at a school, college or university and who are not in employment or engaged in work on their own account. There are provisions to meet cases of families divided because of divorce, separation, unemployment or death of a parent. There is no means test.

Twelve months residence in Australia is required if the claimant and the child were not born here, but this requirement is waived if the Department of Social Services is satisfied that they are likely to remain in Australia permanently. Where the child's father is not a British subject, endowment is payable if the child was born in Australia, if the mother is a British subject, or if the Department is satisfied that the child is likely to remain permanently in Australia. Under certain conditions, endowment may be paid to Australians who are temporarily absent overseas.

Rates of endowment. Since 12 October 1971 the weekly rates have been: children under sixteen years—50 cents for the first or only child; \$1.00 for the second; \$2.00 for the third; and then increases of 25 cents for each subsequent child, making \$2.25 for the fourth, \$2.50 for the fifth and so on. For each eligible student child the rate is \$1.50. The rate payable for each child under sixteen years in an approved institution is \$2.00 a week.

Number of claims and endowed children—children under sixteen years. The number of families receiving child endowment at 30 June 1971 in respect of children under sixteen years was 1,797,628 an increase of 47,894 or 2.74 per cent during the year.

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: CLAIMS AND ENDOWED CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS
STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1971**

<i>State, Territory, etc.</i>	<i>Family groups</i>			<i>Approved institutions</i>		
	<i>Claims in force</i>	<i>Endowed children under 16 years</i>		<i>Number (a)</i>	<i>Endowed child inmates under 16 years</i>	<i>Total endowed children under 16 years</i>
		<i>Number</i>	<i>Average number per claim</i>			
New South Wales	636,912	1,355,950	2.13	131	5,840	1,361,790
Victoria	500,385	1,090,447	2.18	126	5,439	1,095,886
Queensland	251,805	570,859	2.27	41	1,790	572,649
South Australia	168,289	361,652	2.15	63	1,294	362,946
Western Australia	147,507	329,671	2.24	73	4,177	333,848
Tasmania	57,100	129,322	2.26	23	429	129,751
Northern Territory	13,034	31,103	2.39	11	252	31,355
Australian Capital Territory	22,343	49,123	2.20	1	27	49,150
Abroad	253	527	2.08	..	..	527
Total	1,797,628	3,918,654	2.18	469	19,248	3,937,902

(a) All institutions approved for receipt of endowment.

The following table shows, as at 30 June 1971, the number of claims in force and the number of endowed children under sixteen years in family groups, classified according to the number of endowed children in the family group. The families included in the table are not necessarily made up entirely of the children of one marriage, but may include step-children, foster children, adopted children, and any other children in the custody, care and control of the claimant.

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: ENDOWED CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS IN FAMILY GROUPS
TOTAL, 30 JUNE 1971**

<i>Number of endowed children under 16 years in family group</i>	<i>Claims in force</i>	<i>Endowed children under 16 years</i>	<i>Number of endowed children under 16 years in family group</i>	<i>Claims in force</i>	<i>Endowed children under 16 years</i>
1	616,154	616,154	9	1,048	9,432
2	608,243	1,216,486	10	335	3,350
3	341,346	1,024,038	11	102	1,122
4	147,646	590,584	12	42	504
5	52,377	261,885	13	18	234
6	20,125	120,750	14	2	28
7	7,456	52,192	15 or more	3	47
8	2,731	21,848	Total	1,797,628	3,918,654

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: CLAIMS AND ENDOWED STUDENT CHILDREN
STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1971**

<i>State, Territory, etc.</i>	<i>Family groups</i>			<i>Approved institutions</i>		<i>Total endowed student children</i>
	<i>Claims in force</i>	<i>Endowed student children</i>		<i>Number(a)</i>	<i>Endowed student child inmates</i>	
		<i>Number</i>	<i>Average number per claim</i>			
New South Wales	73,126	80,144	1.10	32	74	80,218
Victoria	66,874	74,497	1.11	31	137	74,634
Queensland	15,946	17,723	1.11	13	70	17,793
South Australia	20,118	21,869	1.09	17	145	22,014
Western Australia	12,316	13,449	1.09	23	288	13,737
Tasmania	5,005	5,514	1.10	6	11	5,525
Northern Territory(b)	552	614	1.11	2	2	616
Australian Capital Territory	3,043	3,469	1.14	..	..	3,469
Abroad	19	22	1.16	..	..	22
Total	196,999	217,301	1.10	124	727	218,028

(a) Included with approved institutions in second table on page 399. (b) Endowment payments are now being made direct to Aboriginal families instead of through institutions.

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: ENDOWED STUDENT CHILDREN IN FAMILY GROUPS
TOTAL, 30 JUNE 1971**

<i>Number of endowed student children in family group</i>	<i>Claims in force</i>	<i>Endowed student children</i>	<i>Number of endowed student children in family group</i>	<i>Claims in force</i>	<i>Endowed student children</i>
1	177,729	177,729	4	27	108
2	18,276	36,552	5 or more	2	17
3	965	2,895	Total	196,999	217,301

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS
LIABILITY AND EXPENDITURE, STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1970-71**
(\$'000)

<i>State, Territory, etc.</i>	<i>Annual liability at 30 June 1971</i>			<i>Total payments to endowees and institutions during year(a)</i>
	<i>Family groups</i>	<i>Approved institutions</i>	<i>Total</i>	
New South Wales	64,343	456	64,799	61,425
Victoria	52,608	424	53,032	50,514
Queensland	28,453	140	28,593	27,442
South Australia	17,144	101	17,245	16,633
Western Australia	16,037	326	16,363	15,498
Tasmania	6,399	33	6,432	6,252
Northern Territory(b)	1,630	20	1,650	1,440
Australian Capital Territory	2,354	2	2,356	2,177
Abroad	25	..	25	(c)54
Total	188,992	1,501	190,493	181,436

(a) See footnote (b) to third table below. (b) Endowment payments are now being made direct to Aboriginal families instead of through institutions. (c) Includes expenditure for endowed student children; separate figures are not available.

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: STUDENT CHILDREN, LIABILITY, AND
EXPENDITURE, STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1970-71**
(\$'000)

<i>State, Territory, etc.</i>	<i>Annual liability at 30 June 1971</i>			<i>Total payments to endowees and institutions during year</i>
	<i>Family groups</i>	<i>Approved institutions</i>	<i>Total</i>	
New South Wales	6,251	6	6,257	6,535
Victoria	5,811	11	5,822	5,410
Queensland	1,382	5	1,387	1,757
South Australia	1,706	11	1,717	1,651
Western Australia	1,049	22	1,071	926
Tasmania	430	1	431	434
Northern Territory	48	..	48	45
Australian Capital Territory	271	..	271	274
Abroad	2	..	2	(a)
Total	16,949	57	17,006	17,031

(a) Included in preceding table showing expenditure for endowed children under sixteen years; separate figures are not available.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1965-66 TO 1970-71

<i>Year</i>	<i>At end of year</i>		<i>Approved institutions</i>	<i>Total endowed children</i>	<i>Annual liability for endowment (b)</i>	<i>Total payments during year (b)</i>
	<i>Family group claims in force</i>					
	<i>For children under 16 years(a)</i>	<i>For student children(a)</i>				
1965-66	1,610,490	132,900	488	3,762,646	\$'000 182,288	\$'000 176,432
1966-67	1,640,390	151,623	487	3,834,917	185,940	(c)199,282
1967-68	1,669,629	158,488	491	3,890,853	196,397	187,920
1968-69	1,701,914	187,500	493	3,996,042	202,034	193,263
1969-70	1,749,734	194,576	456	4,079,378	205,065	(c)220,143
1970-71	1,797,628	196,999	469	4,155,930	207,499	198,467

(a) Claims by families with children under sixteen and student children are shown in both columns. Information on the number of families having such dual claims is not available. (b) 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. Figures for annual liability therefore, reflect trends in expenditure on child endowment more accurately than do figures for payments. (c) Expenditure for this year includes five twelve-weekly payments for endowed children under 16 years.

Unemployment and sickness benefits

Unemployment and sickness benefits are paid to males over sixteen and under sixty-five years of age, and females over sixteen and under sixty years of age, who are unemployed or who are temporarily incapacitated for work and thereby suffer loss of income. They must have been living in Australia during the preceding twelve months or be likely to remain permanently in Australia. There is a means test on income. A person receiving an age, invalid or widow's pension, or a service pension (as distinct from a war pension) under the *Repatriation Act 1920-1972* or a tuberculosis allowance, is ineligible to receive a benefit.

For unemployment benefit purposes, a person must establish that he is unemployed, 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 for employment with the Commonwealth District Employment Office is necessary. For sickness benefit purposes, a person must establish that he is temporarily incapacitated for work because 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.

Rates of benefit. The maximum weekly rates of unemployment and sickness benefit payable and the permissible income in respect of benefit periods which commenced on or after 19 February 1972 are as follows.

	<i>Maximum weekly rate</i>	<i>Permissible weekly income</i>
	\$	\$
Adult (21 and over) or married minor	17.00	6.00
Unmarried person, aged 18-20 years	11.00	3.00
Unmarried person, aged 16-17 years	7.50	3.00

The adult rate of benefit is payable to unmarried minors having no parent living in Australia.

Additional benefit of \$8 a week may be paid for a dependent spouse and \$4.50 a week for each child under sixteen years of age in a beneficiary's care. Additional benefit, at the same rate as that for a dependent spouse, may be paid where a woman is keeping house for a claimant who has one or more children under sixteen years of age in his care. It may be granted only if no such benefit is payable for his wife, and the housekeeper is substantially dependent on him but not employed by him.

After six consecutive weekly payments, sickness benefit may be increased to the appropriate long-term rate shown in the table below if the person receiving benefit is not in hospital, or is in hospital but has one or more dependants.

	<i>Maximum weekly rate</i>	<i>Permissible weekly income</i>
	\$	\$
Adult (21 and over) or married minor or unmarried minor with no parent in Australia	18.25	6.00
Unmarried person, aged 16-20 years	12.00	3.00

Additional benefit for dependants continues at the same rate as ordinary sickness benefit and a supplementary allowance of up to \$2.00 a week may be paid to beneficiaries if they pay rent or pay for board and lodging or for lodging.

The weekly rate of benefit is reduced by the amount by which a beneficiary's other income exceeds the amount of permissible income. For unemployment benefit purposes the income of the spouse is also taken into account unless the claimant and his spouse are permanently separated. For sickness benefit purposes the income from an approved friendly society, or other similar approved body, in respect of the incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable is disregarded. 'Income' does not include child endowment or other payments for children, Commonwealth health benefits and payments from registered benefit organisations, a tuberculosis allowance, or an amount paid in reimbursement of medical, dental or similar expenses. The supplementary allowance is reduced by the amount by which a beneficiary's other income exceeds \$1.00 a week.

The amount of compensation, damages or similar payment, or war pension, if paid in respect of the same incapacity as that for which sickness benefit is claimed, is deducted from the sickness benefit. If not paid in respect of the same incapacity, compensation is regarded as income and war pension is ignored.

There is a waiting period of seven days during which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable, but this waiting period is not required more than once in any period of thirteen weeks.

Special benefit

A special benefit may be granted to a person not qualified for unemployment or sickness benefit who is not receiving an age, invalid or widow's pension, a service pension or a tuberculosis allowance and who, because of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances, or for any other reason, is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants. Recipients of special benefits include, among others, persons caring for invalid parents, and persons ineligible for age, invalid or widow's pensions because of lack of residence qualifications.

Special benefits are also paid to migrants who are in Commonwealth centres or hostels awaiting their first placement in employment in Australia. During this time they receive a short instruction in English and in Australian conditions to facilitate their assimilation into the community and employment.

No means test or residence requirement is laid down but there is an overriding requirement that a person must be suffering hardship to be granted a special benefit.

The maximum rate of special benefit is the same as for unemployment benefit.

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS, AND SPECIAL BENEFITS STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1970-71(a)

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Number admitted to benefit during year—									
Unemployment—									
Males	25,098	22,412	24,376	14,320	9,995	2,884	269	403	99,757
Females	12,052	6,859	9,168	5,695	2,723	1,504	76	129	38,206
Persons	37,150	29,271	33,544	20,015	12,718	4,388	345	532	137,963
Sickness—									
Males	22,812	13,741	9,654	5,312	4,748	2,202	346	291	59,106
Females	5,828	3,532	2,153	1,291	1,027	485	77	102	14,495
Persons	28,640	17,273	11,807	6,603	5,775	2,687	423	393	73,601
Special—									
Ordinary—									
Males	741	342	281	55	71	29	4	4	1,527
Females(b)	4,882	3,273	1,957	1,008	956	359	63	95	12,593
Persons	5,623	3,615	2,238	1,063	1,027	388	67	99	14,120
Migrants—									
Persons	5,775	1,754	457	876	..	..	..	..	8,862
Total—									
Males(c)	48,651	36,495	34,311	19,687	14,814	5,115	619	698	160,390
Females(c)	22,762	13,664	13,278	7,994	4,706	2,348	216	326	65,294
Persons(d)	77,188	51,913	48,046	28,557	19,520	7,463	835	1,024	234,546
Persons on benefit at end of year—									
Unemployment—									
Males	3,857	4,095	2,319	1,702	1,262	531	1	20	13,787
Females	1,819	1,191	1,216	758	342	251	1	6	5,584
Persons	5,676	5,286	3,535	2,460	1,604	782	2	26	19,371
Sickness—									
Males	3,359	2,384	1,101	703	440	273	41	19	8,320
Females	916	613	301	219	170	76	8	9	2,312
Persons	4,275	2,997	1,402	922	610	349	49	28	10,632
Special—									
Ordinary—									
Males	154	65	49	16	15	7	2	4	312
Females(b)	1,471	955	610	274	223	143	16	21	3,713
Persons	1,625	1,020	659	290	238	150	18	25	4,025
Migrants—									
Persons	172	6	20	36	..	..	..	..	234
Total—									
Males(c)	7,370	6,544	3,469	2,421	1,717	811	44	43	22,419
Females(c)	4,206	2,759	2,127	1,251	735	470	25	36	11,609
Persons(d)	11,748	9,309	5,616	3,708	2,452	1,281	69	79	34,262
Benefits paid during year—									
Unemployment . . \$'000	2,945	2,345	2,883	1,378	828	366	29	20	10,795
Sickness \$'000	3,950	2,877	1,445	840	719	327	47	58	10,262
Special(d) . . . \$'000	1,028	594	361	190	151	71	13	11	2,420
Total benefits paid . \$'000	7,923	5,817	4,688	2,408	1,699	764	89	89	23,478

(a) Excludes a small number of persons receiving unemployment benefits in outlying areas. (b) Since June 1968, special benefits, instead of sickness or unemployment benefits, became payable for confinement cases. (c) Excludes migrants in Commonwealth centres or hostels awaiting their first placement in employment in Australia. (d) Includes migrants in the category described in footnote (c).

**UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS, AND SPECIAL BENEFITS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA
1965-66 TO 1970-71**

Year	Number admitted to benefit during year			Average number of persons on benefit at end of each week			Amount paid in benefits		
	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special (a)	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special (a)	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special (a)
1965-66	114,497	69,585	7,838	14,927	10,044	2,507	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1966-67	151,024	72,276	9,340	20,650	10,108	2,413	7,813	6,483	1,261
1967-68	158,133	72,924	11,615	21,543	9,935	2,532	11,242	6,290	1,300
1968-69	132,914	63,024	(b)21,928	17,818	8,407	(b)4,307	9,268	5,531	(b)2,031
1969-70	109,383	66,766	23,129	13,212	8,572	4,445	8,868	7,146	2,578
1970-71	137,963	73,601	22,982	14,979	9,524	4,293	10,795	10,262	2,420

(a) Includes migrants in Commonwealth centres or hostels awaiting their first placement in employment in Australia.

(b) Since June 1968, special benefits instead of sickness or unemployment benefits, became payable for confinement cases.

Sheltered employment allowance

This allowance was introduced on 30 June 1967 as an alternative to an invalid pension. It is available to disabled employees engaged in approved sheltered employment who have been receiving invalid pension or are likely to become medically qualified for such pension if not provided with sheltered employment.

The maximum rate of the allowance is the same as the maximum rate of invalid pension. Additional benefits such as wife's allowance and additional pension for children that would be paid if the person were an invalid pensioner are added to the sheltered employment allowance to form one composite payment. The means test is the same as for invalid pensions.

In the year ended 30 June 1971, one workshop was approved under the *Social Services Act 1947-1971* to pay sheltered employment allowances on behalf of the Department of Social Services. At 30 June 1971 twelve workshops were paying the allowances to 776 disabled employees. Employees in other sheltered workshops continued to receive invalid pensions. Expenditure during the year 1970-71 was \$590,476.

Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service

The Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service was set up to help persons who are unable to work because of physical handicap, or who have had to give up their employment because of sickness or injury. It helps disabled persons to reach their maximum physical fitness and to prepare for suitable employment. 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 service is available to invalid and widow pensioners, persons receiving unemployment, sickness or special benefits, national servicemen who are disabled at time of discharge but are ineligible for rehabilitation assistance from the Repatriation Department, persons receiving tuberculosis allowances, and persons aged fourteen or fifteen who, without treatment and training, would be likely to qualify for an invalid pension on reaching the age of sixteen years. During treatment, payment of pension or benefit continues. When vocational training begins the pension or benefit is suspended and a rehabilitation allowance, together with a training allowance of \$4.00 a week, is paid instead. With an invalid pensioner, or a sickness, unemployment, or special beneficiary, the rehabilitation allowance is equivalent to and calculated in the same manner as an invalid pension. For a widow pensioner the rate is the same as that of the widow's pension.

Living-away-from-home allowances are paid where necessary. Fares and living expenses (including those of an attendant where required) incurred in connection with treatment, training or attendance for an interview or for medical examination may also be paid. Necessary artificial replacements, surgical aids and appliances may be provided, free of charge, to a person receiving treatment and training or who needs them to assist him to engage in a suitable vocation after the discontinuance of his treatment and training or who needs them otherwise to assist in his rehabilitation. He may also be provided with books, equipment and tools of trade costing up to \$80 in any period of twelve months. Where books, equipment and tools of trade provided to assist a person to engage in a suitable vocation are retained by him, he is liable to repay the cost but is not required to make repayment until after he has commenced employment. The repayment may be made by instalments. If the treatment or vocational training does not result in the trainee being able to engage in employment, he receives the pension or benefit to which he is entitled. Disabled persons who cannot qualify for the free service may pay for rehabilitation themselves, or they may be sponsored by government or private organisations.

Numbers dealt with by the service

COMMONWEALTH REHABILITATION SERVICE: AUSTRALIA, 1970-71

Class of beneficiary	Referred	Accepted	Completed training	Placed in employment		Expenditure during year \$'000	
				After training	Without training		
Invalid pensioners	12,367	457	67	89	266	} n.a.	
Widow pensioners	11	2	..	..	..
Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries	17,895	984	115	137	649		
Special beneficiaries	26	2	1	2	..		
Recipients of tuberculosis allowances	21	4	4	3	4		
Persons whose rehabilitation is continued under Section 135p of the Social Services Act(a)	4	4	..	..	..
Persons provided with rehabilitation under Section 135s of the Social Services Act(b)	169	141	2	10	114		
Persons aged 14-15 years	132	66	16	14	29		
Total	30,625	1,660	205	255	1,062		3,106

(a) Persons receiving invalid pensions, etc., when accepted for rehabilitation and who, on becoming ineligible for the pension, etc., are provided with rehabilitation on payment of the cost. (b) Persons provided with rehabilitation on payment of the cost by another authority.

Of the 1,660 persons accepted during 1970-71, 75 per cent were under forty years of age. The average number undergoing rehabilitation at the end of each month during the year was 1,045.

Training scheme for widow pensioners

In September 1968 a scheme was introduced to help widow pensioners acquire vocational skills which will enable them to undertake gainful employment. Training may take the form of refresher courses or it may involve training for new skills. During training the widow continues to receive her pension for as long as she remains eligible. In addition to pension, she may qualify for a training allowance of \$4 a week and a living-away-from-home allowance of \$5 a week. The cost of tuition fees and fares may also be met; and books, equipment, appliances and tools of trade necessary during training may be supplied free of charge up to the value of \$80 in any period of twelve months. A loan of up to \$400 is available in certain circumstances to enable equipment to be purchased for employment at home. Of the 3,574 applications received during 1970-71, 2,190 were accepted for training and of this number 2,022 commenced training. During the year 869 completed training and 680 were placed in employment. Expenditure during the year was \$539,345.

Commonwealth assistance to welfare organisations

The Aged Persons Homes Act 1954-1969 is designed to encourage the provision of homes in which aged persons may reside in conditions approaching normal domestic life.

To be eligible for assistance under the Act an organisation must be:

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

An organisation conducted or controlled by, or by persons appointed by, the Government of the Commonwealth or of a State is not eligible for assistance under the Act.

The Director-General of Social Services may make a grant of money to an organisation 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 basis of \$2 for each \$1 raised by the organisation (\$1 for each \$1 from 1954 to 1957), not counting money which the organisation received from a governmental body (other than a local governing body) or borrowed.

Before a grant is made the Director-General must be satisfied that the sum of the money expended and the money at present available for expenditure by the organisation 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.

The following table gives information regarding grants approved during 1970-71. The amounts granted include new grants approved in 1970-71 together with adjustments made during the year in respect of grants originally approved in earlier years.

AGED PERSONS HOMES: GRANTS AND AMOUNTS APPROVED, AND BEDS PROVIDED, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1970-71

		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Total
Grants approved	No.	57	53	28	48	25	22	..	2	235
Amounts	\$'000	4,250	4,140	1,865	3,827	3,335	1,376	..	179	18,972
Beds provided	No.	894	831	424	864	766	315	..	42	4,136

The following table gives information regarding grants approved for each of the years 1966-67 to 1970-71. The amounts granted in each year include new grants approved in that year together with adjustments made during the year in respect of grants originally approved in earlier years.

AGED PERSONS HOMES: GRANTS AND AMOUNTS APPROVED, AND BEDS PROVIDED AUSTRALIA 1966-67 TO 1970-71

Year	Grants approved		Beds provided
	Number	Amount (\$'000)	Number
1966-67	158	11,095	3,227
1967-68	170	10,220	2,831
1968-69	193	12,704	3,342
1969-70	184	13,576	3,305
1970-71	235	18,972	4,136

Since the commencement of the Act in December 1954, 2,270 grants amounting to \$124,970,553 have been approved, and accommodation has been provided for 40,058 aged persons.

On 12 September 1969 the Aged Persons Homes Act was amended to provide a *personal care subsidy* of \$5 a week for persons of eighty years of age or over who receive approved personal care while living in hostel type accommodation provided by organisations eligible under the Aged Persons Homes Act. The following table gives details of the premises approved, payments made and number of residents aged eighty years or over residing in the approved premises, at 30 June 1971.

AGED PERSONS HOMES GRANTS, PERSONAL CARE SUBSIDY: STATES, 30 JUNE 1971

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Number of approved premises	84	99	59	48	32	19	1	1	343
Number of qualified residents	1,304	1,839	1,223	987	505	280	2	2	6,142
Subsidy paid	\$ 423,460	438,000	288,220	242,260	123,260	75,740	480	540	1,591,960

The Sheltered Employment (Assistance) Act 1967-1970 superseded the *Disabled Persons Accommodation Act 1963*. Under the latter Act, which was in operation from 25 November 1963 to 30 June 1967, total grants of \$372,118 had been approved. The new Act, which came into operation on 30 June 1967 and was amended on 26 October 1970, provides for subsidies of \$2 for \$1 to eligible organisations towards the capital cost of sheltered workshops, the equipment for them, and accommodation for disabled people employed in sheltered workshops or in normal industry. The Act covers

the erection of buildings and the purchase of existing buildings. In both cases the cost of land is included in the capital cost as is the cost of any necessary conversion or extension of an existing building. The subsidy may also be paid towards the rental, for up to three years, where rented premises are used to provide sheltered employment. A training fee of \$500 is payable to sheltered workshop organisations in respect of each handicapped person who enters and remains in normal employment for twelve months following a period of at least six months training provided by the organisation. In addition, a subsidy of up to \$1 for \$1 is payable towards the salaries of certain sheltered workshop accommodation unit staff (such as supervisory staff, doctors, social workers and counsellors). From 26 October 1970 to 30 June 1971 training fees were approved in respect of 10 handicapped persons at a cost of \$5,000, and 781 positions were subsidised to an annual estimated expenditure of \$639,745. Organisations eligible for grants under the Act are the same as those specified under the Aged Persons Homes Act.

A substantial number of the people employed in the sheltered workshop must be medically qualified for an invalid pension, or be likely to become so qualified if not provided with sheltered employment, and must receive payment for their work before the organisation can qualify for assistance under the Act.

The total subsidy for the 1,397 grants approved during 1970-71 amounted to \$2,257,989. Of these grants, 61 were for workshop buildings and extensions involving a subsidy of \$968,461. The increased number of grants during the year was due mainly to the greater demand for equipment and, to a lesser extent, to the construction and rental of more workshops. The remaining grants and subsidies approved were divided as follows: 526 grants totalling \$407,945 for workshop equipment; 14 in respect of rental of premises used as sheltered workshops, \$19,978; and 5 grants involving \$216,860 for projects providing accommodation for 189 disabled workshop employees.

The *Handicapped Children (Assistance) Act* 1970 came into operation on 17 June 1970. The Act provides for subsidies of \$2 for \$1 to be paid to eligible organisations towards the capital cost of premises to be used for the training of handicapped children; the cost of equipment for such training; and the capital cost of residential accommodation for handicapped children receiving training. Organisations eligible for grants under the Act are the same as those specified under the Aged Persons Homes Act. At 30 June 1971 the subsidy had been extended to 48 premises to be used for training purposes and to 10 residential centres. The total amount approved under the Act by way of grants towards the cost of training centres, residential units and training equipment was \$1,745,530.

The *Delivered Meals Subsidy Act* 1970 came into operation on 15 April 1970. Its purpose is to help organisations to establish, maintain, expand and improve 'meals-on-wheels' services. The subsidy is at the rate of \$1 for every ten meals provided by approved organisations. At 30 June 1971, 282 organisations had received a total subsidy of \$536,516 under the Act. Organisations eligible for grants under the Act are the same as those specified under the Aged Persons Homes Act.

Commonwealth assistance to States

The *States Grants (Deserted) Wives Act* 1968 came into operation on 21 June 1968 with retrospective effect from 1 January 1968. The Act provides for assistance to be given by the Commonwealth to the States in respect of aid for needy mothers with children where there is no bread-winner and the mothers are not eligible for benefits under the Social Services Act. Broadly, these include deserted wives during the first six months of desertion, wives during the first six months of the husband's imprisonment, deserted de facto wives, de facto wives of prisoners, and unmarried mothers.

The type of assistance attracting a Commonwealth grant may be provided in the form of cash, food or clothing. The grant is made by the Commonwealth to the States on the basis of half the cost of the approved assistance paid to the mother or half the amount of Class A widow's pension, which would have been payable had she been qualified to receive it, whichever is the lesser.

All States are now receiving assistance under the scheme. In 1970-71 payments by the Commonwealth amounted to \$3,691,217 compared with \$1,882,133 during 1969-70.

The *States Grants (Home Care) Act* 1969 provides that the Commonwealth will share with participating States on a \$1 for \$1 basis, the cost of developing approved housekeeping or other domestic assistance provided wholly or mainly for aged persons in their homes. The Commonwealth will also share on a \$1 for \$1 basis with participating States up to a maximum of one-third of the capital cost of approved senior citizens' centres as well as meeting on a \$1 for \$1 basis with the States the cost of a salary of a welfare officer employed by such a centre. All States participate in this scheme.

The following table shows the total payments made to the States to 30 June 1971.

**PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR HOME CARE, SENIOR CITIZENS'
CENTRES, AND WELFARE OFFICERS TO 30 JUNE 1971**

(\$)

<i>State</i>	<i>Home Care Services</i>	<i>Senior Citizens' Centres</i>	<i>Welfare Officers</i>	<i>Total</i>
New South Wales	234,100	34,449	..	268,549
Victoria . . . . .	..	..	..	..
Queensland	111,615	17,225	..	128,840
South Australia . . . . .	..	48,463	3,087	51,550
Western Australia	3,500	..	..	3,500
Tasmania . . . . .	..	..	..	..
Total	349,215	100,137	3,087	452,439

The *States Grants (Dwellings for Aged Pensioners) Act* 1969 enables the Commonwealth to make grants, amounting to \$25,000,000 over a five-year period commencing from 1 July 1969, to the States for the purpose of carrying out approved building schemes in connection with the provision of self-contained accommodation for single aged pensioners with little means.

**DWELLINGS FOR AGED PENSIONERS: ASSISTANCE TO STATES
1970-71**

(\$)

<i>State</i>	<i>Grants paid in 1970-71</i>	<i>Total grants paid to 30.6.71</i>	<i>Maximum amount payable under the Act</i>
New South Wales	1,774,125	2,238,972	10,750,000
Victoria	1,929,475	2,129,475	6,500,000
Queensland	108,554	108,554	3,350,000
South Australia	310,700	470,700	2,000,000
Western Australia	700,000	700,000	1,750,000
Tasmania	158,200	258,200	650,000
Total	4,981,054	5,905,901	25,000,000

Telephone rental concessions

Effective from 1 October 1964 an amendment to the Telephone Regulations of the Post and Telegraph Act provided that a telephone service for blind persons and for qualified age, invalid and widow pensioners is available at an annual rental equal to two-thirds of the amount otherwise payable. The Department of Social Services re-imburses the Postmaster-General's Department for the cost of the scheme including administrative costs. Expenditure during 1970-71 was \$2,955,337, plus administrative costs amounting to \$75,969.

Compassionate allowances

These allowances are paid by the Commonwealth on a discretionary basis to certain people who are unable to qualify for pensions or other benefits under the provisions of the Social Services Act. Expenditure on compassionate allowances and payments of a similar nature during 1970-71 was \$57,283.

Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory Welfare Services

Provision of general Welfare services in these two Territories is the responsibility of the Commonwealth. In so far as Welfare items can be identified for territorial accounting purposes, the following table shows the cost of providing these services for each of the years 1966-67 to 1970-71.

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON GENERAL WELFARE SERVICES^(a)
NORTHERN TERRITORY AND AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
1966-67 TO 1970-71
(\$'000)**

	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71
Northern Territory—					
Current outlay—					
Net current expenditure on goods and services	3,043	3,718	6,605	9,262	7,141
Cash benefits to persons	214	249	294	324	388
<i>Total current outlay.</i>	<i>3,257</i>	<i>3,967</i>	<i>6,899</i>	<i>9,586</i>	<i>7,529</i>
Capital outlay—					
Gross capital formation ^(b) . . . . .	..	..	1,229	862	333
Total outlay	3,257	3,967	8,128	10,448	7,862
Australian Capital Territory—					
Current outlay—					
Net current expenditure on goods and services	32	33	36	37	63
Cash benefits to persons	225	297	336	186	231
<i>Total current outlay.</i>	<i>257</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>372</i>	<i>223</i>	<i>294</i>
Capital outlay—					
Gross capital formation ^(b)	36	..	..	..	..
Total outlay	293	330	372	223	294

(a) Includes expenditure on aboriginal affairs. (b) Expenditure on fixed assets and increase in stocks.

Aboriginal welfare

The Aboriginal population as defined at the 1966 Census of Population and Housing includes persons who, at the Census, stated themselves to be 'Aboriginal', or who stated themselves to be more than half Aboriginal, or who were half Aboriginal and half European. The number enumerated in this group at the 1966 Census was 80,207 persons. This figure excludes Torres Strait Islanders, persons who stated that they were less than half Aboriginal and persons who are half Aboriginal and half non-European. An independent estimate, which includes each of these categories, made by the Commonwealth Office of Aboriginal Affairs set the total Aboriginal population in 1969 at about 140,000 persons. The Aboriginal population is increasing at a rate faster than the Australian average. Few Aborigines still live a nomadic life; most live a settled, but in many other ways, traditional life. There are others at all stages between this and full participation in the life of the Australian community.

A referendum in May 1967 led to the repeal of Section 127 of the Constitution which provided that in reckoning the numbers for census purposes, Aborigines should not be counted; and to the deletion of the words 'other than the Aboriginal race in any State' from Section 51 (xxvi) which relates to the power of the Commonwealth Parliament to make laws with respect to people of any race. The Federal Government, whose aim is to help the Aborigines to become an integral part of Australian community life, while at the same time preserving and developing their own distinctive culture, languages, traditions and arts now shares with the States power and responsibilities for the advancement of Aborigines. The Commonwealth Government has created an Office of Aboriginal Affairs, in Canberra, as the agency co-ordinating policy affecting Aborigines, as well as continuing its financial and administrative responsibilities for Aborigines in the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory through the Department of the Interior. The Office serves a Council, comprising a Chairman and two members, which has two functions: to advise in the framing of national policies for the Aboriginal citizens of Australia; and to consult with Aborigines and with Commonwealth and State Departments and other authorities whose activities have a bearing on Aboriginal welfare.

In recent years the Commonwealth, State and Northern Territory legislatures have been active in progressively removing all discriminatory legislation from the relevant Acts of the Commonwealth and State Parliaments and from the relevant Ordinances of the Northern Territory, and therefore a number of benefits received by Aborigines are no longer readily identifiable. In the legal and formal sense none of the opportunities open to Australians generally is closed to Aborigines. However the States continue to maintain a number of programmes specifically for the welfare and advancement of Aborigines, and since 1968 the Commonwealth Government has increased its involvement following the establishment of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs. Outlays by Commonwealth authorities which have been identified as specifically relating to Aboriginal advancement are shown for 1967-68 to 1970-71 in the following table.

OUTLAY ON ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT BY COMMONWEALTH AUTHORITIES
1967-68 TO 1970-71
(\$'000)

	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71
Net current expenditure on goods and services (including grants to private non-profit organisations)—				
Education	1,217	1,732	2,056	3,160
Health	328	397	389	393
Welfare	4,955	5,686	8,445	8,659
Housing	35	55	64	154
Other . . . . .	..	298	375	537
<i>Total</i>	<i>6,535</i>	<i>8,168</i>	<i>11,329</i>	<i>12,903</i>
Gross capital formation—				
Education	966	252	2,610	851
Health	230	373	181	104
Welfare	545	535	367	706
Housing	2	3	197	895
Other . . . . .	..	58	55	57
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,743</i>	<i>1,221</i>	<i>3,410</i>	<i>2,613</i>
Cash benefits to persons . . . . .	..	62	735	2,622
Grants for private capital purposes	695	938	1,583	2,049
Advances to the private sector . . . . .	..	24	417	725
Commonwealth grants—				
Current—				
Education . . . . .	..	151	289	273
Health . . . . .	..	162	162	290
Welfare . . . . .	..	6	146	237
Capital—				
Education . . . . .	..	656	655	672
Health . . . . .	..	348	474	353
Welfare . . . . .	..	125	140	354
Housing . . . . .	..	2,202	3,545	4,821
Commonwealth advances . . . . .	..	..	350	..
<i>Total outlay</i>	<i>8,973</i>	<i>14,063</i>	<i>23,234</i>	<i>27,912</i>

State expenditure on certain Welfare Services

The following table shows net expenditure from State government funds on certain welfare services. The figures exclude expenditure on unemployment, bush fire, flood, etc., relief, Aboriginal welfare, and some other items which are excluded because information cannot be obtained for all States. Loan fund expenditure is excluded also. Because of differences in organisation and accounting methods, the information shown for some classes is not on exactly the same basis for all States; it may also be incomplete because particulars of some activities are not separately recorded and are therefore excluded. The expenditure shown is 'net' in the sense that receipts for services rendered have been deducted from gross expenditure.

**NET EXPENDITURE BY STATE GOVERNMENTS ON CERTAIN WELFARE
SERVICES, 1966-67 TO 1970-71**
(S'000)

<i>Service and year</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Total</i>
1970-71—							
Relief of aged, indigent and infirm, child welfare, etc.	23,046	17,744	11,551	6,247	8,458	2,635	69,681
Miners' phtthisis	52	44	..	..	77	..	173
Total	23,098	17,788	11,551	6,247	8,535	2,635	69,854
Total—							
1969-70.	19,903	14,109	11,703	5,265	7,925	2,113	61,018
1968-69.	18,308	12,981	9,849	4,691	6,583	2,049	54,461
1967-68.	16,615	11,277	8,849	4,393	5,746	2,020	48,900
1966-67.	15,329	10,326	7,679	4,229	5,573	1,664	44,800

Surveys by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services

Survey of age, invalid and widow pensioners in New South Wales and Victoria, March 1971

A survey of the characteristics of age, invalid and widow pensioners in New South Wales and Victoria, covering approximately two-thirds of all such pensioners in Australia, was carried out by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services in March 1971.

A high degree of consistency between the two States was found in the survey results, the more important of which are shown below.

The ranges of *means as assessed* shown in the tables in this sub-section have been selected having regard to the following:

- (a) pensioners, otherwise qualified, may be paid supplementary assistance at the maximum rate if their means as assessed do not exceed \$52 and at a reduced rate if their means as assessed are between \$52 and \$156;
- (b) pensioners with means as assessed up to \$442 (married) or \$520 (single) qualify for pension at the maximum rate;
- (c) pensioners with means as assessed in the range \$443-\$1,157 (married) or \$521-\$1,326 (single) qualify for pension at a reduced rate and would be eligible for a pension under the means test in operation prior to the introduction of the tapered means test on 27 September 1969;
- (d) pensioners with means as assessed exceeding \$1,157 (married) or \$1,326 (single) qualify for a reduced rate pension solely as a result of the introduction of the tapered means test.

NOTE. In studying the tables, reference should be made to the definition of '*means as assessed*' and the types of means and assets which are disregarded in determining *means as assessed* (see pages 394 and 397).

Age Pensioners: New South Wales and Victoria, March 1971

**AGE PENSIONERS BY SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS AND MEANS AS ASSESSED
NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA, MARCH 1971**
(Percentage distribution)

Age group (years)	Single (a)					Married (b)					Total		
	Means as assessed(\$)(c)					Means as assessed(\$)(c)							
	Nil	1-156	157-520	521-1,326	Over 1,326	Nil	1-156	157-442	443-1,157	Over 1,157			
MALES													
65-69	0.8	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.1	2.5	1.0	1.8	2.4	1.7	0.6	7.4	9.9
70-74	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.1	2.6	1.0	1.5	2.0	1.0	0.4	5.9	8.5
75-79	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.1	2.2	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.1	3.2	5.3
80 and over	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.1	3.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.1	2.4	5.4
Total males	3.6	2.1	2.8	1.5	0.4	10.3	3.3	4.6	6.2	3.5	1.2	18.8(d)	29.1
FEMALES													
60-64	2.5	1.4	1.9	1.1	0.3	7.3	0.8	1.2	1.7	1.3	0.6	5.7	13.0
65-69	3.2	2.0	2.5	1.4	0.4	9.5	1.0	1.6	2.3	1.4	0.5	6.7	16.2
70-74	3.7	2.2	2.6	1.6	0.5	10.6	0.8	1.2	1.7	0.9	0.3	4.9	15.5
75-79	4.0	2.2	2.2	1.4	0.4	10.2	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.1	2.7	12.9
80 and over	5.3	2.6	2.4	1.5	0.3	12.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	..	1.3	13.3
Total females	18.8	10.4	11.6	7.0	1.9	49.6	3.5	5.0	7.0	4.3	1.6	21.3(e)	70.9
PERSONS													
60-64	2.5	1.4	1.9	1.1	0.3	7.3	0.8	1.2	1.7	1.3	0.6	5.7	13.0
65-69	4.0	2.5	3.2	1.8	0.5	12.0	1.9	3.3	4.8	3.1	1.1	14.1	26.1
70-74	4.6	2.8	3.3	2.0	0.5	13.2	1.8	2.7	3.7	1.9	0.7	10.8	24.0
75-79	4.8	2.6	2.8	1.8	0.5	12.4	1.3	1.4	1.9	1.0	0.2	5.9	18.2
80 and over	6.4	3.2	3.1	1.9	0.4	15.0	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.6	0.1	3.6	18.7
Total persons	22.3	12.5	14.4	8.5	2.2	59.9	6.8	9.6	13.2	7.9	2.8	40.1	100.0

(a) Single comprises never married, widowed, divorced and permanently separated. (b) Of the married pensioners 8.4 per cent of the males and 5.3 per cent of the females were paid at the standard rate. (c) See text, page 411. (d) Includes 16.6 per cent with wife an age pensioner, 0.6 per cent with wife an invalid pensioner and 0.8 per cent with wife receiving wife's allowance. (e) Includes 16.6 per cent with husband an age pensioner, 1.1 per cent with husband an invalid pensioner and 2.6 per cent with husband receiving service pension.

**AGE PENSIONERS BY SEX, MEANS AS ASSESSED, MARITAL STATUS AND
HOME OWNERSHIP(a): NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA, MARCH 1971**
(Percentage distribution)

Means as assessed (c) (\$)	Single (b)				Married				Persons		Total
	With home		Without home		With home		Without home		With home	Without home	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females			
Nil	0.9	7.0	2.7	11.7	2.1	2.3	1.2	1.2	12.3	16.8	29.1
1-52	0.4	2.5	0.5	2.3	1.4	1.5	0.4	0.4	5.7	3.7	9.4
53-156	0.6	3.1	0.6	2.4	2.3	2.5	0.5	0.6	8.5	4.1	12.6
157-442	1.5	7.0	1.3	4.6	5.2	5.9	1.0	1.2	19.5	8.1	27.6
157-520											
443-936	0.6	2.4	0.5	1.5	2.5	3.0	0.4	0.5	8.4	2.8	11.2
521-936											
937-1157	0.3	1.9	0.2	1.4	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.1	3.5	1.8	5.3
937-1326											
1158-1690	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.4	0.9	1.1	0.1	0.3	2.8	0.9	3.7
1327-1690											
Over 1690	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	..	..	0.8	0.3	1.1
Total	4.3	25.2	6.0	24.5	15.0	17.0	3.8	4.3	61.5	38.5	100.0

(a) For the purposes of the survey, a pensioner was regarded as a home owner if he or his spouse owned or partly owned or had an interest in the home in which he or she lived. Where a married couple, both pensioners, lived in a home owned by one or both of them, each was regarded as a home owner. (b) Single comprises never married, widowed, divorced and permanently separated. (c) See text, page 411.

Invalid Pensioners: New South Wales and Victoria, March 1971

INVALID PENSIONERS BY SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS AND MEANS AS ASSESSED
NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA, MARCH 1971

(Percentage distribution)

Age group (years)	Single (a)						Married (b)						Total
	Means as assessed(\$)(c)						Means as assessed(\$)(c)						
	Nil	1-156	157-520	521-1,326	Over 1,326	Total	Nil	1-156	157-442	443-1,157	Over 1,157	Total	Total
MALES													
16-19	2.1	0.3	0.1	..	..	2.4	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.4
20-24	2.4	0.5	0.2	..	..	3.2	0.1	..	..	..	..	0.1	3.3
25-29	1.8	0.3	0.2	..	..	2.4	0.2	..	..	..	..	0.2	2.6
30-34	1.5	0.2	0.2	..	..	1.9	0.3	..	..	..	..	0.4	2.3
35-39	1.6	0.2	0.2	..	..	2.0	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	..	0.7	2.6
40-44	2.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	..	2.7	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.2	..	1.3	3.9
45-49	2.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	..	2.9	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	1.8	4.7
50-54	2.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	3.3	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.1	2.6	5.9
55-59	3.0	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.1	4.4	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.3	4.9	9.3
60-64	3.4	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.1	5.7	3.0	1.9	2.2	1.9	0.4	9.3	15.1
65 and over	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.1	..	1.2	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.3	..	2.5	3.6
Total males	23.0	4.3	3.1	1.3	0.3	32.0	9.7	4.2	4.6	4.3	1.0	23.8(d)	55.9
FEMALES													
16-19	2.0	0.1	0.1	..	..	2.2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.2
20-24	2.4	0.3	0.1	..	..	2.9	0.1	..	..	..	..	0.2	3.1
25-29	1.8	0.2	0.1	..	..	2.2	0.1	..	..	0.1	..	0.2	2.4
30-34	1.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	..	1.8	0.1	..	..	0.1	0.1	0.3	2.1
35-39	1.5	0.2	0.2	..	..	1.9	0.2	..	..	0.1	0.1	0.3	2.2
40-44	2.0	0.4	0.2	0.1	..	2.7	0.3	..	..	0.1	0.1	0.6	3.3
45-49	2.8	0.6	0.5	0.2	..	4.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.0	5.1
50-54	3.4	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.1	5.4	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2	1.9	7.4
55-59	4.8	1.4	1.2	0.7	0.1	8.1	1.4	1.2	1.2	0.7	0.3	4.9	13.0
60-64	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1	..	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	..	1.2	2.3
65 and over	0.4	0.1	0.1	..	..	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	..	..	0.4	1.1
Total females	23.0	4.7	3.6	1.6	0.3	33.2	4.0	2.3	2.2	1.5	1.0	11.0(e)	44.2
PERSONS													
16-19	4.0	0.4	0.1	..	..	4.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.7
20-24	4.8	0.8	0.4	..	..	6.0	0.2	..	..	..	0.1	0.3	6.3
25-29	3.6	0.6	0.3	0.1	..	4.6	0.3	..	..	0.1	..	0.4	5.0
30-34	2.9	0.5	0.3	0.1	..	3.8	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	4.4
35-39	3.0	0.4	0.3	0.1	..	3.9	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.0	4.9
40-44	4.1	0.7	0.4	0.2	..	5.4	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	1.8	7.2
45-49	4.9	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.1	7.1	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	2.8	9.8
50-54	5.8	1.3	1.1	0.6	0.1	8.8	2.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.3	4.6	13.3
55-59	7.8	2.0	1.7	0.9	0.2	12.6	3.4	2.1	2.1	1.7	0.6	9.8	22.3
60-64	4.0	1.2	1.1	0.5	0.1	6.8	3.3	2.2	2.6	2.0	0.5	10.5	17.3
65 and over	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	..	1.8	1.0	0.7	0.8	0.3	..	2.9	4.7
Total persons	46.0	9.0	6.7	3.0	0.6	65.2	13.7	6.4	6.9	5.8	2.0	34.8	100.0

(a) Single comprises never married, widowed, divorced and permanently separated. (b) Of the married pensioners 56.7 per cent of the males and 23.6 per cent of the females were paid at the standard rate. (c) See text, page 411. (d) Includes 4.1 per cent with wife an invalid pensioner, 6.2 per cent with wife an age pensioner and 11.7 per cent with wife receiving wife's allowance. (e) Includes 4.1 per cent with husband an invalid pensioner, 3.7 per cent with husband an age pensioner and 0.6 per cent with husband receiving service pension.

**INVALID PENSIONERS BY SEX, MEANS AS ASSESSED, MARITAL STATUS
AND HOME OWNERSHIP(a): NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA, MARCH 1971**
(Percentage distribution)

Means as assessed (c) (\$)	Single (b)				Married				Persons		Total
	With home		Without home		With home		Without home		With home	Without home	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females			
Nil	1.2	2.4	21.8	20.6	4.3	1.7	5.4	2.4	9.6	50.1	59.7
1- 52	0.2	0.5	1.9	1.8	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.2	2.6	4.5	7.1
53- 156	0.4	0.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.0	0.6	0.4	3.7	4.6	8.3
157- 442	0.8	1.2	2.4	2.4	3.6	1.6	1.1	0.6	7.2	6.4	13.6
157- 520											
443- 936	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.6	2.4	0.8	0.8	0.3	3.8	2.4	6.1
521- 936											
937-1,157	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.5	1.1	2.6
937-1,326											
1,158-1,690	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.3	1.4	0.7	2.1
1,327-1,690											
Over 1,690	..	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	..	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.5
Total	3.1	5.6	29.0	27.6	14.8	6.5	9.0	4.5	29.9	70.1	100.0

(a) For the purposes of the survey, a pensioner was regarded as a home owner if he or his spouse owned or partly owned or had an interest in the home in which he or she lived. Where a married couple, both pensioners, lived in a home owned by one or both of them, each was regarded as a home owner. (b) Single comprises never married, widowed, divorced and permanently separated. (c) See text, page 411.

Widow Pensioners: New South Wales and Victoria, March 1971

**WIDOW PENSIONERS (CLASS A), BY AGE AND MEANS AS ASSESSED
NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA, MARCH 1971**
(Percentage distribution)

Age group (years)	Means as assessed (\$) (a)								Total
	Nil	1-52	53-156	157-520	521-936	937-1,326	1,327-1,690	Over 1,690	
16-19	0.3	0.0	..	..	0.1	..	..	..	0.4
20-24	4.4	..	0.1	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.3	6.5
25-29	7.4	0.1	0.3	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.7	11.4
30-34	8.5	0.1	0.3	1.7	1.2	0.6	0.4	1.1	13.7
35-39	9.6	0.1	0.4	1.8	1.2	0.7	0.6	1.3	15.6
40-44	11.4	0.2	0.4	2.2	1.3	0.7	0.5	1.2	17.8
45-49	10.4	0.2	0.5	2.2	1.2	0.7	0.5	1.1	16.7
50-54	7.3	0.2	0.3	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.6	11.2
55-59	3.7	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	5.7
60 and over	0.5	..	..	0.2	0.1	..	..	..	0.9
Total	63.4	1.1	2.5	12.1	8.0	3.8	2.7	6.4	100.0

(a) See text, page 411.

**WIDOW PENSIONERS (CLASS A), BY MEANS AS ASSESSED, CATEGORY, AND
HOME OWNERSHIP(a): NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA, MARCH 1971**
(Percentage distribution)

Means as assessed (c) (\$)	Category						Total		Total
	Widow		Deserted wife		Other (b)		With home	Without home	
	With home	Without home	With home	Without home	With home	Without home			
Nil	17.9	14.4	2.4	22.1	1.2	5.3	21.6	41.8	63.4
1- 52	0.4	0.2	..	0.4	..	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.1
53- 156	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.4	1.0	1.6	2.5
157- 520	3.8	1.6	0.8	4.2	0.4	1.2	5.1	7.0	12.1
521- 936	1.9	0.7	0.9	3.4	0.3	0.7	3.1	4.9	8.0
937-1,326	1.2	0.5	0.4	1.2	0.2	0.3	1.8	2.0	3.8
1,327-1,690	0.9	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.2	1.4	1.3	2.7
Over 1,690	1.9	0.7	0.6	1.8	0.5	0.9	3.0	3.4	6.4
Total	28.8	18.7	5.7	34.8	2.9	9.1	37.4	62.6	100.0

(a) For the purposes of the survey, a pensioner was regarded as a home owner if she owned or partly owned or had an interest in the home in which she lived. (b) Includes divorcees, dependent females, and women whose husbands are in a mental hospital or a prison. (c) See text, page 411.

WIDOW PENSIONERS (CLASS A), BY MEANS AS ASSESSED, CATEGORY, AND NUMBER OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN: NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA, MARCH 1971
(Percentage distribution)

Means as assessed (\$)	Category															
	Widow				Deserted wife				Other (a)				Total			
	Widow pensioners according to number of dependant children															
	1	2	3 or more	Total	1	2	3 or more	Total	1	2	3 or more	Total	1	2	3 or more	Total
Nil	15.0	9.1	8.3	32.3	7.9	8.0	8.7	24.6	2.8	1.9	1.8	6.5	25.7	19.0	18.8	63.4
1- 52	0.3	0.2	..	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.1	..	..	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.2	1.1
53- 156	0.7	0.2	0.1	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	1.4	0.7	0.4	2.5
157- 520	3.0	1.3	1.1	5.4	1.7	1.6	1.8	5.1	0.8	0.5	0.3	1.6	5.5	3.4	3.2	12.1
521- 936	1.4	0.7	0.6	2.6	1.5	1.5	1.4	4.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	1.0	3.3	2.5	2.2	8.0
937-1,326	0.8	0.5	0.4	1.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.7	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	1.5	1.3	1.0	3.8
1,327-1,690	0.6	0.4	0.3	1.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.2	0.9	0.7	2.7
Over 1690	1.2	0.8	0.6	2.7	0.9	0.8	0.7	2.4	0.6	0.5	0.3	1.4	2.7	2.1	1.6	6.4
Total	22.9	13.2	11.4	47.5	13.5	13.3	13.7	40.5	5.6	3.7	2.9	12.1	42.0	30.1	27.9(c)	100.0

(a) Includes divorcees, dependent females and women whose husbands are in a mental hospital or a prison. (b) See text, page 411.
(c) Includes 16.0 per cent with three children, 7.3 per cent with four children and 4.6 per cent with five or more children.

WIDOW PENSIONERS (CLASS B), BY AGE AND MEANS AS ASSESSED NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA, MARCH 1971
(Percentage distribution)

Age group (years)	Means as assessed (\$) (a)								
	Nil	1-52	53-156	157-520	521-936	937-1,326	1,327-1,690	Over 1,690	Total
45-49	1.7	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.1	..	..	3.5
50-54	9.8	1.7	2.2	5.8	1.9	1.1	0.6	0.3	23.3
55-59	20.9	4.1	5.7	15.0	4.7	2.1	1.0	0.5	54.0
60 and over	7.2	0.5	0.5	8.1	2.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	19.2
Total	39.5	6.5	8.7	29.7	9.1	3.7	1.8	0.9	100.0

(a) See text, page 411.

WIDOW PENSIONERS (CLASS B), BY MEANS AS ASSESSED, CATEGORY AND HOME OWNERSHIP(a): NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA, MARCH 1971
(Percentage distribution)

Means as assessed (c)	Category									
	Widow		Deserted wife		Other (b)		Total		Total	
	With home	Without home	With home	Without home	With home	Without home	With home	Without home		
	With home	Without home	With home	Without home	With home	Without home	With home	Without home	Total	
Nil	11.3	19.0	0.8	3.8	1.1	3.4	13.3	26.3	39.6	
1- 52	3.0	2.3	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	3.5	3.0	6.5	
53- 156	4.8	2.6	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.5	5.2	3.5	8.7	
157- 520	14.6	11.1	0.6	1.4	0.8	1.2	16.0	13.7	29.7	
521- 936	5.0	2.5	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.4	5.6	3.5	9.1	
937-1,326	2.2	0.9	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	2.5	1.2	3.7	
1,327-1,690	1.1	0.4	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.2	0.6	1.8	
Over 1,690	0.5	0.2	..	..	..	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.9
Total	42.5	39.0	2.3	6.8	3.0	6.3	47.8	52.2	100.0	

(a) For the purposes of the survey, a pensioner was regarded as a home owner if she owned or partly owned or had an interest in the home in which she lived. (b) Includes divorcees, dependent females and women whose husbands are in a mental hospital or a prison. (c) See text, page 411.

Morbidity surveys of invalid pensioners in New South Wales and Victoria

During 1970 two separate surveys of the major disabilities of invalid pensioners in New South Wales and Victoria were undertaken by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. The first related to all invalid pensioners aged 16-20 years on 30 June 1970. The second survey covered a 15 per cent sample of adults receiving an invalid pension on 9 November 1970. The major causes of disability as disclosed by these surveys are set out in the following tables.

INVALID PENSIONERS AGED 16-20 YEARS IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA BY SELECTED MAJOR CAUSE OF DISABILITY, JUNE 1970

<i>Major cause of disability</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage distribution</i>
Mental retardation	3,286	60.6
Mental (other)	241	4.4
Blindness	189	3.5
Deafness	45	0.8
Epilepsy	263	4.9
Spasticity/cerebral palsy	284	5.2
Other physical disabilities	1,000	18.5
Ill-defined injury	37	0.7
Not stated	74	1.4
Total	5,419	100.0

INVALID PENSIONERS AGED 21 YEARS AND ABOVE IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA BY SELECTED GROUPS OF MAJOR CAUSE OF DISABILITY, NOVEMBER 1970
(Percentage distribution)

<i>Major cause of disability</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Mental disorders—			
Psychoses	5.8	6.4	6.1
Neuroses	4.7	8.4	6.3
Mental retardation	13.8	15.5	14.5
Other mental disorders	2.1	1.5	1.8
Total	26.5	31.9	28.8
Diseases of nervous system and sense organs—			
Diseases of central nervous system (including epilepsy)	8.0	8.0	8.0
Diseases and conditions of eye (including blindness)	2.6	2.3	2.5
Diseases of ear (including deafness)	0.5	0.7	0.6
Other diseases of nervous system	0.5	0.4	0.4
Total	11.6	11.3	11.5
Diseases of circulatory system—			
Hypertensive disease	4.5	8.9	6.4
Ischaemic heart disease	6.5	3.1	5.0
Other forms of heart disease	2.9	2.3	2.7
Cerebrovascular disease	2.9	1.4	2.3
Arteriosclerosis	1.3	0.7	1.0
Other diseases of circulatory system	1.9	2.1	1.9
Total	20.1	18.5	19.4
Diseases of respiratory system—			
Bronchitis	3.8	1.5	2.8
Asthma	1.5	2.0	1.7
Other diseases of respiratory system	3.2	0.7	2.1
Total	8.5	4.3	6.7
Diseases of musculoskeletal system—			
Arthritis	7.2	8.9	8.0
Rheumatism	0.2	0.2	0.2
Displacement of intervertebral disc	1.6	0.7	1.2
Other diseases of musculoskeletal system	1.4	1.1	1.3
Total	10.5	11.0	10.7
Other causes of disability (a)	22.8	23.1	22.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) The classification of 'other causes of disability' includes the following items: Infective and parasitic diseases, neoplasms, endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, diseases of blood and blood-forming organs, diseases of digestive system, diseases of genito-urinary system, diseases of the skin, congenital anomalies, symptoms referable to systems and organs, nervousness and debility, and accidents, poisonings and violence.

The role of voluntary agencies in Australian social welfare

Voluntary agencies have played an important role in the provision of social welfare services in Australia since the earliest days of settlement. The oldest voluntary organisation in Australia is the Benevolent Society of New South Wales, founded in 1818, 'to relieve the poor, the distressed, the aged and the infirm'. During the 19th century voluntary agencies were active in all States providing homes for orphan and abandoned children; industrial schools for older boys and girls often rescued from total destitution in the streets; relief in food and clothing for widows, old people and families of the unemployed; hospitals for the sick poor; and institutions for the aged and invalid.

Although in this century Commonwealth and State Governments have taken over many tasks formerly carried out by voluntary agencies, this has not led to any diminution in voluntary activity. The voluntary sector is probably more active today than it has ever been, not only carrying out its traditional role, but in opening up new fields of activity.

In caring for the aged, voluntary agencies are providing nursing home beds in 320 nursing homes. Accommodation for aged persons is provided, under the Aged Persons Homes Act, in hostels, aged persons homes and retirement villages, the great majority of which are run by voluntary agencies of various kinds.

In addition to the provision of residential care, voluntary agencies are concerned with providing many domiciliary services to enable the aged to remain independent as long as possible, and this is an area of increasing activity.

In 1971 voluntary agencies provided 1.9 million meals to aged and invalid persons in their own homes or at senior citizens centres. Home nursing services are provided in many areas together with home help services to assist the frail aged. Some voluntary agencies also operate friendly visiting services to alleviate the loneliness of the aged and to ensure that their needs are known, and others assist with services in senior citizens clubs.

The same pattern of activity is seen in services for the mentally and physically handicapped. Voluntary agencies provide day and residential schools for handicapped children, sheltered workshops for those able to undertake some employment and hostels for the handicapped in both sheltered and open employment. Many organisations provide home visiting services and occupational therapy for the home-bound, special training centres for various forms of rehabilitation, and recreational programmes for those unable to participate in general community activities. The handicapped field is also noted for its activities in bringing together self help groups of the handicapped and their families to promote the well being of the handicapped and to encourage study and research into both prevention and rehabilitation.

Both the aged and handicapped services receive various forms of assistance from Governments in developing their services.

Besides the various forms of health services described above, many major hospitals are provided by the voluntary sector. Of 1,089 approved hospitals in Australia, 156 or almost 15 per cent are run by voluntary organisations. Such hospitals cover a wide range of needs and in addition provide nursing training which may ultimately be of service to the full range of hospitals and nursing homes.

Family and child welfare has long been an important area for voluntary activity. Children's homes provide for children deprived of normal home life because of serious problems within the family, in a wide variety of units ranging from the small family group home in an ordinary house in the suburbs, to the large unit of cottage homes grouped together. As with other services, recent years have shown a marked emphasis on preventive services through family welfare agencies and to greater use of substitute families in adoption and foster care programmes.

Within the modern family welfare agency, assistance is given not only with money and food, as in the last century, but with marriage guidance, parental counselling and home-maker services, all designed to keep the family together as a unit. Other voluntary agencies run services for the single mother or provide day-care services to assist working mothers, in particular the one parent family or the family under special strain.

The well-being of Australian youth is also a matter of concern to the voluntary sector which runs youth activities of many varieties, offers adolescent counselling services and is showing a growing concern for the seriously emotionally disturbed and those becoming addicted to drugs.

As well as these general community services, special services for Aborigines have been a feature of voluntary activity. Formerly these were mainly concerned with the mission area but of late many agencies have been formed, often run primarily by Aborigines, to assist urban dwellers. Legal aid services, head start programmes, nutrition programmes and many others are now being made available through voluntary effort.

The care of migrants is also a significant activity and again much of this work is now undertaken by settled migrants in conjunction with longer established Australians.

Prisoners and ex-prisoners also receive their share of attention. Organisations exist to visit prisoners and assist their families. These will also assist prisoners on discharge, to re-settle in the community, either at home, in lodgings or in hostels provided by the agency. Other agencies concern themselves with alcoholics, homeless men and women and others temporarily destitute.

The list of activities by no means covers all the work done by the voluntary sector. New and experimental services such as Lifeline and Samaritans, drug contact centres, drop-in coffee houses, street workers for alienated youth and many others, are evidence of the continued ability of the voluntary sector of social welfare to develop and meet new social needs.

Studies of social needs and of the quality and the adequacy of present services are a continuing concern of the voluntary sector which has joined together with the statutory sector in Councils of Social Service at the State and the National level to promote the well-being of the deprived and disadvantaged sections of the community and the general social development of Australia.