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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)

	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Assistance to aged persons—			
Aged pensions	3,229,013	3,508,755	3,935,796
Delivered meals	2,280	2,493	3,624
Personal care	13,375	14,468	19,645
Telephone concessions	14,392	16,515	17,635
Total	3,259,060	3,541,694	3,976,700
Assistance to incapacitated and handicapped persons—			
Invalid pensions	690,357	796,367	880,795
Sheltered employment allowances	18,733	22,778	27,527
Handicapped children's benefits	18,235	20,809	20,811
Rehabilitation services	16,885	20,145	23,313
Total	744,210	860,099	952,446
Assistance to unemployed and sick persons—			
Unemployment benefits	910,012	925,195	995,748
Sickness benefits	113,263	126,631	174,477
Special benefits	37,660	52,932	69,988
Total	1,060,935	1,104,758	1,240,213

AUTHORITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT, SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE
CASH BENEFITS TO PERSONS—*continued*

(\$'000)

	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Assistance to ex-servicemen(a)—			
Disability and dependants pensions and allowances	851,525	957,179	1,182,796
Other benefits	8,704	8,893	10,385
<i>Total</i>	<i>860,229</i>	<i>966,072</i>	<i>1,193,181</i>
Assistance to widows and single parents—			
Widows' pensions	499,349	561,393	641,792
Supporting parents' benefits	226,680	259,596	412,399
<i>Total</i>	<i>726,029</i>	<i>820,989</i>	<i>1,054,191</i>
Assistance to families and children—			
Family allowances	974,866	1,035,447	950,406
Maternity allowances	3,231	(b)	(b)
Orphans' pensions	1,948	2,052	2,125
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,002,759</i>	<i>1,014,783</i>	<i>952,538</i>
Other social security and welfare programs—			
Funeral benefits	1,461	1,451	1,509
Telephone rental concessions n.e.c.	2,388	2,884	3,339
Compassionate allowances	80	83	87
Assistance to homeless persons	974	1,072	1,760
Other	1,361	1,461	1,500
<i>Total</i>	<i>6,265</i>	<i>6,951</i>	<i>8,195</i>
Total social security and welfare	7,580,694	8,331,912	8,427,241

(a) For details see section on Veterans' Affairs in this Chapter.

(b) Maternity allowances were abolished from 1 November 1978.

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. Invalid pension is paid subject to an income test. However, if the pension is paid due to blindness, payment for the pensioner and one dependant child or student child (16-24 years of age) is free of the 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.

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 \$66.65 a week from May 1981. 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 \$111.10 a week from May 1981 (\$55.55 a week each). For a married person whose spouse receives a tuberculosis allowance or a service pension, the maximum rate is also \$55.55 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 \$10.00 a week. Widowed or other unmarried age or invalid pensioners with a dependent child may receive a guardian's allowance of up to \$6 a week, or up to \$8 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 \$153.30 a week. The corresponding figure for a married couple without children is \$128.35 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). The amount of supplementary assistance payable cannot exceed the amount of rent paid.

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 or full-time dependent student in the pensioner's care.

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	1979	1980	1981
		-'000-	
60-64 years	159.6	156.2	157.6
65-69 years	341.7	345.7	343.1
70-74 years	339.9	349.4	358.4
75 years and over	451.2	470.7	488.3
Total	1,292.5	1,321.9	1,347.4
Percent of aged population(a) %	78.0	77.5	76.6
Number admitted during year(b)	96,184	96,488	93,801
Total payments during year(c) \$'000	3,229,013	3,508,755	3,935,796

INVALID PENSIONERS: 30 JUNE

Age	1979	1980	1981
		-'000-	
16-19 years	7.8	7.9	7.6
20-39 years	45.3	48.1	48.1
40-59 years	119.3	124.7	119.9
60-64 years	42.9	43.8	42.1
65 years and over	4.5	4.8	4.3
Total	219.8	229.2	222.0
Number admitted during year	43,804	40,356	25,458
Total payments during year (c) \$'000	690,357	796,367	880,795

(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 axable 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 1981, 168 workshops were paying the allowance to 8,339 disabled employees. Expenditure during the year 1980-81 was \$27,527,000.

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; a woman whose husband has been in prison for at least six months and a woman who, although not legally married to him, lived with a man on a *bona fide* domestic basis and was wholly or mainly maintained by him for at least three years immediately preceding the man's death, may qualify for a widow's pension.

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 1981, the maximum rate of pension for all classes of widow is \$66.65 a week plus, in the case of widows with children, a mother's allowance of \$6 a week or \$8 a week where at least one child is under 6 or is an invalid requiring full-time care, plus \$10 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.

In September 1980, the Commonwealth Government accepted responsibility for women supporting children alone. The previous arrangement under the States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act was cancelled at that time. Since then, deserted wives with children can be paid supporting parents benefits for the first six months of their desertion; deserted wives without children can be assisted by unemployment benefit or special benefit. A woman qualified for Class 'A' or Class 'B' widow's pension may transfer to widow's pension after being deserted for six months.

CLASS A AND B WIDOW PENSIONERS, BY AGE: 30 JUNE 1981

Category	Under 20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 and over	Total	Per cent
					- '000-			
Class 'A'	0.1	15.8	37.0	23.8	10.8	0.2	87.8	53.1
Class 'B'	-	-	-	3.1	57.2	17.4	77.7	46.9
Total Class 'A' and 'B'	0.1	15.8	37.0	26.9	68.1	17.6	165.5	100.0
					- per cent-			
	0.1	9.6	22.3	16.2	41.1	10.5	100.0	..

At 30 June 1981, 88,287 widow pensioners were receiving additional pension for 168,751 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'	All classes		
						\$	\$'000
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
1980-81	30,587	87,837	77,700	124	165,661	77.52	641,792

(a) Excludes transfers from one class to another and from age pension.

(b) Includes supplementary assistance and allowances.

(c) Includes payments to benevolent homes for maintenance of pensioners.

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. From September 1980, payment to supporting parents was made from the pension payday following date of lodgement of the claim. 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. 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.

SUPPORTING PARENTS BY AGE AND TYPE: 30 JUNE 1981

Type of beneficiary	Under 20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50 and over	Total	Per cent
Unmarried mother	7.2	22.3	5.0	—'000—	0.2	35.5	33.3
Separated wife	1.0	23.3	21.0	6.5	1.3	53.2	49.8
Defacto wife	1.1	7.0	3.3	1.2	0.3	12.9	12.1
Father	—	0.8	2.1	1.4	0.8	5.0	4.7
Total	9.3	53.4	31.4	10.0	2.6	106.6	100.0
	8.7	50.1	29.4	—per cent—	2.4	100.0	..
				9.4			

At 30 June 1981, 106,631 supporting parents were receiving additional benefit for 185,034 children.

SUPPORTING PARENT'S BENEFIT

	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Number admitted during year	26,451	28,581	71,280
Beneficiaries current at end of year—			
Females	59,365	66,604	101,583
Males	3,133	3,821	5,048
Total	62,498	70,425	106,631
Average weekly benefit at end of year (a)	\$ 70.99	78.97	91.04
Amount paid in benefits during year (a)	\$'000 226,680	259,596	412,399

(a) Includes supplementary assistance and allowances.

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:

- free medical treatment if the doctor bulk bills (otherwise 85 per cent of the Schedule fee is refunded up to a maximum of \$5 for each service);
- a comprehensive range of pharmaceuticals free of charge;
- a one-third reduction in telephone rental;
- reduced 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; and
- free optometrical consultations.

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

	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
\$20 grants in respect of—						
Age or invalid pensioners	24,190	25,436	23,905	22,168	21,645	21,247
Others	17	13	20	23	62	28
<i>Total</i>	<i>24,207</i>	<i>25,449</i>	<i>23,925</i>	<i>22,191</i>	<i>21,707</i>	<i>21,275</i>
\$40 grants in respect of—						
Age or invalid pensioners	24,195	24,720	24,590	24,022	24,230	23,608
Others	1,898	1,447	1,294	944	894	685
<i>Total</i>	<i>26,093</i>	<i>26,167</i>	<i>25,884</i>	<i>24,966</i>	<i>25,124</i>	<i>24,294</i>
Total grants	50,300	51,616	49,809	47,157	46,831	45,569

Total cost of funeral benefits granted during 1980-81 was \$1,509,000.

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 1981, are as follows:

	Maximum Weekly Rate	
	Unemployment benefit	Sickness benefit
	\$	\$
Married person (including additional benefit for spouse)	111.10	111.10
Single person aged 18 or more with dependants	66.65	66.65
Single person aged 18 or more, no dependants	53.45	66.65
Single person under 18 years	36.00	36.00

These amounts are increased by \$10.00 for each child under sixteen years in the beneficiary's custody, care and control, or for any full-time student wholly or substantially dependant on 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 withdrawn on a 50 per cent basis for private income within the ranges \$3 to \$40 a week for single persons aged 16 and 17 with a parent in Australia, and \$6 to \$50 a week in all other cases. Benefits are withdrawn on a dollar for dollar basis for all private income in excess of these upper limits. 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.

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 supporting parent's benefit, 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.

The benefit is designed to meet cases of special need and may also be paid as income support over a period if no other social security benefits is payable.

The rate paid may not exceed the rate of unemployment or sickness benefit which could be paid if the claimant were qualified to receive it.

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		
	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special (a)	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special (a)	Unem- ployment	Sickness	Special (a)
							(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
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
1980-81	782,500(b)	140,900(b)	72,700(b)	310,000(b)	44,500(b)	19,550(b)	995,748	174,477	66,100

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

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: 1980-81

Number of children and students in family	Number of families								
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Total(a)
1	254,270	187,840	108,242	66,605	61,988	21,275	6,515	11,603	718,368
2	284,745	224,987	123,796	77,103	76,069	24,161	6,855	15,875	833,610
3	130,464	106,082	61,182	30,837	35,100	11,390	3,620	7,666	386,353
4	38,414	31,966	20,117	7,618	9,951	3,401	1,467	2,179	115,116
5	8,861	7,522	5,287	1,503	2,090	786	546	462	27,057
6	2,681	2,135	1,684	377	585	196	218	123	7,999
7	801	634	585	123	190	60	65	29	2,487
8	252	249	200	41	60	16	21	22	861
9	102	77	67	14	31	4	6	2	303
10 or more	42	32	33	5	11	5	5	2	135
Total	720,632	561,524	321,193	184,226	186,075	61,294	19,318	37,963	2,092,289
No. of children in approved institutions	3,562	2,541	1,936	454	1,706	153	53	13	10,418
No. of approved institutions	145	185	95	42	70	15	9	1	562
Amount paid during year (\$'000)	341,612	258,358	149,385	88,928	84,338	27,765	(b)	(b)	950,406

(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.

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 \$55.70 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 1981 was 3,988. The expenditure on these pensions during the year 1980-81 was \$2,125,000.

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 \$73 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 1981 was 25,998. The total amount paid through these allowances during the year 1980-81 was \$19,060,000.

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. The number of Australian pensions being paid overseas under the general portability provisions at 30 June 1981, was 17,230.

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 ten residential and day-attendance rehabilitation centres, three work adjustment centres, two work preparation centres, and the fifteen regional rehabilitation units. Five further work preparation centres are in the process of being established.

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 aids, appliances and modifications 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 counsellor, qualified tradesmen and 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 1981, the CRS had a total staff of 1,225 which included 956 full-time, 134 part-time and 135 sessional staff.

Between its inception in 1948 and 30 June 1981, the Rehabilitation Service has assisted some 69,088 severely handicapped people.

Other services of the Department of Social Security

The Department of Social Security provides a professional social work service and Ethnic and Aboriginal Liaison Office Schemes. It administers grants to major national welfare organisations such as: Australian Council of Social Service, Australian Council on the Ageing, Australian Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled, Australian Early Childhood 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 and provides a grant to the Social Welfare Research Unit of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU).

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

		1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Grants approved	No.	33	71	126	74	108	161
Amount approved	\$'000	10,531	21,381	23,719	20,357	20,127	39,154
Beds provided—							
Self-contained	No.	385	233	505	376	294	396
Hostel	"	181	769	428	310	456	990
Nursing	"	52	1,015	1,225	884	1,083	1,676
Total	"	618	2,017	2,158	1,570	1,833	3,062

Since the commencement of the Act in December 1954, 3,711 grants amounting to \$360,070,101 have been approved, and accommodation has been provided for 67,392 aged and disabled persons.

The Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act also provides a *personal care subsidy* of \$20 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 1981

		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Approved premises	No.	230	199	128	90	74	21	3	6	751
Residents qualifying	No.	5,997	5,055	3,825	2,543	2,276	568	56	109	20,429
Subsidies paid, 1980-81	\$'000	5,880	4,870	3,441	2,600	2,194	535	25	100	19,645

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

	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Number of grants during year	12	51	53	36	20	20
Beds provided—						
Hostel beds	393	1,574	1,704	1,463	680	621
Staff beds	17	56	56	34	13	14
Total	410	1,630	1,760	1,497	693	635
Amount paid during year—						
Capital grants	11,527	26,562	28,658	27,399	12,186	12,218
Furnishings grants	104	396	442	390	125	159
Total	11,631	26,957	29,100	27,789	12,311	12,377

—\$'000—

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 administrations 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

	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81 (f)
Approved premises (a)	1,000	1,061	1107
Number of capital grants during year (b)	2,459	1,901	n.a.
Total expenditure during year (c)—		—\$'000—	
New South Wales (d)	14,280	14,093	17,325
Victoria	11,849	8,699	11,834
Queensland	6,521	4,646	7,550
South Australia (e)	8,284	6,467	8,553
Western Australia	5,065	3,899	5,680
Tasmania	1,600	1,512	1,957
Total	47,599	39,317	52,899

(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. (f) Includes Handicapped Children's Benefit. n.a. Not available. No longer collected in this form.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S BENEFIT

	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Approved handicapped persons homes(a)	106	115	129
Handicapped children accommodated(a)	1,151	1,625	1,416
Days of benefit paid during year	340,431	332,706	350,197
Total amount paid during year \$000	1,703	1,667	1,762

(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 1980-81 was \$5,910,846.

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 \$1.20 cents per day and the rate of meals subsidy as 40 cents per meal. During 1980-81 the amount of this subsidy totalled \$1,759,953.

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 45 cents for every meal provided on approved vitamin C supplement and 40 cents for each other meal provided by approved organisations. At 30 June 1981, 714 organisations had received a total subsidy of \$18,639,067 under the Act. During 1980-81 the amount of this subsidy totalled \$3,623,797. 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 flexible network of services for children and their families mainly concentrating on day care and pre-school centres. The general principle guiding approval of grants is one of directing assistance on a needs basis.

Other services funded under the program include support services for families and adolescents, special services for migrants, Aborigines and disabled children and research, evaluation and information 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	To or for the States		Direct to organisations		Total
	Pre-school	Other Child care	Pre-school	Other Child care	
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	69,226
1980-81	31,183	13,857	—	29,994	74,034

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 Services 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 client is dissatisfied with the outcome of the departmental consideration of a Social Security Appeals Tribunal recommendation (whether or not that recommendation was favourable to the client), or where the Director-General has, at the request of a client who has not appealed to an SSAT, certified in writing that the case involves an important principle of general application under the Social Services Act.

International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP)

International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP) was launched on 31 December 1980. The Minister for Social Security is responsible for co-ordinating the Commonwealth Government's observance of IYDP.

The United Nation's theme of "Full Participation and Equality" has been interpreted in Australia under the theme of 'Break Down the Barriers', the granting of access for disabled persons to all aspects of community life.

To co-ordinate national activities for IYDP a special Unit was established in the Department of Social Security. It also provides support services to the Council of Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers responsible for IYDP. Activities in the non-government sector are co-ordinated by a National Committee of Non-Government Organisations for IYDP, established in conjunction with the Australian Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled (ACROD).

Commonwealth, State and Local Governments and non-Government Organisations have all examined their programs and priorities for IYDP and have generated a number of new and innovative programs for disabled persons. An initial seeding grant of \$400,000 (\$50,000 to each State and Territory) was made by the Commonwealth Government to help disabled children and families. This was supplemented by assistance from State Governments.

A major contribution to IYDP was the conduct in 1981 of the first comprehensive Australian national survey of handicapped persons by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The survey obtained information about the nature and extent of various disabilities and handicaps in the Australian community.

World Assembly on Ageing

The United Nations resolved that a World Assembly on Ageing be held in Vienna in the latter half of 1982. The purpose of the Assembly is to prepare a plan of action for assistance to, and support of, the elderly over the coming decade.

In planning for the Assembly, the Department of Social Security is co-ordinating Australia's policy input on the two main areas of concern:

- humanitarian issues: guarantees to older persons of economic and social security, including health, housing and environment, social welfare, income security, education, the family; and
- developmental issues: opportunities for older persons to contribute to national development.

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. As a consequence of the new administrative arrangements announced by the Prime Minister on 2 November 1980, the Head of the Secretariat now reports to the Minister for Social Security.

The Social Welfare Policy Secretariat is responsible for the provision of advice on, and the integrated development of plans, policies and programs in the broad field of health and welfare. It is responsible also for ensuring the co-ordinated development and review of health and welfare policies and for ensuring that appropriate research activities are directed to these ends.

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

National Working Party on Welfare Statistics (WELSTAT)

All State and Territory welfare departments, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Commonwealth Department of Social Security are co-operating in the WELSTAT project which is developing standardised national social welfare statistics and, more generally, assessing the adequacy of social welfare statistics in Australia. National standards have been developed in a number of areas relating to Child Welfare. In particular, Statistics have been published on '*Persons under Guardianship and Children in Substitute Care*', (4405.0) and '*Adoptions*', (4406.0). Standards have also been developed for '*Persons in Juvenile Corrective Institutions and Children in Prison*'; Statistics in this area are published monthly by the Australian Institute of Criminology.

Standards are being developed for collections on *Emergency and Supplementary Assistance* and *Child Abuse*. Work has also commenced in the Australian Bureau of Statistics, under the auspices of WELSTAT, on the development of a classification of welfare activities.

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, kindergartens, 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 1980-81

State	Home Care Services	Senior Citizens Centres	Welfare Officers	Total
New South Wales	3,610,375	1,791,341	383,056	5,784,772
Victoria	4,330,805	1,117,853	620,191	6,068,849
Queensland	1,873,168	489,953	57,722	2,420,843
South Australia	1,006,034	190,637	96,355	1,293,026
Western Australia	57,250	360,961	96,587	514,798
Tasmania	630,068	49,255	-	679,323
Total	11,507,700	4,000,000	1,253,911	16,761,611

Voluntary Agencies

A wide range of social welfare services are provided within the Australian community by voluntary agencies. These include:

- personal counselling for families and individuals;
- emergency relief;
- home care and visitation services;
- family support services;
- child and family day care;
- sheltered employment for the handicapped;
- crisis accommodation for youth, families, women and single men;
- accommodation and support services for the aged and handicapped.

While many services delivered by voluntary agencies are subsidised or supported by government funding, other activities rely on more direct forms of community financial support such as donations and public appeals. Voluntary agencies employ substantial numbers of professional welfare workers but also rely heavily on the contributions of volunteers.

The range and scope of voluntary welfare activity has increased greatly in recent years. Self-help organisations which provide personal support to people suffering particular social or physical disabilities are becoming more prevalent as are agencies which direct assistance to particular target groups such as Aborigines and ethnic communities. A recent study by the Social Welfare Research Centre of the University of New South Wales has estimated that there are about 37,000 agencies in 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, Aborigines should not be counted, and to the deletion of the words 'other than the Aboriginal race in any State' from section 51 (xxvi) which relates to the power of the Commonwealth Parliament to make laws in respect to people of any race. The Commonwealth Government's aim is to help Aborigines become self-managing and self-sufficient while, at the same time, to preserve and to develop their own distinctive culture. The Commonwealth Government has assumed responsibility for policy, planning and co-ordination in respect of Aboriginal affairs at the national level. The Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs has regional offices in all States and the Northern Territory. In December 1973 the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (NACC) was established, its 41 members being elected by Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders throughout Australia. The role of the NACC was to advise the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on Aboriginal needs, desires and policies.

A committee of four (three of whom were Aborigines) was set up in April 1976 to inquire into the role and functions of the NACC and it was on the basis of the committee's recommendations that the Government, in May 1977, announced the establishment of a group of interrelated bodies to replace the NACC.

These bodies were the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC), the national executive of the NAC and the Council for Aboriginal Development (CAD).

The first elections for the 35-member NAC were held in November 1977. Representation is balanced between tradition-oriented rural and urban communities. NAC membership increased to 36 with the election of Tasmania's first separate representative in September 1980. 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 is comprised of eleven delegates of whom ten are chosen by State Branches. The chairman is elected by the full NAC. 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. It also advises the Government on matters referred to it. The CAD was the formal advisory body to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and other Ministers on policies which affect the Aboriginal community. In April 1981, the Government accepted the recommendation of the NAC that its national executive assume the advisory functions and powers of the CAD, which was abolished.

Migrants

Rising intake

Since the Second World War, about 3.6 million migrants from all over the world have come to Australia. Since 1945, Australia's population has almost doubled, to 14.9 million, with one in five Australians born overseas. Post-war immigration peaked in 1969–70 with 185 000 settler arrivals. In the early 1970s, the net population gain through migration generally declined. This trend has now been reversed, with a net gain in 1979–80 of 77 000 and in 1980–81 of 119 000. If expected trends continue, Australia will have a population at the end of the century of about 19.5 million, some two million more than it would be without a contribution from migration.

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 centres operated by Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services Ltd, a non-profit-making Government-sponsored company. These centres 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 the centres 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 and Citizenship Branch for advancing policies designed to secure the integration of migrants. In particular, through the Ethnic Liaison Officer Scheme under which Ethnic Liaison Officers are appointed in Commonwealth Government departments and authorities, it seeks to ensure that Commonwealth Government policies, programs and services take account of the needs and aspirations of migrants.

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 during the settlement period and offers a translation service to other Commonwealth departments. At the present time translation units are operating in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne.

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 1981, a total of 214,089 calls was received by TIS. The aggregate number of calls received since the inception of the Service in 1973 is 933,419.

Cost-sharing agreements have been concluded with the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia for the establishment or extension of State operated interpreting and translation services, in accordance with a recommendation of the Galbally Report.

A National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) was established by the Commonwealth Government in 1977 to develop standards of competence for translators and interpreters in Australia and to test and accredit at those standards. State/Territory Panels for Translators and Interpreters have been established in all States and Territories to administer tests to those seeking accreditation.

In keeping with the recommendations of the Galbally Report, Settlement Centres are being established in migrant accommodation centres, and progressively, over a three-year period, in the community where there are high concentrations of migrants. These centres 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 also provide counselling concerning immediate settlement needs. The new programs 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-three migrant resource centres have been 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 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.

In 1980-81, expenditure on the adult migrant education program was a record \$28,773,040, allowing continued growth in the on-arrival phase to benefit 15,000 adults from non-English speaking backgrounds, compared with 11,500 in 1979-80 and 3,000 in 1977-78.

Further information is contained in the *Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Annual Review, Review '81*.

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 accepted as service-related; the provision of medical treatment in certain circumstances for veterans who are suffering from injuries and illnesses whether service-related or not; the provision of medical treatment for war/defence widows and certain dependants of deceased veterans; and provision of 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)
(S'000)

Class	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Pensions, allowances and other benefits	568,068	662,876	799,264	860,229	966,072	1,193,181
Medical treatment	201,488	223,058	251,589	268,539	310,327	357,219
Administration	37,130	39,556	41,999	44,441	49,539	54,971
Works, rent and maintenance	19,332	14,020	17,477	21,301	27,881	24,587
Total expenditure	826,018	939,510	1,110,329	1,194,511	1,353,819	1,629,958

(a) Includes expenditure by Departments other than Veterans' Affairs as follows: 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; 1980-81, \$21,270,359.

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 table provides a summary of disability and dependants' pensions according to the veteran's war/area of service. 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: 1980-81

		1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea, Malaya and F.E.S.R.	Special Overseas Service	Peace time forces	Miscel- laneous	Total
Pensions in force at 30 June 1981								
(b)	No.	34,443	352,011	9,832	20,751	5,825	472	423,334
Annual pension liability at 30 June 1981	\$'000	77,105	393,701	6,429	6,137	1,843	714	485,929
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1980-81	\$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	496,310
New claims granted	"	63	3,590	214	1,200	1,656	9	6,732
Restorations	"	7	1,437	122	128	74	2	1,770
Pensions cancelled (gross)	"	60	7,074	631	576	388	11	8,740
Deaths of pensioners	"	3,501	8,037	82	25	13	22	11,680

(a) Includes Interim Forces. (b) At 30 June 1981 includes 5,626 student children over 16 years of age.

Classes of disability and dependants' pensions

The following tables provide an analysis of the number of pensions in force, veteran's class of pension, new claims and deaths for 1980-81.

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS IN FORCE: 30 JUNE 1981

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea, Malaya and F.E.S.R.	Special Overseas Service	Peace time forces	Miscel- laneous	Total (b)
Veterans	6,075	155,168	3,940	6,635	2,293	167	174,278
Wives	13,421	146,452	3,215	5,055	1,496	169	169,808
Children (b)	13	14,385	2,269	8,653	1,925	16	27,261
War widows	14,613	32,871	267	154	70	115	48,090
Children of deceased veterans	3	537	60	168	38	1	807
Orphans	2	22	-	1	3	1	29
Other dependants	316	2,576	81	85	-	3	3,061
Total	34,443	352,011	9,832	20,751	5,825	472	423,334

(a) Includes Interim Forces. (b) Includes 5,626 student children over 16 years of age.

**DISABILITY PENSIONS FOR INCAPACITATED VETERANS IN FORCE: BY CLASS OF PENSION
30 JUNE 1981**

<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	1,505	12,736	176	72	21	18	14,528
Intermediate Rate	74	1,932	33	15	3	2	2,059
General Rate—from 10 per cent to 100 per cent assessed disability	4,496	140,500	3,731	6,548	2,269	147	157,691
Total	6,075	155,168	3,940	6,635	2,293	167	174,278

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, 1980-81

<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</i>
Veterans	16	1,254	58	243	657	54	2,233
Wives and widows of veterans	42	1,904	86	290	402	4	2,728
Children	1	405	67	663	597	—	1,733
Other dependants	4	27	3	4	—	—	38
Total	63	3,590	214	1,200	1,656	9	6,732

(a) Includes Interim Forces.

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: DEATHS 1980-81

<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</i>
Veterans	1,175	5,261	57	19	9	9	6,530
Wives and widows of veterans	2,307	2,554	21	3	4	10	4,899
Children	—	6	—	3	—	1	10
Other dependants	19	216	4	—	—	2	241
Total	3,501	8,037	82	25	13	22	11,680

(a) Includes Interim Forces.

Number of disability and dependants' pensions and expenditure, States, and Australia.

The following table shows the number of pensions in force and expenditure to 30 June 1981, according to place of payment.

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

<i>Number of disability and dependants' pensions in force at 30 June 1981 (a)</i>					
<i>Place of payment</i>	<i>Incapacitated veterans</i>	<i>Dependants of incapacitated veterans</i>	<i>Dependants of deceased veterans</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Annual expenditure (b) (\$'000)</i>
New South Wales(c)	63,268	69,662	19,301	152,231	190,226
Victoria	42,390	49,075	14,111	105,576	124,808
Queensland	29,915	34,348	7,625	71,888	81,439
South Australia(d)	16,191	18,424	4,414	39,029	40,926
Western Australia	14,492	16,753	3,675	34,920	33,411
Tasmania	7,222	8,183	1,814	17,219	21,964
Overseas	800	1,158	513	2,471	3,536
Total	174,278	197,603	51,453	423,334	496,310

(a) Includes Interim Forces 1939-45 War.
Territory. (d) Includes Northern Territory.

(b) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows.

(c) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

Summary of disability and dependants' pensions, 1975-76 to 1980-81

The following table shows the number of pensions granted, pensions in force and the expenditure for disability pensions in each of the years ended 30 June 1976 to 1981.

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS

Year	Pensions granted	Deaths	Number of disability and dependants' pensions in force at 30 June (a)			Total	Annual expenditure (b) \$'000
			Incapacitated veterans	Dependants of incapacitated veterans	Dependants of deceased veterans		
1975-76	10,417	12,323	197,463	245,682	55,716	498,861	340,839
1976-77	9,856	11,637	193,123	237,237	54,804	485,164	371,459
1977-78	8,039	11,390	187,427	220,968	54,291	462,686	419,033
1978-79	7,257	11,500	182,988	212,177	53,136	448,301	415,329
1979-80	6,141	11,151	178,471	204,265	52,031	434,767	432,001
1980-81	6,732	11,680	174,278	197,603	51,453	423,334	496,310

(a) Includes Interim Forces 1939-45 War.

(b) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows.

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 1981.

MISCELLANEOUS DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, 30 JUNE 1981

Class	Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1981				Annual liability (b) \$'000
	Veterans (a)	Dependants of incapacitated veterans	Dependants of deceased veterans	Total	
Act of grace	96	106	41	243	327
Seamen's war pension	69	79	41	189	227
New Guinea civilians	2	-	38	40	160
Total	167	185	120	472	714

(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.

Service pensions

The *Repatriation Act 1920* provides for a service pension to be paid (subject to an income test unless the person is blind) to the following persons:

- male veterans who served in a theatre of war (or in a designated *Operational* or *Special Overseas Service* area) and have attained the age of sixty years or are permanently unemployable;
- female veterans who served in a theatre of war, or served abroad or embarked for service abroad and have attained the age of fifty-five years, or are permanently unemployable;
- veterans of the South African War 1899-1902 who were members of a naval or military force or contingent raised in Australia for active service in that war;
- veterans of other British Commonwealth Forces who served outside the country of enlistment or within that country if a campaign medal has been awarded in respect of such service. Ten years residence in Australia is a necessary qualification.

Veterans who served in formally raised allied forces in conflicts in which Australia participated, who served in a theatre of war and at no time served in enemy forces. Ten years residence in Australia is also necessary.

If otherwise eligible, persons aged 70 years or over receive the service pension free of the income test at the rate of \$51.45 per week if single or \$42.90 per week each if married. Higher rates of pension may be payable subject to the income test.

A veteran in receipt of a service pension is entitled, subject to an income test, to free medical benefits for disabilities not service-related. These benefits include general practitioner service, specialist service where necessary, full pharmaceutical benefits, surgical aids and appliances (including spectacles), dental treatment, and treatment in Repatriation General Hospitals.

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

The following table provides a summary of Service Pensions according to the veteran's war/area of service.

SERVICE PENSIONS 1980-81

		1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea- Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Act of Grace	Allied Forces	British Common- wealth	Total
New claims granted	No.	257	37,778	351	106	30	1,444	6,223	46,189
Restorations	"	9	162	3	3	-	1	24	202
Cancellations (gross)	"	291	4,938	53	13	6	39	490	5,830
Deaths	"	1,882	6,780	48	5	8	15	228	8,966
Pensions in force at 30 June 1981	"	11,997	239,275	1,407	243	209	2,195	16,752	272,078
Annual liability at 30 June 1981	\$'000	32,127	646,426	3,693	595	544	5,881	44,483	733,739
Amount paid in pensions during 1980-81	\$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	686,487

Class of service pensions

The following tables give an analysis of the total number of new claims granted and pensions in force for 1980-81.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE, 30 JUNE 1981

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea- Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Act of Grace	Allied Forces	British Common- wealth	Total
Veterans—								
old age	7,956	113,204	361	25	116	1,176	8,911	131,749
permanently unemployable	1,029	27,824	518	114	11	60	817	30,373
Tuberculosis(a)	21	1,065	17	1	1	-	10	1,115
Total	9,006	142,093	896	140	128	1,236	9,738	163,237
Wives and widows	2,991	97,182	511	103	81	959	7,014	108,841
Total	11,997	239,275	1 407	243	209	2 195	16,752	272,078

(a) Eligibility on these grounds ceased on 2 November 1978.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED 1980-81

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea- Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Act of Grace	Allied Forces	British Common- wealth	Total
Veterans	71	20,756	201	61	17	809	3 403	25,318
Wives and widows	186	17,022	150	45	13	635	2,820	20,871
Total	257	37,778	351	106	30	1,444	6,223	46,189

SERVICE PENSIONS: DEATHS 1980-81

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea- Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Act of Grace	Allied Forces	British Common- wealth	Total
Veterans	1,717	5,775	44	5	8	13	189	7 751
Wives and widows	165	1,005	4	-	-	2	39	1 215
Total	1,882	6,780	48	5	8	15	228	8,966

Number of Service Pensions and Expenditure, States and Total.

The following table shows the number of pensions in force and expenditure to 30 June 1981 according to place of payment.

**SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE AT 30 JUNE 1981 AND
ANNUAL EXPENDITURE 1980-81**

State	<i>Pensions in Force</i>			<i>Annual expenditure (\$'000)</i>
	<i>Veterans</i>	<i>Wives and widows</i>	<i>Total</i>	
New South Wales(a)	54,059	35,844	89,903	229,799
Victoria	40,114	26,655	66,769	167,025
Queensland	30,538	20,913	51,451	130,548
South Australia(b)	17,104	11,563	28,667	71,267
Western Australia	14,471	9,233	23,704	59,328
Tasmania	6,599	4,418	11,017	27,440
Overseas	352	215	567	1,080
Total	163,237	108,841	272,078	686,487

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

The following table provides a summary of Service Pensions.

SERVICE PENSIONS

	<i>Pensions granted</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Pensions in Force</i>			<i>Annual expenditure (\$'000)</i>
			<i>Veterans</i>	<i>Wives and widows</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1975-76	29,989	7,131	94,080	47,595	141,675	218,926
1976-77	32,404	6,875	105,685	58,030	163,715	283,280
1977-78	37,491	7,092	118,955	69,562	188,517	372,100
1978-79	36,607	7,827	131,792	80,630	212,422	436,196
1979-80	40,735	7,952	146,370	93,594	239,964	525,178
1980-81	46,189	8,966	163,237	108,841	272,078	686,487

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 Special Rate pensioners; and certain service pensioners.

Treatment is provided at six Repatriation general hospitals (one in each State) and three 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 1981 was 2,878 and expenditure during 1980-81 amounted to \$155,303,546. In addition, expenditure of \$201,915,528 was incurred during 1980-81 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 1981

<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>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
General hospitals . . .	2,370	1,446	1,078	722	830	211	—	6,657
Other in-patient institutions	276	132	80	—	—	—	—	488
Out-patient clinics	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	16
Limb and appliance centres	73	78	29	20	19	10	3	232
Total	2,719	1,672	1,187	742	849	221	3	7,393

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, 1980-81

	<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>
REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS							
In-patients at beginning of year . . .	720	443	347	244	327	66	2,147
Admissions and re-admissions during year	21,969	14,068	10,663	6,364	7,920	1,995	62,979
Total in-patients treated	22,689	14,511	11,010	6,608	8,247	2,061	65,126
Discharges	21,243	13,458	10,234	6,137	7,598	1,891	60,561
Deaths	743	649	409	244	332	100	2,477
In-patients at end of year	703	404	367	227	317	70	2,088
Average daily beds occupied	676	404	325	217	282	67	1,971
OTHER REPATRIATION INSTITUTIONS							
In-patients at beginning of year . . .	182	101	101	—	17	—	401
Admissions and re-admissions during year	1,991	717	853	—	—	—	3,561
Total in-patients treated	2,173	818	954	—	17	—	3,962
Discharges	1,905	595	811	—	17	—	3,328
Deaths	83	115	88	—	—	—	286
In-patients at end of year	185	108	55	—	—	—	348
Average daily beds occupied	176	96	111	—	—	—	383

In addition to the repatriation institutions, eligible patients are treated in other country and metropolitan hospitals and nursing homes at departmental expense. During 1980-81, 39,158 Repatriation in-patients were accommodated and treated in country and metropolitan hospitals and 7,238 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 42 on trial leave, there were 488 repatriation patients in these hospitals at 30 June 1981.

Out-patient treatment is provided throughout Australia at repatriation hospitals and clinics and through the Repatriation Local Medical Officer Scheme. During 1980-81, 739,096 out-patients were treated at Repatriation institutions, and local medical officers consultations totalled 2,795,634. The number of Repatriation local medical officers in Australia at 30 June 1981 was 9,849.

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 1980-81 are as follows: arms, 297; legs, 3,364; surgical and adapted footwear, 5,872; other surgical appliances, 1,039; and repairs, 27,862.

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.

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 1980-81 on general Repatriation benefits for all wars was \$10,384,000 comprising Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, \$2,368,000; recreation transport allowance, \$953,000; and other benefits, \$7,063,000.

As at 30 June 1981, trust and other funds administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs held \$26,899,000 in securities (face value) and \$2,169,000 in cash, a total of \$29,068,000.

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 1981, and the number of children in receipt of benefit at 30 June 1980.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: EXPENDITURE, 1980-81
(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	1.7	1.6	4.0	1.1	0.3	1.0	9.7
12 years of age and over	938	636	375	174	139	88	2,350
Total expenditure	939.7	637.6	379.0	175.1	139.3	89.0	(c) 2,359.7

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Excludes overseas expenditure of \$8,000.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFITS(a) AT 30 JUNE 1981

<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)	107	77	75	37	14	21	8	339
Aged 14 and under 16 years	204	118	114	46	30	32	6	550
Aged 16 and under 18 years	162	121	73	33	20	17	3	429
Total at school	473	316	262	116	64	70	17	1,318
Professional	258	173	86	44	41	24	4	630
Agricultural	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Industrial	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand total	731	489	348	160	105	94	21	1,948

(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 1980 was \$11,066,086. 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 1980 was \$16,276,902 (\$459,941 during 1980) distributed as follows:

- welfare relief, \$5,450,950 (\$255,564 during 1980)
- children's education, \$10,438,560 (\$202,214 during 1980)
- other schemes, \$387,392 (\$2,163 during 1980)

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* (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).

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