

## SOCIAL WELFARE

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### COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

#### **Commonwealth Commission of Inquiry into Poverty**

The first main report of the Commission published in 1975 recommended increases in child endowment (now known as family allowances) for large families and in pensions and benefits to bring the recipients above the poverty line. In order to achieve a comprehensive system of income security in the medium term it recommended a universal two tier guaranteed minimum income scheme.

Another recommendation of the first main report was that, because direct income support was more effective than public housing, subsidies should be paid to poor persons wishing to buy dwellings and to help those renting privately. The Commission also recommended subsidies to self-help and voluntary groups and an expansion of general welfare services by local government.

The report on law and poverty published in October 1975, stressed that "for the legal system to realise fully the goal of equality before the law it must become more responsive to the needs of poor people and a positive force for the elimination of poverty". A comprehensive legal aid system was recommended to overcome the need in several badly neglected areas of law particularly important to poor people.

The report on social and medical aspects of poverty in Australia was published in November 1976. It criticised the separation of psychiatric services from physical health and general community services and recommended the establishment of a comprehensive service. For Aborigines, recommendations for improved housing and sanitation, more effective education, increased employment opportunities, and an extension of better quality health services were made.

The report on poverty and education in Australia emphasised the disadvantages suffered by some poor children who do not succeed at school, leave school early, receive little help or guidance in moving to their first job, and then feel they have failed at school and at work. The report therefore recommended additional vocational guidance and improvements in the youth employment service. It also recommended the establishment by schools of effective two way communication with families and for Aboriginal control to be increased over predominantly Aboriginal schools in traditional areas.

**Further reference, 1977**

#### **Social welfare programmes\***

##### *Introduction*

The Commonwealth Department of Social Security is the Commonwealth Government's main administering authority for social welfare. Programmes

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\* The information contained in this section was accurate as of 30 June 1977. As the details of programmes often change quite rapidly, the information can only be vouched for as a record until this date.

administered by this Department range from direct transfer payments to individuals, through grants to organisations, to direct welfare services production.

The Department of Social Security was established in 1972 from an amalgamation of the former Department of Social Services and the Health Insurance and Benefits Division of the Department of Health. The Department's role then became one of servicing the needs of people in the areas of social security, welfare services, and health insurance. In January 1976, the health insurance function was transferred back to the Department of Health. In March 1975, most of the Social Welfare Section of the former Department of Immigration was transferred to the Department of Social Security.

The Department of Social Security offers its services at a number of decentralised locations. This decentralisation programme, which was begun in 1947, has continued steadily and in 1977 there were twenty-four regional and district offices located at Ballarat, Bendigo, Box Hill, Dandenong, Footscray, Frankston, Geelong, Glenroy, Greensborough, Hamilton, Horsham, Mildura, Moonee Ponds, Morwell, Oakleigh, Prahran, Preston, Richmond, Sale, Shepparton, Sunshine, Wangaratta, Warrnambool, and Werribee.

Summary details for expenditure under the various Acts and experimental programmes (i.e., those without a specific legislative base) can be found on pages 708-9.

The various programmes administered and developed by the Department of Social Security can be divided into the following three categories:

- (1) Transfer payments to individual citizens;
- (2) grants to organisations to produce welfare services; and
- (3) welfare service production.

#### *Transfer payments to individual citizens*

The transfer payments to individuals provided under the Social Services Act, with the date of introduction of each in brackets, are: age pensions (1909), invalid pensions (1910), widows' pensions (1942), funeral benefits (1943), unemployment, sickness, and special benefits (1945), and supporting mother's benefits (1973), all of which are now subject to an income test; and maternity allowances (1912), family allowances (1941), orphan's pensions (1973), and handicapped child's allowances (1975), which are not subject to a means test. Payments through the State Government to individuals are made under the *State Grants (Deserted Wives) Act* 1968.

Each of the payments has a set of eligibility requirements which differ and are based upon criteria such as period of residence in Australia, age, income from labour, and other sources.

From 1 July 1976 all pensions and benefits, with the exception of invalid pension paid to a person under age pension age (65 years for men and 60 years for women) and wife's pension paid to the wife of an invalid pensioner where both are under age pension age, are taxable income.

Allowances paid in connection with pension, i.e., additional pension for children, guardian's allowance, and supplementary assistance are not taxable income. However, payments for children made in connection with unemployment, sickness, and special benefits are included as the recipients' taxable income and supplementary allowance paid in connection with sickness benefit is taxable income.

With the introduction of the Medibank levy from 1 October 1976 the payments above are included with taxable income in deciding whether a levy or what amount of levy is payable. However, pensioners who have a Health Benefits Card (PMS2) do not have to pay a levy.

If individuals are dissatisfied with decisions made by the Department on pensions, benefits, or allowances they have claimed, they may appeal to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal. The Tribunal makes recommendations to the

Department on whether such appeals should be allowed. The Tribunal officially commenced operating in Victoria on 10 February 1975 and consists of two part-time members, who are not public servants, and a representative of the Department. During 1976-77 the Tribunal had received 5,331 appeals from clients, and of these appeals 4,689 had been finalised. During 1976-77, 2,309 appeals resulted in the Department voluntarily reviewing its decision, 388 appeals were determined by the Tribunal in favour of the appellant, and 2,879 against the appellant. All recommendations made by the Tribunal have been accepted by the Department.

### *Age pensions*

Age pensions, or old-age pensions as they were called from 1909 to 1947, were the first of the income security benefits to be introduced on an Australia-wide basis. The rates of pension and the qualifying conditions have changed over the years and additional benefits have become payable but, fundamentally, the provisions have not altered markedly. The main essentials for 1977 were that pensions were granted subject to age and residence requirements, and a test on income and property on people who were not blind and were aged up to and including 69 years.

Since 1973, age pensions for persons aged 75 years and over have been free of the means test. In 1975 the means test was abolished for persons aged 70 years and over. Pensions were increased twice in 1975-76 and 1976-77. From 25 November 1976 an income only test has applied and the value of property has been no longer taken into account. Pensions are adjusted twice yearly in May and November according to movements in the Consumer Price Index.

On 30 June 1977, there were 1,230,512 age pensioners in Australia (the Victorian total being 335,994, of whom 68.5 per cent were women). The main reasons for the preponderance of women are that they may be granted age pensions five years earlier than men (i.e., at 60 years of age as against 65 years of age) and that they generally live longer than men.

There were also 172,300 age pensioners in Australia (14.3 per cent of total age pensioners) receiving supplementary assistance. The proportion of persons receiving age pensions in the population of pensionable aged people has shown a long-term increase. At the 1911 Census the percentage was 32 per cent and by the 1976 Census it had reached 79 per cent.

Some people of pensionable age are receiving invalid or widow's pensions, or service pensions from the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs (see pages 709-11).

### *Invalid pensions*

The original Commonwealth pensions legislation contained provisions for invalid as well as age pensions and, although some of the qualifying conditions necessarily differ, the two schemes have many common characteristics. This applies more particularly to the means test provisions. As with age pensions, the conditions have changed over the years, but there have always been the fundamental requirements connected with age, incapacity, residence, and income. Abolition of the means test in 1973 for residually qualified persons over 75 years of age, and in 1975 for persons of 70 years of age and over, does not apply to invalid pensioners. Increases for 1976-77 were as for age pensions. Also, the new income test applied from 25 November 1976.

The wife of an age or invalid pensioner may receive a pension of an equivalent rate to her husband if she is residing with him and does not qualify for a pension in her own right. However, if the husband receives an age pension free of the new income test, the wife's pension may be less as it remains subject to the income test.

On 30 June 1977 there were 246,647 persons in Australia receiving invalid pensions, of whom 133,209 were men. The Victorian component was 58,335 of whom 32,001 were men. There were also 86,400 invalid pensioners in Australia (42.6 per cent of total invalid pensioners) receiving supplementary assistance.

#### *Widow's pensions*

For widow's pensions purposes the term "widow" may include, in certain circumstances, a woman whose husband has deserted her for at least six months, a divorcee, a woman whose husband has been imprisoned for at least six months, a woman whose husband is in a mental hospital, and a woman who was the dependant of a man for at least three years immediately before his death. Increases during 1976-77 and changeover to the new income test are as for the age pension. The rate of supplementary assistance was also increased in 1974. On 30 June 1977, there were 139,485 widow pensioners in Australia.

#### *Concessions for pensioners*

In addition to the normal payments, there are a number of other concessions and services available to the types of pensioners already mentioned, who qualify under a separate means test. Such fringe benefits are provided by organisations other than the Department of Social Security and include the pensioner health benefits service, hearing aids for pensioners, municipal rate rebates, water and sewerage rate rebates, telephone rental concessions, and transport concessions on Commonwealth Government trains, Victorian Government trains, trams, and buses, and on buses operated by private companies. A reciprocal arrangement with the Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania, New South Wales, and South Australia permits Victorian pensioners to obtain transport concessions when visiting those States or Territory.

#### *Funeral benefits*

Where a pensioner is responsible for the funeral expenses of another pensioner, a recipient of a wife's pension, a person receiving a tuberculosis allowance who is otherwise qualified for a pension, or his children or his non-pensioner spouse, that pensioner may qualify for a funeral benefit up to a maximum of \$40.

Where a person other than a pensioner is responsible for the funeral expenses of an age or invalid pensioner, or a person receiving a tuberculosis allowance, a funeral benefit up to a maximum of \$20 may be granted.

Expenditure on funeral benefits during the year 1976-77 was \$1,528,000 for Australia, and \$383,000 for Victoria.

#### *Unemployment, sickness, and special benefits*

Legislation for these benefits was enacted in 1944 and the programme came into operation in the following year. An important feature of the Unemployment and Sickness Benefit Act was the provision it made for granting what was termed "special benefit". Special benefit was designed to provide for persons who could not qualify for those benefits or who were ineligible for age, invalid, widow's, or service pensions. It was to be granted to a person who, because of age, physical or mental disability, or domestic, or other circumstances, was unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants.

Rates of benefit were increased in 1952, 1961, and 1962, and permissible income was raised in 1957. Unemployment and sickness benefits are essentially short-term benefits. They are available to persons who are unemployed or who are temporarily incapacitated for work. Unemployed persons need not have suffered a loss of income. However, a person claiming sickness benefits must have suffered a loss of income as a direct result of his or her incapacity to work.

There is a means test on income, but none on property. The one year's residence qualification is waived where the Department is satisfied that the claimant intends to remain in Australia permanently. Liberalisation of the means test in 1960 provided for the recovery of sickness benefits from compensation in certain circumstances, and the waiting period of seven days for unemployment and sickness benefits was changed so that it is now only necessary to be served once in any period of thirteen weeks.

In March 1962 the additional benefit for one dependant child was extended to all dependent children under 16 years of age in the family of the beneficiary. The rate of benefit was increased again in 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, and 1977. From March 1973 the rates of pensions and benefits were brought into parity and this resulted in the abolition of the long-term rate of sickness benefit. A married rate was also introduced and an additional benefit was extended to include student children over 16 years of age. From 13 January 1975 for unemployment benefits and from 24 May 1975 for sickness benefits, benefit payments were made one week in advance rather than one week in arrears as previously. Payments were altered to cover fortnightly instalments on a trial basis from 23 March 1976.

The number of unemployment benefits granted varies from one year to another, according to the general employment situation and to dislocations in industry caused by industrial stoppages and structural factors. During 1976-77 a total of 803,461 unemployment benefits were granted in Australia, and on 30 June 1977 there were 250,309 persons receiving benefit. Comparable figures for Victoria were 163,677 and 55,500, respectively.

Altogether 148,508 grants of sickness benefits were made in Australia during 1976-77 (28,464 in Victoria), and there were 33,625 persons on benefit at the end of this period (7,800 in Victoria). Total expenditure in Australia on unemployment, sickness and special benefits in 1976-77 was \$745,139,000, expenditure in Victoria during the same period being \$165,661,000.

#### *States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act*

The States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act came into operation on 1 January 1968. It provides for assistance to be given by the Commonwealth Government to the States in respect of aid for mothers with children where the mothers are not eligible for benefits under the Social Services Act. Broadly, these include deserted wives during the first six months of desertion, wives during the first six months of the husband's imprisonment, deserted de facto wives, and unmarried mothers who are ineligible for the Commonwealth Government supporting mother's benefit.

During the year ended 30 June 1977, payments to the States under the States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act totalled \$13,346,614. The Victorian total was \$2,824,067.

#### *Supporting mother's benefit*

The supporting mother's benefit was introduced on 3 July 1973. It provides assistance to mothers who are not eligible for the widow's pension. These include unmarried mothers, deserted de facto wives, women whose de facto husbands are in prison, and other wives separated from their husbands for various reasons. These mothers qualify for a supporting mother's benefit six months after the date of the event which gives rise to eligibility, e.g., the birth of a child or separation. Entitlement to this form of assistance is subject to an income test and other qualifications.

During the year ended 30 June 1977, payments under the supporting mother's benefit totalled \$158,483,000, the Victorian total being \$32,123,000.

*Additional allowances*

Pensioners and beneficiaries may be eligible for up to \$7.50 a week for each dependent child. Age, invalid, and widow pensioners, and supporting mother's beneficiaries may be eligible for up to \$6.00 a week guardian's or mother's allowance if they are lone parents. Up to \$5.00 a week supplementary assistance may be paid to pensioners, supporting mother's beneficiaries, and sickness beneficiaries (after six weeks), if they pay rent or board or board and lodging and have little or no income apart from pension or benefit.

*Maternity allowances*

Except between July 1931 and June 1943, when a means test applied, maternity allowances have, since their introduction in 1912, been paid to mothers residing in Australia on the birth of a child. The one year's residence qualification is waived if the mother intends to remain permanently in Australia; in other cases, payment may be made when the mother has completed one year's residence. The amount of the allowance depends upon the number of other children under 16 years of age in the mother's custody, care, and control. The maternity allowance is additional to any Commonwealth Government health benefits.

The number of allowances paid annually in Australia increased steadily following the end of the Second World War, reflecting the influence of the immigration programme and the increased number of births, until a peak of 240,481 allowances was reached in the year ended 30 June 1962. During the next four years the number declined gradually to 224,311 for 1966, then rose during the next six years to 272,006 for 1972. However, during the next four years the number of maternity allowances paid decreased to 220,320 for 1977 involving expenditure of \$6,923,000.

*Family allowances*

Family allowances are a continuing payment made to each person (usually the mother) who has the care of one or more children under 16 years of age, or one or more qualified full-time students from 16 to under 25 years of age. The rate of allowance for each child depends upon the child's position in the family in relation to the other children under 16 years of age. Student children aged from 16 to under 25 years of age are treated on the same basis as other children.

When it was introduced in 1941 this scheme provided for family allowances to be paid at the rate of 50 cents a week for each child under 16 years of age, other than the first child, in a family. The rates and conditions have changed over the years, and in October 1967 a cumulative increase was made for the fourth and subsequent children under 16 years of age in families, so that for each such child the rate is 25 cents a week more than for the next immediate older child. In October 1971 family allowances were increased by 50 cents for the third and later children.

On 20 May 1976 the Minister for Social Security announced a major re-structuring of the family allowances system. The rates for family allowances were increased for the first child from 50 cents a week to \$3.50 a week, for the second child from \$1.00 to \$5.00, for the third child from \$2.00 to \$6.00, for the fourth child from \$2.25 to \$6.00, and for the fifth child from \$2.50 to \$7.00. The rate of allowance for children after the fifth child is also \$7.00 a week.

The previous "flat rate" of \$1.50 a week for each student child was abolished, and the age limit for student children was extended from under 21 years to under 25 years of age. The rate for student family allowances now ranges from \$3.50 to \$7.00 a week, depending on how many other children there are in the family and the student child's position in the family. The new rates became effective from the first family allowances pay day after 15 June 1976.

A new section has been inserted in the Social Services Act to enable family allowances to be granted to a person not otherwise eligible but who is a taxpayer and who will lose the taxation rebates for children. The classes of persons who will benefit from this initiative are a taxpayer who is resident in Australia and supporting a child who is outside Australia, and a person who is temporarily in Australia and pays Australian tax.

In relation to children under 16 years of age the total number of endowed families in Australia and abroad on 30 June 1977 was 2,051,673 and the number of endowed children in families was 4,302,344. There were also 14,586 endowed children and students in institutions. Expenditure for all endowed children for the year 1976-77 was \$1,023,303,000.

#### *Orphan's pensions*

An orphan's pension of \$11 a week is payable to any person having the custody, care, and control of a child under 16 years of age or a full-time student child under 25 years of age if both parents (including adoptive parents of the child) are dead or if one parent is dead and the whereabouts of the other parent is unknown. An orphan's pension is free of any means test and is payable in addition to family allowances.

#### *Handicapped child's allowances*

A handicapped child's allowance of \$15 a week is payable to parents or guardians of a severely physically or mentally handicapped child who is being cared for in the family home. The allowance is designed specifically to assist parents and guardians who have a handicapped child under 16 years of age requiring constant attention and who prefer to provide this attention at home rather than place the child in an institution. A handicapped child's allowance is free of any means test and is payable in addition to family allowances.

#### *Reciprocal agreements*

The Social Services Act provides for the Commonwealth Government to enter into reciprocal agreements with the government of any other country in matters concerning pensions and benefits under the Act. Arrangements of this kind were operating with New Zealand and the United Kingdom at 30 June 1977.

The general basis of these agreements is that residence in New Zealand or Britain may be treated as residence in Australia. In return, Australians who go to those countries for permanent residence receive concessions enabling them to qualify for equivalent benefits there.

#### *Portability of pensions*

Age and invalid pensioners and their wives, widow pensioners, and women receiving a supporting mother's benefit may continue to receive their pensions overseas, whether their absence is temporary or permanent. The granting of age, invalid, and widow's pensions for persons living overseas, who are in special need of financial assistance and who satisfy certain requirements, was introduced in March 1974.

#### *Grants to organisations to produce welfare services*

The Commonwealth Government also provides financial assistance to eligible organisations such as other levels of government and non-profit organisations (e.g., religious, ethnic, or ex-servicemen organisations). These organisations in turn conduct welfare services with specialised target groups such as migrants, handicapped persons, aged persons, children, and homeless persons. The various programmes are: (1) aged or disabled persons homes, (2) personal care subsidy, (3) delivered meals subsidy, (4) States Grants (Home Care) Act, (5) handicapped

persons assistance, (6) sheltered employment allowances, (7) homeless persons assistance, (8) welfare rights, (9) Office of Child Care, (10) grant-in-aid scheme for migrant leisure activities, (11) community information centres, and (12) financial assistance for community welfare agencies in need.

#### *Aged or disabled persons homes*

The Aged Persons Homes Act was introduced in 1954 to assist eligible charitable and benevolent organisations, or organisations of a similar nature, with Commonwealth capital grants towards the cost of providing self-contained and hostel-type accommodation for aged people.

Grants were originally made on a \$1 for \$1 basis but were increased to \$2 for \$1 in 1957. In 1967, local governing bodies were included as eligible organisations and grants became available for nursing accommodation. In April 1974 a separate subsidy for land became available. The Act was amended to the Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act from 3 December 1974 to include disabled persons and the ratio of subsidy was increased to \$4 for \$1.

From 20 May 1976 the ratio of subsidy reverted to \$2 for \$1 but at the same time the maximum subsidy limits were increased to \$10,200 per single self-contained unit, hostel, or nursing bed and further increased to \$10,480 from 1 October 1976, \$10,800 from February 1977, and \$11,130 from 1 April 1977.

An important requirement for a grant of subsidy is that the conditions of the home approach as nearly as possible ordinary domestic life for the residents.

Since the original legislation was enacted in 1954, grants amounting to \$256,713,062 had been approved to 30 June 1977. The projects gave accommodation to 58,769 aged and later disabled persons. In Victoria, 779 grants had been approved amounting to \$58,107,158. These grants involved subsidised accommodation for 13,782 persons.

The Commonwealth Government in 1976 announced that it proposed to allocate \$225m Australia-wide over the next three years for capital grants under the Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act and the Aged Persons Hostels Act. Grants were being approved on a priority needs basis. Details concerning those organisations which have received a priority appeared in the Commonwealth Parliament's *Hansard* on 8 September 1976.

The Commonwealth Government has set up a Committee of Inquiry into Care of the Aged and Infirm and also appointed a task force to examine welfare services and community based programmes in the health/welfare/community development area. Future policy decisions may be made in the light of the recommendations received from these inquiries.

#### *Aged Persons Hostels Act*

This legislation is explained on page 710 of the *Victorian Year Book* 1976. Organisations which established an entitlement under this Act have had their entitlement preserved. Since the original legislation was enacted in 1972, grants amounting to \$97,330,411 had been approved to 30 June 1977 giving accommodation to 7,599 aged persons. In Victoria 54 grants providing accommodation for 1,670 aged persons amounting to \$22,261,352 had been approved.

Details concerning priorities and the future programme, are set out in the previous section on the Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act.

#### *Personal care subsidy*

An amending Act passed during 1969 provided for payment of a personal care subsidy to approved homes. Homes where residents are provided with all meals and where staff is employed to assist those who need help with bathing, dressing, personal laundry, and the cleaning of their rooms, and those who need



help with medication, may be approved for subsidy. A staff member is required to be available at all times to give assistance in the case of emergency. The amount of subsidy paid is \$15 a week payable at four-weekly intervals on the basis of the number of persons residing in approved accommodation who are: (1) 80 years of age and over, and (2) under 80 years of age but receiving personal care services because they are permanently unable to perform those tasks themselves. At 30 June 1977, 559 premises had been approved for subsidy in Australia, and the subsidy paid for the twelve months was \$11,073,464. In Victoria, the number of homes was 150 and the subsidy paid was \$2,899,804.

#### *Delivered meals subsidy*

The Delivered Meals Subsidy Act, assented to in April 1970, assists organisations to establish, maintain, expand, and improve approved "meals-on-wheels" services.

The subsidy is paid on the basis of 25 cents for every meal provided by an eligible organisation and is paid quarterly. Also, an additional subsidy of 5 cents per meal was introduced in October 1972 for those eligible "meals-on-wheels" services which undertook to provide an approved Vitamin C supplement for each delivered meal.

Non-profit religious, charitable, benevolent, and welfare bodies not controlled by the Commonwealth or State Governments may apply for the subsidy. Local government bodies may also apply. At 30 June 1977 the number of approved organisations in Australia was 559, the number of meals served was 6,601,658 during the year, and the amounts granted totalled \$1,911,173. The Victorian totals were 158 approved organisations, 1,933,658 meals, and the amounts granted totalled \$539,811.

#### *States Grants (Home Care) Act*

This Act, introduced in 1969, provides financial assistance for States developing home care services mainly for the aged, and for the States developing senior citizens centres. It also enables the Commonwealth Government to pay half the salary of a welfare officer co-ordinating home care services run by, or in association with, senior citizens centres. During the year 1976-77, payments of \$11,557,996 were made to the States under the Act, of which \$3,881,659 was allocated to Victoria.

#### *Handicapped persons assistance*

The Handicapped Persons Assistance Act came into effect in December 1974 following the repeal of the *Sheltered Employment (Assistance) Act* 1967 and the *Handicapped Children (Assistance) Act* 1970. The former provisions of the repealed legislation were incorporated in the new Act which at the same time was broadened in scope to permit a wider range of assistance than had previously been provided. The Act now provides assistance to eligible organisations for the following prescribed services relating to handicapped or disabled persons: training, activity therapy, sheltered employment, residential accommodation, holiday accommodation, recreational facilities, and rehabilitation facilities.

In respect of each of these prescribed services, \$4 for \$1 subsidies may be paid towards the capital cost of approved projects, the cost of approved building maintenance, the rental of approved premises, and the cost of approved equipment. Salary subsidies of up to 50 per cent (or 100 per cent within the first two years after an organisation has commenced to provide a prescribed service) may also be paid.

Additional payments that may be made are a handicapped children's benefit of \$5.00 per child for each day that accommodation is provided by eligible

organisations to a handicapped child, and training fees of \$500 for each disabled person who completes twelve months normal employment after six months sheltered employment.

#### *Sheltered employment allowances*

These allowances were introduced in 1967 under the since repealed Sheltered Employment (Assistance) Act, and are payable, in lieu of invalid pensions, to qualified disabled persons engaged in approved sheltered employment, or to those likely to become qualified if not provided with sheltered employment; the income test is the same as for invalid pensions. An income test free special incentive allowance of \$5 per week is paid to persons receiving sheltered employment allowances, in lieu of supplementary assistance.

#### *Homeless persons assistance*

The Homeless Persons Assistance Act, which came into operation on 13 December 1974, makes provision for eligible organisations to be assisted in the provision of welfare services to homeless men or women. The Act has established an advisory committee in each State, and helped to develop a co-ordinated programme of assistance in close association with all those involved in the welfare of the homeless population.

The Act provides organisations with an opportunity to improve and upgrade existing facilities, to replace them, or to establish new facilities. Grants of up to 100 per cent may be made to meet the cost of purchasing a building or land and the erection of a building for use as a homeless persons centre. Where the centre is on rented premises, the grant may cover the cost of the rental. Fixtures, furniture, furnishings, and equipment purchased for use in a homeless persons centre may also qualify for a grant.

Subsidies of up to 50 per cent of the salary of a social welfare worker employed at a homeless persons centre may be paid and, in special circumstances, to more than one such worker at a centre. Where an eligible organisation provides accommodation and food at a homeless persons centre, or meals for non-resident homeless persons, a subsidy may be paid of 75 cents per person per day so accommodated, and 25 cents per meal served or meal ticket issued.

#### *Welfare rights*

The welfare rights programme is designed to assist disadvantaged sections of the community to become aware of and to attain their social welfare rights and entitlements. Five community-based welfare organisations are participating in a trial programme in Victoria, which commenced in September 1974. These organisations, until June 1976, were the Council for the Single Mother and Her Child, the Australian-Greek Welfare Society, FILEF (Federazione Italiane Lavoratori Emigranti Famiglia), the Australian-Turkish Cultural Association, and COASIT (Comitato Assistenza Italiani). In January 1977 FILEF was replaced by PWP (Parents Without Partners).

The Department of Social Security subsidises such organisations to employ welfare rights officers to disseminate information on rights and entitlements and to act as advocates and representatives of people unaware of their rights or unable to exercise them adequately. The activities of the welfare rights officers vary according to what is most appropriate in each of the communities they represent and their involvement is not confined to social security matters but encompasses educational, legal, health, industrial, and other issues in the general social welfare field.

The welfare rights officers are selected by and accountable to the organisations through which they work. An evaluation of the project is being undertaken

to determine the effectiveness of a welfare rights approach to social welfare and whether the programme is to continue. In the trial twelve months programme, \$10,000 per year has been provided to each of the five organisations involved.

#### *Office of Child Care*

In 1972 the Child Care Act made provision for Commonwealth capital and recurrent grants for child care centres, and an advisory committee on child care research was established. In February 1973 the Australian Pre-Schools Committee was appointed to inquire into, and make recommendations concerning, financial assistance for the establishment and operation of pre-school and child care centres. Following consideration of the Committee's report, and of the comments and reports of other authorities, the Commonwealth Government decided to establish a Children's Commission to ascertain needs, make recommendations, and take part in planning in regard to services to children. The Commission was to be established on the proclamation of the relevant sections of the *Children's Commission Act 1975* pending which an interim committee was appointed to stimulate the development of a wide range of services including centre-based full day care, family day care, occasional and emergency care, out of school hours care, holiday care, and family support services, in addition to pre-school education.

In July 1976 the Interim Committee was abolished and an Office of Child Care within the Department of Social Security was created to administer the Children's Services Programme, which was expanded to include services for handicapped children. Areas in greatest need are given priority, and a condition of all grants is that families in greatest need are given priority of admission to the service. Budget allocation in 1976-77 was \$73.3m, with expenditure being \$67.1m; Victoria received \$20.4m of this amount.

#### *Grant-in-aid scheme for migrant welfare activities*

This scheme was introduced in 1968 by the then Department of Immigration to extend welfare services to migrants. Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to selected community or ethnic welfare agencies to enable them to employ ethnic welfare workers or qualified social workers to help migrants with major settlement problems.

The scheme complements the services of the Department of Social Security by taking assistance to metropolitan areas where migrants are concentrated. The scheme also recognises the increasing involvement of voluntary and ethnic agencies (the majority of which have limited financial resources) in providing for the welfare of migrants.

There were sixteen such grants to thirteen organisations in Victoria in 1977.

#### *Community information centres*

This programme was introduced on a trial basis in December 1974. Only one organisation in Victoria, the Ballarat Citizens Advice Bureau, received the initial grant of \$3,500.

The objective of the programme is to provide funds to support innovative community information centres whose prime role is community information and referral services. The funds are only part of the total required for the operations of the centre.

#### *Financial assistance for community welfare agencies in need*

This scheme was introduced in 1974 to provide assistance to community inspired and supported, non-profit, charitable, benevolent, and religious welfare organisations experiencing marked financial difficulties as a result of the economic situation. The scheme directs assistance to agencies providing counselling, information, and advisory services to people in need. However,

those which provide both a counselling service with incidental material relief are also eligible. Organisations providing primarily institutional care or material relief are excluded, as are regional, State, or national organisations. Agencies previously funded entirely from Australian Assistance Plan sources are also excluded. Finance is given as once only aid to enable agencies to make their own adjustments in difficult circumstances, and is not meant to replace other government and non-government funding.

In 1976-77 the amount of grants made in Victoria totalled \$46,800 to seven organisations.

#### *Welfare service production*

As well as giving individual persons money for their personal allocation, or providing money to organisations to produce welfare services, the Department of Social Security also engages in the production of the following welfare services: (1) the Commonwealth Government Rehabilitation Service, (2) individual and group welfare work, (3) interpreter services, and (4) information services.

#### *Commonwealth Government Rehabilitation Service*

Rehabilitation is provided free of charge to: (1) those receiving or eligible for an invalid or widow's pension, (2) those receiving or eligible for a sickness, unemployment, or special benefit, (3) those receiving a tuberculosis allowance, (4) discharged regular servicemen who are disabled but ineligible for repatriation assistance, (5) boys and girls of 14 or 15 years of age who, without treatment or training, would be likely to qualify for an invalid pension at 16 years of age, and (6) those who become disabled while working for the Commonwealth Government and who are covered by the Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act.

Persons are chosen from these groups if the disability is a substantial handicap for employment but is remedial, and if there are reasonable prospects of the person going to work on the completion of treatment or training.

Training and living-away-from-home allowances may be paid, and artificial aids and appliances are supplied free of charge.

During 1976-77, 2,903 persons were accepted for rehabilitation, 707 of whom were in Victoria, while 1,586 were placed in employment, 474 of whom were in Victoria. Expenditure on rehabilitation in Victoria during the year totalled \$4,141,600.

#### *Individual and group welfare work*

Through its State headquarters and twenty-four regional and district offices throughout Victoria, the Department of Social Security makes available welfare work assistance to the beneficiaries of the previously mentioned Departmental programmes and specific groups such as migrants. The roles of the welfare workers engaged in giving assistance include the provision of services to:

(1) Individual clients. This includes psycho-social counselling, and helping clients to obtain benefits from other Departmental programmes. Of particular note is the extensive service provided to migrants where language skills and ethnic-cultural knowledge are relevant to providing assistance to an individual. Approximately 80,000 contacts are made with welfare staff each year.

(2) Groups or organisations. This includes aiding community groups and organisations to plan and develop services which either remedy problems common to many people, or are designed to prevent their occurrence in the first place. Basically it means helping people to develop their own resources.

#### *Interpreter services*

The Telephone Interpreter Service is a 24 hour service which migrants can ring to obtain advice or information in their own language or interpreting

assistance by telephone. Also available through the Telephone Interpreter Service is a support staff of more than 270 on-call (part-time) interpreters, who are allocated by the Service to situations where an interpreter's services are necessary for the welfare of a person.

During 1977 the Telephone Interpreter Service received more than 3,900 calls per month; 77 per cent of these calls being in six main languages (Greek, Yugoslav, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, and Turkish); 69 per cent of these calls were initiated by individuals and the remainder by organisations. Approximately 662 individual interpreting services were provided per month by the on-call interpreters.

### *Information services*

Through its Information Services Section, the Department of Social Security attempts to meet three objectives: (1) servicing the planning and operating information needs within the Department itself, (2) ensuring that the community at large is aware of its rights and entitlements to the various social security payments and services, and (3) creating a dialogue which will enable the community to participate in welfare programmes.

To achieve these objectives, activities include arranging for Departmental speakers to present talks to various groups on social security matters, submitting regular advice columns on social security matters for publication in country and suburban newspapers, conducting surveys among welfare organisations on the suitability of Departmental leaflets and applications, providing a liaison service for different areas within the Department to publicise new developments, and answering inquiries by the public concerning Departmental programmes.

### *Statistical summary*

#### VICTORIA—SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES

Programme	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
Transfer payments to individual citizens—					
Age pensions—					
Number of pensioners	250,982	277,502	300,839	316,950	335,994
Amount paid (\$'000) (a)	n.a.	306,714	432,555	576,850	670,118
Invalid pensions—					
Number of pensioners	34,244	35,392	38,257	42,044	58,335
Amount paid (\$'000) (a)	n.a.	50,201	68,190	90,906	114,621
Widow's pensions—					
Number of pensioners	29,744	32,232	34,056	36,664	39,125
Amount paid (\$'000)	39,071	50,064	66,474	90,491	102,341
Funeral benefits—					
Number of claims granted	n.a.	n.a.	14,184	13,227	12,910
Amount paid (\$'000)	409	416	417	395	383
Unemployment benefits—					
Number of benefits granted	67,401	54,213	175,596	187,393	163,677
Amount paid (\$'000)	12,074	14,635	66,361	128,634	131,419
Sickness benefits—					
Number of benefits granted	26,013	29,180	31,569	31,623	28,464
Amount paid (\$'000)	7,923	12,271	18,193	25,976	28,950
Special benefits—					
Number of benefits granted (b)	2,706	2,679	3,470	7,350	7,817
Amount paid (\$'000) (b)	1,010	1,606	2,560	4,032	5,292
States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act—					
Amount paid (\$'000)	n.a.	n.a.	1,256	2,016	2,824
Supporting mother's benefit—					
Number of beneficiaries	..	5,638	7,511	9,275	10,716
Amount paid (\$'000)	..	8,964	15,786	25,678	32,123
Maternity allowances—					
Number of allowances granted	68,190	67,252	62,955	62,197	58,228
Amount paid (\$'000)	2,150	2,138	1,978	1,953	1,808

VICTORIA—SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES—*continued*

Programme	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
Family allowances—					
Number of families	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	560,261
Number of approved institutions	n.a.	n.a.	128	128	128
Number of children and students in—					
Families	1,177,888	1,182,925	1,186,411	1,181,692	1,178,318
Institutions	5,893	5,767	4,755	4,408	3,738
Total amount paid (\$'000)	n.a.	n.a.	62,885	73,912	282,527
Orphan's pensions—					
Number of guardians	..	n.a.	368	453	497
Number of institutions	..	n.a.	15	15	15
Number of orphans	..	691	687	810	913
Amount paid (\$'000)	..	107	291	415	495
Handicapped child's allowances—					
Number of claims granted	..	..	4,118	1,748	1,317
Amount paid (\$'000)	..	..	248	2,155	3,833
Grants to organisations to produce welfare services—					
Aged or Disabled Persons Homes Act—					
Number of capital grants	35	34	45	38	17
Amount of grants (\$'000)	2,804	3,337	7,743	1,064	5,656
Personal Care Subsidy Act—					
Subsidies paid (\$'000)	994	1,440	2,283	2,514	2,900
Delivered Meals Subsidy Act—					
Expenditure (\$'000)	188	440	480	585	540
States Grants (Home Care) Act—					
Amount paid (\$'000)	630	568	642	3,647	3,882
Handicapped Persons Assistance Act—					
Number of grants approved	..	..	274	476	469
Amount paid (\$'000)	..	..	1,741	2,248	5,244
Homeless Persons Assistance Act—					
Amount paid (\$'000)	..	..	142	491	383

(a) Amount comprises payment for pensioners and pensioners in benevolent homes, allowances/pensions to wives, guardian's allowance, additional pension in respect of children, and supplementary assistance.

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

**Further reference, 1977; History of social services, 1962; Sheltered employment assistance, 1969**

### National health benefits

Information about the various types of benefits is set out on pages 665-73.

### Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs

#### Introduction

The Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs is responsible, subject to the control of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, for the administration of the Repatriation Act and associated legislation designed for the care and welfare of veterans, and the dependants of those who have died or are incapacitated as a result of their service. The main responsibilities of the Department are to pay pensions and to provide medical treatment. Other functions include the education and training of children of certain veterans, the provision of gift cars for some severely disabled veterans, the payment of funeral grants for specified classes of veterans and their dependants, and various other forms of assistance. Since 5 October 1976, the Department has also been responsible for the administration of the Defence Service Homes Scheme and the Office of Australian War Graves.

#### Disability and dependants pensions

Disability pensions, introduced under the *War Pensions Act 1914*, are intended to provide compensation for veterans who have suffered incapacity related to their service, for their eligible dependants, and also for the dependants of those who

have died as a result of service. Disability pensions for incapacity are paid in accordance with the assessed degree of disablement suffered by the veterans and are not subject to any income test or to income tax. The term "disablement" includes such factors as physical or mental incapacity, pain and discomfort, a lowered standard of health, and inability to participate in normal recreations.

Pensions are payable to the wife of a disability pensioner and for each child under 16 years of age or a student child who is not receiving a Commonwealth Government education living allowance or an invalid pension. The rate payable varies according to the veteran's assessed degree of incapacity.

If a veteran's death is accepted as being service-related, or if, at the time of his death, he was receiving the Special Rate of disability pension, or the equivalent rate payable to certain double amputees, a war widow's (or defence widow's) pension is paid to his widow, and pensions are also paid for each child under 16 years of age or receiving full-time education regardless of age. Eligible war widows (and defence widows) also receive an additional payment known as a domestic allowance. There were 485,164 disability pensions payable to veterans, miscellaneous personnel, and their dependants at 30 June 1977, and the annual expenditure including allowances was \$371,459,485. Of these pensions, 124,486 were payable in Victoria and the annual expenditure was \$98,156,263.

#### *Service pensions*

Service pensions were introduced in 1936. Unlike a disability pension, a service pension is not a compensatory pension and was introduced to provide for the intangible and indefinable effects of war service. It is payable to a veteran who has served in a theatre of war, and has either attained 60 years of age (55 years of age in the case of a female veteran) or who is permanently unemployable. It is also payable to a veteran suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, irrespective of the area in which he served, and to a veteran of the Boer War. Certain veterans who had theatre of war service in the Armed Forces of the British Commonwealth countries in wars or war-like conflicts in which Australian Forces were engaged and who have resided in Australia for ten years may also qualify for service pension.

Before November 1976, service pensions were subject to a means test, which, from that date, was replaced by a test on income only. The income test does not apply to service pensioners who are 70 years of age or more. The wife of a service pensioner may also be eligible if she is not in receipt of a pension subject to an income test from the Commonwealth Department of Social Security. The same income test is applied to service pensions as to social security age or invalid pensions. Most service pensioners are also eligible to receive a wide range of medical and other fringe benefits for disabilities not related to their service. Eligibility for these benefits is not extended to service pensioners who served only in the Armed Forces of other British Commonwealth countries. At 30 June 1977 105,685 veterans and 54,765 wives were receiving a service pension. Of these 2,203 veterans and 1,298 wives were receiving a service pension in respect of service in the Armed Forces of other British Commonwealth countries.

Service pensions payable on the ground of age, or on other grounds to persons aged sixty-five years or more (male) or sixty years or more (female), are subject to taxation. Service pensions payable to wives whose husband's service pensions are taxable, are also subject to taxation. If, however, a service pension is a person's only source of income, that person will not be required to pay any taxation.

*Medical care*

Medical treatment is provided for repatriation beneficiaries for all disabilities which have been accepted as related to service. In addition, and subject to certain conditions, treatment is also provided for disabilities not related to service. A description of the types of service and institutions operated by the Department is set out on pages 677-8.

*Education and training*

With the assistance of a voluntary Education Board in each State, the Department administers the Soldiers' Children Education Scheme introduced in 1921. The object of this scheme is to encourage and assist eligible children to acquire standards of education compatible with their aptitudes and abilities and to prepare them for suitable vocations in life. Assistance is provided under the scheme for the children of veterans whose deaths have been accepted as service-related, or who, as a result of service, are blinded or totally and permanently incapacitated, or receive the special rate disability pension for pulmonary tuberculosis and are likely to receive that rate of pension for a period of three years.

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

Re-establishment loans may be granted, subject to certain conditions, to those former national servicemen who before call-up were engaged in business practice or agricultural occupations, or who, because of their call-up, were prevented from engaging in these occupations, and who need financial assistance for their re-establishment in civil life. The maximum amounts of the loans are: business and professional—\$5,000, and agricultural—\$10,000. Similar benefits are provided for former regular servicemen, subject to prescribed conditions.

*General assistance*

The Department also provides various other forms of assistance for certain classes of veterans and their eligible dependants. These benefits include gift cars and driving devices for some seriously disabled veterans, funeral benefits, immediate assistance, and recreation transport allowances.

*Statistical summary*

## VICTORIA—DISABILITY AND SERVICE PENSIONS

Year	Veterans	Dependants of incapacitated veterans	Dependants of deceased veterans	Total pensions in effect	Amount paid during year
					\$'000
DISABILITY PENSIONS					
1972-73	55,635	73,199	16,560	145,394	60,863
1973-74	53,823	70,647	16,328	140,798	67,458
1974-75	52,113	67,251	15,865	135,229	83,837
1975-76	50,422	63,904	15,525	129,851	89,249
1976-77	48,826	60,491	15,169	124,486	98,156
SERVICE PENSIONS					
1972-73	17,197	6,302	755	24,254	18,033
1973-74	19,874	7,707	743	28,324	26,532
1974-75	21,593	9,244	738	31,575	40,181
1975-76	24,165	11,418	715	36,298	55,141
1976-77	27,196	14,234	688	42,118	72,127

Further reference, 1977



## VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

**Victorian Ministry of Social Welfare***Introduction*

The *Social Welfare Act* 1970 established the Ministry of Social Welfare. The Social Welfare Department is administered by a Director-General. On 17 May 1977, the Social Welfare (Administration) Act was proclaimed as a prelude to the restructuring of the Social Welfare Department. The Act was an interim measure and was in line with the recommendations of Sir Henry Bland in his review of the Public Service. It deleted all existing references to Divisions and to duties of supervising Directors from the Social Welfare Act. In place of Divisional headings, general headings have been substituted. For example, Family Welfare Division becomes Family Welfare Services and Youth Welfare Division becomes Youth Welfare Services. The new divisions proposed in the restructured Department are: Management Services, Family and Adolescent Services, Regional Services, Correctional Services, Institute of Social Welfare, and Office of Research and Social Policy. In 1978 there were seven divisions named in accordance with the *Social Welfare (Administration) Act* 1977: Family Welfare Services, Youth Welfare Services, Regional Services, Correctional Services, Probation and Parole Services, Research and Statistics, and Training Services.

*Family Welfare Services*

In the re-organisation of the Department the former Family Welfare Division will merge with the former Youth Welfare Division to become the Division of Family and Adolescent Services. The functions of Family Welfare Services include the care of children needing to live apart from their parents, family counselling, and other services related to the prevention of family breakdown.

*Residential child care*

Children may be admitted to the care of the Department through an order from the Children's Court on the grounds that a child may be in need of care and protection, is uncontrolled, or has broken the law. Children may also be placed in the care of the Department through an application to the Director-General by a parent or other custodian. The Director-General must be satisfied that admission to care will be in the best interests of the child.

Children are usually received into one of the four departmental reception centres: Allambie and Baltara in Melbourne, Warrawee in Ballarat, or Miralee in Mildura. Normally the children are placed away from these centres after a stay ranging from a few weeks to a few months. They may either move on to a departmental or voluntary children's home, or a foster home, or be home-released under supervision to their parents or relatives. The Department operates six children's homes of its own, each capable of caring for about 30 children; and 60 family group homes in which four to eight children are cared for by cottage parents in a family-type situation. Departmental children's homes take account of the individual needs of each child and attempt to avoid an institutional-type atmosphere. Social workers review the progress of children in care in consultation with such people as child care staff, youth officers, nurses, doctors, and teachers, and maintain contact with children released to their own homes. The continuing interest of parents in their children's progress is welcomed and encouraged by the Department.

*Foster care and adoption*

The administration of the foster care programme was transferred to Regional Services in May 1976 with the aim of developing regionally-based foster care programmes throughout Victoria. The Adoption Section of the Department works in close co-operation with eleven private adoption agencies in selecting

suitable adoptive parents and arranging placements for the limited number of babies now becoming available for adoption. The Department arranges the adoption of children in its care where adoption eligibility has been established and of children whose parents or guardian nominates the Director-General to arrange the adoption. The Department has set up a specialised adoption unit to arrange adoptions for children with special needs, including older and handicapped children. The Departmental Adoption Section and the Child Care Service of the Uniting Church (formerly Child Care Service of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches) are the only two adoption agencies in Victoria involved in arranging and monitoring adoptions from other nations.

#### *Family counselling*

The main areas of concern apparent from discussion with families seeking counselling in 1977 have been family accommodation difficulties; the problems faced by lone fathers caring for their children; uncertainties about child custody rights; and the need for continuing community services, especially at the crisis stage, for physically and emotionally "battered" mothers, and for mothers who maltreat their children.

#### *Financial assistance*

The administration of family assistance payments was transferred to Regional Services in July 1977. Payments may still be made, however, from Head Office.

#### *Other functions*

Other responsibilities of the Department in the family welfare area include the protection of children under five years of age who are placed away from home by their parents; regulation of the employment of children under 15 years of age in street trading and entertainment; and the recovery of maintenance payments from parents of children in care. The Department is also responsible for all migrant children up to 18 years of age who enter Victoria and who are not in the care of a parent or adult relative.

#### *Conferences*

The Department convenes several standing conferences for the general exchange of views between Departmental staff and voluntary agencies concerned with child care. These include an adoption agencies conference, and a conference of scattered family group homes. Officers of the Department are also represented on a number of community liaison committees in welfare programmes.

#### *Youth Welfare Services*

The functions of the Department's Youth Services relate to the welfare of young people in the 15 to 21 age group. These functions include the care and supervision of boys and girls in the care of the Department and of young people who have committed offences resulting in a sentence to a Youth Training Centre or who are directed to attend a Youth Welfare Service.

#### *Youth Training Centres*

The Department maintains five Youth Training Centres: Turana, Langi Kal, and Malmsbury for boys; Winlaton for girls; and Acheron, which functions as a holiday camp. There is one other Youth Training Centre for boys at Bayswater. The Bayswater centre is run by the Salvation Army. Young people entering Turana and Winlaton Youth Training Centres are classified by social workers according to their individual problems and programmes are worked out for them to meet their particular needs.

The programmes carried out at Youth Training Centres aim to help these young people adjust to community living by encouraging social growth and by providing opportunities for education and training geared towards individual levels of ability, maturity, and interest. Special efforts are made to maintain and strengthen family relationships—visits by parents are encouraged and regular weekend and special leave may be granted.

#### *Hostels and Youth Welfare Services*

The Department operates two hostels at Sunshine and Ivanhoe to accommodate young people coming from Turana and Winlaton. Residents at the hostels are encouraged to become self-reliant and to find suitable private accommodation when they leave. There are also 24 Voluntary Hostels which work in close co-operation with the Department.

The Department also maintains four community-based Youth Welfare Services and finances another service at Doveton which is operated by a voluntary agency. The Hawthorn Youth Welfare Service provides short-term non-residential care for boys between the ages of 14 and 17. The boys take part in group discussions and undertake community service projects. They are helped individually through counselling and in a variety of other ways aimed at helping them to make a more satisfactory adjustment to community living. The Brunswick Youth Welfare Service is similar to the Hawthorn Service in its basic aims but it also provides residential accommodation and caters for boys who experience problems at home, at school or in their employment. The staff at Brunswick work closely with parents, teachers and employers. The Windsor Youth Welfare Service is for girls and it also includes a residential section. The Western Youth Welfare Service at Ascot Vale caters for young people from the west and north-west regions of the Melbourne metropolitan area. It conducts special education programmes for the younger and older age groups including an educational and employment programme for young people experiencing problems at school and work. The Grassmere Youth Welfare Service at Doveton operates on a similar principle to the Youth Welfare Services operated by the Department but is run by a voluntary agency. The Carlton Project is another Youth Welfare Service which is supported by the Department and run by a community group. The services to be provided by the Carlton Project include a youth legal service, an employment service, and an emergency accommodation service. An after-school programme is already operating at the Project.

#### *Regional Services*

The regionalisation programme aims to make the services of the Department more accessible to the community, to encourage and support the development of programmes suited to local needs, and to improve the co-operation and liaison with other government and private welfare agencies at regional level.

The programme has been progressively implemented over the past six years and was close to completion in 1977. Regional centres have been opened in ten rural regions and a network of sub-offices and visiting services to outlying towns and shires has been established to supplement their work. Five regional centres have been opened in the Melbourne metropolitan area and serve the north-western suburbs, the north-eastern suburbs, the outer-eastern suburbs, the western suburbs and the Westernport region. It is planned to open centres in the three remaining metropolitan regions as quickly as possible.

Regional Centres are administering an increasing number of the services provided by the Department including :

*Financial assistance.* The Department may make family assistance payments to single-parent families or family supportive grants to families experiencing financial

hardship. The aim of the payments is to help keep families together when a lack of money might lead them to break up.

*Family counselling and information services.* Services are provided for people who want to talk about and seek information on matters affecting their families. Advice may be given on accommodation services, the availability of financial assistance and other services relevant to the needs of families and individuals.

*Foster care.* The administration of the foster care programme was transferred to Regional Services in May 1976, with the aim of developing regionally-based foster care programmes throughout Victoria. The regional administration of foster care makes it possible for children to live in areas with which they are familiar, and facilitates continued contact with natural parents. The Department also runs a conference of approved fostering agencies.

Other supportive services being developed in the regions include financial counselling, family support units, homemaker services and accommodation services. Regional Centres are becoming increasingly responsible for the supervision of probation and parole, school attendance, and the provision of support for children and young people who may be in trouble with the law. Most of the services provided by Regional Centres are also available from Head Office. The development of the regionalisation programme is consistent with the Victorian Government's overall policy of regionalisation and with the world-wide trend of localising the delivery of welfare services.

#### *Probation and Parole Services*

The Probation and Parole Service supervises persons subject to probation or supervision orders from the courts, or released on parole from youth training centres and prisons. The Service also provides, when requested by a court, reports and information on any person appearing before that court. Reports are also prepared annually on prisoners awaiting the Governor's pleasure, and on any other prisoner undergoing a sentence of imprisonment when so requested in writing by the Minister for Social Welfare.

The administration of probation and parole services is being transferred to Regional Services.

#### *Probation*

Probation in Victoria is an alternative to custodial care. When an offender is admitted to probation, which may be for a period of between one and five years for adults, and up to three years not extending beyond their eighteenth birthday for children, the offender consents to comply with certain conditions: to report to the probation service within 48 hours of appearing in court, not to break the law, to carry out the lawful instructions of the probation officer, to report and receive visits as directed by the probation officer, and to notify the probation officer within 48 hours of any change of address or change of employment during the period of probation. Special conditions may be added by the court, for example: abstinence from liquor, attendance at a medical or psychiatric clinic, or avoidance of specified company or places. A Children's Court can also make supervision orders which may include conditions to be observed by parents or persons with whom the child is living.

The probation order states that the probationer will be "supervised" by a probation officer, and it is the first responsibility of the officer to see that the conditions of the order are adhered to. At the same time every effort is made to assist the offender in developing his personal relationships and abilities to be able to live fruitfully in society. Contact between the probationer and the probation officer varies in intensity. Initially it tends to be more frequent and

then gradually decreases. The seriousness of the offence committed, the individual's adjustment and progress, and the length of the probation period all affect the degree of supervision.

A breach of the conditions of probation is reported by the supervising probation officer and a decision is made whether any action will be taken. If a probationer is taken to court it may result in a fine, a bond, admission to a new period of probation, or a sentence of imprisonment or detention in a youth training centre. On the other hand, the court may decide to take no action.

#### *Parole*

Victoria has a Youth Parole Board and an Adult Parole Board. These bodies have power to release on parole those who have been sentenced to imprisonment or detention but are eligible to be released on parole before the full sentence or detention is served. The Youth Parole Board can release on parole young persons undergoing detention in a youth training centre at any time during the term of the sentence. The Adult Parole Board may not consider release of a prisoner until the minimum term of the sentence, less remissions, has been served.

The main concern of the Parole Boards is whether the person is a good risk on parole. The Boards base their decisions on the reports they receive from the parole services and the youth welfare and prison authorities. Medical and psychiatric reports are also submitted when necessary. The person's criminal history is a major consideration. The Boards can either grant parole, defer consideration to a later date, or deny paroles. Parole Board decisions cannot be appealed against legally but, at the request of the prisoner or the prisoner's relatives, can be reviewed.

In the main, parole supervision procedures are similar to probation procedures. On the day of release, the parolee is handed a parole order which contains conditions similar to those on probation orders. The parole officer is required to ensure that the conditions of parole are complied with, assist the parolee and, where appropriate, the family of the parolee.

Most parolees complete parole successfully. The date of completion is when the full sentence set by the court normally expires. If the parolee is sentenced to a further term of imprisonment, his parole as a rule is cancelled. In addition, the Boards can cancel parole at any time should the parolee fail to comply with the conditions of the parole order or should his behaviour be unsatisfactory.

#### *Probation and parole officers*

The Department employs the services of men and women officers—stipendiary and honorary. Stipendiary officers are required to have an appropriate university or welfare qualification, while the honorary probation officers are selected citizens who supervise cases, appropriate to their capacities, usually in their neighbourhood. Honorary probation officers discuss problems and treatment methods with stipendiary officers and are encouraged to attend a course of training at the Institute of Social Welfare.

#### *Correctional Services*

All people detained in Victorian prisons are controlled and supervised by the Social Welfare Department. The management of prisoners involves a wide range of operations and a variety of specialised skills. Qualified staff are employed to carry out the Department's correctional service programmes which include the provision of training programmes and welfare services. The maintenance of security is another important and obvious feature of the Department's responsibility in the correctional area.

In Victoria, ten prisons are maintained for men and one for women. Differences in the levels of security at the prisons and in the types of programmes provided, make it possible to match prisoners to the prison which is most appropriate for their management and rehabilitation.

Pentridge, at Coburg, is the largest prison in Victoria and holds more than half the number of male prisoners in the State. The prisoners' Classification Centre is also located at Pentridge. Prisoners serving sentences of at least one year (or six months if they are under 21 years of age) and those eligible for parole, are interviewed by the Classification Committee which endeavours to place them in the most appropriate institution.

Prisoners can be employed in a wide variety of prison industries and industry products are supplied to outside customers as well as to government departments. Pentridge industries include the manufacture of number-plates for cars, brush and broom-making, a bakery, tailoring of jackets and jeans, printing, matting, a laundry and an engineering shop for maintenance work.

Pentridge is divided into three separate sub-prisons (Southern, Central and Northern) which share general administration and supply services. Each sub-prison is autonomous and administered by a Governor who is responsible to the prison Superintendent.

The Southern Prison comprises three Divisions: (1) D Division holds trial and remand cases; (2) G Division is a psychiatric and medical clinic; and (3) F Division holds short-term prisoners convicted of minor offences.

The Central Prison comprises two Divisions: (1) E Division provides dormitory accommodation for medium-term prisoners; and (2) B Division is a high-security Division holding long-term prisoners.

The Northern Prison comprises three Divisions: (1) J Division caters specifically for offenders under 21; (2) A Division mainly holds first offenders who are serving longer terms and offers a wide range of diversified activities; and (3) H Division holds prisoners who are considered to be a security risk or who have been sent for disciplinary or safety reasons from other Divisions or prisons.

Ararat, the largest prison in Victoria outside Melbourne is a medium-security prison. Industries include the manufacture of tubular steel products, sign-writing, mat-making, silk-screen printing, forestry, and market gardening.

Beechworth also is a medium-security prison. Prisoners at Beechworth take part in a variety of community service projects. The prison also has a carpenter's shop, a farm, and a large commercial pine plantation. Bendigo is a medium-security prison. Prisoners take part in community service projects and the prison has a well equipped sheetmetal-work industry. Castlemaine prison operates as a medium-security prison for offenders with sentences ranging from medium to short-term. Some Castlemaine prisoners work outside the prison for community organisations during the day while mat-making is the main industry inside the prison. Vegetable gardening also provides employment for a number of prisoners. The Dhurringile Rehabilitation Centre is a minimum-security prison farm catering for short-term prisoners. At Dhurringile, prisoners work on the farm, in the orchard or in the cannery. Geelong prison is a maximum-security prison. Geelong's main industry is tailoring and articles of clothing are manufactured for use in other institutions. Morwell River and Won Wron prisons are minimum-security prisons where prisoners engage in forestry work from seed-raising to tree-felling. Sale is a medium-security prison which caters for prisoners serving both long and short term. Mat-making is the main industry at Sale and a number of prisoners work outside the prison. Fairlea is Victoria's only prison for women. At Fairlea women prisoners work in the laundry, or the kitchen, or are engaged in general cleaning. Vegetable and flower gardens are maintained by the prisoners and the women make and mend their own clothes.

*Attendance Centres*

Attendance Centres were established in Victoria in June 1976 as an alternative to full-time imprisonment. In the scheme's first year of operation the Attendance Centres at Geelong and Thornbury handled more than 180 offenders who would otherwise have gone to prison. The Attendance Centre Scheme makes it possible for offenders to serve their sentences in the community, while maintaining their family life and their continuity of employment or education.

The attending offender is able to continue working at a job, and earning money for personal and family needs, but is required to attend the Centre for two evenings a week for discussions, training or advice. Saturdays are spent in doing community work similar to that done by voluntary service organisations. Community service projects carried out during the scheme's first year of operation represented nearly 3,000 days' work.

Offenders attend the Centre by sentence of a court. The courts endeavour to ensure that offenders who could endanger the public do not receive the benefits of the scheme or the other alternatives to imprisonment. The superintendent of an Attendance Centre supplies to the court, on request, a report on the suitability of an offender before sentence is passed.

When offenders start at an Attendance Centre, the superintendent and welfare officers try to identify their individual needs, at the same time helping them to face problems and attempt to overcome them. This can be done by discussion, counselling, or referral to a community service such as marriage guidance, English classes, and so on.

The programme supervisor organises the work of those attending the Centre where projects range from firefighting to home maintenance for pensioners and needy individuals, to the construction of aids for handicapped people, and to gardening and beautification programmes. The beneficiaries of the scheme include children's homes, hospitals, schools, handicapped people, pensioners, and the National Trust.

*Research and statistics*

The functions of Research and Statistics, and the Policy Planning Unit, have been consolidated under the one administrative head. In the re-organisation of the Department, the former Research and Statistics Division and the Policy Planning Unit will become the Office of Research and Social Policy.

The Policy Planning Unit was established within the Social Welfare Department in recognition of the need for forward planning on welfare issues. The Unit is responsible for developing planning procedures which improve the standard and range of services the Department provides. It is also responsible for developing ways in which members of staff and the community can become involved in and contribute to the formulation of welfare policies.

The research and statistics functions of the Department are to conduct research into problems of social welfare and to compile statistics within the Department. The Department co-operates with private research projects carried out by qualified people and supplies information where appropriate. Statistics are collected for departmental use and for publication in reference works. The Department also has a research library.

*Training Services*

The Institute of Social Welfare is responsible for the training services provided by the Department. The Institute offers courses relevant to the major aspects of welfare work undertaken by government and non-government agencies. It offers courses for a Diploma and Certificate in Child Care, Certificate in Youth

Work, Certificate in Welfare Work, and Certificate in Penology. In addition, there are courses of training for honorary probation officers, welfare volunteers, and for welfare officers to become field teachers of welfare students. Tuition in all courses offered by the Institute is free. Students undertaking a diploma or certificate course may be eligible for financial assistance under the Commonwealth Government's Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme. The Minister for Social Welfare also makes available some financial assistance to students in need who would not otherwise receive help. A Social Welfare Training Council, comprising twelve members, exercises general supervision of courses.

*Statistical summary*

**VICTORIA—MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE**  
(\$'000)

Particulars	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
Revenue	768	940	812	938	1,202
Expenditure—					
Central Administration	(a)3,091	3,962	(b)88,999	(c)71,602	21,167
Regional Services	(a)	850	1,472	2,313	3,976
Family Welfare Services	10,427	8,958	13,886	17,983	23,230
Youth Welfare Services	3,290	4,059	5,281	6,477	7,448
Correctional Services	5,485	6,617	8,576	10,825	12,734
Probation and Parole Services	512	555	729	915	756
Training Services	277	313	425	672	846
Total expenditure	23,082	25,314	119,368	110,788	70,157
Net expenditure	22,314	24,374	118,555	109,850	68,955

(a) For 1972-73, Regional Services was part of Central Administration expenditures.

(b) 1974-75 figures include \$81,500,000 from the Hospital and Charities Fund and \$171,625 from the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund.

(c) This figure includes \$59,000,000 from the Hospital and Charities Fund.

**VICTORIA—FAMILY ASSISTANCE : FAMILIES  
RECEIVING ASSISTANCE AT 30 JUNE**

Type of case	Families receiving assistance		Children involved	
	1976	1977	1976	1977
Cases where the Commonwealth Government reimburses half of the expenditure—				
Deserted wives	1,104	1,673	2,407	3,560
Wives of prisoners	41	44	107	111
Single mothers	345	376	348	383
Deserted <i>de facto</i> wives	263	310	390	448
<i>De facto</i> wives of prisoners	9	13	18	17
Mothers with child (or children) not of marriage	3	..	7	..
Cases not subject to Commonwealth Government reimbursement—				
Assistance to people who care for children whose parents—				
Are deceased	137	260	161	380
Have deserted the child	427	338	650	496
Are in prison	28	52	62	76
Special benefits (a)	1	11	2	21
Total	2,358	3,077	4,152	5,492

(a) Those receiving special benefits on the grounds of hardship.



## VICTORIA—ADOPTIONS

Organisation	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
<b>Social Welfare Department—</b>					
Children placed during year	349	185	211	101	189
Legally finalised adoptions	302	250	209	173	158
<b>Private agencies—</b>					
Children placed during year	944	642	523	426	287
Legally finalised adoptions	1,101	915	537	460	328

## VICTORIA—FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES AND YOUTH WELFARE SERVICES : ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES OF WARDS

Particulars	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
Admissions during year	1,697	1,382	1,396	1,055	922
Discharges during year	1,977	1,661	1,687	1,001	1,128
Total wards at end of year—					
Males	4,121	3,994	3,832	4,009	3,909
Females	2,835	2,683	2,554	2,592	2,486

## VICTORIA—CORRECTIONAL SERVICES : RECEPTIONS AND DISCHARGES OF CONVICTED PERSONS

Particulars	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
<b>Prisons</b>					
Receptions during year	17,508	11,245	9,857	9,574	8,901
Discharges during year	17,730	11,570	10,047	9,568	8,965
In prison at end of year—					
Males	2,063	1,741	1,561	1,549	1,488
Females	33	30	20	38	35
Number of prisons for—					
Males	12	12	12	11	10
Females	1	1	1	1	1
<b>Attendance centres</b>					
Reception during year	..	..	..	17	183
Discharges during year	..	..	..	..	138
In attendance at end of year—					
Males	..	..	..	17	57
Females	..	..	..	..	5
Number of attendance centres	..	..	..	2	2

VICTORIA—PROBATION AND PAROLE SERVICES:  
PERSONS ON PROBATION AND PAROLE

Particulars	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
Placed on probation or supervision during year	4,951	4,637	4,563	4,438	4,138
Completed probation or supervision during year	4,127	4,612	4,320	3,946	3,888
Probation or supervision cancelled during year	422	406	400	481	374
On probation or supervision at end of year—					
Males	5,291	4,930	4,704	4,725	4,795
Females	1,486	1,466	1,535	1,525	1,329
Released on parole during year	1,241	1,224	1,071	983	851
Completed parole during year	972	795	830	705	695
Parole cancelled during year	324	299	233	244	254
On parole at end of year	989	1,119	1,127	1,161	917

Further reference, 1977

## VOLUNTARY SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES

**Australian Red Cross Society***Activities*

The Victorian Division of the Australian Red Cross Society is responsible for all the activities of the Society in Victoria. Red Cross is a voluntary organisation maintained by donations and subscriptions ; it conducts an annual appeal for funds. The primary objects of the Society are: furnishing of aid to the sick and wounded, irrespective of nationality ; rendering of assistance in the case of large-scale public disaster, calamity, or need ; improvement of health ; prevention of disease ; and the mitigation of suffering in Australia and elsewhere. The services include:

(1) *Blood transfusion service.* Whole blood and blood derivatives are provided free of charge to all persons in need of them. Further details of this service can be found on page 798 of the *Victorian Year Book* 1977.

(2) *Transport.* Red Cross volunteer drivers cover nearly 2,000,000 kilometres each year taking handicapped children and adults to special schools, clinics, and hospitals, or elderly persons on outings, etc.

(3) *Disaster and emergency relief services.* Red Cross plays a major role in times of bushfires and other disasters and emergencies. Teams of volunteers are trained to set up Red Cross posts whenever the need arises. In individual emergencies such as house fires, Red Cross provides essential items such as bedding, clothing, toilet requisites, etc.

(4) *Social work service.* A family counselling agency is available in both city and country areas to advise individuals and families with personal or social problems. Approximately 2,000 families are assisted each year.

(5) *Handcrafts.* All types of craftwork are taught at Red Cross centres, hospitals, and homes throughout Victoria to handicapped people.

(6) *Inquiry and Tracing Bureau.* This is a link in the international tracing service of the Red Cross. The Bureau handles hundreds of inquiries annually on behalf of people in Victoria, for news of relatives displaced by war, political disturbances, or large-scale disasters.

(7) *Home nursing equipment.* Items required for nursing patients at home, including wheelchairs and walking aids, are available on loan free of charge. Approximately 6,500 loans are made each year.

(8) *Community services.* Trained personnel carry out a wide range of services in hospitals, baby health centres, and geriatric homes, and to the aged and sick in their own homes, and assist with such services as the delivery of meals-on-wheels.

*Statistical summary*

## VICTORIA—RED CROSS SOCIETY: BLOOD BANK OPERATIONS

Particulars	Unit	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
Blood donors on metropolitan rolls	number	63,727	78,633	88,008	97,230	109,569
Blood donations collected	number	132,404	149,924	151,901	163,840	171,732
Blood distributed	units	88,323	99,829	103,367	103,178	105,841
Stable plasma protein solution (SPPS)	units	16,131	14,981	11,704	13,953	19,482

**VICTORIA—RED CROSS SOCIETY: INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**  
(£)

Particulars	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76
<b>Income—</b>					
Commonwealth and Victorian Government grants	1,157,343	1,321,407	1,697,913	2,216,104	2,965,570
Annual appeal and fund raising	252,901	284,981	294,365	343,731	369,424
Donations—Red Cross branches and companies	407,789	457,892	490,877	588,972	614,808
Other	239,940	221,100	252,914	469,939	405,394
<b>Total income</b>	<b>2,057,973</b>	<b>2,285,380</b>	<b>2,736,069</b>	<b>3,618,746</b>	<b>4,355,196</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>					
Blood transfusion service	1,067,140	1,221,611	1,496,519	1,976,103	2,693,410
Hospital services	117,396	113,715	129,180	161,642	227,137
Handcraft therapy	82,000	85,060	104,723	129,916	137,618
Red Cross homes	210,171	232,558	304,869	353,723	415,788
Relief activities	32,895	50,822	37,909	45,820	133,658
Social work service	108,225	106,055	130,552	149,475	182,652
Other community services	86,086	96,308	151,009	183,579	221,764
Other	352,183	356,087	379,858	457,289	537,262
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>2,056,096</b>	<b>2,262,216</b>	<b>2,734,619</b>	<b>3,457,547</b>	<b>4,549,289</b>

**Further reference, 1977; Blood Transfusion Service, 1971; Youth activities, 1972; Red Cross service corps, 1972; Music Therapy Service, 1974; Disaster relief services, 1975; Social work service, 1976; Hospital services, 1977**

### **Lord Mayor's Children's Camp, Portsea**

The Lord Mayor's Children's Camp is situated beside the Nepean Highway, Portsea, 96 kilometres from Melbourne, on high ground overlooking the entrance to Port Phillip Bay. Its object is to give selected indigent children from country and metropolitan areas a holiday, to have each child medically and dentally examined, and to provide the services of qualified optometrists, physiotherapists, and audiometrists. Ten camps are held annually, each camp accommodating 150 girls and 150 boys.

**Voluntary social services, 1965; Old People's Welfare Council, 1966; Voluntary child welfare, 1967; Voluntary social welfare work for the physically handicapped, 1968; Care of the elderly, 1969; Rehabilitation, 1970; Employment of the handicapped, 1970; Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, 1970; Victorian School for Deaf Children, 1971; Volunteer services for the mentally handicapped, 1972; Social welfare activities in local government, 1974; Brotherhood of St Laurence, 1975; Consumer participation in voluntary social welfare, 1975; Life Line, 1976; Youth Line, 1976; Citizens' Advice Bureaux, 1977**

### **Friendly societies**

The *Friendly Societies Act* 1958 regulates the operations of friendly societies in Victoria. The types of societies eligible for registration are:

- (1) "Ordinary" societies, which provide one or more of the benefits set out in Section 5 of the Act, namely, periodical payments during sickness, old age and infirmity, lump sum payments on death or on the attainment of a specified age (endowment benefits), payments for hospital, medical, medicinal and dental expenses;
- (2) dividing societies, which are "shop clubs" providing sickness and funeral benefits, and which divide their assets periodically;
- (3) united friendly societies' dispensaries, which provide medicine and medical and surgical appliances to members of friendly societies; and
- (4) societies "specially authorised" under the provisions of Section 6 of the Act. The only societies which have been registered as "specially authorised" societies are four total abstinence societies.

The following tables provide a summary of friendly societies' activities over recent years. For further details, reference may be made to the Report of the Government Statist on Friendly Societies, printed annually by the Government Printer, Melbourne.

## VICTORIA—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES : MEMBERSHIP, ETC.

Particulars	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Number of societies—					
Ordinary	38	36	34	33	35
Dividing	85	79	75	71	69
Dispensaries	30	30	30	30	30
Specially authorised	4	4	4	4	4
Number of branches of ordinary societies	1,075	1,046	1,034	1,023	1,015
Membership—ordinary and dividing societies (a):—					
Contributors for sick and funeral benefits	148,823	147,115	147,444	145,623	144,054
Contributors for medical benefits	272,999	278,251	297,468	310,302	320,717
Contributors for hospital benefits	292,596	288,847	305,824	321,764	336,185
Benefit contracts in force for whole of life and endowment benefits	29,954	34,148	37,952	39,318	40,743
Members affiliated with dispensaries	76,973	76,268	73,627	72,896	68,532
Membership—specially authorised societies	98	162	157	155	152

(a) A member may contribute for any number or all of these benefits and is entered in the table in each benefit for which he contributes.

VICTORIA—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES : INCOME, EXPENDITURE, FUNDS  
(\$'000)

Particulars	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Income—					
Ordinary and dividing societies	28,150	40,389	44,887	57,131	74,809
Dispensaries	3,981	4,359	4,580	4,641	5,252
Specially authorised societies	16	18	20	23	22
Total Income	32,147	44,766	49,487	61,795	80,083
Expenditure—					
Ordinary and dividing societies	26,591	37,438	42,091	51,917	70,352
Dispensaries	3,828	4,183	4,434	4,575	5,287
Specially authorised societies	5	6	7	7	10
Total expenditure	30,424	41,627	46,532	56,499	75,649
Fund balances—					
Ordinary and dividing societies					
Sick and funeral funds	20,601	21,187	21,970	22,427	23,027
Assurance funds	9,005	11,402	13,933	16,247	18,290
Medical benefit funds	3,735	1,571	16	935	1,785
Hospital benefit funds	8,370	8,781	9,539	10,145	10,420
Management and other funds	6,935	7,694	8,086	8,991	9,952
Total ordinary and dividing societies	48,646	50,635	53,544	58,745	63,474
Dispensaries	2,841	3,017	3,233	3,301	3,284
Specially authorised societies	279	291	304	320	332
Total funds	51,766	53,943	57,081	62,366	67,090

VICTORIA—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES : AMOUNTS DISBURSED IN BENEFITS  
(\$'000)

Nature of benefit	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
Sick pay	580	567	580	558	574
Funeral benefits	262	270	280	278	308
Non-contributory endowment benefits	233	254	95	138	156
Whole of life, endowment, and other assurance benefits	596	863	1,200	1,730	2,330
Medical benefits—					
Society benefit	6,230	7,743	8,348	9,987	14,745
Government subsidy	5,390	7,921	9,256	10,256	11,374
Hospital benefits—					
Society benefit	8,093	13,191	15,270	20,546	29,095
Government subsidy	1,169	1,335	1,414	1,487	1,586
Medicinal, dental, and ancillary benefits	(a)44	(a)34	261	488	929

(a) Medicine benefits only.

### RECREATION

#### Victorian Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation

##### *Sport and recreation*

The Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation assists recreation and sport, in Victoria, mainly in two ways :

(1) By providing capital financial assistance to municipal councils towards the construction of indoor sports and recreation centres, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, and the development and extension of existing recreation reserves and facilities, including the purchase of land. To the end of the financial year 1975-76, the Department assisted 170 of the 211 Victorian municipalities with subsidies totalling \$10.2m.

(2) By providing assistance to State-wide sports and recreation bodies for the development and promotion of sporting and recreational activities in Victoria. During 1975-76 \$345,463 was provided for this purpose.

##### *Racing*

The management of the sports of horse racing, trotting, and greyhound racing in Victoria is the responsibility of the Victorian Racing Club, the Trotting Control Board, and the Greyhound Racing Control Board, respectively. The Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation controls the administration of the *Racing Act* 1948 through its Racing Division. This Division is also responsible for the provision of administrative and secretarial services to the Racecourses Licenses Board (Racing and Trotting Divisions) and the Greyhound Racing Grounds Development Board. It also issues permits pursuant to the *Racing Act*. During the year ended 30 June 1976, 100 licences were issued.

The greater part of the funds for the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation is received from the racing industry by means of a deduction from specified off-course totalizator investments. The present rate of deduction is 2 per cent of daily double investments and 4 per cent of quadrella investments. For the year ended 31 July 1976, \$6.2m was paid directly to the Department, \$28.1m was allocated by the Government to the Hospitals and Charities Commission, and \$3.6m to the Racecourse Development Funds.

##### *Youth programmes*

The Department has a continuing commitment to provide assistance, guidance, and interesting activities for young people in their leisure time. Its most important youth programmes are the "Youth 2000" series, Outreach Youth Workers, and the youth aspect of the "Life. Be in it" campaign. As a means of assisting



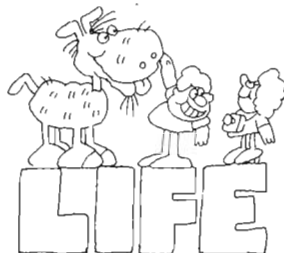
"Walk in the country on a Sunday afternoon ..."



"Go fly a kite or take a stroll beneath the moon ..."



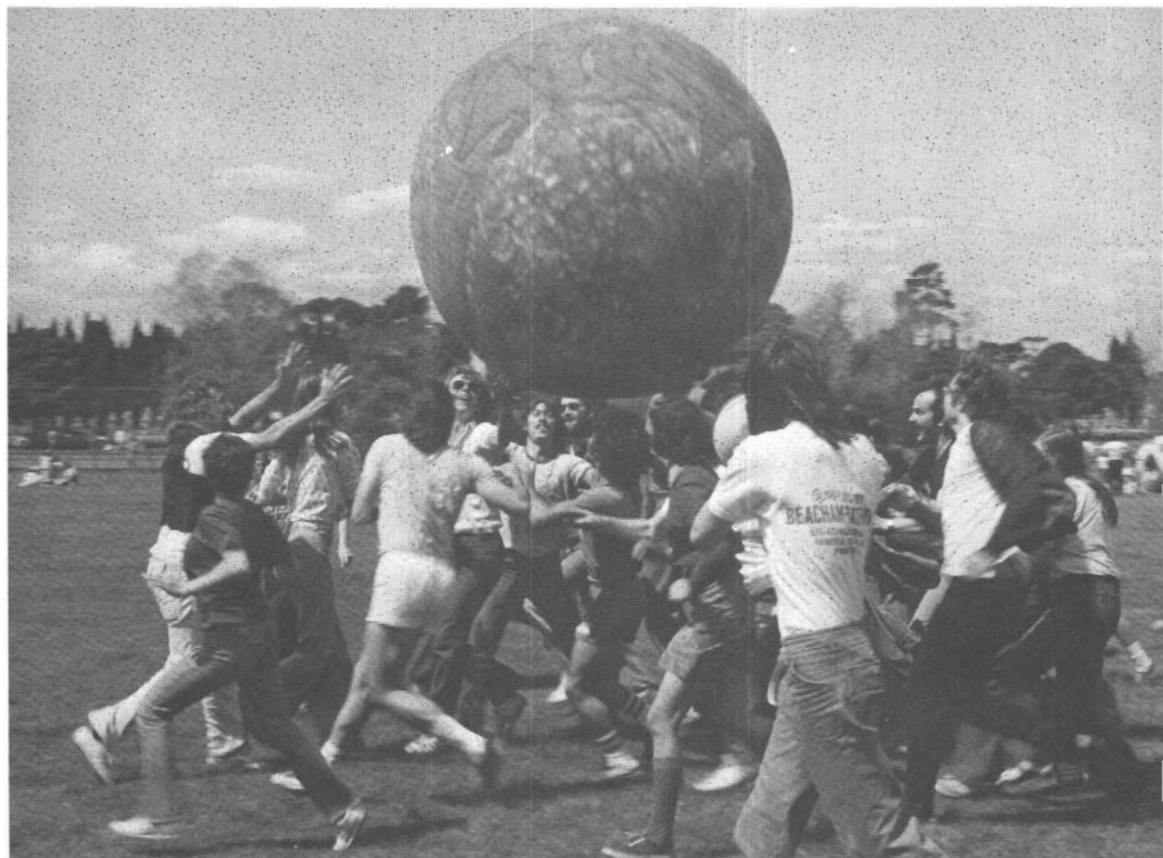
"Saying hello to a toe can give you a glow ..."



"Be in it, today, live more of your life."

Animations from the 1977 "Life. Be in it" campaign humorously suggest ways of using leisure opportunities.

*Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation*



Spectators participate in tossing an "earth ball" during a Life Games Tournament, part of the "Life. Be in it" campaign.

*Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation*



Child with impaired hearing and sight engaged in learning activities with a teacher at the Monnington Special Education Centre.

*Education Department*

Students of Footscray Technical College receiving instruction in camping techniques.

*Education Department*



the development of volunteer youth organisations the Department provides a salary subsidy to State-wide organisations towards the appointment of recruitment and training officers whose sole responsibility is to recruit and train voluntary workers. In November 1975 the Department organised a seminar on the roles and relationships of voluntary youth organisations and government which was attended by over 200 people representing Commonwealth, Victorian, and local government bodies, voluntary organisations, and other interested parties.

In July 1975 the Department approved a grant of \$17,873 to the Australian Council for Educational Research to carry out a research study of youth needs and recreation, based upon data originally collected for the Commonwealth Government Commission of Inquiry into Poverty. The Department, in 1975-76, allocated \$323,509 to subsidise the construction of buildings to cater for youth and youth activities.

During 1975-76, the Department made allocations totalling \$315,419 for subsidies to youth and family camps. Significant grants in this area were \$120,000 for the next two years for the development of French Island as a recreational and camping area, with strict provisions to protect the natural environment there; \$119,000 to the National Fitness Camp at Anglesea; \$50,000 to the Jewish Board of Deputies to develop a youth and family camp at the disused airport facilities at Ballarat; and \$50,000 to the Methodist Department of Christian Education for the Clevedon Youth Conference Centre. Total payments from the Youth Fund for 1976-77 were \$1.7m.

#### *"Youth 2006"*

"Youth 2006" was the sixth programme of the "Youth 2000" series, organised by the Youth Council of Victoria and financed by the Department. The "Youth 2000" series has been designed to assist communication with young people who have just completed secondary school and are commencing a tertiary education, or have entered the workforce within the last five years. "Youth 2006" comprised eight live-in workshops, in both rural and metropolitan Victoria, intended to provide basic communication and decision-making skills which would enable young people to enter into productive discussion with community decision-makers.

#### *Finance*

The following table shows details of principal sources of receipts, and payments for the year 1975-76:

#### VICTORIA—DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH, SPORT AND RECREATION: RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

(\$)	
Particulars	1975-76
<b>Receipts—</b>	
Racing—Percentage of Totalizator Agency Board turnover	6,230,403
Soccer Pools Consultations	1,225,269
Commonwealth Department of Tourism and Recreation	633,750
Commonwealth Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development	1,048,570
Miscellaneous	3,209
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,141,201</b>
<b>Payments—</b>	
Sports and Recreation Fund	5,649,389
Youth Fund	1,831,689
Australian Rules Football Fund	85,673
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,566,751</b>



*"Life. Be in it"*

The Department initiated its "Life. Be in it" campaign in 1975 to help promote the fitness and general health of Victorians and to encourage their participation in sporting activities. The active recreation campaign around the "Life. Be in it" slogan grew from an attitudinal study commissioned by the Department in 1975 and from the work of a special project team which interpreted the study's findings. The team developed a five year strategy, based on the premise that it was possible to encourage a large proportion of the population to become more physically active. The advertising programme suggests easy inexpensive ways of taking and enjoying exercise.

Activities in phase one of the campaign created an initial awareness of the programme. The campaign was aided by television advertising, leaflets, posters, calendars, stickers, clothing, and frisbees.

*Councils and boards*

Under the Youth, Sport and Recreation Act the Minister is advised on policy by the State Youth Council and Sports and Recreation Council. Each council meets twelve times during the year to initiate, consider, and review departmental policies. In addition there are the following advisory bodies:

- (1) Youth Council of Victoria;
- (2) Junior Football Council;
- (3) Bushwalking and Mountain-craft Leadership Training Advisory Board; and
- (4) the Victorian Advisory Council on Recreation for the Handicapped.

*Municipal recreation*

The Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation has, as one of its most important priorities, the establishment and encouragement of an effective municipal recreation network throughout Victoria to be brought about by the regionalisation of its own resources and staff, and the establishment of a strong municipal recreational service. During 1975-76, the number of municipalities utilising the Department's Municipal Recreational Officer's (MRO) subsidy of \$7,500 increased from 16 to 38.

*Research and special projects*

In 1975-76, the Department allocated \$59,055 to research projects. Those projects included:

- (1) The role of teacher of physical education in relation to school and community physical recreation;
- (2) the development of an inventory system for recreation facilities and programmes for municipal councils;
- (3) a survey of usage patterns of the Yarra River bicycle path;
- (4) a survey of the recreational preferences of residents of the Shire of Flinders;
- (5) a feasibility study of the indoor amateur sports stadium;
- (6) a survey of usage patterns of an indoor recreation centre;
- (7) a survey of usage patterns of a sports centre;
- (8) a survey of usage patterns of a commercial health and fitness centre;
- (9) growth rates of some Victorian sport and recreation associations;
- (10) an investigation of the role, function, and training of voluntary recreation workers;
- (11) Geelong Regional research study; and
- (12) the Melbourne Bikeway plan.

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- 6101.0 Labour statistics
- 6213.0 Employment and unemployment (monthly)
- 6319.0 Survey of superannuation (irregular)