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## CHAPTER VIII.

## PUBLIC BENEVOLENCE, ETC.

## A. INTRODUCTION.

Charity and charitable effort in Australia may be classified under three headings : (a) State ; (b) public ; and (c) private. To the first belong all institutions wholly provided for by the State, such as the principal mental hospitals in the various States, the Government and leased hospitals in Western Australia, and the Government homes for the infirm in New South Wales. The other classes comprise public institutions of two kinds, namely :—(i) those partially subsidized by the State or by State endowments for maintenance, but receiving also private aid, and (ii) those wholly dependent upon private aid. To the former division belong such institutions as the principal metropolitan hospitals. In the latter are included institutions established and endowed by individuals for the benefit of the needy generally. All charitable movements of a private character are included in the third group. A more or less accurate statistical account is possible in classes (a) and (b), but in regard to (c) complete tabulation is, for obvious reasons, impossible. Owing to differences in the dates of collection and tabulation it is impossible to bring statistics of some charitable institutions to a common year.

No poor-rate is levied in Australia. Reference to age and invalid pensions, funeral benefits, maternity allowances, child endowment, widows' pensions, hospital benefits, tuberculosis benefits, and unemployment and sickness benefits which are provided by the Commonwealth Government from the National Welfare Fund under the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947 will be found later in this Chapter.

From time to time relief funds have been organized for famine-stricken countries in various parts of the world, or for places where plagues, flood, fire, or earthquake have shown the need of urgent relief. Special funds were also raised for persons disabled or bereaved through war. Complete statistical information in regard to these forms of charity is not, however, available. It may be mentioned that the daily Press frequently accepts the duty of collectorship in charity appeals. In regard to subscriptions to the various patriotic funds which were instituted in consequence of the 1914-18 War, the total for Australia was estimated to exceed £12,500,000.

## B. THE LARGER CHARITIES OF AUSTRALIA.

## § 1. Public Hospitals (other than Mental Hospitals).

1. **General.**—All the State capitals have several large and well-equipped hospitals, and there is at least one in every important town. In large centres there are hospitals for infectious diseases, tubercular patients, women, children, incurables, etc.

The particulars given herein refer to public hospitals at the latest available date and include all institutions affording hospital relief, whether general or special, with the exception of mental hospitals, repatriation hospitals and private hospitals conducted commercially. The particulars for New South Wales in the following tables relate to hospitals operating under the control of the Hospitals Commission.

2. **Principal Hospitals in each State.**—In earlier issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 22, pp. 481-2) particulars respecting staff, accommodation, etc., of each of the principal hospitals were given.

3. Number, Staff and Accommodation, 1945-46.—Details regarding the number of hospitals, staffs and accommodation for the year 1945-46 are given in the following table:—

## PUBLIC HOSPITALS : NUMBER, STAFF AND ACCOMMODATION, 1945-46.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	A.C.T.	Total.
Number of Hospitals ..	223	75	119	58	87	23	1	586
Medical Staff—								
Honorary .. .. .	2,009	805	107	364	112	88	8	3,493
Salaried .. .. .	383	306	258	103	43	50	2	1,145
Total .. .. .	2,392	1,111	365	467	155	138	10	4,038
Nursing Staff .. .. .	6,485	4,074	3,307	1,442	1,218	644	55	17,225
Accommodation—								
Number of beds and cots	17,340	9,204	7,299	2,993	3,479	1,811	160	42,286

The figures for accommodation shown in the table above include particulars, where available, of a considerable number of beds and cots for certain classes of cases in out-door or verandah sleeping places.

4. In-Patients Treated.—The following table furnishes particulars of in-patients treated. (Newborn are excluded.)

## PUBLIC HOSPITALS : IN-PATIENTS TREATED, 1945-46.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	A.C.T.	Total.
Inmates at beginning of year—								
Males .. .. .	5,294	2,384	2,341	913	990	484	38	12,444
Females .. .. .	6,807	2,764	2,665	1,127	951	667	56	15,037
Total .. .. .	12,101	5,148	5,006	2,040	1,941	1,151	94	27,481
Admissions and Re-admissions during year—								
Males .. .. .	121,116	37,791	68,236	19,956	28,305	10,772	1,219	287,395
Females .. .. .	161,369	50,169	74,145	24,702	25,850	15,280	1,576	353,051
Total .. .. .	282,485	87,960	142,381	44,658	54,115	20,052	2,795	640,446
Total in-patients treated—								
Males .. .. .	126,410	40,175	70,577	20,869	29,295	11,256	1,257	299,839
Females .. .. .	168,176	52,933	76,810	25,829	26,761	15,047	1,632	368,088
Total .. .. .	294,586	93,108	147,387	46,698	56,056	27,203	2,889	667,927
Discharges—								
Males .. .. .	115,594	34,691	64,884	18,555	27,089	10,171	1,187	272,171
Females .. .. .	157,313	48,069	71,887	23,525	25,002	14,711	1,550	342,147
Total .. .. .	272,907	82,760	136,771	42,080	52,101	24,882	2,737	614,318
Deaths—								
Males .. .. .	5,567	2,921	2,970	1,299	1,134	571	34	14,496
Females .. .. .	4,264	2,045	1,982	1,042	688	504	22	10,547
Total .. .. .	9,831	4,966	4,952	2,341	1,822	1,075	56	25,043
Inmates at end of year—								
Males .. .. .	5,249	2,563	2,723	1,015	1,072	514	36	13,172
Females .. .. .	6,599	2,819	2,941	1,262	981	732	60	15,394
Total .. .. .	11,848	5,382	5,664	2,277	2,053	1,246	96	28,566
Average Daily Number Resident .. .. .	12,495	5,229	5,337	2,160	2,017	1,191	101	28,530

In addition to those admitted to the institutions there are large numbers of out-patients. During 1945-46 there were 678,408 out-patients treated in New South Wales, 281,146 in Victoria, 308,498 in Queensland, 67,453 in South Australia, 52,699 (estimated) in Western Australia, 27,816 (estimated) in Tasmania and 3,862 in the Australian Capital Territory, making a total for Australia of 1,419,882.

5. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—The revenue and expenditure for the year 1945-46 were as follows. The revenue includes the Commonwealth Hospital Benefit Scheme which operated in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania from 1st January, 1946, in South Australia from 1st February, 1946, and in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory from 1st July, 1946 (see Part C., § 6 following).

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1945-46.**

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	A.C.T.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Revenue—								
Government Aid ..	22,221,205	1,728,515	1,229,644	417,886	411,609	196,813	33,245	6,238,917
Commonwealth Hospital Benefits ..		227,131	207,117	49,488	78,031	33,582	..	595,349
Municipal Aid ..	(b)	94,136	..	53,702	960	..	..	148,798
Public Subscriptions, Legacies, etc. ..	(c) 892,345	556,367	18,041	66,732	37,006	13,785	..	1,584,276
Fees ..	1,236,653	653,098	444,420	231,676	247,557	118,033	5,405	2,936,844
Other ..	(d) 139,698	109,514	36,616	29,172	9,461	35,700	795	360,956
Total 1945-46 ..	4,489,903	3,368,761	1,935,838	848,656	784,624	397,913	39,445	11,865,140
1944-45 ..	4,201,246	2,840,957	1,683,483	739,331	661,074	317,635	38,562	10,482,288
Expenditure—								
Salaries and Wages	2,510,800	1,296,014	1,012,708	405,551	346,745	220,062	19,983	5,811,863
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings and Grounds ..	186,948	122,215	35,623	46,315	24,358	11,396	2,145	429,000
All Other Ordinary Capital (e) ..	1,761,676	1,146,522	941,512	344,302	279,390	166,040	17,308	4,656,750
	(f)	300,078	1,296	33,373	127,613	..	11,375	(g) 473,735
Total 1945-46 ..	4,459,424	2,864,829	1,991,139	829,541	778,106	397,498	50,811	11,371,348
1944-45 ..	3,973,970	2,053,446	1,765,854	735,010	651,617	317,447	38,608	9,535,952

(a) Includes State aid for buildings, £137,511. (b) Included in "Other". (c) Includes legacies and bequests for capital purposes, £35,453. (d) Includes loans raised under Section 37 of the Public Hospitals Act, 1950. (e) Includes such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings. (f) Not available. (g) Incomplete.

6. **Summary, 1938-39 and 1942-43 to 1945-46.**—A summary for the years 1938-39 and 1942-43 to 1945-46 of the number of hospitals in Australia, medical and nursing staffs, beds, admissions, in-patients treated, out-patients, deaths, average daily number resident, revenue, and expenditure is given in the following table. The figures relate to both general and special hospitals.

**PUBLIC HOSPITALS : AUSTRALIA.**

Particulars.		1938-39.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Institutions ..	No.	563	563	567	572	586
Medical Staff ..	"	4,059	3,801	4,021	4,198	4,638
Nursing Staff ..	"	13,582	15,987	16,484	16,852	17,225
Beds and cots ..	"	35,711	38,776	39,701	39,971	42,286
Admissions during year ..	"	527,955	587,804	608,679	627,284	640,446
Total indoor cases treated						
	No.	552,051	613,286	635,516	654,903	667,927
Out-patients (cases) (a) ..	"	1,272,147	1,253,819	1,263,283	1,349,795	1,419,882
Deaths ..	"	23,372	25,940	26,077	24,293	25,043
Average daily resident ..	"	25,608	26,152	27,689	28,584	28,530
Revenue ..	£	7,106,642	8,874,052	9,531,505	10,482,288	11,865,140
Expenditure ..	£	6,351,055	8,034,248	8,708,950	9,535,952	11,371,348

(a) Estimates for South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania.

## § 2. Benevolent and Destitute Asylums.

1. **General.**—The public provisions for the care of indigent old people has been a feature of the social development of recent years in most countries. Numerous establishments exist in Australia for the housing and protection of persons no longer able to provide for themselves. These institutions are supported by Government and municipal aid, public subscriptions, bequests, etc.; while in many cases relatives of poor and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

An entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation in regard to all forms of charitable aid is especially difficult in the case of benevolent institutions, because the services provided by these institutions are not always identical.

2. **Principal Institutions.**—Particulars respecting the accommodation and the number of inmates of the principal institutions were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 22, p. 485).

3. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1945-46 are given in the following table:—

**BENEVOLENT ASYLUMS : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1945-46.**

Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Revenue—</b>							
Government Aid	175,924	120,388	63,916	17,413	8,060	29,468	415,169
Municipal Aid ..	..	1,114	..	..	..	..	1,114
Public Subscriptions, Legacies	..	36,814	5,348	..	..	755	42,917
Fees ..	71,192	70,344	61,709	10,222	28,513	20,313	262,293
Other ..	..	9,593	20,305	6,062	351	1,701	38,012
<b>Total 1945-46</b>	<b>247,116</b>	<b>238,253</b>	<b>151,278</b>	<b>33,697</b>	<b>36,924</b>	<b>52,237</b>	<b>759,505</b>
1944-45	224,684	221,165	141,937	27,836	35,169	45,567	696,358
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Salaries and Wages ..	125,227	115,860	55,076	13,791	19,815	28,884	358,653
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings ..	6,430	12,598	5,226	3,982	898	1,659	30,802
All Other(b) ..	115,450	99,373	90,300	15,724	16,211	21,479	358,537
<b>Total 1945-46</b>	<b>247,116</b>	<b>227,831</b>	<b>150,602</b>	<b>33,497</b>	<b>36,924</b>	<b>52,022</b>	<b>747,992</b>
1944-45	224,684	205,406	141,358	27,836	35,169	44,959	679,412

(a) These figures relate to the three State Hospitals and Homes only, at 31st December, 1945.  
 (b) Includes £14,597 in Victoria, £4,374 in Queensland, £901 in Western Australia and £500 in Tasmania, covering such items as Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings and Additions to Buildings.

## § 3. Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.

1. **General.**—The methods of caring for orphans and neglected children differ extensively, inasmuch as some of the children are more or less segregated in orphanages and industrial schools, while others are boarded-out with their mothers or female relatives or with approved foster-mothers. The children in orphanages and similar institutions may receive, in addition to primary education, some craft training. In all cases employment is found for the children on their discharge from the institution, and they remain for some time under the supervision of the proper authorities. The conditions under which orphans, neglected children and children boarded-out live are subject to frequent departmental inspections.

2. **Principal Institutions.**—Particulars concerning the principal institutions in each State were published in earlier issues of the Official Year Book (see No. 22, p. 486).

3. Transactions of State Departments.—The following table summarizes the transactions during 1945-46 of State Departments in connexion with children under their control or supervision. In addition to neglected children, the figures include uncontrollable and convicted children who are wards of a Government authority, as well as poor children whose parents obtain assistance from the Government without giving up the legal right of custody:—

CHILDREN UNDER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY : SUMMARY, 1945-46.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic. (a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<i>A. Children maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
In State shelters, industrial schools, reformatories, etc.(b) .. ..	1,170	217	1,080	188	66	45	2,766
In licensed or approved institutions .. ..	..	1,594	..	44	440	180	2,258
Boarded-out—							
With own mothers ..	6,318	2,881	3,234	125	41	..	12,599
With licensed foster-mothers, guardians, relatives and friends	1,776	691	348	3,288	240	214	6,557
Total children maintained or subsidized by the State	9,264	5,383	4,662	3,645	787	439	24,180
<i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In licensed or approved institutions .. ..	1,453	..	..	42	741	..	2,236
Boarded out .. ..	162	..	..	1,040	444	..	1,646
On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts) .. ..	2,464	1,552	126	442	392	..	4,976
In service or apprenticed	104	292	323	157	54	..	930
Adopted or otherwise placed .. ..	261	173	22	839	121	..	1,416
Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State .. ..	4,444	2,017	471	2,520	1,752	..	11,204
Total children under State control or supervision ..	13,708	7,400	5,133	6,165	2,539	439	35,384
<i>Gross cost of children's relief</i> .. ..	£ 435,365	£ 202,457	£ 170,142	£ 77,593	£ 19,611	£ 12,368	£ 917,536
<i>Receipts from parents' contributions, etc.</i> .. ..	37,604	16,159	16,835	11,835	8,173	2,029	92,635
<i>Net cost to State,</i>							
1945-46 .. ..	397,761	186,298	153,307	65,758	11,438	10,339	824,901
1944-45 .. ..	386,281	193,234	151,745	63,921	12,207	10,329	817,717

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1945.  
2,979 children in receipt of Ration Relief.

(b) Includes inmates of hospitals.

(c) Includes

The total expenditure on children's relief in the foregoing table shows considerable variation amongst the States owing to the different methods of treating assistance to mothers with dependent children. In South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania large amounts have been excluded from the total expenditure on this account owing to the difficulty of obtaining separate amounts for allowances made in respect of the dependent children only.

§ 4. Leper Hospitals.

Isolation hospitals for the care and treatment of lepers have been established in New South Wales (Little Bay); Queensland (Peel Island, near Brisbane, and Fantome Island, North Queensland); Western Australia (Derby); and the Northern Territory (Channel Island, near Darwin). At the end of 1946 there were 17 cases in residence at Little Bay, 46 at Peel Island, 78 at Fantome Island, 231 at Derby, 71 at Channel Island, and 4 isolated cases in the south of Western Australia. Of the 447 cases, 331 were aboriginals, 46 Asiatics and 70 Europeans.

§ 5. Mental Hospitals.

1. **General.**—The methods of compiling statistics of insanity are fairly uniform throughout the States, but there is an element of uncertainty as to possible differences in diagnosis in the early stages of the disease. The figures for the States cannot be brought to a common year; consequently the following particulars relate to a combination of calendar and financial years. Licensed houses are included in all particulars excepting revenue and expenditure for New South Wales. The figures exclude those of reception houses and observation wards in gaols. In New South Wales the expenditure includes the cost of Broken Hill patients treated in South Australian hospitals.

2. **Hospitals, Staff, etc., 1945-46.**—Particulars regarding the number of institutions, the medical and nursing staffs, and accommodation are given in the following table for the year 1945-46 :—

MENTAL HOSPITALS : NUMBER, STAFFS, ACCOMMODATION, 1945-46.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of Institutions ..	12	9	5	2	4	1	33
Medical Staff—							
Males .. ..	28	35	10	8	4	2	87
Females .. ..	6	..	1	..	..	1	8
Total .. ..	34	35	11	8	4	3	95
Nursing Staff and Attendants—							
Males .. ..	791	559	320	176	136	78	2,060
Females .. ..	816	390	289	139	49	60	1,743
Total .. ..	1,607	949	609	315	185	138	3,803
Accommodation—							
Number of beds and cots	11,649	5,710	3,874	2,091	1,446	750	26,520

(a) The figures relate to years ended as follows :—New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania—30th June, 1946; Victoria and Western Australia—31st December, 1945.

3. **Patients, 1945-46.**—Information regarding patients treated, deaths, etc., for 1945-46 is given in the following table :—

MENTAL HOSPITALS : PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC. 1945-46.(a)

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of distinct persons treated during year (b)—							
Males .. ..	6,730	3,873	2,371	1,133	983	404	15,494
Females .. ..	6,815	4,287	2,154	1,103	646	427	15,432
Total .. ..	13,545	8,160	4,525	2,236	1,629	831	30,926

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table.

(b) Excludes transfers to other institutions.

MENTAL HOSPITALS: PATIENTS, DEATHS, ETC., 1945-46 (a)—*continued.*

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Number of patients on books at beginning of year—							
Males .. .. .	5,940	3,425	2,029	994	890	325	13,603
Females .. .. .	5,910	3,817	1,811	960	575	331	13,404
Total .. .. .	11,850	7,242	3,840	1,954	1,465	656	27,007
Admissions and re-admissions excluding absconders retaken and transfers from other institutions—							
Males .. .. .	790	448	342	139	93	79	1,891
Females .. .. .	905	470	343	143	71	96	2,028
Total .. .. .	1,695	918	685	282	164	175	3,919
Discharges (including absconders not retaken)—							
Males .. .. .	397	173	158	27	25	51	831
Females .. .. .	446	199	194	30	30	62	961
Total .. .. .	843	372	352	57	55	113	1,792
Deaths—							
Males .. .. .	404	222	163	80	60	35	964
Females .. .. .	433	304	134	75	39	27	1,012
Total .. .. .	837	526	297	155	99	62	1,976
Number of patients on books at end of year—							
Males .. .. .	5,929	3,478	2,050	1,026	898	318	13,699
Females .. .. .	5,936	3,784	1,826	998	577	338	13,459
Total .. .. .	11,865	7,262	3,876	2,024	1,475	656	27,158
Average daily number resident—							
Males .. .. .	5,561	2,976	2,000	1,012	863	323	12,735
Females .. .. .	5,416	3,304	1,745	961	552	334	12,312
Total .. .. .	10,977	6,280	3,745	1,973	1,415	657	25,047
Number of patients on books at end of year per 1,000 of population—							
Males .. .. .	4.03	3.49	3.66	3.26	3.57	2.51	3.68
Females .. .. .	4.03	3.71	3.45	3.12	2.42	2.70	3.62
Total .. .. .	4.03	3.60	3.56	3.19	3.01	2.60	3.65
Average number of patients resident in mental hospitals per 1,000 of mean population—							
Males .. .. .	3.80	3.00	3.59	3.24	3.44	2.57	3.44
Females .. .. .	3.69	3.25	3.31	3.02	2.33	2.68	3.34
Total .. .. .	3.74	3.13	3.45	3.13	2.90	2.62	3.38

(a) See footnote (a) to previous table.

Persons who are well advanced towards recovery are allowed to leave the institutions and reside with their relatives or friends, but they are under supervision and their names are kept in the records.



4. Revenue and Expenditure, 1945-46.—The revenue of Government mental hospitals is small in comparison with their cost, and consists chiefly of patients' fees. The proportion of expenditure borne by the State amounts to about 83 per cent. In New South Wales the expenditure includes the cost of Broken Hill patients treated in South Australian hospitals.

MENTAL HOSPITALS : FINANCES, 1945-46.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Revenue (excluding Government Grants)—	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fees of Patients .. .. .	165,382	86,754	51,655	50,741	30,014	9,609	394,155
Other .. .. .	17,365	12,653	1,885	9	2,606	278	34,796
Total .. .. .	182,747	99,407	53,540	50,750	32,620	9,887	428,951
Expenditure—							
Salaries and Wages .. .. .	601,251	335,429	227,583	120,481	97,946	64,014	1,446,704
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings, &c. .. .. .	39,773	..	2,491	12,383	7,250	1,534	63,431
All Other(a) .. .. .	408,975	344,417	134,593	85,076	63,523	32,680	1,069,264
Total .. .. .	1,049,999	679,846	364,667	217,940	168,719	98,228	2,579,399
Expenditure per Average Daily Resident .. .. .	£95/13/1	£108/5/2	£97/7/6	£110/9/3	£119/4/9	£149/10/2	£102/19/8

(a) Includes the following amounts for capital expenditure on Purchases of Land, Cost of New Buildings, and Additions to Buildings: New South Wales, £16,554; Victoria, £53,250; South Australia, £190; and Western Australia, £2,001.

5. Summary for Australia, 1938-39 and 1942-43 to 1945-46.—The following table gives a summary of mental hospitals in Australia during 1938-39 and for each of the years 1942-43 to 1945-46 :—

MENTAL HOSPITALS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.	1938-39.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Institutions .. .. .	No. 35	32	33	32	33
Medical Staff .. .. .	92	92	97	89	95
Nursing Staff .. .. .	4,922	3,714	3,958	4,104	3,803
Beds .. .. .	25,654	25,977	26,246	26,177	26,520
Admissions .. .. .	3,757	3,869	3,858	3,674	3,919
Discharged as recovered, relieved, etc. .. .. .	1,800	2,052	2,017	1,703	1,792
Deaths .. .. .	1,632	1,992	1,977	1,834	1,976
Inmates at end of year .. .. .	26,509	26,977	26,841	26,978	27,158
Revenue (excluding Government Grants) .. .. .	£ 262,817	388,213	389,699	427,278	428,951
Expenditure—Total .. .. .	£ 1,903,817	2,138,957	2,308,995	2,409,317	2,579,399
.. —Per Average Daily Resident .. .. .	£79/2/4	£84/16/9	£92/7/2	£97/10/4	£102/19/8

6. **Number of Mental Patients, 1938-39 and 1942-43 to 1945-46.**—The total number returned as under treatment shows slight fluctuations during the period but the proportion to total population shows a slight decline to 1945-46. A more rational attitude towards the treatment of mental cases has resulted in a greater willingness in recent years to submit afflicted persons to treatment at an early stage, and an increase in the number of recorded cases, therefore, does not necessarily imply an actual increase in insanity.

#### MENTAL PATIENTS IN INSTITUTIONS.

State.	1938-39.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
NUMBER.					
New South Wales .. .. .	11,678	11,954	11,789	11,850	11,865
Victoria .. .. .	7,326	7,256	7,252	7,242	7,262
Queensland .. .. .	3,650	3,749	3,819	3,840	3,876
South Australia .. .. .	1,747	1,802	1,889	1,925	2,024
Western Australia .. .. .	1,477	1,474	1,452	1,465	1,475
Tasmania .. .. .	631	652	640	656	656
Australia .. .. .	26,509	26,977	26,841	26,978	27,158
PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.					
New South Wales .. .. .	4.25	4.18	4.08	4.06	4.03
Victoria .. .. .	3.92	3.70	3.66	3.62	3.60
Queensland .. .. .	3.59	3.58	3.60	3.57	3.56
South Australia .. .. .	2.93	3.09	3.05	3.07	3.19
Western Australia .. .. .	3.16	3.09	3.04	3.02	3.01
Tasmania .. .. .	2.66	2.69	2.61	2.64	2.60
Australia .. .. .	3.81	3.74	3.68	3.66	3.65

The difference between States in the number of mental patients in institutions per 1,000 of population may be due to some extent to differences in classification.

7. **Causes of Insanity.**—The general information available respecting the causes of the insanity of persons admitted to institutions is too unsatisfactory to enable a classification of patients by cause of insanity to be given.

8. **Length of Residence in Hospital, 1945-46.**—(i) *New South Wales and Victoria.* Particulars are not available regarding the average length of residence in hospitals of persons who died or were discharged during the year.

(ii) *Queensland.* The average residence of those who died during 1945-46 was 10 years 9 days for males, and 6 years 129 days for females; of those discharged, 1 year 44 days for males, and 1 year 72 days for females.

(iii) *South Australia.* The average residence of those who died during 1945-46 was 5 years 6 months 5 days for males, and 5 years 4 months 25 days for females; of those discharged, 2 years 3 months 23 days for males, and 3 years 8 months 1 day for females.

(iv) *Western Australia.* The average residence of those who died in 1945 was 13 years 10 months 10 days for males, and 5 years 6 months 25 days for females; of those discharged, 4 years 6 months 12 days for males, and 4 years 7 months 11 days for females.

(v) *Tasmania.* The average residence of those who died during 1945-46 was 12 years 180 days for males, and 11 years 60 days for females; of those discharged, 314 days for males, and 175 days for females.

### § 6. Protection of Aborigines.

For the protection of the aboriginal Australian race there are institutions, under the supervision of Aborigines Boards, where these people are housed and encouraged to work, the children receiving elementary education. The work is usually carried on at mission stations, but many of the natives are nomadic, and receive food and clothing when they call, whilst others but rarely come near the stations. The native race is extinct in Tasmania. The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1945-46 was as follows; figures in brackets are for year 1944-45 :—New South Wales, £53,046 (£52,894); Victoria, £6,385 (£5,400); Queensland, £115,689 (£97,411); South Australia, £28,986 (£31,466); Western Australia, £69,747 (£61,398); Northern Territory, £35,071 (£24,961); Australian Capital Territory, £664 (£640); total for Australia, £309,588 (£274,170). At a census of aborigines taken at 30th June, 1944 in all States except New South Wales the number of full-blood and half-caste aborigines living in supervised camps was as follows (particulars for New South Wales as at 30th June, 1941 have been added) :—

#### ABORIGINES IN SUPERVISED CAMPS, 30th JUNE, 1944.

Particulars.	New South Wales.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Northern Territory.	Total.
	(a)						(b)
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Full-bloods	373	18	4,298	726	4,450	8,361	18,227
Half-castes	4,114	229	2,271	1,118	1,698	449	9,980

(a) At 30th June, 1941.

(b) Includes one full-blood and 101 half-castes in the Australian Capital Territory.

Particulars regarding total number of aborigines in each State will be found in the Chapter XVI. "Population".

### § 7. Royal Life Saving Society.

In each of the State capitals, "centres" of the Royal Life Saving Society have been established, and in some States sub-centres have also been established in the larger provincial districts. In 1934 an Australian Federal Council of this Society was formed with head-quarters at Melbourne, and each State centre, or branch, as it is now called, is controlled by the new organization. Saving of life from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation is the object of the Society, and its immediate aims are (a) educative and (b) remedial. The encouragement of swimming and life-saving in schools, colleges, clubs, etc., will bring about a more widespread knowledge of these necessary matters, and there is increasing provision of life-belts, reels, lines, warning provisions, and other first-aid appliances on ocean beaches, wharves and other suitable places. Numerous certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually after examination throughout Australia, the number for the individual States for 1946-47 being :—New South Wales, 9,586; Victoria, 5,419; Queensland, 1,782; South Australia, 1,100; Western Australia, 1,774; Tasmania, 708; and Fiji, which comes under the control of the Australian Federal Council, 1,032.

### § 8. Royal Humane Society.

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia has for its objects (a) to grant awards for skill, promptness and perseverance in life-saving, where the rescuer has risked his or her life; (b) to provide assistance in cases of danger and apparent death; (c) to restore the apparently drowned; (d) to collect and circulate the latest information regarding approved methods and apparatus for life-saving. Awards of medals and certificates are made numbering about 100 annually.

### § 9. Other Charitable Institutions.

Owing to the variety of name and function of other charitable institutions it has been found impracticable to give detailed results. The aid given in kind—food, clothing, tools of trade, etc.—is considerable, whilst the shelter and treatment afforded range from a bed for a night for casual callers in establishments ministering minor charity, to

indoor treatment over long periods in those that exist for the relief of the aged and the infirm. The institutions not so particularized include asylums for the deaf, dumb and blind, infant homes, homes for the destitute and aged poor, industrial colonies, night shelters, crèches, rescue homes for females, free kindergartens, auxiliary medical charities, free dispensaries, benevolent societies and nursing systems, ambulance and health societies, boys' brigades, humane and animals' protection societies, prisoners' aid associations, shipwreck relief societies, bush fire, flood and mining accident relief funds, etc.

### § 10. Total Expenditure on Charities.

Issues of the Official Year Book prior to No. 24 embodied statistics of expenditure on charities. The returns available, however, included a portion only of direct expenditure by Governments, and, in general, there is lack of harmony in the information available for the different States. Pending the result of further inquiry it has been decided to omit this table from the present chapter.

### C. SOCIAL SERVICES BENEFITS.

#### § 1. Commonwealth Age and Invalid Pensions.

1. General.—The social services benefits are incorporated under the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947 and are financed from the National Welfare Fund. In previous issues of the Official Year Book an account is given of the introduction of the age pension system in Australia, together with a detailed description of the Commonwealth Invalid and Old-age Pensions Act 1908, which became operative on 1st July, 1909. Invalid pensions were first paid from 15th December, 1910. The following statement shows the rates of pension at July, 1909, and the rates as they have been varied since that date :—

#### RATES OF PENSION PAYABLE.

Date from which Operative.	Pension Payable—		Pensioner's Maximum Income including Pension.	
	Annual Rate.	Weekly Equivalent.	Annual Rate.	Weekly Equivalent.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1st July, 1909 .. ..	26 0 0	0 10 0	52 0 0	1 0 0
12th October, 1916 .. ..	32 10 0	0 12 6	58 10 0	1 2 6
1st January, 1920 .. ..	39 0 0	0 15 0	65 0 0	1 5 0
13th September, 1923 .. ..	45 10 0	0 17 6	78 0 0	1 10 0
8th October, 1925 .. ..	52 0 0	1 0 0	84 10 0	1 12 6
23rd July, 1931 .. ..	45 10 0	0 17 6	78 0 0	1 10 0
13th October, 1932 .. ..	45 10 0	0 17 6	71 10 0	1 7 6
26th October, 1933 .. ..	45 10 0	0 17 6	78 0 0	1 10 0
4th July, 1935 .. ..	46 16 0	0 18 0	79 6 0	1 10 6
24th September, 1936 .. ..	49 8 0	0 19 0	81 18 0	1 11 6
9th September, 1937 .. ..	52 0 0	1 0 0	84 10 0	1 12 6
26th December, 1940 .. ..	54 12 0	1 1 0	87 2 0	1 13 6
3rd April, 1941 .. ..	55 18 0	1 1 6	88 8 0	1 14 0
11th December, 1941 .. ..	61 2 0	1 3 6	93 12 0	1 16 0
2nd April, 1942 .. ..	65 0 0	1 5 0	97 10 0	1 17 6
1st October, 1942 .. ..	66 6 0	1 5 6	98 16 0	1 18 0
7th January, 1943 .. ..	67 12 0	1 6 0	100 2 0	1 18 6
1st April, 1943 .. ..	68 18 0	1 6 6	101 8 0	1 19 0
19th August, 1943 .. ..	70 4 0	1 7 0	102 14 0	1 19 6
25th November, 1943(a) .. ..	68 18 0	1 6 6	101 8 0	1 19 0
25th November, 1943 .. ..	70 4 0	1 7 0	102 14 0	1 19 6
5th July, 1945 .. ..	84 10 0	1 12 6	117 0 0	2 5 0
13th August, 1946 .. ..	84 10 0	1 12 6	136 10 0	2 12 6
3rd July, 1947 .. ..	97 10 0	1 17 6	149 10 0	2 17 6

a) Rate restored to £70 4s. per annum under National Security (Supplementary) Regulation 112A—Statutory Rule 315 of 1943.

From 13th August, 1946, the annual rate at which an age or invalid pension, except for a blind pensioner, is determined was reduced by the amount (if any) by which the income of the pensioner apart from the pension exceeds £52 per annum and by £1 for every complete £10 of property between £50 and £400 and by £2 for every complete £10 between £401 and £650.

In addition to the existing provision for the exemption of the value of a pensioner's home in the assessment of property, exemption applies also in respect of the value of furniture and personal effects, surrender values of life assurance policies up to £200, the capital values of life interests, or annuities and contingent interests in property, the present value of reversionary interests up to £500 and the value of any property to which a person is entitled from an estate but which has not been received by that person.

A single adult invalid pension claimant will be subject to a means test only in respect to his own income and property.

Particulars relating to the provision of an adjustment of the pension rate in accordance with the variations of the Retail Price Index-number are given in the Official Year Book No. 35, p. 580. This provision was repealed by Act No. 16 of 1944 and the rate of pension reverted to £70 4s. per annum (£1 7s. per week).

Subject to the conditions of the Act, every person, who is not receiving an invalid pension, and who has attained the age of sixty-five years (in the case of females, sixty years), is, while in Australia, qualified to receive an age pension.

Asiatics and aboriginal natives of Australia, Africa, the islands of the Pacific or New Zealand generally, are not eligible to receive an age or invalid pension, but the Act was amended in November, 1941 to include those Asiatics who are British subjects, and in May, 1942, to include, under certain conditions, aboriginal natives of Australia and of the Pacific Islands.

Invalid pensions were granted from the 15th December, 1910. Subject to the conditions of the Act, every person above the age of sixteen years who is permanently incapacitated for work, and every permanently blind person above the age of sixteen years, provided that, in each case, an age pension is not being received, is, while in Australia, qualified to receive an invalid pension. A claimant for an invalid pension, or an invalid pensioner, may be required to undertake such training for a vocation or physical rehabilitation as is available. In 1920 special provision was made for a permanently blind person, by which the annual pension was at such a rate (not exceeding that shown in the table above), as would make his income plus that of his wife together with the pension equal to an amount not exceeding £221 per annum. This amount has since been varied from time to time. Under the amending Act of April, 1944, the amount of pension payable to a blind person was reducible by the amount (if any) by which the income of the pensioner and the pensioner's wife (or husband) exceeded £260 per annum (£5 per week). From 13th August, 1946, the permissible income was raised to £279 10s. per annum (£5 7s. 6d. per week) while the limit on property was increased from £400 to £650. Where a husband and wife are both blind and qualified to receive a pension only half the combined income in excess of £279 10s. per annum is deducted from each pension.

An amendment to the Act, assented to on 29th March, 1943, provided for the payment from 8th July, 1943 of an allowance not exceeding £39 per annum—from 3rd July, 1947 this allowance was increased to £52 per annum—to wives of invalid pensioners, provided that they themselves are not age or invalid pensioners. This allowance was subject to the deduction of the amount by which the other income of the wife exceeded £32 10s. per annum (12s. 6d. per week)—this allowance was increased to £52 per annum (£1 per week) from 13th August, 1946—£1 for every complete £10 by which the value of the property of the wife exceeds £50 up to £400 and by £2 for every complete £10 of the remainder of the property. Provision is also made for the payment of an additional allowance of £13 per annum (5s. per week) where there are children under sixteen years of age. From 1st July, 1943, an amount not to exceed £10 was payable towards the funeral costs of age and invalid pensioners.

During 1939-40 all invalid pensions in force were specially reviewed, and at 30th June, 1940 all those pensioners who had become qualified for age pensions by age and residence were transferred to the age pension list. This transference has been

continued since that date, though the numbers involved are naturally much smaller. Reciprocity between Australia and New Zealand in respect of age and invalid pensions operated from 1st September, 1943.

2. *Age Pensions.*—(i) *Number in force.* At 30th June, 1946 there were 264,826 age pensions in force. During 1946-47, 47,734 age pensions claims were granted and 1,517 pensioners were transferred from the invalid pension list, while 23,904 pensions expired through cancellations and deaths. The net increase for the year was 25,347 and the total in force at 30th June, 1947, 290,173.

(ii) *Sexes of Pensioners—States.* Of the age pensioners at 30th June, 1947, 103,747 (or 36 per cent.) were males, and 186,426 (or 64 per cent.) were females. Details for each State are as follows :—

**AGE PENSIONS : SEXES OF PENSIONERS AT 30th JUNE, 1947.**

State.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Masculinity.(a)
New South Wales (b) .. ..	42,886	76,350	119,236	56.17
Victoria .. ..	25,160	49,610	74,770	50.72
Queensland .. ..	14,857	23,897	38,754	62.17
South Australia (c) .. ..	8,858	17,059	25,917	51.93
Western Australia .. ..	8,198	12,064	21,162	63.24
Tasmania .. ..	3,788	6,546	10,334	57.87
Total—30th June, 1947 .. ..	103,747	186,426	290,173	55.65
"    1946 .. ..	96,569	168,257	264,826	57.39
"    1945 .. ..	92,565	160,069	252,634	57.83

(a) Number of males to each 100 females.  
(c) Includes Northern Territory.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(iii) *Ages and Conjugal Conditions of Pensioners.* The recorded ages of the 47,734 persons (17,629 males and 30,105 females) to whom age pensions were granted during the year 1946-47 varied considerably, ranging from 6,571 at age 60 to 1 at age 101, but 36,317 were in the 60-70 group. The conjugal condition of these new pensioners was as follows :—Males—single, 2,358; married, 11,902; and widowed, 3,369; Females—single, 3,108; married, 13,627; and widowed, 13,370.

3. *Invalid Pensions.*—(i) *Number in force.* The number of invalid pensioners increased from 62,868 in 1945-46 to 68,277 in 1946-47, an increase of 5,409. Total pensions granted during the year were 12,842 while 5,916 pensions ceased through cancellations or deaths, and 1,517 were transferred to the age pension list.

(ii) *Sexes of Pensioners.* Of the 68,277 persons in receipt of invalid pensions on 30th June, 1947, 35,089, or 51 per cent. were males, and 33,188, or 49 per cent. were females. Details for the several States are as follows :—

**INVALID PENSIONS : SEXES OF PENSIONERS AT 30th JUNE, 1947.**

State.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Masculinity.(a)
New South Wales (b) .. ..	15,978	14,512	30,490	110.12
Victoria .. ..	7,277	7,396	14,673	98.39
Queensland .. ..	5,872	5,010	10,882	117.19
South Australia (c) .. ..	2,372	2,879	5,251	82.39
Western Australia .. ..	2,101	1,901	4,002	110.52
Tasmania .. ..	1,489	1,490	2,979	99.93
Total—30th June, 1947 .. ..	35,089	33,188	68,277	105.73
"    1946 .. ..	31,619	31,249	62,868	101.18
"    1945 .. ..	28,552	29,729	58,281	96.04

(a) Number of males to each 100 females.  
(c) Includes Northern Territory.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(iii) *Ages and Conjugal Condition of Pensioners.* The recorded ages of the 12,842 persons (7,874 males and 4,968 females) to whom invalid pensions were granted during 1946-47 varied from 16 to 93, 5,705 or 44 per cent. being in the 45-59 years age-group.

The conjugal condition of persons to whom invalid pensions were granted during the year was as follows:—Males—single, 2,562; married, 4,805; and widowed, 507; Females—single, 2,420; married, 1,885; and widowed, 663.

4. *Cost of Administration.*—The total cost of administering age and invalid pensions, including wives' allowances and funeral benefits, was £256,504 in 1946-47, or 0.87 per cent. of the amount paid to pensioners, benevolent asylums and hospitals, and for wives' allowances. The corresponding cost in 1945-46 was £218,740, or 0.81 per cent. of the total payments.

The actual sum disbursed in age and invalid pensions in the financial year 1946-47 apart from the cost of administration but including the amount paid to asylums and hospitals for the maintenance of pensioners, and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners, was £29,416,673 (78s. 3d. per head of mean population). In 1945-46 it was £26,962,420 (72s. 7d. per head of mean population).

5. *Summary.*—The following table gives details of age and invalid pensions and approximate cost of administration for the five years 1938-39 and 1943-44 to 1946-47:—

## AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year ended 30th June—	Number of Pensioners.				Amount Paid in Pensions.	Total Payment to Pensioners and Institutions. (b)	Cost of Administration (approximate).	Cost of Administration per £100 paid to Pensioners and Institutions (approximate).	Average Fortnightly Pension as at 30th June.
	Age.		Invalid.	Total.					
	No.	Est. No. per 1,000 of persons eligible on age qualification. (a)							
			No.	No.	£	£	£	s. d.	s. d.
1939	232,836	376	88,812	321,648	15,798,038	15,991,782	128,000	16 0	38 5
1944	257,186	355	57,942	315,128	21,479,933	21,699,100	201,000	18 6	51 11
1945	252,634	345	58,281	310,915	21,475,570	21,701,127	201,000	18 6	51 5
1946	264,826	358	62,868	327,694	26,735,092	26,962,420	218,740	16 3	62 8
1947	290,173	381	68,277	358,450	29,295,099	29,416,673	256,504	17 5	62 8

(a) Based on an estimate of the aggregate of males aged 65 and over and females aged 60 and over at 30th June of each year. (b) Includes allowances to wives of invalid pensioners from 1943-44, but excludes funeral benefits in respect of deaths of pensioners, £105,356 in 1943-44; £163,993 in 1944-45; £184,478 in 1945-46; and £209,349 in 1946-47. (c) Changes in rate—see par. 1, page 296.

Separate particulars of the payments to age and invalid pensioners are not available but the total payments in 1946-47 in each State together with the annual liability at 30th June, 1947, are given in the following table:—

**AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS : PAYMENTS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY.**

State.	Total Payments Age and Invalid Pensions, 1946-47. (a)	Annual Liability at 30th June, 1947.		
		Age Pensions.	Invalid Pensions.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
New South Wales (b) ..	12,276,711	9,707,386	2,515,240	12,222,626
Victoria .. .. .	7,350,132	6,077,344	1,203,514	7,280,858
Queensland .. ..	4,104,410	3,167,424	899,886	4,067,310
South Australia (c) ..	2,551,372	2,086,058	429,884	2,515,942
Western Australia ..	2,005,233	1,708,616	323,830	2,032,446
Tasmania .. .. .	1,128,815	831,246	244,608	1,075,854
Total—1946-47 ..	29,416,673	23,578,074	5,616,962	29,195,036
1945-46 .. .. .	26,962,420	21,509,670	5,173,766	26,683,436
1944-45 .. .. .	21,701,127	16,804,411	3,985,124	20,789,535
1943-44 .. .. .	21,099,100	17,314,986	3,968,770	21,283,756
1942-43 .. .. .	22,292,835	17,702,594	3,913,130	21,615,724

(a) Includes amounts paid to Benevolent Asylums and Hospitals for the maintenance of pensioners, and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

**§ 2. Commonwealth Child Endowment.**

1. *General.*—The Commonwealth Child Endowment Act came into operation on 1st July, 1941, and provided for payment of 5s. per week (increased to 7s. 6d. per week from 26th June, 1945) for each child in excess of one under 16 years of age maintained in a family, and for children under 16 years of age in approved institutions. During the year 1946-47, 61,406 claims were granted. Cancellations amounted to 35,495 and the number of endowed family claims in force at 30th June, 1947 was 559,730, an increase of 25,911 during the year.

2. *Summary.*—The following table shows particulars of the operations under the Child Endowment Act during the year ended 30th June, 1947:—

**CHILD ENDOWMENT : SUMMARY, 1946-47.**

State.	Family Groups.					Total Payments to Endowees' and Institutions.
	Claims in force at end of year.	Endowed Children.		Annual Liability at 30th June, 1947.		
		Total.	Average per claim.	Total.	Average Liability per claim.	
	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£
New South Wales(a)	222,668	390,915	1.76	7,622,843	34.23	7,727,859
Victoria .. .. .	141,826	240,810	1.70	4,695,795	33.11	4,908,922
Queensland .. ..	86,322	162,190	1.88	3,162,705	36.64	3,327,165
South Australia(b) ..	47,368	80,016	1.69	1,560,312	32.94	1,598,310
Western Australia ..	40,702	71,968	1.77	1,403,376	34.48	1,479,047
Tasmania .. .. .	20,844	40,915	1.96	797,842	38.28	821,630
Total—1946-47 ..	559,730	986,814	1.76	19,242,873	34.38	19,862,933
1945-46 .. .. .	533,819	945,542	1.77	18,438,069	34.54	18,019,178
1944-45 .. .. .	518,293	920,427	1.78	17,948,326	34.63	12,036,249
1943-44 .. .. .	503,140	903,577	1.80	11,746,501	23.35	12,256,976
1942-43 .. .. .	491,121	891,221	1.82	11,585,873	23.59	11,659,626

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.



In addition to the children endowed in families, child endowment benefits were paid in respect of children in approved institutions during 1942-43 to 1946-47 as follows: 1942-43, 16,938; 1943-44, 18,396; 1944-45, 18,116; 1945-46, 18,989; and in 1946-47, 19,743.

In 1946-47 the cost of administration was £150,884 or 0.76 per cent. of the total payments made compared with £134,130 or 0.74 per cent. in 1945-46.

3. Number of Children.—The following table shows the number of claims in force, the number of endowed children and the number of unendowed children in endowed families, classified according to the number of children in the family :—

**CHILD ENDOWMENT : NUMBER OF CHILDREN<sup>(a)</sup> AT 30th JUNE, 1947.**

Size of Family.	Claims of Endowed Families in force at 30th June, 1947.	Children.		
		Endowed.	Unendowed in Endowed Families.	Total in Endowed Families
Two children ..	311,408	311,408	311,408	622,816
Three „ ..	144,379	288,758	144,379	433,137
Four „ ..	60,163	180,489	60,163	240,652
Five „ ..	24,991	99,964	24,991	124,955
Six „ ..	11,082	55,410	11,082	66,492
Seven „ ..	4,663	27,978	4,663	32,641
Eight „ ..	1,994	13,958	1,994	15,952
Nine „ ..	713	5,704	713	6,417
Ten „ ..	253	2,277	253	2,530
Eleven „ ..	63	630	63	693
Twelve „ ..	15	165	15	180
Thirteen „ ..	5	60	5	65
Fourteen „ ..	1	13	1	14
Total 1946-47 ..	559,730	986,814	559,730	1,546,544
1945-46 ..	533,819	945,542	533,819	1,479,361
1944-45 ..	518,293	920,427	518,293	1,438,720
1943-44 ..	503,140	903,577	503,140	1,406,717
1942-43 ..	491,121	891,221	491,121	1,382,342

(a) Under 16 years of age.

### § 3. Commonwealth Widows' Pensions.

The Widows' Pensions Act which operated from 1st July, 1942 is now incorporated in the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947 and from 8th July, 1947 provision has been made for the following classes of widows (a) and the rate payable in each class :—

Class "A" is a widow (not being a widow specified in Class "D") who has the custody, care and control of one or more children under 16 years of age.

Rate £110 per annum.

Class "B" is a widow who is not less than 50 years of age, without dependent children.

Rate £33 4s. per annum.

Class "C" is a widow who at the time of the death of husband or within 26 weeks after is less than 50 years of age, without dependent children, and is in necessitous circumstances.

Rate £1 17s. 6d. per week for not more than 26 weeks.

Class "D" is a widow (a) whose husband has been imprisoned for more than 6 months and who has the custody, control and care of one or more children under 16 years, or is not less than 50 years of age.

Rate £33 4s. per annum.

A widow may not receive a widows' pension if she is receiving an age or invalid pension.

(a) See par. 3, following page.

The value of property in respect of a Class "A" widow after deductions of charges or encumbrances thereon, but excluding the value of house owned and resided in, together with furniture and personal effects, etc., as shown in § 1 (i) on page 297, shall not exceed £1,000; and in the case of a Class "B" or a Class "D" widow the amount is £650.

The annual rate at which a pension is determined shall be reduced: (a) by the amount (if any) by which the widow's income apart from the pension exceeds £52 per annum; (b) in the case of a Class "B" or a Class "D" widow by £1 for every complete £10 of property between £50 and £400 and by £1 for every complete £7 between £401 to £650.

The term "widow" includes a dependent female (i.e., a woman, who for not less than three years immediately prior to the death of a man was wholly or mainly maintained by him, though not legally married to him, lived with him as his wife on a permanent and *bona fide* domestic basis); a deserted wife; a woman whose marriage has been dissolved and who has not remarried; a woman whose husband is an inmate of a hospital for the insane; and a woman whose husband is imprisoned for not less than six months.

The first payment under the Act was made on 27th July, 1942. The number of pensions current at 30th June, 1947 was 42,742 and the amount paid during 1946-47 was £3,366,288. The following table shows details of widows' pensions paid in each State in the year 1946-47, and for Australia for the years 1945-46, 1944-45, 1943-44 and 1942-43:—

#### WIDOWS' PENSIONS AT 30th JUNE, 1947.(a)

State.	Pensions Current.(b)		Children for whom Pensions Payable.	Average Four-weekly rate of Pension. (c)	Amount paid in Pensions during 1946-47.	
	Number.	Per 10,000 of Population.			Amount.	Per head of Population.(d)
New South Wales (e)	16,572	55	7,450	6 1 0	1,355,302	9 1
Victoria .. .. .	12,311	60	3,732	5 14 2	941,734	9 3
Queensland .. .. .	6,137	55	2,663	6 0 5	469,723	8 7
South Australia(f)	3,718	57	1,185	5 14 2	238,201	8 10
Western Australia ..	2,570	51	1,012	5 18 7	195,261	7 10
Tasmania .. .. .	1,434	56	654	5 18 0	116,067	9 1
<b>Total 1946-47 .. ..</b>	<b>42,742</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>16,702</b>	<b>5 18 1</b>	<b>3,366,288</b>	<b>8 11</b>
1945-46 .. .. .	44,587	60	15,707	5 14 0	3,247,333	8 9
1944-45 .. .. .	44,155	60	15,284	5 6 1	2,965,446	8 1
1943-44 .. .. .	42,212	58	16,107	5 6 8	2,800,702	7 8
1942-43 .. .. .	38,402	53	16,214	5 5 0	2,358,998	6 7

(a) The Commonwealth Government commenced to pay widows' pensions from 1st July, 1942.  
 (b) Excludes thirteen (1946-47), ten (1945-46), nine (1944-45), eight (1943-44) and six (1942-43) pensions in respect of pensioners in Benevolent Asylums.  
 (c) Payments were four-weekly up to the 24th June, 1947 pay, but are now fortnightly.  
 (d) Based on mean population for the financial year.  
 (e) Includes Australian Capital Territory.  
 (f) Includes Northern Territory.

#### § 4. Commonwealth Maternity Allowances.

1. **General.**—Part V. of the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947 (previously the Maternity Allowance Act 1912-1944) makes provision for the payment of maternity allowances. The most important conditions in the original Act were that the sum of five pounds was payable in the case of each confinement resulting in the birth of a viable child whether such child was born alive or dead. The mother must be a native of Australia or intend to settle permanently therein. No payment is made to aliens. The

Act was amended in May, 1942, to provide for the allowance to be paid to aboriginal natives of Australia, subject to certain conditions. The Financial Emergency Act 1931 reduced the allowance payable to £4 and limited the application of the original Act to those cases where the combined income of husband and wife did not exceed £260 (reduced to £208 by the Financial Emergency Act 1932) in the previous 12 months. There were further subsequent changes and at 30th June, 1943, the income limit was £247, with an additional £13 in respect of each previous living child under 14, the maximum being £338. The amount of the allowance was £4 10s. where there was no previous living child under 14 years of age, £5 where there were one or two previous living children under 14 and £7 10s. where there were three or more such children.

By an amendment to the Act in March, 1943, the income limit provisions were repealed and the allowances payable in respect of births from 1st July, 1943, were:— Where there are no other children under 14 years of age, £5; where there are one or two children under 14, £6; and where there are three or more children under 14, £7 10s.; together with the payment of £1 5s. for each of the four weeks before and after the birth of a child. By a further amendment, which operated from 5th April, 1944, the ages of children taken into account has been increased from 14 to 16 years of age, and the payment of £1 5s. per week was increased to £1 17s. 6d. per week when twins are born and to £2 10s. per week when triplets are born at one birth.

From 3rd July, 1947 the allowances payable were as follows:—

- (i) Where there are no other children under 16 years, £15;
- (ii) Where there are one or two other children under 16 years, £16;
- (iii) Where there are three or more children under 16 years £17 10s. Where more than one child is born at a birth the allowance is increased by £5 in respect of each additional child born at that birth.

The following table gives details of the maternity allowance claims paid and rejected since the inception and for the five years 1938-39 and 1943-44 to 1946-47:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : SUMMARY.

Year.	Claims Paid.	Claims Rejected.	Amount Paid.	Cost of Administration (approximate).	Cost per £100 allowance paid (approximate).
	No.	No.	£	£	£ s. d.
1938-39 ..	80,916	6,272	436,614	16,659	3 17 8
1943-44 (a) ..	149,067	3,564	2,287,000	18,000	0 15 0
1944-45 ..	159,621	667	2,542,801	19,000	0 14 11
1945-46 ..	156,446	718	2,492,495	18,000	0 14 5
1946-47 ..	191,994	636	3,026,459	23,000	0 15 2
Aggregate— 1912-13 to 1946-47 ..	4,045,061	110,038	27,063,700	504,455	1 17 3

(a) Income qualifications was abolished from 1st July, 1943.

2. Claims paid in each State.—The following table shows the number of maternity allowance claims paid in each State during the same five years:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : CLAIMS PAID IN EACH STATE.

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	Total.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1939 .. ..	30,860	20,819	12,880	7,162	5,213	3,940	42	80,916
1944 .. ..	57,792	38,653	23,743	12,636	10,439	5,804	(b)	149,067
1945 .. ..	64,755	40,582	26,432	14,361	10,909	5,582	(b)	159,621
1946 .. ..	60,730	40,991	25,281	13,736	9,912	5,796	(b)	156,446
1947 .. ..	73,110	50,730	29,002	17,860	13,750	7,542	(b)	191,994
Total, 1912-13 to 1946-47 ..	1,594,536	1,052,044	611,845	353,274	260,735	171,503	1,124	4,045,061

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Included with South Australia.

3. **Claims Paid at the Various Rates.**—The following table shows the number of claims granted in each State at the various rates in respect of maternity allowances chargeable to the National Welfare Fund during the year 1946-47. The total for Australia for the year 1945-46 is also shown :—

**MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : CLAIMS PAID IN EACH STATE, 1946-47.**

State.	Single Births.			Multiple Births.						Total number of claims granted.
	£15.	£16.	£17 10s.	Twins.			Triplets.			
				£20.	£21.	£22 10s.	£25.	£26.	£27 10s.	
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
N.S. Wales(a) ..	29,254	32,146	10,859	279	412	155	..	4	1	73,110
Victoria ..	20,983	22,573	6,511	237	313	103	1	6	3	50,730
Queensland ..	10,549	12,805	5,321	91	148	86	..	1	1	29,002
Sth. Australia (b)	7,364	8,061	2,239	83	79	33	1	..	..	17,860
Western Australia	5,104	6,434	2,066	42	72	29	3	..	..	13,750
Tasmania ..	2,825	3,148	1,470	26	50	21	..	1	1	7,542
Total 1946-47	76,079	85,167	28,466	758	1,074	427	5	12	6	191,994
1945-46	57,853	70,739	26,001	565	850	409	5	14	10	156,446

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

### § 5. Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.

1. **General.**—A very important addition was made to Commonwealth social legislation when the Unemployment and Sickness Benefits Act received assent on 5th April, 1944.

The Act came into operation on 1st July, 1945, and is financed from the National Welfare Fund. The provisions are now incorporated in the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947. The first payments were made on 19th July, 1945.

Persons eligible include all males between the ages of 16 and 65 years and all females between the ages of 16 and 60 years who have lived in Australia for the twelve months immediately preceding a claim for benefit and who are not qualified to receive a service pension under the Soldiers' Repatriation Act or an age, invalid or widows' pension.

The payment of unemployment benefit is subject to the claimant being capable of undertaking and willing to accept suitable employment. The payment of sickness benefit is subject to the production of a medical certificate or some other satisfactory evidence, except where the applicant lives in remote or inaccessible areas of Australia or where for some good reason it is impossible to produce it.

2. **Maximum Rates of Benefits and Income.**—The maximum weekly rates of benefits for both unemployment and sickness and allowed income are as follows :—

Age and Conjugal Condition.	Maximum Weekly Benefit.				Allowed Weekly Income.
	Claimant.	Dependent Spouse.	Child.	Total.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
<b>Unmarried—</b>					
16 years and under 17 years	15 0	..	..	15 0	5 0
17 " " " 18 "	15 0	..	..	15 0	10 0
18 " " " 21 "	20 0	..	..	20 0	15 0
21 years and over .. ..	25 0	..	..	25 0	20 0
<b>Married .. ..</b>	25 0	20 0	5 0	50 0	20 0

Where an unmarried claimant has the custody, care and control of a child under the age of sixteen years, the total income may be increased by 5s. per week.

3. **Means Test.**—All benefits are subject to a means test which disregards the value of property owned by a claimant. In applying the means test for sickness benefits, any amount up to 20s. per week received by a claimant from a friendly society or other

approved benefit society is disregarded. For the purpose of calculating unemployment benefit, the income of the family group is taken into account, but in the case of sickness benefit the claimant's income only will be considered in determining whether there shall be reduction in benefit because of the possession of other income.

Where a person is entitled to some other payment such as war pension or worker's compensation in respect of the disability for which he claims sickness benefit, payment will be made only to the extent to which such other payment is less than the amount of benefit.

In the case of unemployment the Act provides for payment of benefit for the duration of the unemployment, and in the case of sickness for the duration of temporary incapacity. Where incapacity through sickness becomes permanent, an invalid pension may be granted, subject to the conditions governing the grant of invalid pensions.

4. **Waiting Period.**—There is a waiting period of seven days in respect of which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable.

5. **Special Benefit.**—A separate class of benefit known as a special benefit is also provided which gives assistance to persons on account of special circumstances or in cases of hardship where a person is not qualified for either sickness or unemployment benefit by reason of his inability to comply with one or other of the statutory requirements, at a rate not exceeding that which might otherwise have been payable.

6. **Administration.**—The Department of Social Services, following a policy of decentralization in order to bring the department into closer touch with the people whom it is intended to serve, has established regional offices in most States to deal with claims for all classes of social service benefits within each region. Pending the opening of additional regional offices, however, and as a matter of administrative convenience, certain Commonwealth Employment Officers will act as Registrars of Social Services, whilst others will act as agents for the regional offices. Payment of unemployment and sickness benefits is made by means of cheques, issued by the Director of Social Services in the metropolitan areas and by Regional Registrars in the country districts.

7. **Statistics, 1945-46 and 1946-47.**—(i) *General.* The following tables give details of the operations for the years 1945-46 and 1946-47. Attention is directed to the differences shown in the tables. In tables in paras. (ii) and (iii) late advices of benefits granted or discontinued have been allocated to their correct year of occurrence, but in tables in (v) and (vi) it has not been practicable to allocate 1945-46 advices received after the completion of the tables for that year, therefore they have been included in the 1946-47 figures.

(ii) *Claims admitted, Exits, Persons on Benefit.* At 30th June, 1946, 13,989 persons were in receipt of benefit, comprising 6,873 unemployment, 6,920 sickness and 196 special benefits. During the year 1946-47, 136,210 claims were admitted (78,578 unemployment, 56,026 sickness and 1,606 special), whilst 134,052 benefits were discontinued (79,243 unemployment, 53,463 sickness and 1,346 special), leaving 16,147 benefits in force at 28th June, 1947 (6,208 unemployment, 9,483 sickness and 456 special).

The total number of benefits granted and discontinued during the year 1946-47 and persons on benefit at the beginning and end of that year, in each class of benefit, is shown in the following table :—

**CLAIMS ADMITTED, DISCONTINUANCES AND PERSONS ON BENEFIT, 1946-47 : AUSTRALIA.**

Class of Benefit.	On Benefit at 30th June, 1946.		Claims admitted during 1946-47.		Discontinuances during 1946-47.		On Benefit at 28th June, 1947.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Unemployment ..	6,576	297	73,379	5,199	73,974	5,269	5,981	227
Sickness ..	5,628	1,292	45,024	11,002	43,388	10,075	7,264	2,219
Special ..	56	140	1,271	335	1,136	210	191	265
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>12,260</b>	<b>1,729</b>	<b>119,674</b>	<b>16,536</b>	<b>118,498</b>	<b>15,554</b>	<b>13,436</b>	<b>2,711</b>

(iii) *Number of Persons admitted in each State.* The following table shows the number of persons in each State admitted to benefit during the years 1945-46 and 1946-47:—

**PERSONS ADMITTED TO BENEFIT.**

State.	Unemployment.		Sickness.		Special.		Total.		
	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Per- sons.
1945-46.									
New South Wales	38,592	10,197	11,822	2,435	87	61	50,501	12,693	63,194
Victoria ..	2,632	63	8,246	1,923	21	45	10,899	2,031	12,930
Queensland ..	10,574	380	5,043	825	49	27	15,666	1,232	16,898
South Australia(b)	9,470	1,486	3,674	604	54	10	13,198	2,100	15,298
Western Australia	3,879	158	2,848	657	24	16	6,751	831	7,582
Tasmania ..	308	5	1,545	280	7	41	1,860	326	2,186
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>65,455</b>	<b>12,289</b>	<b>33,178</b>	<b>6,724</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>98,875</b>	<b>19,213</b>	<b>118,088</b>
1946-47.									
New South Wales	12,297	407	15,798	3,725	336	72	28,431	4,204	32,635
Victoria ..	15,645	542	10,967	3,242	388	105	27,000	3,889	30,889
Queensland ..	32,556	3,366	6,735	1,445	313	65	39,604	4,876	44,480
South Australia(b)	1,368	12	5,015	961	67	30	6,450	1,003	7,453
Western Australia	11,113	868	4,459	1,219	139	48	15,711	2,135	17,846
Tasmania ..	400	4	2,050	410	28	15	2,478	429	2,907
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>73,379</b>	<b>5,199</b>	<b>45,024</b>	<b>11,002</b>	<b>1,271</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>119,674</b>	<b>16,536</b>	<b>136,210</b>

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(iv) *Benefits Paid.* The following table shows the benefits paid in respect of each class of benefit in each State during each of the years 1945-46 and 1946-47:—

**BENEFITS PAID.**

State.	Unemployment.		Sickness.		Special.		Total.	
	1945-46.	1946-47.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1945-46.	1946-47.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
New South Wales(a)	275,205	172,141	198,943	258,782	1,068	6,772	475,216	437,695
Victoria ..	28,234	159,060	139,267	182,184	912	6,839	168,413	348,083
Queensland ..	108,138	441,048	76,306	106,531	624	7,826	185,068	555,505
South Australia(b)	73,226	20,064	53,076	74,471	207	1,769	126,509	96,304
Western Australia	36,440	110,700	34,817	56,050	654	2,918	71,911	169,668
Tasmania ..	3,827	7,809	23,459	33,246	809	1,815	28,095	42,870
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>525,070</b>	<b>910,822</b>	<b>525,868</b>	<b>711,364</b>	<b>4,274</b>	<b>27,939</b>	<b>1,055,212</b>	<b>1,650,125</b>

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(v) *Unemployment Benefits. (a) Cause of Unemployment.* The following table analyses the reasons for termination of employment in each State as stated by persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the year 1946-47.

Discharges and lay-offs are separations on the initiative of the employers, quits on that of the employee.

CAUSE OF UNEMPLOYMENT : CLAIMS ADMITTED, 1946-47.

Cause of Unemployment.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (b)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
Discharged or laid-off due to—							
Inefficiency .. .. .	617	356	911	102	422	44	2,452
Retrenchment .. .. .	1,651	600	4,053	171	870	46	7,391
Replacement by re-instated ex-service personnel, etc.	689	409	946	74	488	27	2,633
Power rationing .. .. .	225	158	7,751	11	3,325		11,470
Shortage of materials .. .. .	562	900	1,703	124	492	16	3,797
Strikes, lock-outs within the same establishment .. .. .	3,069	10,889	242	288	2,427	1	16,916
Seasonal work .. .. .	834	297	8,275	50	230	33	9,719
Casual work .. .. .	1,632	890	5,301	229	1,104	69	9,225
Other reasons .. .. .	391	238	1,798	50	430	16	2,923
Quitted due to—							
Medical unfitness, work too heavy	1,463	835	2,022	209	1,098	72	5,699
Other reasons .. .. .	910	491	1,761	83	684	32	3,961
Not previously employed—							
Employers, workers on own account .. .. .	293	86	676	15	269	18	1,357
Ex-service personnel not yet returned to work .. .. .	484	110	1,676	22	496	31	2,819
Other .. .. .	53	13	38	3	16	3	126
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>12,873</b>	<b>16,272</b>	<b>37,153</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>12,351</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>80,488</b>

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(b) *Industrial Groups.* The following table shows the distribution, according to main industrial groups in each State, of persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the year 1946-47.

UNEMPLOYMENT—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS : CLAIMS ADMITTED, 1946-47.

Industry in which last engaged.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (b)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying	1,600	480	5,866	72	451	31	8,500
Other Primary Production .. .. .	242	82	583	7	126	8	1,048
Coal Mining .. .. .	865	6	102	1	428		1,402
Other Mining and Quarrying .. .. .	102	83	223	12	460	12	892
Factories and Industrial—							
Founding, engineering, metal-working including shipbuilding	3,275	9,264	2,406	411	1,155	16	16,527
Vehicles, including aircraft .. .. .	163	798	1,536	81	740	4	3,322
Textiles and articles of dress .. .. .	226	287	2,316	24	722	22	3,597
Food, drink and tobacco .. .. .	785	761	6,928	107	673	41	9,295
Furniture, woodwork, etc. .. .. .	195	118	1,318	23	615	11	2,280
Other factories, including heat, light and power .. .. .	619	1,076	1,425	88	1,060	29	4,297
Building and Construction .. .. .	1,140	721	3,814	96	847	45	6,663
Transport and Communication .. .. .	641	1,227	2,801	183	2,053	57	6,962
Commerce and Finance—							
Wholesale and retail trade .. .. .	950	612	2,578	148	1,123	41	5,452
Finance and property .. .. .	78	46	108	15	48	1	296
Public Administration and Professional .. .. .	680	253	1,759	53	517	35	3,297
Personal and Domestic Service .. .. .	809	340	1,741	90	877	32	3,889
Other .. .. .	503	118	1,649	20	456	23	2,769
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>12,873</b>	<b>16,272</b>	<b>37,153</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>12,351</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>80,488</b>

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(vi) *Sickness Benefits. (a) Nature of Sickness.* The following table shows the number of admissions to sickness benefit (46,228 males and 11,255 females, Australia) during 1946-47 according to State and the main natures of sickness.

## NATURE OF SICKNESS : CLAIMS ADMITTED, 1946-47.

Nature of Sickness.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (b)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
Infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	1,039	891	599	363	394	155	3,441
Cancer .. .. .	111	89	107	55	28	6	396
Other tumours .. .. .	224	183	95	65	53	20	640
Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and Vitamin-deficiency Diseases..	1,259	878	511	421	296	206	3,571
Diseases of—							
Blood and blood-forming organs	192	125	75	47	34	12	485
Nervous system and sense organs	1,968	1,316	859	620	465	247	5,475
Circulatory system .. .. .	1,556	1,171	628	455	332	182	4,324
Respiratory system .. .. .	2,147	1,628	760	767	640	239	6,181
Digestive system .. .. .	4,498	3,059	1,794	1,300	1,303	450	12,404
Genito-urinary system .. .. .	996	662	523	327	260	113	2,821
Pregnancy, Childbirth, etc. ..	194	440	104	15	137	16	906
Skin and cellular tissue .. ..	1,240	715	577	357	416	178	3,483
Bones and organs of movement..	487	354	235	190	168	73	1,507
Other Diseases (including ill-defined conditions) .. .. .	263	282	180	140	119	71	1,055
Injuries and Acute Poisoning—							
Fractures .. .. .	1,759	1,378	815	480	509	203	5,144
Other injuries, etc. .. .. .	1,566	1,222	772	535	567	261	4,923
Operations (original disability not stated) .. .. .	152	150	48	45	57	31	483
Other (including not stated) ..	56	67	43	21	38	19	244
Total .. .. .	19,707	14,550	8,725	6,203	5,816	2,482	57,483

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(b) *Industrial Groups.* The following table shows the distribution according to main industrial groups of persons whose admission to benefit was notified during the year 1946-47.

## SICKNESS—INDUSTRIAL GROUPS : CLAIMS ADMITTED, 1946-47.

Industry in which last engaged.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (b)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
Agriculture, Pastoral and Dairying	918	832	938	340	423	249	3,700
Other Primary Production .. ..	259	284	155	97	164	100	1,059
Coal Mining .. .. .	1,264	105	211	1	141	13	1,735
Other Mining and Quarrying ..	78	83	123	41	414	190	929
Factories and Industrial—							
Founding, engineering, metal- working including shipbuilding	4,254	1,784	578	1,130	274	136	8,156
Vehicles, including aircraft ..	475	731	272	662	232	57	2,429
Textiles and articles of dress ..	1,352	1,808	331	246	225	233	4,195
Food, drink and tobacco .. ..	1,262	1,015	893	387	241	129	3,927
Furniture, woodwork, etc. .. .	567	431	438	145	278	126	1,985
Other factories, including heat, light and power .. .. .	1,932	1,585	435	509	375	183	5,019
Building and Construction .. ..	1,670	1,296	1,152	575	704	295	5,692
Transport and Communication ..	1,234	1,079	793	620	562	255	4,543
Commerce and Finance—							
Wholesale and retail trade ..	1,881	1,380	896	674	713	175	5,719
Finance and property .. .. .	108	98	55	34	34	12	341
Public Administration and Profes- sional .. .. .	967	815	557	302	345	120	3,106
Personal and Domestic Service ..	1,416	1,156	843	425	649	198	4,687
Other .. .. .	70	68	55	15	42	11	261
Total .. .. .	19,707	14,550	8,725	6,203	5,816	2,482	57,483

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.



### § 6. Hospitals Benefits Act.

Under this Act, which was assented to on 11th October, 1945, the Commonwealth Government has entered into agreements with the States to pay to the States the benefit rate of six shillings per day for each bed occupied by a qualified person in a public ward in a public hospital, provided that the States abolish the means test for admission into public wards and cease charging fees to qualified persons admitted thereto. For dates of operation, and payments made, in the several States, *see* Part B, §1, para. 5, *ante*.

The allowance of six shillings per day provided by the Commonwealth is given with the object of reimbursing the States the amount of money they lose because of the abolition of fees in public wards and for the loss of any charitable donations. The Commonwealth Government has undertaken to increase the amount if it is inadequate to meet these losses.

The agreement provides for the Commonwealth to pay a similar benefit towards the cost of treatment of qualified persons occupying beds in non-public wards in public hospitals, and for the State Government to reduce the hospital fees by the equivalent of the benefit rate, thus relieving qualified persons of fees to this extent.

Private hospitals are entitled to claim six shillings a day for each bed occupied by a qualified patient. These hospitals must be approved by a joint committee of Commonwealth and State health authorities before payment of benefit is made. The hospitals are required to reduce each qualified patient's account by the amount of the benefit received from the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth and States have agreed to form a National Hospital Council of Commonwealth and State representatives, the functions of which will be to advise the Commonwealth and State Governments on any hospital matters referred to it by the Commonwealth or State Governments.

### § 7. Tuberculosis Act.

This Act was assented to on 11th October, 1945, and an amending Act on 15th August, 1946. The following four principles are embodied :—

- (a) The earlier the disease is recognized the better the prospect of recovery for the patient and the better from the point of view of the community. Accordingly, the Commonwealth proposal is aimed at encouraging the States to establish additional diagnostic facilities. Section 4 of the Act provides for the Commonwealth to subsidize £ for £ the expenditure of the States in the maintenance of diagnostic facilities, such as clinics, dispensaries, X-ray equipment, etc. The Commonwealth is to provide up to a maximum of £50,000 per year on this basis.
- (b) The Commonwealth will pay to the States a subsidy of six shillings a day per bed occupied in tuberculosis hospitals. Payment is subject to the condition that free treatment is given and no fees are charged in public wards.
- (c) Many patients, after a period in a hospital or sanatorium, require further care. To assist the States to extend after-care facilities, the Commonwealth proposes to make available up to £50,000 per annum, on a £ for £ basis, for maintenance expenditure on after-care facilities established after the commencement of the Act.
- (d) Medical authorities are agreed that an adequate level of nutrition should be maintained as a first line of resistance to tuberculosis. To this end, the Government provides special allowances for sufferers from tuberculosis or their dependants with the objects of :—
  - (i) encouraging such sufferers to refrain from working and to take treatment ;
  - (ii) minimizing the spread of tuberculosis ; and
  - (iii) promoting the better treatment of tuberculosis.

This allowance will be paid only in those cases where the fight against the disease will be positively assisted. It is not an automatic grant to all cases of tuberculosis.

### § 8. Pharmaceutical Benefits Act.

A Pharmaceutical Benefits Act passed all stages of the Commonwealth Parliament in March, 1944 and was amended in September, 1945. This Act was the subject of a High Court action, as a result of which the Government sought by means of a referendum of the people the constitutional power necessary to implement the Act. For further information on legal and constitutional action in this matter, see Chapter III.—General Government, pages 64 and 65. This power having been granted, a further Pharmaceutical Benefits Act, which repealed the Acts of 1944 and 1945, was assented to on 12th June, 1947. This Act embodies a scheme for providing pharmaceutical benefits to all persons ordinarily resident in Australia. The benefits to be provided are contained in a Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Formulary, which is subject to periodic revision by a Formulary Committee comprised of members of the medical and pharmaceutical professions. Benefits are supplied without cost to the person receiving the benefit, payment being made by the Commonwealth to authorized suppliers from the National Welfare Fund. *Special arrangements exist for supplying benefits or their equivalent to persons residing in isolated areas.* These pharmaceutical benefits were first made available to the public on 1st June, 1948.