

CHAPTER 28

REPATRIATION

The Repatriation Commission, established under the *Repatriation Act* 1920–1965, 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 Repatriation Department. The central office is in Melbourne 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 war and service pensions to eligible ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and their dependants; the provision of medical treatment to ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen for injuries and illnesses caused or aggravated by their war service; the provision of medical treatment in certain circumstances to ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who are suffering from injuries and illnesses not caused or aggravated by war service; and the provision of medical treatment to widows and dependants of deceased ex-servicemen whose deaths are due to war service.

Benefits are provided in respect of service, not only in the 1914–18 and 1939–45 Wars, but also in the Korea and Malay operations and with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve and the Special Overseas Forces.

Other functions of the Repatriation Department are outlined in a later section of this chapter (*see page 1079*).

War pensions

The first provision for the payment of war pensions to ex-servicemen and 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 This Act was repealed in 1920 by the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act* 1920 (amended from 31 December 1950 to the Repatriation Act). The main features relating to war pensions under repatriation legislation are set out in the following paragraphs.

Eligibility for pensions

Claims for eligibility for war pensions are determined in the first instance by Repatriation Boards, of which there is one in each State of the Commonwealth. Members of women's services are eligible for pensions and other benefits, as prescribed in the Act, on the same basis as male members of the forces. 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. These provisions are summarized as follows.

A member of the forces who served (a) outside Australia, (b) in the Territories of Australia, such as Papua and New Guinea, or (c) within Australia in circumstances which can be regarded as combat against the enemy is covered for war pension purposes in respect of incapacity or death which may result from any occurrence that happened during the period from the date of his enlistment to the date of the termination of his service in respect of that enlistment.

In other cases where a member served only in Australia, incapacity or death to be pensionable must have been attributable to service.

There is a third ground applicable to all members except those with less than six months camp service. This provides that, where a condition existed at enlistment, a pension may accrue if it is considered that the condition was aggravated by service.

If, at any time after discharge, an ex-serviceman who served in a theatre of war becomes incapacitated or dies from pulmonary tuberculosis, war pension is payable as if the incapacity or death resulted from an occurrence on service. (*See also* Service pensions, page 1074.) Medical treatment may also be provided.

Korea and Malaya operations. The commencement of hostilities in Korea and Malaya in 1950 made necessary the insertion in the Repatriation Act of a new Division, under the terms of which the pension provisions of the Act were extended to Australian ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who served or were allotted for duty in prescribed operational areas. A new Regulation was also made, in 1951, to make such service personnel eligible for almost all the benefits available under the existing Regulations applicable to members of the forces.

Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act 1956–1964. Provision was made under this Act for Australian forces who served in South-east Asia as part of the British Commonwealth Strategic Reserve. This Act, together with Regulations made under it, gave members with Malayan service the right to many benefits available under the Repatriation Act.

Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act 1962–1964. This legislation provides repatriation benefits for serving members of the defence forces, the circumstances of whose service expose them to risks above the normal conditions of peace-time service. Regulations made under the Act prescribe special areas within which service qualifies for Repatriation benefits. These special areas now include Singapore, the whole of Malaysia and South Vietnam.

Rates

The main classes of war pensions are the special (T.P.I.) rate, the intermediate rate, the general rate, and the war widows' pension. These are not subject to a means test except where stated for certain classes of dependants.

The *special rate* of war pension is payable to those who are totally and permanently incapacitated and are unable to earn more than a negligible percentage of a living wage. The weekly rate is \$28.50, plus \$4.05 wife's allowance and \$1.38 for each child under sixteen years.

The *intermediate rate* of war pension, which previously applied only to certain cases of tuberculosis, was extended from 6 October 1965 to include ex-servicemen who, because of the severity of a war-caused incapacity, can only work part-time or intermittently and in consequence are unable to earn a living wage. The weekly rate is \$20.25, plus \$4.05 wife's allowance and \$1.38 for each child under sixteen years.

The *general rate* of war pension is the rate payable to those who suffer war-caused disabilities but are not thereby prevented from working, although their earning capacity may be reduced. The actual pension payable is assessed in accordance with the degree of incapacity suffered. The maximum (100 per cent) rate is \$12 a week. A wife and children under sixteen years also receive pensions at rates according to the assessed degree of incapacity of the ex-serviceman, the maximum being \$4.05 for a wife and \$1.38 for each child.

The *war widows' pension* is paid to widows of ex-servicemen who died as a result of war service and to their children under the age of sixteen years. A war widow's pension may also be paid to the widow of an ex-serviceman who was receiving, at the time of his death, the special rate of war pension or the rate payable to double amputees. The weekly rates are: widow, \$12; first child, \$3.90; second and each subsequent child, \$2.75.

Other dependants of an ex-serviceman who is suffering from a disability due to war service may be granted pensions under certain circumstances. Such pensions are subject to a means test and are assessed in accordance with the degree of the ex-serviceman's incapacity. Except in the case of a widowed mother of an unmarried ex-serviceman, other dependants are required to prove dependence on the ex-serviceman.

Allowances

The following allowances are provided in addition to pension.

Domestic allowance (\$7 a week). This is paid, in addition to pension, to a widow of an ex-serviceman whose death is due to war service, if she is fifty years of age; or is permanently unemployable; or has a dependent child under the age of sixteen years, or a dependent child over sixteen years being educated or trained and not in receipt of an adequate living wage.

Attendant's allowance (maximum rate \$10.50 a week). This allowance is paid, in addition to war pension, to certain classes of seriously disabled ex-servicemen, for example, war blinded, those who are paralysed, and certain double amputees.

Clothing allowance. A clothing allowance is paid at various rates (38c to 75c a week) to an ex-serviceman who, as a result of war service, has lost an arm or a leg or, because of an injury to a limb, is required to use a surgical aid or appliance. An amount not exceeding \$19.50 in any one year is also payable to certain other war disabled ex-servicemen.

Sustenance allowance. This allowance is paid where an ex-serviceman is prevented from following his normal occupation through treatment of a war-caused disability or while undergoing medical investigation. The rate payable, where out-patient treatment is being received for a period of up to four weeks, or in-patient medical investigation is being carried out, is the same as the general (100 per cent) rate pension, less the amount of any war pension being paid.

Where an ex-serviceman is receiving in-patient treatment for a war-caused disability, is undergoing periods of essential convalescence immediately following discharge from hospital, or is prevented from following his usual occupation because of the necessity of out-patient treatment for a war-caused disability for a continuous period in excess of four weeks, a higher rate to bring the sustenance allowance up to the equivalent of the special (T.P.I.) rate is paid.

A wife, and children under sixteen years, also have pensions increased to the current general or general special rate.

Recreation transport allowance. This allowance provides transport for recreation purposes and may be paid to an ex-serviceman who, as a result of war service, suffers certain amputations of the arms or legs or is seriously disabled to the extent that his powers of locomotion are negligible.

Other allowances and general assistance. These include a guardian's allowance, re-establishment loans and allowances, funeral benefits, vocational training allowances for education and training of children, fares and allowances for loss of remunerative time in connection with medical or pension purposes, and motor vehicle allowances for seriously disabled ex-servicemen.

Appeals tribunals

The principal Act was amended as from 1 June 1929 to create tribunals to hear appeals in respect of war pensions. War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunals are empowered to hear and decide any appeal by or on behalf of ex-servicemen or their dependants against decisions of a Repatriation Board or the Repatriation Commission that the incapacity or death of an ex-serviceman did not arise out of war service. Assessment Appeal Tribunals were created to hear and decide any appeal against a current assessment or a 'Nil' assessment of war pension made by a Repatriation Board or the Repatriation Commission in respect of the incapacity of an ex-serviceman which had been accepted as arising out of war service. Provision was made by subsequent legislation to enable the tribunals to hear appeals by certain members whose applications for a service pension had been refused on the grounds that they were not suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis or were permanently unemployable.

Summary of war pensions

The following tables provide a summary of war pensions (excluding miscellaneous war pensions) for the 1914-18 War, the 1939-45 War, the Korea and Malaya operations, the Far East Strategic Reserve, and the Special Overseas Service. Statistics relating to miscellaneous war pensions are shown on page 1074.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1964-65

	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service (a)	Total
New claims granted . . . No.	1,631	25,068	858	208	9	27,774
Restorations . . . No.	154	640	9	..	..	803
Claims rejected(b) . . . No.	1,481	5,525	231	49	..	7,286
Pensions cancelled (gross) No.	465	25,312	148	7	..	25,932
Deaths of pensioners . . . No.	5,522	4,781	35	1	..	10,339
Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1965 . . .	107,364	541,474	9,700	850	17	659,405
Annual pension liability at 30 June 1965 . . \$'000	47,730	92,015	1,031	76	3	140,854
Amount paid in pen- sions during the year 1964-65 . . . \$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	153,483

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1960-61 TO 1964-65

	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
New claims granted No.	30,275	34,337	36,118	32,235	27,774
Restorations No.	1,334	1,300	1,035	992	803
<i>Total additions</i>	<i>31,609</i>	<i>35,637</i>	<i>37,153</i>	<i>33,227</i>	<i>28,577</i>
Pensions cancelled (gross) No.	16,677	18,816	28,020	25,275	25,932
Deaths of pensioners No.	8,057	7,950	8,867	9,440	10,339
<i>Total reductions</i>	<i>24,734</i>	<i>26,766</i>	<i>36,887</i>	<i>34,715</i>	<i>36,271</i>

(a) See page 1068—*Repatriation (Special Overseas Services) Act 1962-1964.*

(b) Number of ex-servicemen who had their claims for all their disabilities rejected.

Classes of war pensions

The following tables provide an analysis of the total number of new claims granted, pensions in force and members on special rates for 1964-65.

WAR PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1964-65

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Total
Ex-servicemen	711	7,236	165	56	2	8,170
Wives of ex-servicemen	870	6,255	174	44	2	7,345
Children	41	11,165	516	108	5	11,835
Other dependants	9	412	3	..	..	424
Total	1,631	25,068	858	208	9	27,774

WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE: AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1965

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Total
Ex-servicemen	41,820	178,463	2,687	275	3	223,248
Wives	40,339	151,872	2,057	186	2	194,456
Children	675	178,720	4,613	349	6	184,363
War widows	23,675	18,439	94	10	2	42,220
Children of deceased ex-servicemen	113	6,405	129	26	3	6,676
Orphans	15	173	4	..	..	192
Parents	489	7,019	113	3	1	7,625
Brothers and sisters	42	99	3	..	..	144
Others	196	284	..	1	..	481
Total	107,364	541,474	9,700	850	17	659,405

WAR PENSIONS: MEMBERS ON SPECIAL RATES OR EQUIVALENT, AUSTRALIA
30 JUNE 1965

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Total
Totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen	11,845	10,215	42	..	..	22,102
Blinded ex-servicemen	199	238	2	..	..	439
Tuberculous ex-servicemen	357	232	6	..	..	595
Tuberculous ex-servicemen (intermediate rate)	79	221	3	..	..	303
Temporarily totally incapacitated ex-servicemen	272	1,548	23	2	..	1,845
Ex-servicemen suffering other disabilities	43	48	2	..	..	93
Total	12,795	12,502	78	2	..	25,377

Number of war pensions and annual liability, States, etc., 30 June 1965

The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability for each war, field of operations or service at 30 June 1965 according to place of payment. (The amount paid is shown on page 1073).

**WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY
STATES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1965**

Place of payment	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June 1965				Annual pension liability (\$'000)
	Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen	Total	
1914-18 WAR					
New South Wales(a)	13,415	13,099	8,294	34,808	15,845
Victoria	13,657	13,208	8,128	34,993	15,806
Queensland	5,614	5,396	2,481	13,491	6,405
South Australia(b)	3,322	3,442	1,919	8,683	3,698
Western Australia	3,255	3,581	1,636	8,472	2,987
Tasmania	1,750	1,663	1,013	4,426	2,174
Abroad	807	964	720	2,491	815
Total	41,820	41,353	24,191	107,364	47,730
1939-45 WAR					
New South Wales(a)	62,633	110,009	11,789	184,431	32,236
Victoria	48,761	92,214	8,349	149,324	24,728
Queensland	26,370	51,755	4,775	82,900	15,309
South Australia(b)	17,580	33,744	3,082	54,406	8,396
Western Australia	15,751	28,123	2,602	46,476	7,369
Tasmania	6,781	14,551	947	22,279	3,598
Abroad	587	768	303	1,658	379
Total	178,463	331,164	31,847	541,474	92,015
KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS					
New South Wales(a)	1,031	2,473	141	3,645	381
Victoria	619	1,446	61	2,126	219
Queensland	481	1,263	74	1,818	207
South Australia(b)	194	509	15	718	77
Western Australia	222	619	21	862	85
Tasmania	94	284	8	386	39
Abroad	46	79	20	145	22
Total	2,687	6,673	340	9,700	1,031
FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE					
New South Wales(a)	116	245	24	385	32
Victoria	47	68	5	120	12
Queensland	76	154	7	237	22
South Australia(b)	8	16	..	24	1
Western Australia	25	43	3	71	7
Tasmania	2	8	..	10	1
Abroad	1	2	..	3	1
Total	275	536	39	850	76

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY
STATES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1965—*continued*

Place of payment	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June 1965				Annual pension liability (\$'000)
	Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen	Total	
SPECIAL OVERSEAS SERVICE					
New South Wales(a)	..	5	1	6	1
Victoria	..	..	1	1	..
Queensland	2	3	..	5	..
South Australia(b)	1	..	..	1	..
Western Australia	..	..	4	4	1
Tasmania	..	..	..	..	..
Abroad	..	..	..	..	..
Total	3	8	6	17	3

TOTAL					
New South Wales(a)	77,195	125,831	20,249	223,275	48,495
Victoria	63,084	106,936	16,544	186,564	40,765
Queensland	32,543	58,571	7,337	98,451	21,944
South Australia(b)	21,105	37,711	5,016	63,832	12,173
Western Australia	19,253	32,366	4,266	55,885	10,448
Tasmania	8,627	16,506	1,968	27,101	5,813
Abroad	1,441	1,813	1,043	4,297	1,216
Grand total	223,248	379,734	56,423	659,405	140,854

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

Summary of war pensions

The following table shows, for each war, field of operations or service and in total, the number of pensions granted, claims rejected, pensions in force, and the annual liability for pensions in each of the years ended 30 June 1961 to 1965.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1960-61 TO 1964-65

Year	Pensions granted	Claims rejected (a)	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June				Annual pension liability at 30 June (\$'000)
			Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen	Total	
1914-18 WAR							
1960-61	2,094	2,085	50,338	48,205	22,743	121,286	46,035
1961-62	2,422	1,872	48,670	46,772	23,144	118,586	47,781
1962-63	2,394	1,854	46,606	45,212	23,566	115,384	47,410
1963-64	2,050	1,678	44,401	43,521	23,846	111,768	47,145
1964-65	1,631	1,481	41,820	41,353	24,191	107,364	47,730
1939-45 WAR							
1960-61	27,202	14,718	159,727	346,391	27,205	533,323	70,294
1961-62	30,794	7,030	165,101	350,297	28,506	543,904	77,107
1962-63	32,496	6,125	170,594	345,914	29,723	546,231	81,092
1963-64	29,119	6,113	175,301	341,272	30,803	547,376	85,336
1964-65	25,068	5,525	178,463	331,164	31,847	541,474	92,015

(a) The number of claimants who had the claims for all their disabilities rejected.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1960-61 TO 1964-65—continued

Year	Pensions granted	Claims rejected (a)	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June				Annual pension liability at 30 June (\$'000)
			Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen	Total	
KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS							
1960-61	913	848	2,043	4,247	261	6,551	703
1961-62	969	383	2,208	4,919	285	7,412	797
1962-63	1,035	342	2,412	5,618	290	8,320	876
1963-64	862	271	2,554	6,175	322	9,051	945
1964-65	858	231	2,687	6,673	340	9,700	1,031
FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE							
1960-61	66	118	53	62	15	130	15
1961-62	152	70	104	146	26	276	32
1962-63	193	48	166	264	36	466	48
1963-64	196	58	223	396	39	658	62
1964-65	208	49	275	536	39	850	76
SPECIAL OVERSEAS SERVICE(b)							
1963-64	8	..	1	5	2	8	1
1964-65	9	..	3	8	6	17	3
TOTAL							
1960-61	30,275	17,769	212,161	398,905	50,224	661,290	117,047
1961-62	34,337	9,355	216,083	402,134	51,961	670,178	125,718
1962-63	36,118	8,369	219,778	397,008	53,615	670,401	129,427
1963-64	32,235	8,120	222,480	391,369	55,012	668,861	133,489
1964-65	27,774	7,286	223,248	379,734	56,423	659,405	140,854

(a) The number of claimants who had the claims for all their disabilities rejected. (b) Not applicable prior to 1963-64.

The following table shows, for the years 1960-61 to 1964-65, the amounts paid in pensions and the places where they were paid.

WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID(a), STATES, ETC., 1960-61 TO 1964-65 (\$'000)

Place of payment	1960-61 (b)	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64 (b)	1964-65
New South Wales(c)	44,279	46,091	48,106	53,108	52,809
Victoria	39,794	40,281	41,815	45,526	45,064
Queensland	18,879	19,300	20,750	23,040	23,295
South Australia(d)	12,166	12,016	12,349	13,500	13,209
Western Australia	10,099	10,162	10,509	11,547	11,430
Tasmania	5,501	5,351	5,663	6,152	6,210
Abroad	1,523	1,605	1,539	1,656	1,466
Total	132,241	134,805	140,731	154,530	153,483

(a) Includes domestic allowances paid to widows. (b) Includes five twelve-weekly payments. (c) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (d) Includes Northern Territory.

Miscellaneous war pensions

The Commission is also responsible for the payment of pensions and allowances to beneficiaries under the *Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances Act 1940-1965*, the *Interim Forces Benefits Act 1947-1964*, the *Native Members of the Forces Benefits Act 1957-65*, and Cabinet decisions granting eligibility to persons who were attached to the armed forces during war time.

The following table shows the number of pensions under the various Acts, and the annual liability at 30 June 1965, and the table thereafter shows the amounts paid during the years 1960-61 to 1964-65 and the place of payment.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1965

Class	Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1965				Annual pension liability (\$'000)
	Members	Dependants of members	Dependants of deceased members	Total	
Act of grace	128	154	53	335	97
Seamen's war pension	71	106	64	241	58
New Guinea civilians	1	..	88	89	55
Interim forces	11	26	..	37	2
Native members of the forces	84	226	20	330	33
Total	295	512	225	1,032	245

**MISCELLANEOUS WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID, STATES, ETC.
1960-61 TO 1964-65
(\$'000)**

Place of payment	1960-61 (a)	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64 (a)	1964-65
New South Wales(b)	140	137	144	150	156
Victoria	67	66	67	71	70
Queensland	47	46	38	45	42
South Australia(c)	31	32	32	35	30
Western Australia	19	16	17	17	17
Tasmania	5	4	5	5	4
Abroad	4	2	3	..	1
Total	314	303	305	323	321

(a) Includes five twelve-weekly payments. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

Service pensions

The *Repatriation Act* 1920-1965 provides for a service pension to be paid, subject to a means test of income and property, to the following persons.

Ex-servicemen who served in a theatre of war and have attained the age of sixty years or are permanently unemployable;

Ex-servicemen who suffer from pulmonary tuberculosis, irrespective of the area of their service; and

Ex-servicewomen who suffer from tuberculosis, or 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.

Rates of pension

The maximum rate of service pension is the same as that paid to an age or invalid pensioner by the Department of Social Services. A single or married ex-serviceman receives a pension of \$12.00 a week. If, however, an ex-serviceman's wife is receiving a Social Service pension, a tuberculosis allowance or a service pension as a member of the forces, the rate is \$11.00 a week. The service pension of an ex-serviceman is increased by \$1.50 a week for each eligible child other than the first.

The maximum weekly rates payable to a service pensioner's wife and eligible children are: wife, \$6.00; first child, \$1.50; other children up to three in number, 25c each. *Eligible child* means a child of a service pensioner, under the age of sixteen years, or a child over that age who

is wholly or substantially dependent on the pensioner and is undergoing full-time education, in which case pension may continue until the child's twenty-first birthday.

Supplementary assistance of \$2.00 a week is paid in addition to service pension to an ex-serviceman who is paying rent, or for lodging, or board and lodging, and whose *means as assessed* do not exceed \$2.00 a week or \$4.00 a week if he is married. (The allowance is reduced if the *means as assessed* exceed these amounts.)

A service pensioner who is unmarried, widowed, divorced, or married but separated, and who has care and control of one or more children, qualifies for a guardian's allowance of \$4.00 a week.

The means test sets limits to the amount of income or property which a pensioner may have for the purpose of service pension. The amount of service pension payable depends upon the claimant's *means as assessed*, which consist of his annual rate of income plus a property component equal to 8c a fortnight for each complete unit of \$20 of net value of property above \$400. For married couples, except where they are separated or in other special circumstances, the income and property of each for purposes of applying the means test is taken to be half the total income and property of both, even if only one is a pensioner or claimant. A person's *means as assessed* may consist entirely of income, entirely of property, or of both income and property components. If a single person's *means as assessed* do not exceed \$7 a week, he receives the maximum rate of pension. If his *means as assessed* exceed \$7 a week, the rate payable is the maximum rate less the amount by which *means as assessed* exceed \$7 a week. If his *means as assessed* are \$19 a week or more, no service pension is payable.

Income means earnings and other forms of income derived from any source, with certain exceptions, of which the principal are: certain income derived from property, gifts or allowances from children, parents, brothers or sisters, benefits from friendly societies, child endowment, Commonwealth health benefits. The value of board and lodgings received by a pensioner, either *free or in return for services*, is normally assessed as income at \$1.25 a week. Property includes all real and personal property, such as houses, land, money in hand, in a bank or on loan, shares, investments or legacies, vehicles used for business purposes, and livestock. Property does not include an applicant's permanent home, furniture or personal effects, the surrender value of life insurance policies (up to \$1,500), the value of any reversionary interest, the capital value of any life interest, annuity or contingent interest, or vehicles maintained only for personal use.

Eligibility for service pensions was extended on 1 November 1941 to veterans of the South African War 1899-1902 and in 1943 to members of the Forces of the 1939-45 War. Members of the Forces who served in Korea and those who served in Malaya prior to the commencement of the *Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act 1956-1964* are also eligible.

An ex-serviceman or ex-servicewoman in receipt of a service pension is entitled, with certain exceptions, to free medical benefits for disabilities not caused by war. 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.

Operations, 1964-65

The following tables give a summary of service pensions.

SERVICE PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1964-65

	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea-Malaya Operations	Miscellaneous (a)	Total
New claims granted. No.	13	3,504	4,606	14	72	8,209
Restorations . . . No.	..	532	503	..	..	1,035
Cancellations (gross) No.	7	2,354	2,528	29	15	4,933
Deaths . . . No.	35	3,133	771	2	3	3,944
Pensions in force at 30 June 1965 . No.	354	45,495	19,023	52	254	65,178
Annual liability at 30 June 1965 . \$'000	138	19,679	5,771	12	85	25,685
Amount paid in pensions during 1964-65 . \$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	25,508

(a) Includes native members of the forces and act of grace pensions.

SERVICE PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1960-61 TO 1964-65

—	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
New claims granted . No.	9,928	13,007	11,485	9,822	8,209
Restorations . No.	860	926	962	1,065	1,035
<i>Total additions</i> . No.	<i>10,788</i>	<i>13,933</i>	<i>12,447</i>	<i>10,887</i>	<i>9,244</i>
Cancellations (gross) . No.	3,838	3,925	4,595	4,675	4,933
Deaths . No.	2,455	2,736	3,274	3,572	3,944
<i>Total reductions</i> . No.	<i>6,293</i>	<i>6,661</i>	<i>7,869</i>	<i>8,247</i>	<i>8,877</i>

Classes of service pensions

The following tables provide analysis of the total number of new claims granted and pensions in force for 1964-65.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1964-65

Class	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea-Malaya operations	Miscellaneous	Total
Ex-servicemen	13	2,986	2,654	5	..	5,658
Wives of ex-servicemen . . . . .	..	393	938	2	..	1,333
Children . . . . .	..	125	1,014	7	..	1,146
Other . . . . .	..	..	..	..	72	72
Total	13	3,504	4,606	14	72	8,209

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE, STATES, 30 JUNE 1965

State	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea-Malaya Operations	Miscellaneous	Total
New South Wales(a)	157	14,706	5,729	17	..	20,609
Victoria	62	11,961	3,983	5	3	16,014
Queensland	49	7,045	4,002	19	247	11,362
South Australia(b)	40	5,185	1,527	..	3	6,755
Western Australia	35	4,911	2,824	9	1	7,780
Tasmania	11	1,687	958	2	..	2,658
Australia	354	45,495	19,023	52	254	65,178

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

Number, by class, of service pensions and amount paid

The following tables show the number of each class of service pension in force, the annual liability and the amounts paid for the years 1960-61 to 1964-65.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER OF EACH CLASS OF PENSION AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, AUSTRALIA, 1960-61 TO 1964-65

Year	Number of service pensions at 30 June payable to—						Annual pension liability at 30 June (\$'000)	
	Aged ex-service-men	Ex-servicemen who are—		Dependants ^(a) of ex-servicemen where the ex-serviceman is—		Miscellaneous ^(b)		
		Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis	Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis			Total
1960-61	22,125	12,645	1,273	12,520	1,739	..	50,302	16,688
1961-62	27,479	13,603	1,246	13,597	1,663	..	57,588	20,860
1962-63	30,818	14,278	1,160	14,368	1,537	..	62,161	22,759
1963-64 ^(b)	32,834	14,471	1,118	14,701	1,464	200	64,788	24,652
1964-65	33,938	14,222	1,076	14,336	1,352	254	65,178	25,685

^(a) Includes dependants of deceased service pensioners. ^(b) Miscellaneous service pensions were not applicable prior to 1963-64.

SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID, STATES, ETC., 1960-61 TO 1964-65
(\$'000)

Place of payment	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65
New South Wales ^(a)	5,470	6,313	7,095	7,981	8,494
Victoria	3,461	4,244	4,949	5,654	5,974
Queensland	2,426	3,250	3,362	3,823	4,048
South Australia ^(b)	1,525	2,193	2,487	2,689	2,766
Western Australia	2,102	2,687	2,927	3,177	3,320
Tasmania	581	736	837	874	904
Abroad . . . . .	..	..	..	..	2
Australia	15,565	19,423	21,657	24,198	25,508

^(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. ^(b) Includes Northern Territory. ^(c) Excludes payment for 200 miscellaneous service pensions. This type of service pension was not payable prior to 1963-64.

Medical treatment for ex-servicemen and dependants of ex-servicemen

Medical treatment is provided for all disabilities which have been accepted as due to war service. In addition, and subject to certain conditions, treatment is provided for disabilities not due to war service for: ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen receiving war pensions at or exceeding the maximum general (100 per cent) rate; ex-servicemen who have contracted pulmonary tuberculosis; nurses who served in the 1914-18 war; widows and certain dependants of ex-servicemen whose deaths have been accepted as due to war service and of deceased T.P.I. pensioners; and service pensioners, including service pensioners of the Boer War.

In-patient treatment for eligible patients is provided at the six Repatriation General Hospitals (one in each State) and eight auxiliary hospitals and sanatoriums as follows: *New South Wales*—Lady Davidson Hospital; *Victoria*—McLeod Hospital and Anzac Hostel; *Queensland*—Kenmore Hospital, Rosemount Hospital and Anzac Hostel; *South Australia*—Biralee Hospital; and *Western Australia*—The Edward Millen Hospital. The Anzac Hostels specialize in the care and treatment of long-term patients.

The total number of available beds for patients in open wards or parts of wards in all these institutions at 30 June 1965 was 4,378, and expenditure amounted to \$21,593,458. In addition, expenditure of \$24,950,910 was incurred on medical services outside these institutions.

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 STAFF
STATES, 30 JUNE 1965**

Type of institution	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
General hospitals—							
Medical staff	102	73	33	23	28	7	266
Nursing staff	790	505	258	196	191	51	1,991
Other staff	1,070	753	471	305	429	104	3,132
<i>Total, general hospitals</i>	<i>1,962</i>	<i>1,331</i>	<i>762</i>	<i>524</i>	<i>648</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>5,389</i>
Other in-patient institutions(a)	217	111	175	37	34	..	574
Out-patient clinics(a)	164	73	22	34	22	..	315
Limb and appliance centres(a)	67	69	30	20	13	11	210
Grand total	2,410	1,584	989	615	717	173	6,488

(a) Total staff.

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 cases, e.g. a person who is admitted to hospital twice during a year is counted twice.

**REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: IN-PATIENTS
TREATED, STATES, 1964-65**

—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
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REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS

In-patients at beginning of year	1,445	822	535	317	446	116	3,681
Admissions and re-admissions during year	19,099	10,273	8,721	4,677	5,939	1,569	50,278
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>20,544</i>	<i>11,095</i>	<i>9,256</i>	<i>4,994</i>	<i>6,385</i>	<i>1,685</i>	<i>53,959</i>
Discharges	18,103	9,480	8,365	4,328	5,596	1,491	47,363
Deaths	1,044	853	354	319	387	81	3,038
In-patients at end of year	1,397	762	537	347	402	113	3,558
Average daily number resident	1,318	756	485	305	406	99	3,369

OTHER REPATRIATION INSTITUTIONS

In-patients at beginning of year	221	88	136	35	28	..	508
Admissions and re-admissions during year	1,551	261	849	70	210	..	2,941
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>1,772</i>	<i>349</i>	<i>985</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>238</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>3,449</i>
Average daily number resident	200	101	130	29	27	..	487

In addition to the Repatriation institutions, eligible patients may be treated in other country and metropolitan hospitals and nursing homes at Repatriation expense. During 1964-65, 14,368 Repatriation in-patients were accommodated and treated in hospitals and 420 in nursing homes.

Repatriation psychiatric patients requiring custodial care are, by agreement with the State Governments, accommodated at the expense of the Repatriation Department in separate wings of psychiatric hospitals administered by the State authorities. At 30 June 1965 there were 870 Repatriation patients in these hospitals.

Out-patient treatment is provided throughout the Commonwealth at Repatriation hospitals and clinics and through the Repatriation Local Medical Officer Scheme. During 1964-65, 555,771 out-patients were treated at Repatriation institutions and visits to or by local medical officers totalled 2,620,683.

General repatriation benefits and miscellaneous

Other Repatriation Department activities

The activities of the Department in respect of general benefits for the welfare of ex-servicemen and dependants concern mainly education and training of children under the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme (see pages 1080-1), medical benefits for widows and children of deceased ex-servicemen and for widowed mothers of deceased unmarried ex-servicemen, funeral expenses for certain classes of ex-servicemen and dependants, and allowances to certain classes of dependants.

These and new benefits designed for the re-establishment of servicemen and servicewomen after discharge were extended and made available by legislation passed in June 1940 to servicemen and servicewomen engaged in the 1939-45 War, and in November 1950 and May 1963 to those engaged in the Korea and Malaya operations and to those serving in such other areas as may be prescribed under the *Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act* 1962-65, respectively. The re-establishment benefits generally administered by the Repatriation Commission are: payment of re-employment allowance while awaiting employment; provision of tools of trade and equipment where they are necessary to employment; transportation expenses to meet the cost of fares and removal of household belongings where an ex-serviceman takes up training, employment, or a business, or settles on the land; supplements to wages of apprentices whose apprenticeships were interrupted by war service; re-establishment loans to enable ex-servicemen and widows to establish themselves in business, practices or occupations, including (until the Division of War Service Land Settlement began operations early in 1946) agricultural occupations; payment of re-establishment allowance during the early stages of establishment in business; gifts up to \$150 for furniture to ex-servicemen who are blind or totally and permanently incapacitated, also to widows with children under sixteen years of age; and free passages to Australia for wives, widows and children of ex-servicemen who married abroad (and passages outward from Australia in certain cases of ex-servicemen and dependants).

In 1949 the Department took over the functions of the Re-establishment Division of the former Department of Post-War Reconstruction and became responsible for the co-ordination of all matters relating to training under the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme. This scheme is now concluded, the prescribed time limits for eligibility having expired. Re-establishment of the more seriously disabled, where ordinary training is not sufficient, continues to be a function of the Department, and special means have to be found to overcome each problem.

Expenditure in 1964-65 on general repatriation benefits for all wars was \$3,474,000, comprising expenditure on business loans, \$2,000; Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, \$2,282,000; recreation transport allowance, \$590,000; and other benefits \$600,000. In addition, \$58,000 was expended by other Commonwealth authorities on Repatriation employment and vocational training.

Expenditure by the Repatriation Department, 1964-65

The net expenditure by the Department for the year ended 30 June 1965 was \$242,005,016 distributed as follows.

	\$'000
Pensions, allowances and other benefits	182,787
Medical treatment	46,544
Administration	9,631
Works, rent and maintenance	3,042
Total	242,005

Soldiers' Children Education Scheme

The Soldiers' Children Education Scheme was established in 1921 and operates with the assistance of voluntary Education Boards in each State. These Boards consist of representatives of government and non-government education authorities and of ex-service and other organizations which have a general interest in the welfare of the children of ex-servicemen. 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. Eligible children are children of ex-servicemen whose deaths have been accepted as due to war service; or of ex-servicemen who died from causes not due to war service but who were receiving at the date of death a war pension at a special rate for blindness, total and permanent incapacity, pulmonary tuberculosis, or for amputation of two or more limbs; or of ex-servicemen who, as a result of war service, are blinded, totally and permanently incapacitated, or receiving the special rate pension for pulmonary tuberculosis and are likely to receive such pension for a period of at least three years.

General benefits. From the commencement of primary education up to twelve years, school requisites and fares are provided. An education allowance is also payable for a child from commencement of secondary education or from the age of twelve years, whichever is the earlier, while the child is undertaking primary or secondary education. Further assistance beyond, or parallel with, the later years of secondary education is provided where an approved beneficiary continues with a course of specialized education or training necessary for a career. Specialized education covers a wide range and may include: professional degree or diploma courses at universities and technical colleges; theological training; cadet and pupilage training, i.e. training combined with employment, such as nursing, pharmacy and journalism; industrial, including apprenticeship, training, and other courses of trade and business training approved by an Education Board; and agricultural training at an agricultural college. At this stage of training, in addition to the education allowance, fees are paid and text books, essential equipment and other minor benefits provided.

All education allowances are subject to an allowed income limit test; i.e. the amount of education allowance payable depends upon the amount of income a child receives over the allowed limit. The child's income for the purpose of determining the allowance payable means earnings from employment and other earnings from personal exertion and such portion of a scholarship, bursary or grant as the Education Board determines to be income. Income does not include war or service pensions paid for the child or any similar payment, income the child receives from private means, or income from casual employment during the entire period of a school or university vacation where the student is to continue as a full-time student under the scheme after the vacation. The parent's income does not affect the child's allowance. The scale of maximum allowances payable to eligible children at various stages of education is as follows.

**SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME
WEEKLY RATES OF ALLOWANCES, JANUARY 1966**

Type of training	Living at home	Living away from home
At school—	\$	\$
Aged 12 and under 14 years	1.90	6.32
Aged 14 and under 16 years	2.88	6.32
Aged 16 and under 18 years	6.32	9.78
Professional (university, etc.)	10.00	15.25
Agricultural . . . . .	. . . . .	3.18
Industrial (apprenticeship, etc.)	2.30	4.60

The following tables show the costs of education under the scheme for the year ended 30 June 1965 and the number of children in receipt of benefit at 30 June 1965.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: EXPENDITURE, 1964-65
(\\$'000)

	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Qld	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
Cost of education of beneficiaries—							
Under 12 years of age	8	7	8	3	2	1	29
12 years of age and over	820	575	391	219	153	83	2,240
Total expenditure	828	581	398	222	154	84	(c) 2,269

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Excludes overseas expenditure of \$12,000.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFITS(a)
AT 30 JUNE 1965

Type of training	N.S.W. (b)	Vic.	Qld	S.A. (c)	W.A.	Tas.	Abroad	Total
At school—								
Aged 12 and under								
14 years	911	626	469	216	200	146	4	2,572
Aged 14 and under								
16 years	1,116	762	562	291	235	184	8	3,158
Aged 16 and under								
18 years	504	540	249	185	126	71	16	1,691
Total at school	2,531	1,928	1,280	692	561	401	28	7,421
Professional	355	292	187	150	67	22	13	1,086
Agricultural	13	13	6	3	4	..	1	40
Industrial	13	15	..	6	21	..	..	55
Grand total	2,912	2,248	1,473	851	653	423	42	8,602

(a) Refers only to children in receipt of an education allowance. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

Settlement of returned service personnel on the land

Reference to the settlement of returned service personnel on the land will be found in the chapter Land Tenure and Settlement.

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 1965 was \$11,053,986. 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 ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen, and that the balance of the Fund should be used to provide relief for ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and their dependants in necessitous circumstances.

The Fund is administered by eleven 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 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. They 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 schemes for providing welfare relief for ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who are eligible for benefits and for their dependants; benefits for children of eligible ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who are suffering from serious and incapacitating afflictions; and education benefits for the children of eligible ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen. From its inauguration in 1947 the Fund is to be available for forty years for welfare relief and for thirty years for educational benefits.

Welfare relief. The trustees have prescribed a policy for welfare relief which makes assistance available only to those who are in genuine distress from which they cannot extricate themselves by their own efforts. To 31 December 1965, \$2,884,150 has been granted as welfare relief from the Fund, \$1,824,378 to ex-servicemen and their dependants, and \$1,059,772 to widows and orphans. The amount granted during 1965 was \$170,388. A total of 32,398 ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and 15,285 widows and orphans were granted welfare assistance from the Fund to 31 December 1965.

Assistance under Afflicted Children's Scheme. The Fund assists dependent children suffering from afflictions which permanently disable or seriously retard their progress or prevent the enjoyment of normal health and strength, and who face a prospect of dependence on others for all or part of their lives. The extent to which assistance will be granted in a particular case depends largely on the nature of the child's affliction, the facilities available, the family circumstances, and the funds that can be made available. Up to 31 December 1965, 2,538 afflicted children had been assisted under the Afflicted Children's Scheme, involving an expenditure of \$277,782. The amount granted during 1965 was \$13,480. The number of new children assisted in 1965 was 59.

Educational Assistance Scheme. Educational assistance is restricted to children who are fifteen years of age and over, thirteen years and over where there are exceptional circumstances, and twelve years in the case of orphans. The object is to assist eligible children to obtain the highest education within their capacity. Assistance is in the form of awards ranging from \$10 to \$400 a year depending on the nature of the course undertaken and the family circumstances. These awards are granted chiefly for children at secondary education level, but are also available for other types of education. They are designed to cover, or contribute towards, the cost of essential books, fees in cases where government school courses are not available, fares between the child's home and school, essential equipment and material, uniforms in certain cases, and maintenance for the child while at school. Higher training awards are provided for selected students for post-graduate study, in Australia or overseas, in the ancillary services to medicine, welfare and science, and also for selected craftsmen to gain experience in their trade overseas. One post-graduate scholarship is provided each year for study overseas, valued at \$2,000 per annum for up to three years.

The number of children assisted under the educational assistance scheme to 31 December 1965 was 47,099, and the expenditure on educational awards, post-graduate scholarships and higher training awards to 31 December 1965 was \$5,652,522. The number granted in 1965 was 7,031 at a value of \$603,634.

Total assistance. The total assistance granted under the three schemes during 1965 was \$787,502 and from the inception of the Fund to 31 December 1965 totalled \$8,814,454.