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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. 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 main social security benefits provided by the Commonwealth Government under the *Social Services Act 1947*, as at June 1983, and the date on which each came into operation, are shown below:

Age pension	1 July 1909
Invalid pension	14 October 1910
Family allowance	1 July 1941
Widow's pension	30 June 1942
Funeral benefit	1 July 1943
Unemployment benefit	1 July 1945
Sickness benefit	1 July 1945
Special benefit	1 July 1945
Allowances associated with the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (including Rehabilitation allowance)	10 December 1948
Sheltered employment allowance	30 June 1967
Wife's pension (superseded wife's allowance)	5 October 1972
Supporting parent benefit	3 July 1973
Double orphans' pension	26 September 1973
Handicapped child's allowance	30 December 1974
Mobility allowance	1 April 1983
Family income supplement	1 May 1983

Details of the respective rates of pensions and benefits and details of associated allowances available to certain recipients are shown, along with more specific eligibility criteria, in the Annual Report of the Department of Social Security.

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 generally subject to residence qualifications and an income test.

Invalid pensions are payable to persons between sixteen years of age and age pension age 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.

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.

Additional pension is payable for each dependent child under 16 years, subject to the income test. Widowed or other unmarried age or invalid pensioners with a dependent child may, in addition, receive a guardian's allowance. Supplementary assistance, subject to a special income test, is available to pensioners if they pay rent or pay for board or lodging.

AGE PENSIONERS: 30 JUNE

Age	1981	1982	1983
60-64 years	157,600	156,882	161,921
65-69 years	343,100	335,014	326,582
70-74 years	358,400	367,469	376,115
75 years and over	488,300	507,670	526,220
Total	1,347,400	1,367,035	1,390,838
Number of wife pensioners	29,241	27,516	26,380
Total payments during year (a) \$'000	3,935,796	4,506,946	4,867,554

INVALID PENSIONERS: 30 JUNE

Age	1981	1982	1983
16-19 years	7,600	7,064	6,805
20-39 years	48,100	48,039	49,102
40-59 years	119,900	116,046	117,844
60 and over	46,400	45,500	46,538
Total	222,000	216,649	220,289
Number of wife pensioners	57,092	54,804	57,011
Total payments during year (a) \$'000	880,795	977,125	1,068,350

(a) 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 approved 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.

At 30 June 1983, 213 workshops were paying the allowance to 9,342 disabled employees. Expenditure during the year 1982-83 was \$40,720,000.

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 within 26 weeks of her husband's death.

A widow's pension is income tested and 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.

In addition to the basic pension, a mother's/guardian's allowance is payable in the case of a widow with children. Supplementary assistance is also available to widows if they pay rent or pay for board or lodging.

WIDOW PENSIONERS, BY AGE: 30 JUNE

Age	1981	1982	1983
Class A widow pensioners aged—			
Under 20 years	100	96	96
20–29 years	15,800	13,610	11,883
30–39 years	37,000	36,607	37,082
40–49 years	23,800	23,952	24,807
50–59 years	10,800	10,352	10,211
60 years and over	200	183	182
Class B widow pensioners aged—			
45–49 years	3,100	3,203	3,282
50–54 years	18,900	19,146	19,609
55–59 years	38,400	38,633	38,898
60 years and over	17,400	18,176	18,437
Class C widow pensioners	124	133	119
Total	165,661	164,091	164,606
Total payments during year (a) \$'000	641,792	717,386	758,086

(a) Includes payment to benevolent homes for maintenance of pensioners. It also includes supplementary assistance and allowances.

Supporting parent's benefit

Supporting parent's benefit was introduced in November 1977 to extend to supporting fathers the same benefit as had previously been available to supporting mothers through supporting mother's benefit. The benefit is available to sole parents who have custody, care and control of a child under 16 years or a dependent full-time student aged 16 to 24 years. It is subject to an income test.

SUPPORTING PARENTS, BY AGE AND TYPE:
30 JUNE

Age and type of beneficiary	1982	1983
Age		
Under 20 years	9,741	9,787
20–29 years	60,904	66,501
30–39 years	38,197	45,623
40–49 years	12,227	14,907
50–59 years	2,752	3,255
60 years and over	121	153
Type of beneficiary Females—		
Unmarried mothers	38,622	41,654
Separated wives	64,222	73,801
Separated de facto wives	15,175	16,903
Males—		
Widowers	856	1,072
Divorcees	1,106	1,468
Separated husbands	2,670	3,757
Separated de facto husbands	1,129	1,431
Other	162	142
Number of beneficiaries	123,942	140,228
Total payments during year (a) \$'000	605,864	727,734

(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. These benefits include:

- free medical treatment if the doctor bulk bills (otherwise 85 per cent of the Schedule fee is refunded up to a set maximum for each service);
- a comprehensive range of pharmaceuticals free of charge;
- a one-third reduction in telephone rental (subject to the income of co-residents);
- reduced fares for Commonwealth Government railway and shipping services;

- certain postal concessions;
- 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.

There were 1,659,284 pensioners with PHB (Pensioner Health Benefits) cards entitling them to Commonwealth pensioner fringe benefits at 30 June 1983.

Unemployment, and sickness and special 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, service pension or supporting parent's benefit.

For unemployment benefit purposes, people must establish that they are unemployed, that their unemployment is not due to industrial action by themselves or by members of a union of which they are a member, that they are capable and willing to undertake suitable work, and that they have taken reasonable steps to obtain such work. Registration for employment with the Commonwealth Employment Service is necessary. For sickness benefit purposes, people must establish that they are temporarily incapacitated for work because of sickness or injury and that they have thereby suffered a loss of salary, wages or other income.

All unemployment and sickness beneficiaries with dependent children are eligible for an additional benefit for each dependent child. After the benefit has been paid for six consecutive weeks a sickness beneficiary who is paying rent or is paying for board or lodging may be entitled to a supplementary allowance.

In the case of sickness benefit, any amount of compensation, damages or similar payment, or war disability pension, paid in respect of the same incapacity as that for which the benefit is claimed, is deducted from the benefit if it is paid in respect of the same period.

A special benefit may be granted to a person not qualified for unemployment or sickness benefit who is not eligible for any pension, 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/herself and his/her 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.

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 benefit 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 ENDED 30 JUNE

	1981	1982	1983
Unemployment beneficiaries:			
Number of benefits granted	(b) 782,500	(b) 833,600	1,115,323
Number on benefit at end of year	(b) 314,500	390,664	635,002
Average number on benefit at end of each week during year	(b) 310,000	(b) 332,000	540,198
Sickness beneficiaries:			
Number of benefits granted	(b) 140,900	(b) 154,600	156,632
Number on benefit at end of year	(b) 49,000	53,522	64,203
Average number on benefit at end of each week during year	(b) 44,500	(b) 48,600	57,684
Special benefit beneficiaries:			
Number of benefits granted	(b) 72,700	(b) 69,700	70,074
Number on benefit at end of year	(b) 17,850	16,162	20,899
Average number on benefit at end of each week during year	(b) 19,550	(b) 18,100	20,110
Amount paid during year (a) \$'000:			
Unemployment	995,748	1,224,343	2,248,980
Sickness	174,477	225,053	270,776
Special benefit	66,100	74,107	89,167

(a) Includes additional benefits for children. (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 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 intend to remain in Australia permanently. Under certain conditions, family allowance may be paid to Australians who are temporarily absent overseas.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES: 30 JUNE, 1983

Number of children and students in family	Number of families								Total(a)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	
1	262,760	194,498	118,325	68,903	67,124	21,758	7,474	11,944	752,786
2	292,360	230,232	135,023	77,976	80,904	24,692	7,680	16,342	865,209
3	131,521	105,940	64,564	30,070	35,930	11,264	3,918	7,673	390,880
4	37,734	30,415	20,147	7,089	9,505	3,182	1,466	2,157	111,695
5	8,182	6,640	4,944	1,314	1,926	704	530	438	24,678
6	2,434	1,866	1,522	347	530	151	220	117	7,187
7	689	564	509	105	164	46	82	22	2,181
8 or more	363	286	243	52	76	23	30	25	1,098
Total	736,043	570,441	345,277	185,856	196,159	61,820	21,400	38,718	2,155,714
No. of children in approved institutions	2,833	2,527	2,222	424	1,264	125	92	37	9,524
Amount paid during year (\$'000)	491,089	366,469	227,364	125,557	124,032	39,146	(a)	(e)	1,373,709

(a) Expenditure for N.T. and A.C.T. included in expenditure for S.A. and N.S.W. respectively.

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. 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 1983 was 27,909. The total amount paid through these allowances during the year 1982-83 was \$25,690,000.

Allowances association with the 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 residential and day-attendance rehabilitation centres, work adjustment centres, work preparation centres, and regional rehabilitation units.

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.

Since March 1983 persons undertaking a Commonwealth rehabilitation program and who would otherwise have been eligible for another pension or benefit were paid a rehabilitation allowance subject to an income test. 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. In 1982-83, 6108 persons commenced rehabilitation.

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 1983, was 18,621.

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 following table gives information regarding grants approved for each of the past three 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

		1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Grants approved	No.	161	119	230
Amount approved	\$'000	39,154	28,715	54,455
Beds provided—				
Self-contained	No.	396	324	751
Hostel	"	990	691	1,400
Nursing	"	1,676	1,031	1,455
Total	"	3,062	2,046	3,606

The Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act also provides a *personal care subsidy* 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. 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 1983

		N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Approved premises	No.	248	220	137	107	82	22	2	6	824
Residents qualifying	No.	6,508	5,583	4,132	3,237	2,473	596	39	108	22,676
Subsidies paid, 1982-83 . . .	\$'000	10,534	9,034	6,096	5,001	4,027	920	54	176	35,842

Handicapped people

Under the *Handicapped Persons Assistance Act* 1974 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.

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* is paid to organisations providing approved sheltered employment for each handicapped employee who graduates to open employment. During 1982-83 assistance was provided to 1147 organisations at a total cost of \$71,200,000.

Homeless people

The *Homeless Persons Assistance Act* 1974 helps 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 1982-83 was \$5,342,356.

The *Delivered Meals Subsidy Act* 1970 helps eligible organisations to establish, maintain, expand and improve 'meals on wheels' services. In 1982-83, 764 organisations had received a total subsidy of \$4,824,001 under the 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)**

	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Pre-school	31,183	33,005	33,090
Other child care	42,851	47,355	64,954
Total	74,034	80,360	98,044

Aboriginals

A referendum in May 1967 led to the repeal of section 127 of the Constitution which provided that, in reckoning the numbers for census purposes, Aboriginals should not be counted, and to the deletion of the words 'other than the Aboriginal race in any State' from section 51 (xxvi) which relates to the

power of the Commonwealth Parliament to make laws in respect to people of any race. The Constitutional amendment, in effect, gave the Commonwealth Government shared power with the State Governments in relation to Aborigines. The Commonwealth Government's aim is to help Aborigines become self-managing and self-sufficient while, at the same time, preserving and developing their own distinctive culture. The Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs which is responsible for policy, planning and co-ordination in respect of Aboriginal affairs at the national level has regional offices in all States and the Northern Territory.

The National Aboriginal Consultative Committee (NACC), established in 1973, was replaced in 1977 by the National Aboriginal Conference (NAC) whose 36 members are elected by Aborigines throughout Australia for three-year terms. Its role 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.

From 1 July 1981, the NAC Executive assumed the advisory functions and powers of the former Council for Aboriginal Development.

The Aboriginal Development Commission (ADC), an all-Aboriginal Commission, was established in 1980 by the Commonwealth Government as an independent body. The ADC assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups, communities and individuals to acquire land for a variety of purposes, engage in business enterprises, obtain finance for housing and other personal needs, and to receive training where necessary.

Migrants

Intake

The number of migrants who have come to Australia since the end of the Second World War is approaching the 4 million mark. These migrants have contributed significantly to Australia's population which has more than doubled, from 7.4 million at the end of 1945 to 15.1 million at the end of 1981. At the time of the 1981 Census, almost 22 per cent of Australia's population was overseas born. Post-war immigration peaked in 1970 with 185,300 settler arrivals, declined thereafter to a low of 54,100 in 1975, but has steadily increased again, to 118,700 in 1981 and 107,171 in 1982.

Accommodation of migrants

Migrant Centres provide a residential base for the provision of programs and services for newly arrived refugees and some other migrants.

There are 14 Migrant Centres located in all states and the N.T. with a capacity to accommodate up to 10,000 migrants and refugees. Additionally, 378 migrant transitory flats can accommodate up to 1,900 persons at any time.

Due to a downturn in demand for migrant centre accommodation the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs has closed 4 migrant centres, but two of these (Cabramatta and Fairy Meadow) continue to provide non-residential services such as English tuition and orientation classes.

The Commonwealth Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs has overall responsibility for migrant centres and flats with catering and accommodation services provided by Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services Limited on an agency basis.

Ethnic affairs—Services for migrants and refugees

The Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs provides services to facilitate the successful settlement and welfare of migrants and refugees.

In addition, the Department is responsible, through its Ethnic Affairs Division, for advancing policies designed to secure the successful settlement and integration of migrants into Australian society. These policies include fostering the preservation and sharing of the cultural heritage of migrant communities, and maintenance of harmonious inter-group relations in Australia's multicultural society. The Department provides advice to a number of other departments whose responsibilities are particularly important within this context.

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 with some outposted to migrant centres, 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. There has been an increase in the number of Grants-in-Aid for the employment of welfare workers by voluntary agencies from 140 to 200 in 1983-84.

The Department provides a free translation and interpreting service for migrants during the settlement period and offers a translation service to Commonwealth departments and other bodies for a fee. 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 and in a number of major provincial centres of migrant population. During the year ended 30 June 1983, a total of 290,000 calls was received by TIS.

Cost-sharing agreements have been concluded with the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland for the establishment or extension of State operated interpreting and translation services. New arrangements are being negotiated with some other States and the Northern Territory.

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. From 1 July 1983 it became an independent body funded mainly by the Commonwealth and States on a shared basis.

Twenty migrant resource centres and eight sub-centres have been established in areas of high migrant density. These resource centres 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.

The Adult Migrant Education Program (AMEP) provides a wide range of language learning opportunities, as well as offering information about Australia, its services and institutions. The Department is responsible for the funding and co-ordination of the program at the national level, while service delivery is provided in the main by Adult Migrant Education Services in each State and Territory.

In 1982-83 expenditure on the Adult Migrant Education Program was \$37,013,000. New enrolments in the Program nationally totalled just over 100,000 persons including 18,500 in courses for new arrivals.

The status of 'Australian citizen' was created under the *Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948* which came into force on 26 January 1949. The relevant Act is now the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* and under its provisions all new settlers regardless of origin, are required to satisfy uniform requirements for the grant of citizenship. A major review of the Act, which included public consultations in every State and Territory, has recently been completed. Amendments are expected to be introduced into Federal Parliament during 1983-84. In the financial year 1982-83, 101,287 applications for Australian citizenship were received compared with 78,178 in 1981-82 and 69,907 in 1980-81. Over 1.5 million new settlers have been granted Australian citizenship since 1945.

Further information is contained in the *Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Annual Review, Review '82*.

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 (DSHC) (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 (F.E.S.R.) and the Special Overseas Forces and, in certain circumstances, in the Regular Defence Forces or peacekeeping 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.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS (excl. DSHC): TOTAL EXPENDITURE(a) (\$'000)

Class	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83
Pensions, allowances and other benefits	799,264	860,229	966,072	1,193,181	1,329,871	1,719,058
Medical treatment	251,589	268,539	310,327	357,219	426,360	499,005
Administration	41,999	44,441	49,539	54,971	68,541	75,271
Works, rent and maintenance	17,477	21,301	27,881	24,587	22,136	26,968
Total expenditure	1,110,329	1,194,511	1,353,819	1,629,958	1,846,908	2,320,302

(a) Includes expenditure by Departments other than Veterans' Affairs as follows: 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; 1981-82, \$18,260,360; 1982-83, \$22,738,924.

Disability 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 pensions

The following table provides a summary of disability pensions according to the veteran's war/area of service. Statistics relating to miscellaneous disability pensions are included collectively in each table, with further details being provided later in this section.

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: 1982-83

		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 1983								
(b)	No.	28,056	340,015	9,340	22,523	10,318	221	410,473
Annual pension liability at 30 June 1983	\$'000	75,936	520,056	8,828	8,743	4,261	437	618,261
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1982-83	\$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	646,470
New claims granted	No.	203	8,723	321	1,497	2,652	24	13,420
Restorations	"	5	758	93	132	64	2	1,054
Pensions cancelled (gross)	"	33	3,496	446	543	320	8	4,846
Deaths of pensioners	"	3,023	8,623	93	49	18	9	11,815

(a) Includes Interim Forces. (b) Includes 4,285 student children over 16 years of age.

Classes of disability pensions

The following tables provide an analysis of the number of pensions in force, veteran's class of pension, new claims and deaths for 1982-83.

DISABILITY PENSIONS IN FORCE: 30 JUNE 1983

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	4,173	149,002	4,003	7,206	3,899	72	168,355
Wives and wives (widows)	10,900	140,964	3,234	5,514	2,698	75	163,385
Children (b)	8	8,522	1,603	9,316	3,481	6	22,936
War widows	12,700	38,841	359	195	113	66	52,274
Children of deceased veterans	1	473	68	190	122	-	854
Orphans	-	32	2	8	4	-	46
Other dependants	274	2,181	71	94	1	2	2,623
Total	28,056	340,015	9,340	22,523	10,318	221	410,473

(a) Includes Interim Forces. (b) Includes 3,797 student children over 16 years of age.

DISABILITY PENSIONS FOR INCAPACITATED VETERANS IN FORCE: BY CLASS OF PENSION
30 JUNE 1983

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea, Malaya and F.E.S.R.	Special Overseas Service	Peace time forces	Miscel- laneous	Total
Special Rate (T & P I) or equivalent	1,057	16,401	269	144	51	8	17,930
Intermediate Rate	34	1,287	30	15	1	-	1,367
General Rate—from 10 per cent to 100 per cent assessed disability	3,082	131,314	3,704	7,047	3,847	64	149,058
Total	4,173	149,002	4,003	7,206	3,899	72	168,355

(a) Includes Interim Forces

DISABILITY PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, 1982-83

<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	42	2,866	94	370	991	10	4,373
Wives and widows of veterans . . .	161	5,293	140	382	724	9	6,709
Children	-	545	85	740	936	5	2,311
Other dependants	-	19	2	5	1	-	27
Total	203	8,723	321	1,497	2,652	24	13,420

(a) Includes Interim Forces.

DISABILITY PENSIONS: DEATHS 1982-83

<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	880	5,460	66	37	13	2	6,458
Wives and widows of veterans . . .	2,120	2,977	27	10	4	6	5,144
Children	-	7	-	2	1	-	10
Other dependants	23	179	-	-	-	1	203
Total	3,023	8,623	93	49	18	9	11,815

(a) Includes Interim Forces.

Number of disability pensions and expenditure, States and Australia

The following table shows the number of pensions in force and expenditure to 30 June 1983, according to place of payment.

DISABILITY PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL EXPENDITURE

<i>Number of disability pensions in force at 30 June 1983(a)</i>					<i>Annual expenditure (b) (\$'000)</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>	
New South Wales(c)	60,841	65,153	20,228	146,222	249,540
Victoria	40,281	45,390	15,225	100,896	161,800
Queensland	29,670	33,574	8,411	71,655	105,016
South Australia(d)	15,525	17,470	4,831	37,826	52,581
Western Australia	14,149	16,390	4,187	34,726	44,394
Tasmania	7,062	7,836	1,907	16,805	28,887
Overseas	827	1,046	470	2,343	4,252
Total	168,355	186,859	55,259	410,473	646,470

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

Summary of disability pensions, 1977-78 to 1982-83

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 1977 to 1983.

DISABILITY PENSIONS

Year	Pensions granted	Deaths	Number of disability pensions in force at 30 June(a)			Total	Annual expenditure(b) (\$'000)
			Incapacitated veterans	Dependants of incapacitated veterans	Dependants of deceased veterans		
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
1981-82	7,325	11,648	170,546	190,970	51,614	413,130	510,675
1982-83	13,420	11,815	168,355	186,859	55,259	410,473	646,470

(a) Includes Interim Forces 1939-45 War.

(b) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows.

Miscellaneous disability 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 1983.

MISCELLANEOUS DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, 30 JUNE 1983

Class	Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1983			Total	Annual liability(b) (\$'000)
	Veterans(a)	Dependants of incapacitated veterans	Dependants of deceased veterans		
Seamen's war pension	69	80	36	185	
New Guinea civilians	2	1	32	35	
Total	71	81	68	220	

(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.

British Commonwealth and Allied mariners who served in a theatre of war in the 1939-45 war and who satisfied the ten year residency requirement are eligible as from 3 February 1983.

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 1982-83

		1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea- Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	British Common- wealth	Allied Forces	Miscell- aneous	Total
New claims granted	No.	185	46,048	543	230	8,030	1,176	800	57,012
Restorations	"	2	135	10	4	17	4	—	172
Cancellations (gross)	"	213	5,349	69	20	479	51	25	6,206
Deaths	"	1,407	7,624	64	8	418	72	11	9,604
Pensions in force at 30 June 1983	"	8,682	295,689	2,085	547	28,849	4,235	1,061	341,148
Annual liability at 30 June 1983	\$'000	28,417	756,051	7,190	1,835	96,587	13,720	3,512	907,312
Amount paid in pensions during 1982-83	\$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	105,795

Class of service pensions

The following tables give an analysis of the total number of pensions in force, new claims granted and deaths for 1982-83.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE, 30 JUNE 1983

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea- Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	British Common- wealth	Allied Forces	Miscell- aneous	Total
Veterans—								
old age	5,624	140,308	508	51	14,838	2,193	535	164,057
permanently unemployable	679	31,898	776	274	1,596	172	84	35,479
Tuberculosis(a)	16	917	14	1	8	—	—	956
Total	6,319	173,123	1,298	326	16,442	2,365	619	200,492
Wives and widows	2,363	122,566	787	221	12,407	1,870	442	140,656
Total	8,682	295,689	2,085	547	28,849	4,235	1,061	341,148

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

SERVICE PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED 1982-83

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea- Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	British Common- wealth	Allied Forces	Miscell- aneous	Total
Veterans	81	25,361	321	139	4,457	611	462	31,462
Wives and widows	104	20,687	222	91	3,573	535	338	25,550
Total	185	46,048	543	230	8,030	1,176	800	57,012

SERVICE PENSIONS: DEATHS 1982-83

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea- Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	British Common- wealth	Allied Forces	Miscell- aneous	Total
Veterans	1,243	6,408	51	8	334	45	9	8,098
Wives and widows	164	1,216	13	—	84	27	2	1,506
Total	1,407	7,624	64	8	418	72	11	9,604

Number of Service Pensions and Expenditure, States and Total

The following table shows the number of pensions in force and expenditure to 30 June 1983 according to place of payment.

**SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE AT 30 JUNE 1983 AND
ANNUAL EXPENDITURE 1982-83**

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)	67,208	47,064	114,272	357,650
Victoria	49,281	34,619	83,900	258,570
Queensland	36,786	26,095	62,881	196,924
South Australia(b)	21,029	14,957	35,986	110,202
Western Australia	17,448	11,898	29,346	90,417
Tasmania	8,118	5,620	13,738	42,347
Overseas	622	403	1,025	1,840
Total	200,492	140,656	341,148	1,057,950

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

The following table provides a summary of Service Pensions.

SERVICE PENSIONS

	<i>Pensions in Force</i>				<i>Annual expenditure (\$'000)</i>
	<i>Pensions granted</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Veterans</i>	<i>Depend- ants</i>	
1977-78	37,491	7,092	118,955	69,562	188,517
1978-79	36,607	7,827	131,792	80,630	212,422
1979-80	40,735	7,952	146,370	93,594	239,964
1980-81	46,189	8,966	163,237	108,841	272,078
1981-82	42,766	8,894	178,064	121,838	299,902
1982-83	57,012	9,604	200,492	140,656	341,148

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; 1939-45 War veterans receiving both service pension at any rate and disability pension at the 50 per cent rate or higher; 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 1983 was 2,795 and expenditure during 1982-83 amounted to \$193,147,811. In addition, expenditure of \$305,857,361 was incurred during 1982-83 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 to a level not exceeding 20 per cent of the total occupied beds of the hospital over a period of time.

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 1983

<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>N.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
General hospitals . . .	2,414	1,519	1,105	738	822	203	—	—	6,801
Other in-patient institutions	260	132	77	—	—	—	—	—	469
Limb and appliance centres	67	71	26	22	15	12	1	1	215
Total	2,741	1,722	1,208	760	837	215	1	1	7,485

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, 1982-83

	<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 . . .	648	376	369	249	269	84	1,995
Admissions and re-admissions during year	18,757	15,092	10,633	6,898	9,137	2,022	62,539
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>19,405</i>	<i>15,468</i>	<i>11,002</i>	<i>7,147</i>	<i>9,406</i>	<i>2,106</i>	<i>64,534</i>
Discharges	18,033	14,386	10,205	6,603	8,792	1,910	59,929
Deaths	714	632	412	289	312	104	2,463
In-patients at end of year	658	450	385	255	302	92	2,142
Average daily beds occupied	602	406	342	222	268	68	1,909
REPATRIATION AUXILIARY HOSPITALS							
In-patients at beginning of year . . .	132	106	63	—	—	—	301
Admissions and re-admissions during year	1,898	731	599	—	—	—	3,228
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>2,030</i>	<i>837</i>	<i>662</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>3,529</i>
Discharges	1,797	642	544	—	—	—	2,983
Deaths	61	69	59	—	—	—	189
In-patients at end of year	172	126	59	—	—	—	357
Average daily beds occupied	154	117	57	—	—	—	328

In addition to the repatriation institutions, eligible patients are treated in other country and metropolitan hospitals and nursing homes at departmental expense. During 1982-83, 46,575 Repatriation in-patients were accommodated and treated in country and metropolitan hospitals and 6,635 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 35 on trial leave, there were 442 repatriation patients in these hospitals at 30 June 1983.

Out-patient treatment is provided throughout Australia at repatriation hospitals and clinics and through the Repatriation Local Medical Officer Scheme. During 1982-83, 755,256 out-patients were treated at Repatriation institutions, and local medical officers consultations totalled 2,807,552. The number of Repatriation local medical officers in Australia at 30 June 1983 was 10,866.

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 (except where patients are eligible for compensation), 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 1982-83 are as follows: arms, 180; legs, 2,399; surgical and adapted footwear, 6,212; other surgical appliances, 915; and repairs, 25,835. In addition the Department purchased from commercial manufacturers 211 legs, 146 arms and 5,917 limb repairs.

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 \$500 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 1982-83 on general Repatriation benefits for all wars was \$14,672,000 comprising Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, \$2,572,000; recreation transport allowance, \$1,286,000; and other benefits, \$10,814,000.

As at 30 June 1982, trust and other funds administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs held \$56,000 in securities (face value) and \$1,287,000 in cash, a total of \$1,343,000.

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 1983, and the number of children in receipt of benefit at 30 June 1983.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: EXPENDITURE, 1982-83

(\$'000)

	N.S.W.(a)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.(b)	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
Cost of education of beneficiaries—							
Under 12 years of age	2.1	2.0	4.8	1.8	1.9	1.0	13.6
12 years of age and over	1,008.0	623.1	421.8	209.8	163.1	111.4	2,537.7
Total expenditure	1,010.1	625.1	426.6	211.6	165.0	112.4	(c) 2,551.3

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(c) Excludes overseas expenditure of \$20,500.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFITS AT 30 JUNE 1983

Type of training	N.S.W.(a)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.(b)	W.A.	Tas.	Over-seas	Total
At school—								
Primary (c)	143	69	116	42	41	29	—	440
Secondary	475	231	255	111	71	72	8	1,223
Total at school	618	300	371	153	112	101	8	1,663
Tertiary/professional	200	137	85	60	35	27	3	547
Technical	38	54	14	—	9	9	—	124
Industrial	26	11	3	17	5	15	—	77
Grand total	882	502	473	230	161	152	11	2,411

(a) Includes A.C.T.

(b) Includes N.T.

(c) Not in receipt of an education allowance.

Re-establishment benefits for former regular servicemen

Subject to prescribed conditions, vocational training and business loans are provided for former regular 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 Industrial Relations.

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 1982 was \$11,087,682. 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 1982 was \$17,191,753 (\$481,680 during 1982) distributed as follows:

- welfare relief, \$6,002,781 (\$305,792 during 1982)
- children's education, \$10,798,280 (\$175,440 during 1982)
- other schemes, \$390,692 (\$438 during 1982)

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

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Monthly Summary of Statistics, Australia (1304.0)

Social Indicators, Australia (4101.0)

National Accounts, National Income and Expenditure (5204.0)

Commonwealth Government Finance (5502.0)

State and Local Government Finance, Australia (5504.0)

