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## CHAPTER 9

### SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

The Commonwealth Government, the State Governments and voluntary welfare organisations all provide social welfare services. This chapter concentrates on the benefits and services provided by the Commonwealth Government, principally those of the Departments of Social Security and Veterans' Affairs but mention is also made of the services provided by the Departments of Aboriginal Affairs and Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

Details of services administered by the Commonwealth Department of Health are given in Chapter 10, Health. Details of pension and superannuation schemes for government and semi-government employees, mine workers, parliamentarians and employees of private business are included in Chapter 21, Private Finance.

#### Commonwealth Government expenditure on social security services

This section deals with various government payments for the relief of the aged, indigent, infirm, widowed, orphaned and unemployed; assistance to families; etc. For summary statements of cash payments to persons made by public authorities under various functional heads, see *Commonwealth Government Finance, Australia* (5502.0) and other annual publications listed at the end of this chapter.

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;'

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*.

The social security benefits provided by the Commonwealth Government under the *Social Services Act 1947*, and the date on which each came into operation, are shown on page 421 of Year Book No. 61. In addition, a supporting parent's benefit, replacing the supporting mother's benefit, was introduced in November 1977.

#### AUTHORITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT, SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE CASH BENEFITS TO PERSONS (\$'000)

	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Assistance to aged persons—			
Aged pensions . . . . .	2,933,897	3,229,013	3,508,755
Delivered meals . . . . .	1,629	2,280	2,493
Personal care . . . . .	12,564	13,375	14,468
Telephone concessions . . . . .	13,244	14,392	15,978
Total . . . . .	2,961,334	3,259,060	3,541,694
Assistance to incapacitated and handicapped persons—			
Invalid pensions . . . . .	598,375	690,357	796,367
Sheltered employment allowances . . . . .	16,190	18,733	22,778
Handicapped children's benefits . . . . .	18,036	18,235	20,809
Rehabilitation services . . . . .	14,995	16,885	20,145
Total . . . . .	647,596	744,210	860,099

AUTHORITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT, SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE  
CASH BENEFITS TO PERSONS—*continued*  
(\$'000)

	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Assistance to unemployed and sick persons—			
Unemployment benefits . . . . .	794,144	910,012	925,195
Sickness benefits . . . . .	117,929	113,263	126,631
Special benefits . . . . .	30,318	37,660	52,932
Structural adjustment assistance . . . . .	2	—	—
Other . . . . .	62	—	—
<i>Total</i> . . . . .	<i>942,455</i>	<i>1,060,935</i>	<i>1,104,758</i>
Assistance to ex-servicemen(a)—			
Disability and dependants pensions and allowances . . . . .	791,134	851,525	957,179
Other benefits . . . . .	3,682	2,627	2,743
<i>Total</i> . . . . .	<i>794,816</i>	<i>854,152</i>	<i>959,922</i>
Assistance to widowed and deserted spouses—			
Widows' pensions . . . . .	439,497	499,349	561,393
Assistance to families and children—			
Family allowances . . . . .	1,038,115	974,866	1,035,447
Maternity allowances . . . . .	7,179	3,231	(b)
Supporting parent's benefit(c) . . . . .	192,825	226,680	259,596
Orphans pensions . . . . .	1,943	1,948	2,052
<i>Total</i> . . . . .	<i>1,240,062</i>	<i>1,206,725</i>	<i>1,297,095</i>
Other social security and welfare programs—			
Funeral benefits . . . . .	1,551	1,461	1,451
Telephone rental concessions n.e.c. . . . .	2,131	2,388	2,884
Compassionate allowances . . . . .	78	80	83
Assistance to homeless persons . . . . .	955	974	1,072
Other . . . . .	960	1,361	1,461
<i>Total</i> . . . . .	<i>5,675</i>	<i>6,265</i>	<i>6,951</i>
<b>Total social security and welfare</b> . . . . .	<b>7,031,435</b>	<b>7,580,694</b>	<b>8,331,912</b>

(a) For details see section on Veterans' Affairs in this Chapter. (b) Maternity allowances were abolished from 1 November 1978. (c) Changed from supporting mother's to parent's benefit on 10 November, 1977.

### Age and invalid pensions and associated payments

Age pensions are payable to men and women who have reached the ages of 65 and 60 respectively. They are subject to certain residence qualifications and an income test unless the person is permanently blind or has reached the age of 70. For persons over 70 years of age, increases above the base rate are subject to an income test. These payments are subject to tax.

To be residentially qualified for age pension a person must generally be living in Australia on the date of application for the pension and have lived in Australia for ten years continuously at some time.

Invalid pensions are payable to persons sixteen years of age and over who are permanently incapacitated for work to the extent of at least 85 per cent, or permanently blind. In the former case, they are subject to an income test.

There is no residence qualification for invalid pension if the incapacity or permanent blindness occurred within Australia (including an external Territory other than Norfolk Island) or during temporary absence from Australia. As a result, some people not residentially qualified for age pension but who have reached age pension age receive an invalid pension. Invalid pension is subject to tax in these cases but not in others.

A wife's pension is payable to the wife of a pensioner not entitled, in her own right, to an age, invalid or repatriation service pension. There is no residence qualification, but an income test applies. A wife's pension is taxable only if her husband has reached the age of 65.

*Rates of pension.* The maximum standard rate was increased to \$61.05 a week from May 1980. This is payable to a single, widowed or divorced pensioner, or a married pensioner whose spouse is not receiving a pension or a tuberculosis allowance. 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 married pensioner couple (known as the married rate) was increased to \$101.70 a week from May 1980 (\$50.85 a week each). For a married person whose spouse receives a tuberculosis allowance or a service pension, the maximum rate is also \$50.85 a week.

For qualified persons over the age of 70, the base standard rate is \$51.45 a week and the base married rate is \$85.80 a week. Subject to an income test, these persons can qualify for further amounts not exceeding the rates applicable to those under 70 years of age.

Additional pension for each dependent child under 16 years is payable, subject to the income test, at the rate of up to \$7.50 a week. Widowed or other unmarried age or invalid pensioners with a dependent child may receive a guardian's allowance of 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. A guardian's allowance is also subject to the income test. Eligibility for the additional pension for children is extended to include a child over sixteen and under the age of 25 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 \$5 a week (standard rate pensioners) and \$2.50 a week (married rate pensioners) subject to a special income test, is available to pensioners if they pay rent or pay for board and lodging or for lodging.

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, wife's or repatriation service pension, or a sheltered employment allowance.

A table showing the maximum rates of pension operating since 1 July 1909 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 in recent years are shown in the Annual Reports of the Department of Social Security.

The income test is the same for age and invalid pension purposes. As already noted, it does not apply to the permanently blind or, in the case of age pensions, to people who have reached 70 years of age unless they wish to claim payment above the base rate. In other cases, the income test operates to reduce pension payable if a claimant's *income as assessed*—in effect, the claimant's annual income—exceeds prescribed limits. In the case of a person entitled to the standard rate of pension, the limit is \$1,040; in other cases, it is \$897. If income as assessed exceeds these figures, half the excess is subtracted from the appropriate maximum rate of pension. If income as assessed does not exceed these figures, the appropriate maximum rate is payable.

The effect of the income test is to preclude from entitlement to any pension a person subject to the income test and whose income exceeds \$142.10 a week. The corresponding figure for a married couple without children is \$118.95 a week (each partner).

Supplementary assistance is subject to a special income test, the effect of which is to reduce the maximum annual rate by the excess of a person's income as assessed over \$52 (standard rate pensioner) or half the excess of income as assessed over \$52 (married rate pensioners).

Certain types of income are exempted. The main exemptions are: gifts or allowances from children, parents, brothers, or sisters; benefits from friendly societies; family allowances; Commonwealth Government health benefits and amounts received from registered hospital or medical benefit organisations. The amount of a pensioner's income included in income as assessed may also be reduced by up to \$6 per week for each dependent child under sixteen years in the pensioner's care or full-time dependent student.

For the purposes of the income test, the income as assessed of a married person is normally taken to be half of the combined income as assessed of the married couple. Exceptions may be made where the spouses are legally separated or where other special circumstances exist.

## AGE PENSIONERS: 30 JUNE

Age	1978	1979	1980
		- '000-	
60-64 years . . . . .	164.9	159.6	156.2
65-69 years . . . . .	334.4	341.7	345.7
70-74 years . . . . .	330.4	339.9	349.4
75 years and over . . . . .	435.1	451.2	470.7
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>1,264.8</b>	<b>1,292.5</b>	<b>1,321.9</b>
Percent of aged population (a) % . . . . .	78.3	77.9	77.9
Number admitted during year (b) . . . . .	120,560	96,184	96,488
Total payments during year (c) \$'000 . . . . .	2,933,897	3,229,013	3,508,755

## INVALID PENSIONERS: 30 JUNE

Age	1978	1979	1980
		- '000-	
16-19 years . . . . .	7.5	7.8	7.9
20-39 years . . . . .	42.0	45.3	48.1
40-59 years . . . . .	110.0	119.3	124.7
60-64 years . . . . .	41.4	42.9	43.8
65 years and over . . . . .	4.1	4.5	4.8
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>204.9</b>	<b>219.8</b>	<b>229.2</b>
Number admitted during year . . . . .	43,173	43,804	40,356
Total payments during year (c) \$'000 . . . . .	598,375	690,357	796,367

(a) Per cent of persons of pensionable age (males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over). (b) Excludes transfers from wives pensions. (c) Includes allowances, supplementary assistance and wives pensions where applicable.

**Sheltered employment allowance and associated payments**

Sheltered employment allowance is payable to disabled people who are employed in sheltered workshops and are otherwise qualified to receive an invalid pension or would become so qualified if they ceased to be provided with sheltered employment. The allowance is subject to the same income test as applies to invalid pension and is paid at the same rate. It is payable in the form of a supplement to the sheltered employee's wages. The allowance is not taxable unless the sheltered employee has reached age pension age.

A sheltered employee is entitled to the same additional payments as an invalid pensioner except that no supplementary assistance is payable. Instead, all people in receipt of sheltered employment allowance receive an incentive allowance of \$5 a week. There is no income test on the allowance, but a person precluded by his or her income from receiving sheltered employment allowance is not entitled to incentive allowance.

All sheltered workshops are required to pay sheltered employment allowances on behalf of the Department of Social Security. At 30 June 1980, 160 workshops were paying the allowance to 7,597 disabled employees. Expenditure during the year 1979-80 was \$22,778,000.

**Widows' pensions and associated payments**

There are three categories of widow pensioners:

**Class 'A'.** A widow who has the custody, care and control of one or more qualifying children under the age of sixteen years or dependent full time student aged 16-24;

**Class 'B'.** A widow who, because she has no qualifying children or students in her custody, care and control, is not eligible for a Class 'A' widow's pension but is either at least 50 years of age or, after having reached the age of 45, has ceased to receive a Class 'A' pension by reason of ceasing to have the custody, care and control of a qualifying child or student; and

**Class 'C'.** A widow not eligible for Class 'A' or Class 'B' widow's pension, who is under 50 years of age and is in necessitous circumstances following her husband's death. In normal circumstances, the Class 'C' pension is not payable after 26 weeks have elapsed from the death of the husband, but if the widow is pregnant the period is extended until the child's birth, whereupon the widow may then become eligible for a Class 'A' widow's pension.

For classes 'A' and 'B', the term 'widow' includes: a wife who has been deserted by her husband for a period of at least six months; a divorcee; and a woman whose husband has been in prison for at least six months and a woman whose husband is a mental hospital patient. A woman who, although not legally married, has been living with a man for at least three years as his wife on a *bona fide* domestic basis and subsequently loses her partner by reason of death is treated as though she had been legally married to him.

A residence qualification applies unless the claimant and her husband were residing permanently in Australia, or an external territory other than Norfolk Island, when she became a widow.

A widow's pension is not payable to a woman receiving an age or invalid pension, a supporting parent's benefit, an unemployment, sickness or special benefit, a sheltered employment allowance, or a war widow's pension.

**Current rates of pension.** With effect from May 1980, the maximum rate of pension for all classes of widow is \$61.05 a week plus, in the case of widows with children, a mother's allowance of \$4 a week or \$6 a week where at least one child is under 6 or is an invalid requiring full-time care, plus \$7.50 a week for each dependent child who is under 16 years or is a dependent full-time student. Supplementary assistance of up to \$5 a week is also available to widows who pay rent, or for board and lodgings or for lodgings, and who are wholly or substantially dependent on their pension. The amount of this assistance cannot exceed the amount of rent paid.

*Income test.* Widows' pensions are subject to an income test and are taxable. Class 'A' and Class 'B' widows' pensions are subject to the same income test as applies to age and invalid pensions. A test of hardship applies in the case of Class 'C' widows' pensions.

It should be noted that a deserted wife ineligible for Class 'A' or Class 'B' widow's pension because six months have not expired from the date of desertion by her husband may be eligible for assistance from the Government of the State in which she lives. The Commonwealth Government subsidises all States (except Victoria and South Australia) for this purpose under the States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act. Victoria and South Australia withdrew from the scheme on 1 January 1980 and 1 July 1980 respectively, and women in these two States who were previously assisted under the Act may now receive special benefit. The Commonwealth Government also assists deserted wives in the Territories during the first six months after desertion.

#### CLASS A AND B WIDOW PENSIONERS, BY AGE: 30 JUNE 1980

Category	Under 20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 and over	Total	Per cent
Class 'A' . . . . .	0.2	18.2	37.0	24.2	11.4	0.2	91.1	54.9
Class 'B' . . . . .	-	-	-	2.8	55.6	16.6	74.9	45.1
<b>Total Class 'A' and 'B' .</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>166.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	0.1	11.0	22.3	16.3	40.3	10.1	100.0	..

At 30 June 1980, 91,565 widow pensioners were receiving additional pension for 177,593 children.

#### WIDOWS' PENSIONS

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'		
					\$	\$'000
1974-75 . . . . .	24,636	66,518	54,177	96	120,791	44.89 241,392
1975-76 . . . . .	27,609	71,009	58,408	74	129,491	49.90 325,260
1976-77 . . . . .	32,468	76,059	63,329	97	139,485	55.71 370,201
1977-78 . . . . .	34,624	82,392	67,461	103	149,956	59.90 439,497
1978-79 . . . . .	36,233	88,683	71,941	123	160,747	61.53 499,349
1979-80 . . . . .	34,319	91,142	74,922	118	166,182	69.17 561,393

(a) Excludes transfers from one class to another.  
beneficial homes for maintenance of pensioners.

(b) Includes supplementary assistance and allowances.

(c) Includes payments to

#### Supporting parent's benefit

Supporting parent's benefit was introduced in November 1977 to extend to supporting fathers the same benefit as had previously been available to supporting mothers through supporting mother's benefit. The benefit is for any lone mother who is supporting a child and who is either not entitled to, or does not wish to claim widows pension, and to lone fathers who are supporting a child; parents who are the deserted or deserting partner of a de facto relationship, de facto spouses of prisoners or separated spouses. The benefit becomes payable six months after the date of the event giving rise to eligibility (e.g. six months after the date of birth of a child, or six months after the date of separation). There is a residence qualification if the claimant was not living in Australia at the time of becoming a supporting parent. To be eligible for the benefit a person must be supporting a qualifying child under the age of sixteen years, or an older, dependent, full-time student. The rate of supporting parent's benefit, including guardian's allowance and payments for children, is the same as for the Class 'A' widow's pension. It is also subject to the same income test as the Class 'A' widow's pension and is taxable.

It should be noted that a woman ineligible for supporting parent's benefit because six months have not expired from the date of the event otherwise giving rise to eligibility may be entitled in the meantime to assistance from the Government of the State in which she lives. The Commonwealth Government subsidises all States (except Victoria and South Australia) for this purpose under the States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act. Victoria and South Australia withdrew from the Scheme on 1 January 1980 and 1 July 1980 respectively, and women in these two States who were previously assisted under the Act may now receive special benefit. If the woman is living in one of the Territories, the Commonwealth Government may make assistance available in the first six months after desertion.

## SUPPORTING PARENTS BY AGE AND TYPE: 30 JUNE 1980

Type of beneficiary	Under 20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 and over	Total	Per cent
Unmarried mother . . . . .	5.2	18.8	4.2	—'000— 0.8	0.1	29.0	41.2
Separated wife . . . . .	0.4	12.3	11.3	4.0	0.9	28.8	40.9
Defacto wife . . . . .	0.5	4.5	2.4	1.0	0.3	8.8	12.4
Father . . . . .	—	0.5	1.6	1.1	0.6	3.8	5.4
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>6.1</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	8.6	51.2	27.6	—per cent— 9.8	2.8	100.0	..

At 30 June 1980, 70,425 supporting parents were receiving additional benefit for 118,376 children.

## SUPPORTING PARENT'S BENEFIT

	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Number admitted during year . . . . .	25,935	26,451	28,581
Beneficiaries current at end of year—			
Females . . . . .	57,433	59,365	66,604
Males . . . . .	2,069	3,133	3,821
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>59,502</b>	<b>62,498</b>	<b>70,425</b>
Average weekly benefit at end of year (a) . . . . . \$	69.37	70.99	78.97
Amount paid in benefits during year (a) . . . . . \$'000	192,825	226,680	259,596(b)

(a) Includes supplementary assistance and allowances.

(b) Includes \$966,000 paid to beneficiaries overseas.

## Fringe benefits

The Commonwealth Government makes available to pensioners and recipients of supporting parent's benefits several 'fringe benefits'. In most cases these are subject to a special income test requiring that the person's income, apart from pension or benefit, be less than \$40 a week in the case of a single person, or \$68 a week combined in the case of a pensioner couple. These benefits include:

- a comprehensive range of pharmaceuticals free of charge;
- a one-third reduction in telephone rental;
- a 50 per cent reduction in fares for Commonwealth Government railway and shipping services;
- certain postal concessions;
- a 10 per cent discount on book purchases from Australian Government Publishing Service Bookshops;
- free hearing aids;
- free optometrical consultations; and
- nursing home benefits without joining private hospital insurance fund.

State Governments, local government authorities and private organisations also provide certain fringe benefits. The most valuable of these are reductions in local government rates and in public transport charges.

## Funeral benefits

A funeral benefit of up to \$20 is payable to any person liable for the funeral costs of an age or invalid pensioner. A higher benefit of up to \$40 is payable to an age, invalid, wife, widow pensioner or supporting parent beneficiary liable for the funeral cost of a spouse, a child or another such pensioner. For those benefits 'pensioner' means a person who satisfies, or has satisfied, the pensioner fringe benefits income test.

## FUNERAL BENEFITS GRANTED

	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
\$20 grants in respect of—						
Age or invalid pensioners . . . . .	27,333	24,190	25,436	23,905	22,168	21,645
Others . . . . .	18	17	13	20	23	62
<i>Total</i> . . . . .	<i>27,351</i>	<i>24,207</i>	<i>25,449</i>	<i>23,925</i>	<i>22,191</i>	<i>21,707</i>
\$40 grants in respect of—						
Age or invalid pensioners . . . . .	25,879	24,195	24,720	24,590	24,022	24,230
Others . . . . .	2,233	1,898	1,447	1,294	944	894
<i>Total</i> . . . . .	<i>28,102</i>	<i>26,093</i>	<i>26,167</i>	<i>25,884</i>	<i>24,966</i>	<i>25,124</i>
<b>Total grants</b> . . . . .	<b>55,453</b>	<b>50,300</b>	<b>51,616</b>	<b>49,809</b>	<b>47,157</b>	<b>46,831</b>

Total cost of funeral benefits granted during 1979-80 was \$1,451,000.

**Unemployment and sickness benefits and associated payments**

Unemployment and sickness benefits are paid to men over sixteen and under sixty-five years of age, and to women over sixteen and under sixty years of age, who are unemployed or temporarily incapacitated for work. They must have been living in Australia during the preceding twelve months or be likely to remain permanently in Australia. Both benefits are subject to an income test. A person cannot receive both benefits simultaneously, nor can a person receive either benefit at the same time as an invalid, widow's, repatriation service pension or supporting parent's benefit.

For unemployment benefit purposes, a person must establish that he is unemployed, that his unemployment is not due to industrial action by himself or by members of a union of which he is a member, 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 Employment Service 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.

*Rates of Benefit.* The maximum weekly rates of unemployment and sickness benefit payable in respect of benefit periods which commenced after the introduction of increased benefits in May 1980, are as follows:

	Maximum Weekly Rate	
	Unemployment benefit	Sickness benefit
	\$	\$
Married person (including additional benefit for spouse) . . . . .	101.70	101.70
Single person aged 18 or more with dependants . . . . .	61.05	61.05
Single person aged 18 or more, no dependants . . . . .	51.45	61.05
Single person under 18 years . . . . .	36.00	36.00

These amounts are increased by \$7.50 for each child under sixteen years or full-time student in the care of the beneficiary.

After the benefit has been paid for six consecutive weeks a sickness beneficiary who is paying rent or is paying for lodging or board and lodging may be entitled to a supplementary allowance of up to \$5.00 a week. The amount of any such allowance cannot exceed the amount of rent paid.

The weekly rate of benefit is reduced by the amount by which a beneficiary's other income exceeds the amount of permissible income. 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 family allowance or other payments for children, Commonwealth health benefits and payments from registered health benefit organisations, 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 in the case of a single person and by half of the excess of the beneficiary's income over \$2.00 a week in the case of a married person.



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 it is paid in respect of the same period. If it is not paid in respect of the same incapacity, compensation in respect of the same period 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 usually payable, but this waiting period is not required to be served 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 any other reason, is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants. Recipients of special benefits include, among others, unmarried women for a period before and after the birth of a child, persons caring for invalid parents or sick relatives/children, and persons ineligible for a pension because of lack of residence qualifications.

Special benefits are also paid to immigrants who are in Commonwealth Government 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.

Special benefits may be granted to persons in Victoria and South Australia who were previously assisted under the States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act. Victoria and South Australia ceased participating under the Act on 1 January 1980 and 1 July 1980 respectively.

No income 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

Year	Number admitted to benefit during year			Average number of persons on benefit at end of each week			Amount paid in benefits		
	Unemployment	Sickness	Special (a)	Unemployment	Sickness	Special (a)	Unemployment	Sickness	Special (a)
							(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
1974-75	701,302	131,377	17,731	116,603	24,346	5,222	251,740	62,833	10,679
1975-76	891,904	153,869	35,085	191,723	28,081	6,628	513,923	92,215	16,746
1976-77	803,461	148,508	40,299	215,871	32,385	8,039	618,074	105,408	21,657
1977-78	879,637	145,910	42,706	265,828	34,724	9,795	794,144	117,929	29,743
1978-79	810,500	133,000	48,700	306,200	33,400	12,000	910,012	113,263	36,491
1979-80	792,300	142,100	66,850	306,300	36,100	15,850	925,195	126,631	49,273

(a) Excludes special benefits to migrants in accommodation centres.

### Family allowances

A family allowance is paid to a person caring for children under sixteen years or full-time students aged 16-24 years who are wholly or substantially dependent on that person. Family allowance is not paid for students receiving Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme or other related Commonwealth education allowances. Payment is usually made to the mother. Approved charitable, religious or government institutions are paid family allowances for children in their care.

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 Security is satisfied that they are likely to remain in Australia permanently. Under certain conditions, family allowance may be paid to Australians who are temporarily absent overseas.

**Rates of allowance.** The monthly rates are \$15.20 for the first or only child; \$21.70 for the second; \$26.00 for the third; \$26.00 for the fourth; and \$30.35 for each subsequent child. The rate payable for each child or student in an approved institution is \$21.70 a month.

Some details of family allowance payments are shown in the following table.

**FAMILY ALLOWANCES: 1979-80**

Number of children and students in family	Number of families								Total(a)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	
1 . . . . .	251,198	185,212	104,078	65,510	60,344	20,925	6,153	11,241	704,687
2 . . . . .	281,694	223,888	119,655	77,223	73,737	23,921	6,294	15,485	821,941
3 . . . . .	130,160	106,471	60,104	31,308	35,156	11,563	3,504	7,559	385,838
4 . . . . .	39,544	33,282	20,324	8,236	10,257	3,565	1,460	2,232	118,903
5 . . . . .	9,567	8,138	5,730	1,642	2,264	895	556	488	29,280
6 . . . . .	2,896	2,482	1,804	445	649	215	243	120	8,854
7 . . . . .	947	754	654	113	220	72	78	33	2,871
8 . . . . .	299	276	250	44	70	14	21	22	996
9 . . . . .	99	87	90	21	23	7	11	3	341
10 or more . . . . .	42	46	42	2	11	4	4	2	153
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>716,446</b>	<b>560,636</b>	<b>312,731</b>	<b>184,544</b>	<b>182,731</b>	<b>61,181</b>	<b>18,324</b>	<b>37,185</b>	<b>2,073,864</b>
No. of children in approved institutions . . . . .	3,606	2,580	1,623	563	1,422	209	16	15	10,034
No. of approved institutions . . . . .	131	139	66	65	139	17	7	1	565
Amount paid during year (\$'000) . . . . .	372,125	283,162	160,358	97,591	91,567	30,549	(b)	(b)	1,035,447(c)

(a) Includes family allowances paid to Australians temporarily abroad. (b) Expenditure for N.T. and A.C.T. included in expenditure for S.A. and N.S.W. respectively. (c) Includes \$22,714,000 paid during 1978-79 in respect of family allowance pay-day 3 July 1979.

### Double orphan's pension

This pension is payable to the guardian of a child whose parents or adoptive parents are both dead, or one of whom is dead and the other missing. It is also payable in cases where one parent is dead and the other is a long-term inmate of a prison or mental hospital. Payment is made for orphans who are under sixteen years or who are full-time students under twenty-five. There is no income test. The pension is payable at the rate of \$47.70 a month for each eligible child. A double orphan's pension is not payable if the child attracts a war orphan's pension under the Repatriation Act. The number of double orphan's pensions at 30 June 1980 was 4,016. The expenditure on these pensions during the year 1979-80 was \$2,052,000.

### Handicapped child's allowance

Parents or guardians of a child under sixteen years or a dependent full-time student who is severely handicapped mentally and/or physically, is living in the family home, and needs constant care and attention, are entitled to a handicapped child's allowance of \$65 a month. The allowance is not subject to an income test, but a residence qualification similar to that for family allowance applies. The allowance is also available to persons on low income who are caring for a substantially handicapped child and are suffering severe financial hardship as a result of expenditure associated with the child's disability. The number of handicapped child's allowances being paid at 30 June 1980 was 25,371. The total amount paid through these allowances during the year 1979-80 was \$19,142,000.

### Compassionate allowances

These allowances are paid by the Commonwealth Government on a discretionary basis to certain people who are unable to qualify for pensions or other benefits under provisions of the Social Services Act. Expenditure on compassionate allowances and payments of a similar nature, excluding war relief measures, during 1979-80 was \$18,277.

### Portability of social service payment

Age, invalid and widows' pensions and supporting parent's benefits continue in force for recipients who have left Australia unless they left before 8 May 1973 or their pension or benefit is subject to the provisions of either of the reciprocal agreements with New Zealand or the United Kingdom. In certain cases of hardship, the pension or benefit may continue for people who left before 8 May 1973.

### 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, widow's pensions, family allowance 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 residents 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. There is a limit of thirteen weeks on payment of New Zealand benefits in Australia.

*United Kingdom.* Under a reciprocal agreement on social services between the United Kingdom and Australia, 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 have 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.

### **Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (CRS)**

The Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service assists people with a long-term disability who are within the broad working age group. It aims to help disabled people to reach their maximum physical, mental, social and vocational usefulness and to assist them to live as independently as possible. Towards this aim, it provides co-ordinated programs of treatment and training to meet the special needs of each disabled person. Responsibility for the delivery of these services rests with the twelve residential and day-attendance centres and the thirteen regional rehabilitation units which are currently operated by the service.

Rehabilitation may also be made available to people aged 14 or 15 years who, without treatment or training, would be likely to qualify for invalid pension at age sixteen.

For those eligible, payment of pension or benefit continues during treatment. When vocational training begins, pension or benefit is suspended and replaced by training allowance. This allowance is determined by the Director-General, Department of Social Security, having regard to the adult male average award wage. Living-away-from-home allowance is paid where necessary. Fares and living expenses (including those of an attendant where required) 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.

Treatment, training and assessment programs are undertaken at rehabilitation centres where occupational therapists, vocational counsellors and qualified tradesmen and commerce teachers determine the skills which make best use of ability and which are best adapted to the person's needs. In addition to the services provided at each centre, technical schools, business colleges, universities, training on-the-job in commerce or industry and correspondence courses are all used for training purposes. Essential text books and equipment may be provided during treatment or training; alternatively, these may be supplied after treatment or training is discontinued to enable a rehabilitee to engage in employment.

As at June 1980, the CRS had a total staff of 1,174 which included 951 full-time, 80 part-time and 143 sessional staff.

Between its inception in 1948 and 30 June 1980, the Rehabilitation Service has assisted some 63,465 severely handicapped people.

### **Other services of the Department of Social Security**

The Department of Social Security provides professional social work service and recently appointed Aboriginal Liaison Officers. It administers grants to major national welfare organisations or distinct bodies such as: Australian Council of Social Service, Australian Council on the Ageing, Australian Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled, Australian Council of Trade Unions for a research unit, Australian Pre-school Association and to non-government welfare agencies providing emergency relief or in financial difficulties.

To assist in its role of advising the government on welfare policy, the Department of Social Security initiates, develops and evaluates experimental projects in social welfare and undertakes research studies.

The Department supports the work of the Social Welfare Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

### Commonwealth Government assistance through welfare organisations

#### Accommodation for aged and disabled people

The *Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act 1954* 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:

- (i) carried on otherwise than for the purposes of profit or gain to the individual members; and
- (ii) 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 Commonwealth or any State Government is not eligible for assistance under the Act.

The Director-General of the Department of Social Security or his delegate 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 but is limited to \$12,100 for a single unit of accommodation and \$14,035 for a double unit plus up to \$1,920 per unit for land. Money which the organisation received from a governmental body other than a local governing body does not attract subsidy.

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 for each of the past six years. 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 OR DISABLED PERSONS HOMES ACT: GRANTS AND AMOUNTS APPROVED AND BEDS PROVIDED

		1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Grants approved . . . . .	No.	228	33	71	126	74	108
Amount approved . . . . .	\$'000	37,299	10,531	21,381	23,719	20,357	20,127
Beds provided—							
Self-contained . . . . .	No.	2,243	385	233	505	376	294
Hostel . . . . .	"	675	181	769	428	310	456
Nursing . . . . .	"	992	52	1,015	1,225	884	1,083
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>"</b>	<b>3,910</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>2,017</b>	<b>2,158</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,833</b>

Since the commencement of the Act in December 1954, 3,550 grants amounting to \$320,916,277 have been approved, and accommodation has been provided for 64,330 aged and disabled persons.

The Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act also provides a *personal care subsidy* of \$15 a week paid to eligible organisations for persons of eighty years of age or over and other persons requiring and receiving approved personal care while living in hostel type accommodation provided by organisations eligible under the Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act. Approximately sixty per cent of hostel residents qualify for payment of the subsidy. 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.

AGED OR DISABLED PERSONS HOMES ACT: PERSONAL CARE SUBSIDIES, 30 JUNE 1980

		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Approved premises . . . . .	No.	217	189	123	84	69	21	3	2	708
Residents qualifying . . . . .	No.	5,338	4,962	3,422	2,540	2,726	546	24	98	19,656
Subsidies paid, 1979-80 . . . . .	\$'000	3,960	3,780	2,429	1,965	1,800	431	35	68	14,468

The *Aged Persons Hostels Act 1972* was introduced to stimulate the provision of more hostel-type accommodation for needy aged people.

Under the scheme the Commonwealth Government meets the full cost of providing new hostel accommodation for two aged people for every one at present in an eligible unsubsidised home, or for one additional person for every two in a home previously subsidised on a dollar-for-dollar basis between 1954 and 1957. The organisation is not required to make any contribution from its own resources

unless the capital cost exceeds \$18,150 per person accommodated, or the bed capacity of the new home exceeds the number of 'free' beds to which the organisation is entitled. A further grant of up to \$250 for each person accommodated is available for furnishing the new hostel plus an additional \$2,400 per person for land and/or site development where applicable.

The scheme was limited to a period of three years expiring on 27 September 1975 to encourage organisations to move quickly in taking advantage of the benefits the scheme offered.

This Act had the effect of placing the old established organisations which conducted homes prior to the introduction of the \$2 for \$1 scheme in the same relative position as that achieved by newer organisations which had received a \$2 for \$1 subsidy, i.e. where two-thirds of their accommodation was provided by the Government.

Admission to these homes is based strictly on need with regard to the applicant's health, age, accommodation and financial situation. Since the commencement of the Act, 320 grants have been approved, totalling \$166,530,690 as at 30 June 1980.

Although the Act was terminated for the purposes of approving new projects, amending legislation has preserved the rights of organisations whose projects have been accepted under the Act, but which for one reason or another did not proceed.

#### AGED PERSONS HOSTELS ACT

	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Number of grants during year . . .	148	12	51	53	36	20
Beds provided—						
Hostel beds . . . . .	5,385	393	1,574	1,704	1,463	680
Staff beds . . . . .	174	17	56	56	34	13
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>5,559</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>1,630</b>	<b>1,760</b>	<b>1,497</b>	<b>693</b>
—\$'000—						
Amount paid during year—						
Capital grants . . . . .	57,385	11,527	26,562	28,658	27,399	12,186
Furnishings grants . . . . .	1,357	104	396	442	390	125
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>58,742</b>	<b>11,631</b>	<b>26,957</b>	<b>29,100</b>	<b>27,789</b>	<b>12,311</b>

#### Handicapped people

The *Handicapped Persons Assistance Act* 1974-76 replaced both the *Sheltered Employment (Assistance) Act* 1967 and the *Handicapped Children (Assistance) Act* 1970. Under this legislation, eligible organisations may apply for subsidies towards the cost of providing capital projects, maintenance and equipment. Grants are also available in respect of rental and certain salary payments.

Grants on purchases of buildings, equipment etc. take the form of a \$4 subsidy for each \$1 raised by an eligible organisation from non-government sources. Rent is subsidised at a rate equal to 80 per cent of the approved rental paid subject to certain conditions. Salary costs may be subsidised to an amount equal to 100 per cent of salary paid to staff employed in new ventures, but this is reduced to 50 per cent after the premises have been providing the service for 2 years or more.

As well as assisting organisations with establishment and running costs, the legislation also provides financial encouragement to sheltered workshop administrators to provide the type of training for the handicapped which will prepare them, where possible, for open employment. A *training fee* of \$500 is paid to organisations providing approved sheltered employment for each handicapped employee who, having received at least 6 months training in the workshop, graduates to open employment and remains there for at least 12 months.

Introduction of the *Handicapped Persons Assistance Act* in December 1974 also saw the legal transfer of the administration of *Handicapped Children's Benefit* from the Commonwealth Department of Health to the Department of Social Security. Where an organisation provides approved residential accommodation for mentally or physically handicapped children under 16 years, it becomes entitled to receive a Commonwealth benefit of \$5.00 per day in respect of each resident child.

## HANDICAPPED PERSONS ASSISTANCE ACT

	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Approved premises (a) . . . . .	949	1,000	1,061
Number of capital grants during year (b) . . . . .	2,290	2,459	1,901
Total expenditure during year (c)—		—\$'000—	
New South Wales (d) . . . . .	12,554	14,280	14,093
Victoria . . . . .	8,845	11,849	8,699
Queensland . . . . .	5,243	6,521	4,646
South Australia (e) . . . . .	6,314	8,284	6,467
Western Australia . . . . .	3,623	5,065	3,899
Tasmania . . . . .	1,291	1,600	1,512
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>37,870</b>	<b>47,599</b>	<b>39,317</b>

(a) Total approved sheltered workshops, activity therapy centres, training centres and residentials as at 30 June. (b) Residential and non-residential buildings, equipment and maintenance. (c) Includes capital and recurrent expenditure. (d) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (e) Includes Northern Territory.

## HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S BENEFIT

	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Approved handicapped persons homes (a) . . . . .	95	106	115
Handicapped children accommodated (a) . . . . .	1,349	1,151	1,625
Days of benefit paid during year . . . . .	337,212	340,431	332,706
Total amount paid during year . . . . .	\$1,686,912	\$1,703,276	\$1,666,714

(a) As at 30 June.

**Homeless people**

The Homeless Persons Assistance Act was introduced in December 1974 to help non-profit organisations and local governing bodies which provide accommodation, food and social welfare services for homeless men and women.

The Act enables grants to be made to eligible organisations to meet the cost of purchasing, constructing, altering or renting buildings to be used as homeless persons' assistance centres, as well as to meet the cost of purchasing furniture, furnishings and equipment for such centres. Grants also meet half the salary of a social welfare worker employed at a centre. The amount of grants made for these purposes during 1979-80 was \$3,407,629.

A subsidy is also available to help meet the cost of providing food and accommodation for homeless persons at an approved centre, or of meals provided at such centres for non-resident homeless persons. The rate of the food and accommodation subsidy has been prescribed at 75 cents per day and the rate of meals subsidy as 25 cents per meal. During 1979-80 the amount of this subsidy totalled \$1,071,762.

The *Delivered Meals Subsidy Act 1970* helps organisations to establish, maintain, expand and improve 'meals on wheels' services. The subsidy is at the rate of 30 cents for every meal provided on approved vitamin C supplement and 25 cents for each other meal provided by approved organisations. At 30 June 1980, 671 organisations had received a total subsidy of \$15,015,741 under the Act. During 1979-80 the amount of this subsidy totalled \$2,492,927. Organisations eligible for grants under the Act are the same as those specified under the Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act.

**Children's Services**

The Children's Services Program is administered by the Office of Child Care, within the Department of Social Security. It provides grants to State and local Governments and community organisations for a range of services for children and their families. The general principle guiding approval of grants is one of directing assistance on a needs basis.

The Commonwealth aims to develop a flexible network of services for children and their families ranging from early childhood care services, to services for school aged children, for adolescents and for families. The Program also encompasses research, evaluation, information and training projects.

Two components of the Program which are administered jointly with State Governments have been identified as the Family Support Services and the Youth Services Schemes. While these are identified separately as schemes, they are an integral part of the Children's Services Program.

**EXPENDITURE ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROGRAM**  
(\$'000)

Year	<i>To or for States</i>		<i>Direct to organisations</i>		Total
	<i>Pre-school</i>	<i>Other child care</i>	<i>Pre-school</i>	<i>Other child-care</i>	
1974-75	36,127	1,373	950	6,780	45,230
1975-76	46,535	2,235	494	14,706	63,970
1976-77	49,018	3,118	—	14,951	67,086
1977-78	45,994	7,006	—	18,197	71,197
1978-79	32,750	9,227	—	21,859	63,836
1979-80	33,090	11,090	—	25,046	69,221

### **Social Security Appeals Tribunals**

The Social Security Appeals System provides for persons who are aggrieved by decisions of the Department of Social Security to have a right of appeal to a Social Security Appeals Tribunal. The Tribunals operate in each State and in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

Before any appeal is initiated, when a client of the Department of Social Security is informed of an adverse decision he is also informed that, if he is dissatisfied, he may contact a Review Officer in the Department personally or by telephone, who will be pleased to discuss the case and, if necessary, will review the decision without delay. If the client remains dissatisfied, the Review Officer will explain the Appeals System and, if required, assist the client to lodge an appeal with a Tribunal.

Each Tribunal consists of a full-time member seconded from, but independent of, the Department and two part-time members—one a lawyer and one experienced in the welfare field and for appeals involving medical criteria—a legally qualified medical practitioner. A Tribunal considers the substantial merits of each case without regard to legal forms and technicalities and seeks to ensure that justice is done between the appellant and the Department.

The Tribunals have no power to change decisions but may make recommendations to the Director-General of Social Security that a departmental decision should be changed. The final decision lies with the Director-General who may, but need not, accept the recommendation of a Tribunal.

Jurisdiction is vested in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and provides for clients of the Department of Social Security to have a further right of appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal where the final decision of the Director-General is not in accordance with a recommendation of a Social Security Appeals Tribunal. Additionally the jurisdiction of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal will be extended to allow a client to seek a review by the A.A.T. of any adverse decision of the Department of Social Security. The relevant regulations will soon be promulgated when administrative arrangements have been completed.

### **International Year of the Child (IYC)**

The International Year of the Child (IYC) concluded on 31 December 1979. The Year was designated by the United Nations as a year of action on behalf of children, and Australia's participation was coordinated nationally by the Minister for Social Security.

Australia's theme for IYC was 'Care'. In line with this, several objectives, including increasing the awareness of the community to the needs of children, were established. This objective was accomplished to a large extent by the national publicity campaign based on the slogan, 'Care for Kids'. The campaign provided a national focal point for IYC activities particularly those at the local level.

Many of the initiatives commenced during 1979 will be continued into the future. A number of these projects have been funded, either partially or wholly under the Children's Services Program.

### **International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP)**

1981 will be observed as the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP). The Minister for Social Security is responsible for coordinating the Commonwealth Government's observance of IYDP.

The Year's theme will be 'Full participation and equality'.

A council of Commonwealth, State and Territory ministers responsible for IYDP has been established. A National Committee of Non-Government organisations for IYDP has been established in conjunction with the Australian Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled (ACROD) to generate and co-ordinate the involvement of the non-government sector in activities for and during the year.

An IYDP unit has been established within the Department of Social Security to provide support services and to coordinate national activities for IYDP.

As part of the lead up to IYDP, the Minister has announced the provision of \$400,000 in grants to help disabled children and each State and Territory will receive \$50,000 to encourage innovative projects.

### Social Welfare Policy Secretariat

The Secretariat commenced operation in March 1978 and has a staff of 21 officers some of whom have been seconded from relevant Departments. The Secretariat works through a Permanent Heads Committee (comprising the Heads of the Departments of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Finance, Health and Social Security) to the Social Welfare Committee of Cabinet.

The Secretariat is essentially a policy co-ordinating, research and servicing organisation. Its prime functions are to ensure the co-ordinated development and review of health and welfare policy; and that appropriate research activities are directed to these ends.

In developing its policy proposals the Secretariat consults with relevant Commonwealth Departments. Whenever relevant the views of interested organisations and individuals are also sought.

### Welstat

State Welfare Departments, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Department of Social Security are co-operating on a project to develop standardised social welfare statistics (WELSTAT).

### State and local government

State Governments are the main providers of direct personal welfare services. Welfare services provided through State departments can be broadly summarised as follows:

- emergency relief and supplementary assistance to people in need;
- preventative, remedial and rehabilitative services for children, young people and families;
- child protection services;
- community and residential care services for dependent and delinquent young people;
- services related to the adoption and foster care of children;
- services related to the development and regulation of early childhood services;
- domiciliary care for the aged.

State departments also provide consultative, developmental and advisory services in the field of community welfare, including funding of some non-government services. State authorities share with the Commonwealth, responsibility for service provision to the young, families, the aged and special groups such as Aborigines and migrants.

Services provided by local government authorities vary between and within states. Generally local governments either provide, subsidise or coordinate service provision for children and for the aged. Services most commonly undertaken by local government include the establishment of infant welfare centres, the provision and maintenance of parks, kindergardens, day nurseries, home help, and emergency services including meals delivered to the aged.

The States also provide services such as domestic assistance for aged persons in their homes in cooperation with the Commonwealth.

Under the States Grants (Home Care) Act 1969 the Commonwealth Government will share with a participating State on a \$1 for \$1 basis the cost of the provision of approved home care services wholly or mainly for aged persons in their homes.

The Commonwealth Government will also share on a \$2 for \$1 basis with participating States up to a maximum of two-thirds of the capital cost for the establishment, extension and equipping of approved senior citizens' centres as well as meeting on a \$1 for \$1 basis with the States the cost of the salary of a welfare officer employed in conjunction with a senior citizens' centre. All States participate in this scheme.

### PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR HOME CARE, SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRES AND WELFARE OFFICERS 1979-80

<i>State</i>	<i>Home Care Services</i>	<i>Senior Citizens Centres</i>	<i>Welfare Officers</i>	<i>Total</i>
New South Wales . . . . .	2,768,851	1,128,802	296,779	4,194,432
Victoria . . . . .	4,226,355	859,323	574,142	5,659,820
Queensland . . . . .	1,792,945	330,904	44,519	2,168,368
South Australia . . . . .	944,199	567,296	68,280	1,579,775
Western Australia . . . . .	52,250	174,034	69,953	296,237
Tasmania . . . . .	584,384	184,999	..	769,383
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>10,368,984</b>	<b>3,245,358</b>	<b>1,053,673</b>	<b>14,668,015</b>



### Voluntary agencies

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 the 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 in carrying out its traditional role, but also in opening up new fields of activity.

In caring for the aged, voluntary agencies are co-operating with the Government in providing aged persons homes, retirement villages, hostels for the frail aged and nursing homes for the sick aged. In addition to the provision of residential care, voluntary agencies are increasingly offering services to the aged in their own homes to enable them to be independent as long as possible. Services include 'Meals on Wheels', home help, leisure programs in senior citizens centres, friendly visiting to the lonely aged, sheltered workshops to provide meaningful activity, and many similar services designed to enhance the well-being of the aged.

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 programs 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.

Besides the various forms of health services described above, many major hospitals are provided by the voluntary sector. Of the approved hospitals in Australia, 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 a greater use of substitute families in adoption and foster care programs.

Within the modern family welfare agency, assistance is given not only with money and food as in the last century, but also 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 those who are unemployed, those suffering serious emotional disturbance 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 wholly by Aborigines, to assist urban and rural dwellers. Legal aid services, 'head start' programs, nutrition programs and many others are now being made available through voluntary effort.

The care of immigrants is also a significant activity and, again, much of this work is now undertaken by settled immigrants 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 who are temporarily destitute.

This list of activities by no means covers all the work done by the voluntary sector. Lifeline and Samaritans, drug contact centres, drop-in coffee houses, street workers for alienated youth and many

other services are evidence of the continuing ability of the voluntary sector of social welfare to develop and meet new social needs.

Another area of developing interest involves the participation of various kinds of citizen groups in social welfare services. These include Community Information Centres and Community Aid services largely manned by volunteers; groups of clients of social welfare services who provide both a service for their members and liaison with Departmental services on questions of the way service is offered to people in need; and Resident Action groups who are concerned to participate in any replanning of their neighbourhood. This area of citizen involvement can be expected to become more and more important over the next few years.

Studies of social needs and of the quality and the adequacy of present services are a continuing concern of the voluntary sector which, through the work of Councils of Social Service at the State, Territory and national levels, promotes the well-being of the deprived and disadvantaged sections of the community and the general social development of Australia.

### **Aboriginals**

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, Aboriginals 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 in respect to people of any race. The Commonwealth Government's aim is to help Aboriginals become self-managing and self-sufficient while, at the same time, to preserve and to develop their own distinctive culture. It now shares with the States power to legislate in respect of Aboriginal people. The Commonwealth Government has assumed full responsibility for policy, planning and co-ordination in respect of Aboriginal affairs at the national level, and has established a Department of Aboriginal Affairs with regional offices in all States and the Northern Territory. In November 1973, an election was held by Aboriginals throughout Australia to establish the first National Aboriginal Consultative Committee, a group of forty-one Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders elected to advise the Government on Aboriginal needs. At the request of the Committee, the second election, which was scheduled for November 1975, was deferred for nine months. Subsequently, the Government established an independent inquiry into the role of the Committee. As a result of the findings of this Committee of Inquiry, a National Aboriginal Conference (NAC) has been established composed of thirty-five members who are elected for a period of three years. Members meet annually at the national level and at least four times each year in their State or Territory as State or Territory Branches of the NAC.

The executive which meets twice a year is comprised of 10 delegates; half are elected by the members and half are nominated by the Minister. The role of the NAC is to provide a forum in which Aboriginal views can be expressed at State and national level and, in particular, to express Aboriginal views on the long term goals and objectives which the Government should pursue, the programs it should adopt in Aboriginal affairs, and on the need for new programs in Aboriginal affairs. The NAC also participates, through its entitlement to choose five of the ten members, in the work of a new body, the Council for Aboriginal Development. This Council is the body from which the Government seeks formal advice.

### **Migrants**

#### **Accommodation of migrants**

Migrants must be assured of accommodation on arrival, unless they have sufficient funds to be independent. For those migrants nominated by relatives or friends, this initial accommodation has usually been in private homes. Assisted migrants and refugees nominated by the Commonwealth Government are provided with transitory accommodation in migrant hostels operated by Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services Ltd, a non-profit-making Government-sponsored company. These hostels provide a range of services to help migrants to settle in Australia, including child minding centres, English language classes, youth recreation activities, welfare officers and assistance in obtaining permanent accommodation.

The total capacity of hostels is about 9,600. Additionally 396 two and three bedroom self-contained flats can accommodate migrants nominated by the Commonwealth Government.

British assisted migrants nominated by State Governments are, in most cases, provided with initial accommodation in reception centres operated by the State authorities.

#### **Ethnic affairs and migrant settlement**

The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs provides services to facilitate the successful settlement and welfare of migrants, and these services are currently being modified and extended in accordance with the *Report of the Review of Post-Arrival Programs and Services for Migrants* (1978) (the 'Galbally' Report).

In addition, the Department is responsible, through its Ethnic Affairs Branch, which was established in 1976 in accordance with a Cabinet decision, for advancing policies designed to secure the integration of migrants. In particular, through Ethnic Liaison Officers in senior positions in each Commonwealth Government department and authority, it seeks to ensure that the needs of migrants and their integration into Australian society are fully taken into account in the day-to-day operations of the Government.

Departmental social workers and welfare officers provide information and advice, and, in more complex cases, professional counselling for migrants in their own language. They operate from the Regional Offices of the Department in the State capital cities and some are outposted to voluntary welfare organisations, and other centres in areas of high migrant density. They are also involved in community development work and provide consultancy services to other agencies assisting migrant settlement.

Departmental activities are complemented by those of social workers and welfare officers employed by voluntary agencies funded by Commonwealth grants administered by the Settlement Branch. In many respects, these voluntary agencies are best placed to assist migrants.

The recommendations of the Galbally Report envisaged a greater emphasis being placed on the role of non-government agencies. The Commonwealth is therefore increasing the number of grants to agencies and will reduce its own direct services as the latter become effective. Its own professional staff, released from this responsibility, will give greater attention to consultancy and community development in support of the agencies.

The Department provides a translation and interpreting service for migrants and for Commonwealth departments. At the present time translation units are operating in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne. However in accordance with a recommendation of the Galbally Report, action is being taken to extend this service to other mainland State capitals.

In 1973 a Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS) was introduced to help overcome communication problems by providing over the telephone, in a wide range of languages, a general interpreting, information and referral service for migrants and others having dealings with migrants. Where necessary and especially in emergency situations, arrangements may be made for the personal attendance of an interpreter. TIS currently operates in Canberra, all State capitals, Darwin (on a limited scale) and most major provincial centres of migrant population. During the year ended 30 June 1980, a total of 168,205 calls was received by TIS. The aggregate number of calls received since the inception of the Service in 1973 is 719,325.

A National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) was established in 1977 to develop uniform standards of competence for interpreters and translators as a means to upgrade the standing of the profession and the delivery of language services in Australia. State/Territory panels for Translators and Interpreters are being established in all States and Territories to administer tests to persons seeking accreditation as translators and interpreters at the five levels of competence established by NAATI. Panels have been established in Western Australia and Tasmania.

In keeping with the recommendations of the Galbally Report, Settlement Centres are being established in migrant hostels, and progressively, over a three-year period, in the community where there are high concentrations of migrants. These centres will provide on-arrival English instruction and orientation courses and activities concerning various aspects of life in Australia such as employment, housing, education and health and welfare services. They will also provide counselling concerning immediate settlement needs. The new programs will incorporate previously existing programs, including those developed for refugees. These initial, on-arrival programs are oversights by new consultative mechanisms, including Migrant Settlement Councils in each State and Territory.

Twenty-two migrant resource centres will be established over a period of three years. These resource centres will provide support for all agencies (both government and voluntary) which assist migrants, and also provide a focus for community participation and development of local resources to meet migrant needs.

The Department also prepares information on the ethnic background of migrants, which is used by various organisations and individuals, as a community education service to develop better understanding and appreciation of ethnic communities.

The settlement of refugees particularly from Indo-China has become an important element in the Commonwealth Government's overall migrant settlement program. Most of these refugees are accommodated initially at Commonwealth Government migrant centres where they are able to participate in an initial settlement program designed to facilitate their settlement in the community. In addition, under the Community Refugees Settlement Scheme, numbers of refugees are moved directly from the refugee camps overseas into the Australian community where they are in the care of families, groups and organisations which have undertaken to provide a range of support and assistance.

## VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Repatriation Commission, established under the *Repatriation Act* 1920, consists of three full-time members. It is responsible for the administration of the Repatriation Act and associated legislation, all matters of policy, and the general administration and overall supervision of the provision of benefits under the legislation. The Chairman of the Commission is also the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (formerly the Department of Repatriation), which provides the administrative machinery through which the Commission operates. The central office is in Canberra and there is a branch office, under the control of a Deputy Commissioner, in each State.

The principal functions of the Department are: the payment of disability and dependants' pensions (previously called war pensions) and service pensions and allowances to eligible veterans and their dependants; the provision of medical treatment for veterans for injuries and illnesses caused or aggravated by their service; the provision of medical treatment in certain circumstances for veterans who are suffering from injuries and illnesses not caused or aggravated by service; the provision of medical treatment for widows and dependants of deceased veterans whose deaths are service-related; and a wide range of other benefits for eligible persons. Since 5 October 1976, the *Defence Service Homes Act* 1918 has been administered by the Defence Service Homes Corporation (previously the Australian Housing Corporation) within the departmental framework. At the same time, the Department was given responsibility for the Office of Australian War Graves.

Repatriation benefits are provided in respect of service not only in the 1914-18 and 1939-45 Wars but also in the South African War 1899-1902, in the Korea and Malaya operations, in prescribed areas with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve and the Special Overseas Forces and, in certain circumstances, in the Regular Defence Forces.

For information on war service land settlement see Year Book No. 61 (Chapter 13, Agricultural Industries) and for statistics relating to defence service homes see Chapter 19, Housing and Construction, of this Year Book.

For detailed information about repatriation pensions, allowances, benefits and services, reference should be made to the annual reports of the Repatriation Commission.

### REPATRIATION: TOTAL EXPENDITURE(a) (\$'000)

Class	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
Pensions, allowances and other benefits . . . . .	477,608	568,068	662,876	799,264	860,229	966,072
Medical treatment . . . . .	162,340	201,488	223,058	251,589	268,539	310,327
Administration . . . . .	32,143	37,130	39,556	41,999	44,441	49,539
Works, rent and maintenance . . . . .	14,792	19,332	14,020	17,477	21,301	27,881
<b>Total expenditure . . . . .</b>	<b>686,883</b>	<b>826,018</b>	<b>939,510</b>	<b>1,110,329</b>	<b>1,194,511</b>	<b>1,353,819</b>

(a) Includes expenditure by Departments other than Veterans' Affairs as follows: 1974-75, \$14,088,376; 1975-76, \$18,846,000; 1976-77, \$13,710,296; 1977-78, \$15,718,166; 1978-79, \$18,819,531; 1979-80, \$25,072,835.

### Disability and dependants' pensions

The first provision for the payment of disability pensions to veterans and pensions to their dependants was made by the Commonwealth Parliament in the *War Pensions Act* 1914. This Act was repealed in 1920 by the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act* 1920 (amended from 31 December 1950 to the Repatriation Act). Amendments to the Act in 1943 considerably widened the eligibility provisions, to the benefit mainly of members of the Citizen Military Forces who had not served outside Australia during the 1939-45 War.

Main pension rates vary twice each year; current rates are available from Department of Veterans' Affairs Branch Offices.

### Summary of disability and dependants' pensions

The following tables provide a summary of disability and dependants' pensions for the 1914-18 War, the 1939-45 War (including pensions payable under the *Interim Forces Benefits Act* 1947), the Korea and Malaya operations and the Far East Strategic Reserve, and Special Overseas Service and the Regular Forces. Statistics relating to miscellaneous disability and dependants' pensions are included collectively in each table, with further details being provided later in this section.

## DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: 1979-80

		1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea, Malaya and F.E.S.R.	Special Overseas Service	Peace time forces	Miscel- laneous	Total
New claims granted . . . . .	No.	64	3,732	197	916	1,220	12	6,141
Restorations . . . . .	"	19	2,449	189	151	80	2	2,890
Claims disallowed(b) . . . . .	"	83	1,481	59	258	605	-	2,486
Pensions cancelled (gross) . . . . .	"	50	9,031	724	553	320	5	10,683
Deaths of pensioners . . . . .	"	3,378	7,647	75	27	17	7	11,151
Pensions in force at 30 June 1980(c) . . . . .	"	37,910	361,591	10,236	19,991	4,561	478	434,767
Annual pension liability at 30 June 1980 . . . . .	\$'000	77,735	361,839	5,604	5,112	1,278	694	452,262
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1979-80 . . . . .	\$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	432,001

(a) Includes Interim Forces. (b) Number of veterans who had their claims for all their disabilities disallowed. (c) At 30 June 1980 includes 7,113 student children over 16 years of age. (d) This figure excludes an annual liability of \$3,068,000 payable to veterans and dependants overseas.

## DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS(a)

	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
New claims granted . . . . .	11,302	10,417	9,856	8,039	7,257	6,141
Restorations . . . . .	2,984	3,532	2,607	2,962	3,577	2,890
<i>Total additions</i> . . . . .	<i>14,286</i>	<i>13,949</i>	<i>12,463</i>	<i>11,001</i>	<i>10,834</i>	<i>9,031</i>
Pensions cancelled (gross) . . . . .	19,131	17,111	14,449	14,662	13,007	10,683
Deaths of pensioners . . . . .	12,600	12,323	11,637	11,390	11,500	11,151
<i>Total reductions</i> . . . . .	<i>31,731</i>	<i>29,434</i>	<i>26,086</i>	<i>26,052</i>	<i>24,507</i>	<i>21,834</i>

(a) Including miscellaneous pensions.

## Classes of disability and dependants' pensions

The following tables provide an analysis of the total number of new claims granted, pensions in force, and class of pension for 1979-80.

## DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, 1979-80

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea, Malaya and F.E.S.R.	Special Overseas Service	Peace time forces	Miscel- laneous	Total
Veterans . . . . .	15	1,387	46	150	447	7	2,052
Wives and widows of veterans . . . . .	40	1,786	73	222	333	4	2,457
Children . . . . .	8	528	78	540	440	1	1,595
Other dependants . . . . .	1	31	1	4	-	-	37
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>64</b>	<b>3,732</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>1,220</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6,141</b>

(a) Includes Interim Forces.

## DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS IN FORCE: 30 JUNE 1980

<i>Class</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War(a)</i>	<i>Korea, Malaya and F.E.S.R.</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>Peace time forces</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total (b)</i>
Veterans . . . . .	7,218	158,964	3,940	6,401	1,780	168	178,471
Wives . . . . .	14,636	148,640	3,204	4,866	1,163	171	172,680
Children (b) . . . . .	22	18,496	2,688	8,313	1,512	13	31,044
War widows . . . . .	15,704	32,012	260	145	68	118	48,307
Children of deceased veterans . . . . .	4	679	61	182	35	2	963
Orphans . . . . .	4	27	1	1	3	1	37
Other dependants . . . . .	322	2,773	82	83	—	5	3,265
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>37,910</b>	<b>361,591</b>	<b>10,236</b>	<b>19,991</b>	<b>4,561</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>434,767</b>

(a) Includes Interim Forces. (b) Includes 7,113 student children over 16 years of age.

DISABILITY PENSIONS FOR INCAPACITATED VETERANS IN FORCE: BY CLASS OF PENSION  
30 JUNE 1980

<i>Class</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War</i>	<i>Korea, Malaya and F.E.S.R.</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>Peace time forces</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous</i>	<i>Total</i>
Special Rate (T & P I) or equivalent . . . . .	1,859	12,772	166	52	14	20	14,883
Intermediate Rate . . . . .	82	1,874	23	14	1	2	1,996
General Rate—from 10 per cent to 100 per cent assessed disability . . . . .	5,277	144,318	3,751	6,335	1,765	146	161,592
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>7,218</b>	<b>158,964</b>	<b>3,940</b>	<b>6,401</b>	<b>1,780</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>178,471</b>

## Number of disability and dependants' pensions and annual liability, States, etc.

The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability at 30 June 1980, according to place of payment.

## DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL EXPENDITURE

<i>Place of payment</i>	<i>Number of disability and dependants' pensions in force at 30 June 1980(a)</i>				<i>Annual expenditure to 30 June 1980(b) (\$'000)</i>
	<i>Incapacitated veterans</i>	<i>Dependants of incapacitated veterans</i>	<i>Dependants of deceased veterans</i>	<i>Total</i>	
New South Wales(c) . . . . .	64,688	72,023	19,504	156,215	163,756
Victoria . . . . .	43,838	51,287	14,355	109,480	109,825
Queensland . . . . .	30,243	35,075	7,622	72,940	71,101
South Australia(d) . . . . .	16,605	18,936	4,477	40,018	35,684
Western Australia . . . . .	14,885	17,273	3,699	35,857	29,097
Tasmania . . . . .	7,385	8,476	1,835	17,696	19,425
Overseas . . . . .	827	1,195	539	2,561	3,113
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>178,471</b>	<b>204,265</b>	<b>52,031</b>	<b>434,767</b>	<b>432,001</b>

(a) Includes Interim Forces 1939-45 War. (b) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows. (c) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (d) Includes Northern Territory.

**Summary of disability and dependants' pensions, 1974-75 to 1979-80**

The following table shows the number of pensions granted, claims rejected, pensions in force and the annual liability for pensions in each of the years ended 30 June 1975 to 1980.

**DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS**

Year	Pensions granted	Claims disallowed (b)	Incapacitated veterans	Number of disability and dependants' pensions in force at 30 June (a)			Annual expenditure to 30 June 1980 (c) (\$'000)
				Dependants of incapacitated veterans	Dependants of deceased veterans	Total	
1974-75	11,302	3,187	202,047	255,537	56,783	514,367	314,716
1975-76	10,417	3,720	197,463	245,682	55,716	498,861	340,839
1976-77	9,856	3,951	193,123	237,237	54,804	485,164	371,459
1977-78	8,039	2,736	187,427	220,968	54,291	462,686	419,033
1978-79	7,257	2,595	182,988	212,177	53,136	448,301	415,329
1979-80	6,141	2,486	178,471	204,265	52,031	434,767	432,001

(a) Includes Interim Forces 1939-45 War. (b) The number of veterans who had the claims for all their disabilities disallowed.  
(c) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows.

The following table shows, for the years 1974-75 to 1979-80, the amounts paid in pensions and the place of payment.

**DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID (a)**  
(\$'000)

Place of payment	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
New South Wales (b)	115,502	128,335	136,198	156,692	155,886	163,756
Victoria	83,673	89,249	97,934	108,827	106,374	109,825
Queensland	50,685	54,622	61,161	68,629	68,275	71,101
South Australia (c)	26,525	27,908	30,974	34,870	34,267	35,684
Western Australia	21,812	23,077	25,541	28,728	28,183	29,097
Tasmania	13,698	14,827	16,637	18,676	18,696	19,425
Overseas	2,162	2,068	2,161	2,613	3,648	3,113
<b>Total</b>	<b>314,058</b>	<b>340,086</b>	<b>370,606</b>	<b>419,034</b>	<b>415,329</b>	<b>432,001</b>

(a) Includes domestic allowances paid to widows. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

**Miscellaneous disability and dependants' pensions**

The Commission is also responsible for the payment of pensions and allowances to beneficiaries under the *Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances Act 1940*, the *Papua New Guinea (Members of the Forces Benefits) Act 1957* and Cabinet decisions granting eligibility to persons who were attached to the armed forces during war-time.

The following table shows the number and class of pensions and the annual liability at 30 June 1980, and the table thereafter shows the amounts paid during the years 1974-75 to 1979-80 and the place of payment.

**MISCELLANEOUS DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, 30 JUNE 1980**

Class	Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1980			Total	Annual liability to 30 June 1980 (b) (\$'000)
	Veterans (a)	Dependants of veterans	Dependants of deceased veterans		
Act of grace	97	107	43	247	319
Seamen's war pension	69	77	43	189	219
New Guinea civilians	2	-	40	42	156
<b>Total</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>694</b>

(a) 'Veterans', in this context, are persons in respect of whose war-time experience a pension is paid. (b) Includes domestic allowances payable to widows.

(\$'000)

(a) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

[illegible]



## SERVICE PENSIONS

	1974-75	1975-76(a)	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
New claims granted . . . . .	23,173	29,989	32,404	37,491	36,607	40,735
Restorations . . . . .	414	510	378	353	331	374
<i>Total additions</i> . . . . .	<i>23,587</i>	<i>30,499</i>	<i>32,782</i>	<i>37,844</i>	<i>36,938</i>	<i>41,109</i>
Cancellations (gross) . . . . .	3,940	3,443	3,774	4,345	5,639	5,102
Deaths . . . . .	6,447	7,131	6,875	7,092	7,827	7,952
<i>Total reductions</i> . . . . .	<i>10,387</i>	<i>10,574</i>	<i>10,649</i>	<i>11,437</i>	<i>13,466</i>	<i>13,054</i>

(a) The increased number of new claims granted in 1975-76 was partly due to the abolition of the means test for persons 70 years and over and to an ageing population of ex-service personnel.

## Class of service pensions

The following tables give an analysis of the total number of new claims granted and pensions in force for 1979-80.

## SERVICE PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, 30 JUNE 1980

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea- Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Act of Grace	Allied Forces	British Common- wealth	Total
Veterans . . . . .	67	19,411	171	37	7	442	2,713	22,848
Wives and widows of veterans . . . . .	77	15,229	106	31	6	342	2,096	17,887
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>144</b>	<b>34,640</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>4,809</b>	<b>40,735</b>

## SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE, 30 JUNE 1980

State	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea- Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Act of Grace	Allied Forces	British Common- wealth	Total
New South Wales(a) . . . . .	4,293	71,096	554	59	74	156	2,697	78,929
Victoria . . . . .	4,015	52,035	156	17	57	221	2,751	59,252
Queensland . . . . .	2,292	40,876	260	51	28	137	1,931	45,575
South Australia(b) . . . . .	1,502	20,923	75	20	18	139	2,095	24,772
Western Australia . . . . .	1,267	18,426	70	6	13	91	1,258	21,131
Tasmania . . . . .	505	8,993	43	2	7	41	296	9,887
Overseas . . . . .	11	177	5	-	-	4	221	418
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>13,885</b>	<b>212,526</b>	<b>1,163</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>11,249</b>	<b>239,964</b>

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

## Number, by class, of service pensions and amount paid

The following tables show the number of each class of service pension in force, the annual expenditure and the amounts paid for the years 1974-75 to 1979-80.

## SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER OF EACH CLASS OF PENSION AND ANNUAL EXPENDITURE

Number of service pensions at 30 June payable to—								
Year	Veterans who are—			Dependants(a) of veterans where the veteran is—			Total	Annual pension expenditure at 30 June (\$'000)
	Aged veterans	Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis	An aged veteran	Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis		
1974-75	62,523	19,298	1,425	22,153	15,438	889	121,726	155,207
1975-76	72,432	20,224	1,424	30,773	15,973	849	141,675	218,926
1976-77	82,567	21,652	1,466	40,104	17,045	881	163,715	283,280
1977-78	95,369	22,253	1,333	51,270	17,532	760	188,517	372,100
1978-79	105,575	24,928	1,289	60,405	19,490	735	212,422	436,196
1979-80	117,460	27,712	1,198	71,267	21,631	696	239,964	525,178

(a) Includes dependants of deceased service pensioners.

**SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNTS PAID**  
(**\$'000**)

<i>Place of payment</i>	<i>1974-75</i>	<i>1975-76</i>	<i>1976-77</i>	<i>1977-78</i>	<i>1978-79</i>	<i>1979-80</i>
New South Wales(a)	49,985	73,181	90,577	121,972	143,993	175,006
Victoria	40,180	55,141	72,127	93,631	108,343	128,768
Queensland	28,033	39,181	52,419	68,367	81,852	99,468
South Australia(b)	15,133	21,406	28,668	34,234	43,953	53,439
Western Australia	15,149	20,560	26,933	33,785	38,896	45,911
Tasmania	6,669	9,314	12,327	15,806	18,486	21,831
Overseas	58	143	230	1,306	673	755
<b>Total</b>	<b>155,207</b>	<b>218,926</b>	<b>283,281</b>	<b>372,101</b>	<b>436,196</b>	<b>525,178</b>

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

### Medical treatment for veterans and dependants of veterans

Medical treatment is provided for all disabilities which have been accepted as service-related, and for pulmonary tuberculosis and cancer not related to service. In addition, and subject to certain conditions, treatment is provided for most non-service-related disabilities for: incapacitated veterans receiving disability pensions at or above the maximum (100 per cent) General Rate; veterans or nurses who served in the 1914-18 War; veterans of the Boer War; ex-prisoners-of-war; war widows and certain other dependants of deceased male veterans whose deaths have been accepted as service-related, and of deceased T & P I pensioners; and certain service pensioners.

Treatment is provided at six Repatriation General Hospitals (one in each State) and five auxiliary hospitals and an ANZAC hostel in Victoria. The total number of available beds for patients in wards or parts of wards open for use in all these institutions at 30 June 1980 was 3,052 and expenditure during 1979-80 amounted to \$136,262,966. In addition, expenditure of \$174,064,219 was incurred during 1979-80 on medical services outside these institutions.

#### Community patients

Where spare bed capacity exists in the Repatriation hospitals, patients may be admitted from the general community (mainly veterans with conditions that are not service-related, hospital staff and the local community).

#### Repatriation hospitals and institutions

Details of full-time staff in Repatriation general hospitals and other Repatriation institutions are given in the following table.

#### REPATRIATION HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: FULL-TIME OPERATIVE STAFF 30 JUNE 1980

<i>Type of institution</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
General hospitals—							
Medical staff	216	109	77	50	26	12	490
Nursing staff	917	466	356	259	262	74	2,334
Other staff	1,250	871	557	412	512	118	3,720
<i>Total, general hospitals</i>	<i>2,383</i>	<i>1,446</i>	<i>990</i>	<i>721</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>204</i>	<i>6,544</i>
Other in-patient institutions	296	137	181	—	46	—	660
Out-patient clinics	—	31	—	—	—	—	31
Limb and appliance centres	77	79	31	24	19	11	241
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>2,756</b>	<b>1,693</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>7,476</b>

The following table gives details of in-patients treated at Repatriation general hospitals and other Repatriation institutions in each State. The figures shown refer to treatment episodes, e.g. a person who is admitted to hospital twice during a year is counted twice.

**REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: IN-PATIENTS TREATED, 1979-80**

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS</b>							
In-patients at beginning of year . . .	662	370	340	207	265	68	1,912
Admissions and re-admissions during year . . . . .	21,270	14,192	10,766	6,188	7,919	1,938	62,273
<i>Total in-patients treated</i> . . . . .	<i>21,932</i>	<i>14,562</i>	<i>11,106</i>	<i>6,395</i>	<i>8,184</i>	<i>2,006</i>	<i>64,185</i>
Discharges . . . . .	20,406	13,429	10,397	5,865	7,533	1,850	59,480
Deaths . . . . .	806	690	362	286	324	90	2,558
In-patients at end of year . . . . .	720	443	347	244	327	66	2,147
Average daily beds occupied . . . . .	674	439	340	223	280	75	2,031
<b>OTHER REPATRIATION INSTITUTIONS</b>							
In-patients at beginning of year . . .	167	102	119	—	36	—	424
Admissions and re-admissions during year . . . . .	1,892	719	964	—	236	—	3,811
<i>Total in-patients treated</i> . . . . .	<i>2,059</i>	<i>821</i>	<i>1,083</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>272</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>4,235</i>
Discharges . . . . .	1,787	593	867	—	234	—	3,481
Deaths . . . . .	90	127	115	—	21	—	353
In-patients at end of year . . . . .	182	101	101	—	17	—	401
Average daily beds occupied . . . . .	172	106	113	—	33	—	424

In addition to the repatriation institutions, eligible patients are treated in other country and metropolitan hospitals and nursing homes at repatriation expense. During 1979-80, 34,919 Repatriation in-patients were accommodated and treated in hospitals and 7,579 in nursing homes.

Repatriation psychiatric patients requiring custodial care are, by agreement with the State Governments, accommodated at the expense of the Department of Veterans' Affairs in separate wings of psychiatric hospitals administered by the State authorities. Excluding 44 on trial leave, there were 477 repatriation patients in these hospitals at 30 June 1980.

Out-patient treatment is provided throughout Australia at repatriation hospitals and clinics and through the Repatriation Local Medical Officer Scheme. During 1979-80, 766,940 out-patients were treated at Repatriation institutions, and visits to or by local medical officers totalled 2,842,760. The number of Repatriation local medical officers in Australia at 30 June 1980 was 9,320.

#### **Artificial limb and appliance services**

A wide range of artificial limbs and other surgical aids is supplied by the artificial limb and appliance centre in each State capital and Darwin. In addition, the Department maintains the Central Development Unit located in Melbourne, and engages in research and development in the prosthetic and orthotic field.

Since 1973, artificial limbs have been provided free of charge to all members of the community who need them, either through the Department's artificial limb and appliance centres or on order through commercial limb-makers. The number of limbs supplied through the Department has increased significantly as the community has taken advantage of the free-limbs scheme.

Details of production at all centres during 1979-80 are as follows: arms, 310; legs, 3,100; surgical and adapted footwear, 6,021; other surgical appliances, 1,104; and repairs, 27,216.

### **General Repatriation benefits and miscellaneous**

#### **Other activities of Department of Veterans' Affairs**

In addition to the payment of pensions and the provision of medical treatment, the Department also provides various benefits and allowances designed to meet the needs of special classes of veterans and their dependants. These include the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme (see page 209).

In addition, gift cars and an annual allowance for their upkeep are provided for veterans who, as a result of service, have suffered the amputation of both legs above the knees or amputation of one leg above the knee plus any two other amputations (above the ankle or at or above the wrist) or complete

paraplegia resulting in the total loss of the use of both legs. A grant of up to \$300 may be made towards the funeral expenses of eligible veterans and certain of their dependants. As from 13 November 1980, Temporary Incapacity Allowance may be paid to a veteran whose stay in hospital together with post-hospital convalescence or other treatment on a full-time basis exceeds 28 days. Payment of up to \$10 may be made to provide such necessities as meals, sleeping accommodation, etc. for veterans in need of immediate relief. Also, certain concessions in telephone rental charges are provided for some classes of veterans and their dependants, including blinded veterans, war and defence widows and certain service and Special Rate disability pensioners. Veterans who have been blinded as a result of service may be issued with talking book machines. The Australian Red Cross Society supplies 'book' records or cassettes for these machines free of charge, thus enabling the blind to enjoy a wide range of literature.

Expenditure in 1979-80 on general Repatriation benefits for all wars was \$8,893,000 comprising Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, \$2,567,000; recreation transport allowance, \$828,000; and other benefits, \$5,498,000.

As at 30 June 1980, trust and other funds administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs held \$24,575,000 in securities (face value) and \$1,499,000 in cash, a total of \$26,074,000.

Reciprocal arrangements with the United Kingdom, New Zealand and other countries provide for the payment of pensions, etc. to eligible Australian veterans living overseas and to eligible veterans from overseas who are living in Australia.

### Soldiers' Children Education Scheme

The Soldiers' Children Education Scheme was established in 1921 and operates with the assistance of the honorary Education Boards in each State. These Boards consist of representatives of government and non-government education authorities and of ex-service and other organisations which have a general interest in the welfare of the children of veterans. The objects of the Scheme are to assist and encourage eligible children in acquiring a standard of education compatible with their aptitude and ability, and to prepare them to enter an agricultural, commercial, professional, or industrial calling of their own choice. Eligible children are children of veterans whose deaths have been accepted as service-related; or of veterans who died from causes not service-related but who were receiving at the date of death a disability pension at a Special Rate for blindness, total and permanent incapacity, or amputation of two or more limbs; or of veterans who, as a result of service, are blinded totally and permanently incapacitated. From the commencement of primary education until the child reaches twelve years of age, school requisites and fares are provided. From the commencement of secondary education or from the age of twelve years, whichever is earlier, an education allowance is payable while the child is undertaking primary or secondary education. Assistance beyond secondary education is provided where an approved beneficiary continues with a course of specialised education or training necessary for a career. At this stage of training, in addition to the education allowance, fees are paid and text books, essential equipment and other minor benefits are provided.

All education allowances are subject to an income test, i.e. the amount of education allowance payable depends on the amount of income a child receives over the allowed limit. Weekly rates of allowances vary from time to time; current rates are available from the Department of Veterans' Affairs' Branch Offices.

The following tables show the costs of education under the scheme for the year ended 30 June 1980, and the number of children in receipt of benefit at 30 June 1980.

**SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: EXPENDITURE, 1979-80**  
(S'000)

	<i>N.S.W.(a)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.(b)</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Cost of education of beneficiaries—							
Under 12 years of age . . . . .	1	2	3	1	—	1	8
12 years of age and over . . . . .	1,020	678	413	172	171	94	2,548
<b>Total expenditure . . . . .</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>(c) 2,556</b>

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(c) Excludes overseas expenditure of \$12,000.

**SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFITS(a) AT 30 JUNE 1980**

<i>Type of training</i>	<i>N.S.W.(b)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.(c)</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Over-seas</i>	<i>Total</i>
At school—								
Aged under 14 years (d) . . . . .	139	94	86	39	25	28	8	419
Aged 14 and under 16 years . . . . .	252	146	114	50	26	38	5	631
Aged 16 and under 18 years . . . . .	203	133	88	42	22	30	4	522
<i>Total at school</i> . . . . .	<i>594</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>288</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>1,572</i>
Professional . . . . .	306	198	105	43	58	22	4	736
Agricultural . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Industrial . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Grand total</b> . . . . .	<b>900</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2,308</b>

(a) Refers only to children in receipt of an education allowance. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory. (d) From 12 years of age or the commencement of secondary education, whichever is the earlier.

**Re-establishment benefits for former regular and former national servicemen**

Subject to prescribed conditions, vocational training and business loans are provided for former regular and former national servicemen with a view to ensuring that they are not at a disadvantage when they return to civil life. Loans from \$5,000 (business and professional) and \$10,000 (agricultural) may be granted to veterans in these categories who satisfy prescribed requirements in respect of suitability of their proposed business propositions and adequacy of security. Agricultural loans are administered by the Department of Primary Industry. Vocational training is provided for by the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs.

**Survey of Ex-service personnel, widows and children**

In November 1971, a survey based on the quarterly population survey (see Chapter 8, Manpower) was conducted at the request of the then Department of Repatriation and the Services Canteen Trust Fund. Details of the survey were published in Year Book No. 59, page 112 and in the publication *Ex-service Personnel, Widows and Children (November 1971)* (4403.0). A similar survey was conducted in October 1979, and included questions relevant to the Defence Service Homes function. Results were published in April 1980.

**The Services Canteens Trust Fund**

The Services Canteens Trust Fund was established under the *Services Trust Funds Act* 1947. Its funds are derived from the assets and profits of wartime services canteens, mess and regimental funds of disbanded units, and several other sources.

The total amount transferred to the Fund to 31 December 1979 was \$11,060,693. The Act prescribed that of this, \$5 million and such further amounts as the trustees of the Fund might from time to time decide should be devoted to the provision of education facilities for the children of eligible veterans, and that the balance of the Fund should be used to provide relief for veterans and their dependants in necessitous circumstances.

The Fund is administered by seven honorary trustees appointed by the Governor-General. The trustees have power to determine the persons or groups of persons to benefit from the Fund and the extent of the benefits to be granted within the provisions of the Act, and to appoint regional committees to assist with the administration. Members of regional committees are all persons who served in the 1939–45 War or are widows of men who served during the war. The trustees and members of regional committees serve in an honorary capacity.

**Assistance from the Fund**

Persons eligible for assistance from the Fund are those who, between 3 September 1939 and 30 June 1947, served in the Australian Naval, Military or Air Forces, including members of the canteens staff of any ship of the Royal Australian Navy, persons duly accredited to any part of the Defence Forces who served in an official capacity on full-time paid duty, and their dependants.

The trustees have introduced various schemes for providing financial assistance to needy eligible veterans and their dependants. The total cash assistance granted to individuals under all schemes from the inception of the Fund to 31 December 1979 was \$15,816,961 (\$494,479 during 1979) distributed as follows:

- welfare relief, \$5,195,386 (\$262,983 during 1979)
- children's education, \$10,236,346 (\$230,400 during 1979)
- other schemes, \$385,229 (\$1,096 during 1979)

For detailed information on the operation of the Fund, reference should be made to the annual reports of the Services Canteens Trust Fund.

**Further information—ABS publications**

Further information on subjects dealt with in this chapter is included in the annual *Australian National Accounts, National Income and Expenditure* (5204.0); *Commonwealth Government Finance, Australia* (5502.0); *State and Local Government Finance, Australia* (5504.0); and *Social Indicators, Australia* (4101.0). Current and summarised information on Commonwealth Government social services is contained in the *Monthly Summary of Statistics, Australia* (1304.0).

