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## CHAPTER XV.

### WELFARE SERVICES.

#### A. COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICE BENEFITS.

##### § 1. Introduction.

Commonwealth social service benefits are provided under the Social Services Act 1947-1955 which came into operation on 1st July, 1947. This Act provided for the repeal of the existing laws relating to age and invalid pensions, maternity allowances, child endowment, widows' pensions and unemployment and sickness benefits, and for the immediate re-enactment of the necessary provisions for the grant and payment of these benefits under a unified law. Its more important effects were the elimination of obsolete provisions and of anomalies, the amalgamation of like provisions, and the modernizing and grouping of the legislation so that it presented a symmetrical part of a well-defined pattern of social security.

##### § 2. Commonwealth Expenditure on Social and Health Services.

The Commonwealth expenditure in each State and Territory on Social and Health Services for the year 1954-55 is shown in the following table:—

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH BENEFITS, 1954-55.**  
(£'000.)

Social and Health Services.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Over-seas.	Total.
Age and Invalid Pensions	36,874	21,527	13,027	7,655	5,759	2,999	26	79	60	88,006
Child Endowment .. ..	19,422	13,735	8,249	4,714	4,069	2,032	133	170	6	52,530
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service .. ..	102	159	50	75	54	11	..	..	..	451
Funeral Benefits .. ..	128	78	43	24	21	10	..	..	..	304
Maternity Allowances ..	1,250	892	513	297	261	128	7	13	1	3,362
Unemployment and Sickness Benefits—										
Unemployment .. ..	254	99	270	12	27	16	..	1	..	679
Sickness .. ..	673	387	255	137	99	52	2	3	..	1,608
Special(d) .. ..	126	123	58	16	17	12	..	1	..	353
Widows' Pensions .. ..	2,818	1,622	1,179	533	451	238	3	9	9	6,862
National Health Services—										
Hospital Benefits .. ..	4,000	2,179	1,312	711	745	291	33	19	1	9,321
Medical Benefits .. ..	1,855	1,072	396	399	413	75	..	..	..	4,210
Medical Benefits for Pensioners .. ..	1,186	584	309	222	165	46	..	4	..	2,516
Nutrition of Children ..	981	497	322	155	126	144	1	11	..	2,237
Pharmaceutical Benefits ..	3,891	2,579	1,208	817	686	208	..	4	..	(b)9,445
Pharmaceutical Benefits for Pensioners .. ..	619	263	188	118	82	25	..	..	..	1,295
Miscellaneous .. ..	46	32	61	10	15	17	7	..	..	(c) 258
Mental Institution Benefits ..	106	54	37	16	9	3	..	..	..	225
Tuberculosis Campaign(d) ..	2,177	1,506	749	480	484	242	4	15	..	5,657
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>76,508</b>	<b>47,388</b>	<b>28,256</b>	<b>16,391</b>	<b>13,483</b>	<b>6,549</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>189,319</b>

(a) Includes payments to migrants.  
£70,000 for administration.

(b) Includes £52,000 for administration.

(c) Includes allowances and reimbursements to the States.

The amount of Commonwealth expenditure on Social and Health Services, excluding cost of administration, during the years 1938-39 and 1950-51 to 1954-55 for Australia, is shown in the following table.

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.**  
(£'000.)

Social and Health Services.	1938-39.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.
Age and Invalid Pensions ..	15,992	49,520	59,788	72,424	81,293	88,006
Child Endowment ..	..	43,585	46,625	53,244	50,761	52,530
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service ..	..	310	361	454	429	451
Funeral Benefits ..	..	254	276	270	288	304
Maternity Allowances ..	436	3,037	3,157	3,248	3,226	3,362
Unemployment and Sickness Benefits ..	..	1,037	1,008	6,255	4,543	2,640
Widows' Pensions ..	..	4,828	5,615	6,334	6,626	6,862
National Health Services—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hospital Benefits ..	..	6,536	6,683	7,223	8,330	9,321
Medical Benefits ..	..	..	..	..	1,434	4,210
Medical Benefits for Pensioners ..	..	75	1,036	1,740	2,115	2,516
Nutrition of Children ..	..	36	815	1,521	1,999	2,237
Pharmaceutical Benefits ..	..	2,930	7,327	6,487	8,219	9,145
Pharmaceutical Benefits for Pensioners ..	..	..	358	729	1,011	1,295
Miscellaneous ..	..	131	162	183	216	258
Mental Institution Benefits ..	..	406	518	523	495	225
Rental Rebates under Housing Agreement ..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis Campaign(a) ..	..	2,275	3,879	4,876	5,580	5,657
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>16,428</b>	<b>114,983</b>	<b>137,608</b>	<b>165,511</b>	<b>176,565</b>	<b>189,391</b>

(a) Includes allowances and reimbursements to States for the maintenance of Hospitals.

### § 3. Age and Invalid Pensions.

Age pensions are payable to men, 65 years of age and over, and women, 60 years of age and over, who have resided in Australia continuously for at least 20 years which need not be immediately prior to the date of claim for pension. Absence in a Territory of the Commonwealth does not break continuity of residence. Any periods of absence during which a person's home remained in Australia, and absences in certain other circumstances, and in the case of a claimant who has had at least 18 years' residence, occasional absences aggregating up to 2 years plus 6 months for every year of residence in excess of 18 years are counted as residence.

Invalid pensions are payable to persons, 16 years of age and over, who have resided in Australia for a continuous period of five years, and who are permanently incapacitated for work or permanently blind. For the purpose of the residential qualification, the position in regard to absences is the same as for age pensioners. The degree of permanent incapacity has to be not less than 85 per cent. and the claimant must have become permanently incapacitated or permanently blind while in Australia or during a temporary absence from Australia, but this condition is waived if he has resided in Australia for not less than 20 years (continuous or otherwise), which may be partly before or partly after the occurrence of the permanent incapacity or blindness.

All permanently blind persons qualified in other respects, are eligible for a pension of £4 a week free of the means test, and any blind pensioner who has a child under 16 years of age is entitled to receive a child's allowance of 11s. 6d. per week in addition to the pension.

A pension is not payable to:—an alien (except a woman who, prior to marriage, was a British subject); a person who has directly or indirectly deprived himself of property or income in order to qualify for a pension; a person in receipt of income of £390 per annum (£780 per annum for a married couple); a person who owns property, apart from his permanent home and other exempt property, to the net value of more than £1,750 (£3,500 for married persons); a person who is not deserving of a pension; a person who is not of good character or who has deserted his wife (or her husband) or children for six months immediately preceding the date of the claim (age pension only).

Pensions may be granted to aboriginal natives of Australia who have been granted exemption from State control laws, or who, in any State where exemption is not provided for, are considered suitable persons to receive pensions.

The maximum rate of pension from 27th October, 1955 is £208 per annum.

Permissible income is £182 per annum. Any income in excess of this amount is deducted from the pension. The income of a married person is deemed to be half the total income of husband and wife except where they are legally separated or in certain other circumstances. A married couple where only one is a pensioner may have an income of £7 a week between them without reduction of the pension. "Income" does not include gifts or allowances from children or parents, benefits from friendly societies, payments in respect of illness, infirmity or old-age from any trade union, the value of State food relief, child endowment or other payments for or in respect of children, Commonwealth Hospital Benefits, Pharmaceutical Benefits and interest on Commonwealth war gratuities.

The rate of pension is reduced by £1 per annum for every complete £10 of the value of property which exceeds £200 up to £1,750. The value of property of a married person is deemed to be half the total value of property of husband and wife.

The value of a home, furniture and personal effects, the surrender value (up to £750) of any life assurance policies, the capital value of any life interest, annuity or contingent interest, the value of any property from the estate of a deceased person which has not been received and the amount of any Commonwealth war gratuity are disregarded in the computation of property. From October, 1954 income received from property owned by a pensioner or his spouse and income such as dividends on shares and interest from bonds or on money in a bank or investments, is also disregarded.

A pensioner who is an inmate of a benevolent home is paid £72 16s. per annum of his pension and the balance of the pension is paid to the institution for his maintenance.

An allowance, not exceeding £91 per annum, may be granted to the wife of an invalid pensioner (or an age pensioner who is permanently incapacitated for work or permanently blind) if she is living with her husband and is not receiving an age or invalid pension or a service pension. The rate of the allowance is affected by income and property on the same basis as an age or invalid pension.

An allowance of £29 18s. per annum in respect of one child under the age of 16 years may be granted to the wife of an invalid pensioner (or age pensioner who is permanently incapacitated for work or permanently blind) if she is living with her husband and is not receiving a service pension. This child's allowance is additional to the wife's allowance and may also be granted where the wife is ineligible for a wife's allowance on account of income or property. The allowance may also be granted to any invalid pensioner who has the custody, care and control of a child under the age of 16 years, but where both husband and wife are invalid pensioners (living together) the child's allowance is payable only to the wife.

The rehabilitation service has been set up to help persons who are too disabled to work or who have had to give up their employment because of sickness or injury. It aims at restoring disabled persons so they can earn a living and lead useful lives. They are given suitable treatment and training, the cases selected being those in which the person's disability is remediable and where there are reasonable prospects of his engaging in a suitable vocation within three years after the commencement of treatment or training.

The benefits are available to invalid pensioners, persons receiving unemployment or sickness benefits or tuberculosis allowances. The treatment of certain other disabled persons may also be approved by the Director-General of Social Services. During the treatment stage of rehabilitation the payment of pension or benefit is continued. If, however, vocational training is provided the pension or benefit is suspended and the trainee is paid instead a rehabilitation allowance equivalent to the amount of invalid pension for which he is qualified, or which would be payable if he were qualified, together with the amount of any wife's and child's allowances, plus a training allowance of £1 10s. per week.

Living-away-from-home allowances, where necessary, are paid by the Commonwealth. Fares and living expenses (including those of an attendant where required) incurred in connexion with treatment, training or attendance for an interview or for medical examination may also be paid. A person receiving treatment or training may be provided, free of charge, with necessary artificial replacements, surgical aids and appliances. He may also be provided with books, equipment and tools of trade, costing not more than £40. If these are retained by him, he is required to pay the cost, but payments may be made by small instalments after he has commenced employment.

If the treatment or vocational training does not result in the trainee being able to engage in employment, his right to the continuance of his pension or benefit is not prejudiced.

The number of persons receiving benefits who were examined, accepted, trained and placed in employment during the years 1953-54 and 1954-55 are shown in the following table:—

#### COMMONWEALTH REHABILITATION SERVICE: OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA.

Type.		Examined.	Accepted.	Completed Training.	Placed in Employment.	
					After Training.	Without Training.
Invalid Pensioners	1953-54	9,764	290	118	85	91
	1954-55	10,724	337	112	101	104
Unemployment and Sickness Beneficiaries	1953-54	10,116	784	124	111	537
	1954-55	9,933	829	120	98	581
Recipients of Tuberculosis Allowances	1953-54	480	266	152	153	25
	1954-55	1,085	344	177	175	54
Special Cases	1954-55	71	73	..	..	55

From 1st July, 1943 a funeral benefit of up to £10 has been payable to the person who has paid, or is liable to pay, the cost of the funeral of an age or invalid pensioner or of a claimant who, but for his death, would have been granted an age or invalid pension. This provision has been extended to include payment in respect of the death of a person who at the time of his death was receiving, or was a claimant for, a tuberculosis allowance, if he was otherwise qualified to receive an age or invalid pension. Where the cost of the funeral has been partly met by payment from a contributory funeral benefit fund of an organization other than a friendly society, funeral benefit is payable to the extent of the amount (not above £10) by which the cost of the funeral exceeded the amount paid from the fund. A funeral benefit is not payable to a person administering a contributory funeral benefit fund.

The following statement shows the rates of pension at 1st July, 1909 and the rates as they have been varied since that date and are subject to income and property qualifications:—

#### MAXIMUM RATES OF PENSION PAYABLE.

Date from which Operative.	Maximum Pension Payable.		Limit of Income (including Pension) per Annum.	Date from which Operative.	Maximum Pension Payable.		Limit of Income (including Pension) per Annum.
	Per Week.	Per Annum.			Per Week.	Per Annum.	
	s. d.	£ s.	£ s.		s. d.	£ s.	£ s.
1st July, 1909 ..	10 0	26 0	52 0	1st October, 1942(b) ..	25 6	66 6	98 16
12th October, 1916 ..	12 6	32 10	58 10	7th January, 1943(b) ..	26 0	67 12	100 2
1st January, 1920 ..	15 0	39 0	65 0	1st April, 1943(b) ..	26 6	68 18	101 8
13th September, 1923 ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	19th August, 1943(b) ..	27 0	70 4	102 14
8th October, 1925 ..	20 0	52 0	84 10	25th November, 1943(b)(d) ..	26 6	68 18	101 8
23rd July, 1931 ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	25th November, 1943(d) ..	27 0	70 4	102 14
13th October, 1932(a) ..	15 0	39 0	71 10	5th July, 1945 ..	32 6	84 10	117 0
26th October, 1933 ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	13th August, 1946 ..	32 6	84 10	136 10
4th July, 1935(b) ..	18 0	46 16	79 6	3rd July, 1947 ..	37 6	97 10	149 10
24th September, 1936 ..	19 0	49 8	81 18	21st October, 1948 ..	42 6	110 10	188 10
9th September, 1937 ..	20 0	52 0	84 10	2nd November, 1950 ..	50 0	130 0	208 0
26th December, 1940 ..	21 0	54 12	87 2	1st November, 1951 ..	60 0	156 0	234 0
3rd April, 1941(b) ..	21 6	55 18	88 8	2nd October, 1952 ..	67 6	175 10	253 10
11th December, 1941 ..	23 6	61 2	93 12	29th October, 1953 ..	70 0	182 0	286 0
2nd April, 1942(b) ..	24 0	62 8	94 18	14th October, 1954 ..	70 0	182 0	364 0
2nd April, 1942(c) ..	25 0	65 0	97 10	27th October, 1955 ..	80 0	208 0	390 0

(a) Additional pension of £6 10s. per annum (2s. 6d. per week) was payable to a pensioner with no income. Pensioners with income of less than 2s. 6d. per week were paid additional pension of 2s. 6d. less the amount of income. (b) Variation according to rise in retail price index-number. (c) Increase paid on 9th July, 1942, retrospective to 2nd April, 1942. (d) Rate restored to £70 4s. per annum under National Security (Supplementary) Regulation 112A—Statutory Rule 315 of 1943.

NOTE.—Provision for variations according to retail price index-numbers was repealed on 6th April, 1944.

At 30th June, 1953, there were 374,791 age pensions in force. During 1953-54 54,204 age pensions claims were granted and 2,653 pensioners were transferred from the invalid pension list, while 33,864 pensions expired through cancellations and deaths. The net increase for the year was 22,993 and the number in force at 30th June, 1954 was 397,784.

Of the age pensioners at 30th June, 1954, 138,055 (or 35 per cent.) were males, and 259,729 (or 65 per cent.) were females.

The recorded ages of the 54,204 persons (20,924 males and 33,280 females) to whom age pensions were granted during the year 1953-54 varied considerably, ranging from 7,642 at age 60 to three at age 99, but 37,079 were in the 60-69 years age-group. The conjugal condition of these new pensioners was as follows:—Males—single, 2,320; married, 15,000; and widowed, 3,604: Females—single, 4,255; married, 16,862; and widowed, 12,163.

The number of invalid pensioners increased from 70,232 in 1952-53 to 73,732 in 1953-54, an increase of 3,500. Total pensions granted during 1953-54 were 11,350 while 5,197 pensions ceased through cancellations or deaths and 2,653 were transferred to the age pension list.

Of the 73,732 persons in receipt of invalid pensions at 30th June, 1954, 41,996 (or 57 per cent.) were males and 31,736 (or 43 per cent.) were females.

The recorded ages of the 11,350 persons (6,903 males and 4,447 females) to whom invalid pensions were granted during 1953-54 varied from 16 to 98, 5,484 (or 48 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, 2,361; married, 4,107; and widowed, 435: Females—single, 1,920; married, 1,785; and widowed, 742.

## AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS, 1953-54.

Particulars.	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust. (b)	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
Age Pensions in force—							
Males .. .. .	62,230	29,799	20,471	11,180	9,950	4,423	138,055
Females .. .. .	102,476	68,411	37,890	25,173	17,298	8,481	259,729
Persons .. .. .	164,706	98,210	58,361	36,353	27,248	12,906	397,784
Masculinity (c) .. .. .	60.73	43.56	54.03	44.41	57.52	52.18	53.15
Invalid Pensions in force—							
Males .. .. .	21,215	8,977	6,031	2,256	2,192	1,323	41,996
Females .. .. .	14,396	6,905	4,991	2,255	1,909	1,280	31,736
Persons .. .. .	35,611	15,882	11,022	4,511	4,101	2,603	73,732
Masculinity (c) .. .. .	147.37	130.01	120.84	100.04	114.82	103.52	132.33
Age and Invalid Pensioners—							
Total Payments .. £'000.(d)	34,042	19,978	12,017	7,075	5,375	2,794	(e) 81,293
Annual Liability at 30th June, 1954—							
Age Pensioners .. £'000.	28,733	17,192	10,203	6,310	4,746	2,179	69,363
Invalid Pensioners .. .. .	6,385	2,780	1,965	803	728	454	13,115
Total .. .. .	£'000. 35,118	19,972	12,168	7,113	5,474	2,633	82,478

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Number of males to each 100 females. (d) Includes amounts paid to Benevolent Homes for the maintenance of 6,493 pensioners and 12,362 allowances to wives of invalid pensioners. (e) Includes £12,000 paid abroad.

The number of age pensioners increased by 27,772 during the year 1954-55 to 425,556, comprising 147,750 males (or 34 per cent.) and 277,806 females (or 66 per cent.), the recorded ages of those age pensions granted during the year ranging from 7,914 at age 60 to one at 100, 39,929 being in the 60-69 years age-group.

The conjugal condition of the new pensioners was as follows:—Males—single, 2,389; married, 16,887; and widowed, 3,995: Females—single, 5,185; married, 18,542; and widowed, 14,800.

The number of invalid pensioners increased by 4,766 during the year 1954-55 to 78,498, comprising 44,535 males (or 57 per cent.) and 33,963 females (or 43 per cent.), while the recorded ages of the new pensioners varied from 524 at age 16 to one at 97, 5,795 (or 46 per cent.) being in the 45-59 years age-group.

The conjugal condition of the new pensioners was as follows:—Males—single, 2,176; married, 4,199; and widowed, 396: Females—single, 1,991; married, 2,059; and widowed, 977.

## AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS, 1954-55.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Total.
Age Pensioners in force—									
Male .. .. .	64,312	31,495	24,667	11,963	10,569	4,520	71	153	47,750
Females .. .. .	109,584	74,911	38,170	27,407	18,264	9,159	52	259	277,806
Persons .. .. .	173,896	106,406	62,837	39,370	28,833	13,679	123	412	425,556
Masculinity (a) .. .. .	58.69	42.04	64.62	43.65	57.87	49.35	136.54	59.07	53.18
Invalid Pensioners in force—									
Male .. .. .	22,548	9,542	6,398	2,334	2,344	1,325	12	32	44,535
Females .. .. .	15,611	7,532	5,240	2,333	1,847	1,356	9	35	33,963
Persons .. .. .	38,159	17,074	11,638	4,667	4,191	2,681	21	67	78,498
Masculinity (a) .. .. .	144.44	126.69	122.10	100.04	126.91	97.71	133.33	91.43	131.13
Age and Invalid Pensioners—									
Total Payments.. £'000.(b)	36,874	21,527	13,027	7,655	5,759	2,999	26	79	88,006
Annual Liability at 30th June, 1955—									
Age Pensioners .. £'000.	30,755	18,526	10,931	6,813	5,026	2,398	(d)	(e)	74,449
Invalid Pensioners .. „	6,887	2,999	2,085	837	749	483	(d)	(e)	14,040
Total .. £'000.	37,642	21,525	13,016	7,650	5,775	2,881	(d)	(e)	88,489

(a) Number of males to each 100 females. (b) Includes amounts paid to Benevolent Homes for the maintenance of 6,132 pensioners and 12,555 allowances to wives of invalid pensioners. (c) Includes £60,000 paid abroad. (d) Included with South Australia. (e) Included with New South Wales.

The actual sum disbursed in age and invalid pensions in 1953-54 including the amount paid to Homes for the maintenance of pensioners and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners, was £9 2s. 8d. per head of population as compared with £9 13s. 8d. in 1954-55.

The following table gives details of age and invalid pensions for the years 1938-39 and 1950-51 to 1954-55.—

## AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year ended 30th June—	Pensioners at End of Year.				Amount Paid in Pensions.	Total Payment to Pensioners and Homes.(b)	Average Fortnightly Pension as at 30th June.		
	Age.		Invalid.	Total.			Age.	Invalid.	Total.
	No.	Rate per 1,000 persons eligible on age qualifi- cation. (a)							
1939 ..	232,836	376	No. 88,812	No. 321,648	£ 15,798,038	£ 15,991,782	s. d. (c)	s. d. (c)	s. d. 38 5
1951 ..	342,806	396	68,918	411,724	49,307,690	49,520,285	95 5	96 8	95 7
1952 ..	352,049	397	67,963	420,012	59,512,514	59,788,003	114 2	116 4	114 6
1953 ..	371,701	410	70,232	445,023	72,087,074	72,423,900	128 4	130 11	128 9
1954 ..	397,784	423	73,732	471,516	80,898,725	81,293,003	134 2	136 10	134 7
1955 ..	425,556	439	78,498	504,054	87,614,112	88,006,077	134 7	137 7	135 1

(a) Based on an estimate of the aggregate of males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over at 30th June of each year. (b) Includes allowances to wives of invalid pensioners payable from the 8th July, 1943, but excludes funeral benefits in respect of deaths of pensioners, £243,058 in 1950-51; £275,850 in 1951-52; £270,448 in 1952-53; £287,798 in 1953-54; and £303,784 in 1954-55. (c) Not available.

## § 4. Maternity Allowances.

A maternity allowance is payable to a woman who, at the date of giving birth to a child, is residing in Australia or is in Australia and intends to remain. The allowance is payable in respect of a birth which occurs in Australia or on board a ship proceeding from a port in Australia or a Territory of the Commonwealth to another port in Australia or a Territory of the Commonwealth, or on board a ship proceeding to Australia, provided the mother receives no maternity benefit in respect of the birth from the country whence she came. Payment may be made in respect of the birth of a still-born child, or a child which lives for less than twelve hours, if the period of intra-uterine life of the child was at least 5½ calendar months. There is no means test.

Payment may be made to an alien mother if she was a British subject prior to her marriage, or if she or her husband resided in Australia for at least twelve months immediately prior to the birth of the child. Payment in respect of a birth which occurs within twelve months of the mother's arrival in Australia may be made at the end of that time, but may be made immediately if the mother is likely to remain in Australia, and to Australian residents who are temporarily abroad.

The allowances may be paid only to those aboriginal natives of Australia who have been granted exemption from State control laws or who, in any State where exemption is not provided for, are considered suitable persons to receive the allowance.

From 1st July, 1947, the amount of a maternity allowance has been £15 where there are no other children; £16 where there are one or two other children; and £17 10s. where there are three or more other children. "Other children" means children under the age of sixteen years who were in the custody, care and control of the claimant on the date of the birth in respect of which the claim is made. The amount payable is increased by £5 in respect of each additional child born at a birth. Payment of £5 on account of a maternity allowance may be made available, upon application, within a period of four weeks prior to the expected date of birth. The balance is payable immediately after the birth.

The following table gives details of the maternity allowance claims paid and rejected and of the amount paid for the years 1938-39 and 1950-51 to 1954-55 and since the inception of maternity allowances in 1912-13 :—

#### MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.		1938-39.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	Aggregate 1912-13 to 1954-55.
Claims Paid ..	No.	80,916	191,587	195,722	203,042	199,814	208,179	5,588,659
Claims Rejected ..	"	6,272	306	180	190	229	204	111,912
Amount Paid ..	£	436,614	3,057,519	3,156,992	3,248,305	3,225,919	3,362,307	51,805,516

NOTE.—The means test was abolished from 1st July, 1943.

The following table shows the number of maternity allowance claims paid in each State or Territory during the years 1938-39 and 1950-51 to 1954-55 :—

#### MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : NUMBER OF CLAIMS PAID IN EACH STATE.

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W. (a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S.A. (b)	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Over- seas.	Total.
1939 ..	30,860	20,819	12,880	7,204	5,213	3,940	..	..	..	80,916
1951 ..	72,003	50,211	29,155	17,864	14,986	7,250	..	..	119	191,587
1952 ..	72,685	53,111	30,737	17,350	15,074	7,626	..	..	73	195,722
1953 ..	74,011	55,207	31,058	19,068	15,335	7,983	..	..	90	203,042
1954 ..	72,380	54,210	30,890	18,719	15,803	7,721	..	..	47	199,814
1955 ..	76,614	55,726	31,781	18,506	16,261	7,940	491	787	88	208,179

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory to June, 1954.

(b) Includes Northern Territory to June, 1954.

The following table shows the number of claims paid in each State at the several rates of maternity allowances during the year 1953-54 :—

#### MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : NUMBER OF CLAIMS PAID AT EACH RATE, 1953-54.

State.	Single Births.			Multiple Births.						Total Claims Paid.
				Twins.			Triplets.			
	£15.	£16.	£17 10s.	£20.	£21.	£22 10s.	£25.	£26.	£27 10s.	
New South Wales(a) ..	24,483	34,877	12,208	213	404	186	3	5	..	(c) 72,380
Victoria ..	18,202	26,241	9,077	191	340	159	2	6	1	54,210
Queensland ..	9,315	14,461	6,750	91	160	109	..	3	..	30,886
South Australia(b) ..	5,768	9,417	3,349	54	115	46	..	..	..	18,749
Western Australia ..	4,718	7,915	2,996	37	94	42	..	..	1	15,803
Tasmania ..	2,256	3,579	1,784	22	47	35	..	3	..	7,726
Overseas ..	22	24	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Total ..	64,764	96,514	36,166	608	1,160	577	5	17	2	199,814

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(c) Includes quadruplets, one, £32 10s.

The following table shows the number of claims paid in each State at the several rates of maternity allowances during the year 1954-55 :—

**MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : NUMBER OF CLAIMS PAID AT EACH RATE, 1954-55.**

State or Territory.	Single Births.			Multiple Births.						Total Claims Paid.
	£15.	£16.	£17 10s.	Twins.			Triplets.			
				£20.	£21.	£22 10s.	£25.	£26.	£27 10s.	
New South Wales ..	24,780	36,593	14,397	194	445	197	3	4	1	76,614
Victoria ..	18,034	27,288	9,712	154	377	150	..	3	2	55,720
Queensland ..	9,531	14,933	6,994	69	149	98	1	1	4	31,782
South Australia ..	5,588	9,238	3,453	53	130	40	3	1	..	18,506
Western Australia ..	4,808	8,067	3,175	42	116	49	1	3	..	16,261
Tasmania ..	2,269	3,685	1,887	30	40	27	1	..	1	7,940
Northern Territory ..	152	231	89	4	3	2	..	..	..	481
Australian Capital Territory ..	262	390	130	1	3	1	..	..	..	787
Overseas ..	44	33	10	..	..	1	..	..	..	88
Total ..	65,468	100,460	39,847	547	1,263	565	9	12	8	208,179

### § 5. Child Endowment.

Any person who is resident in Australia and has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of sixteen years, and an approved institution of which children are inmates shall be qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each child. There is a twelve months residential requirement in respect of a claimant and a child who were not born in Australia, but this is waived if the claimant and the child are likely to remain permanently in Australia. A child born during the mother's temporary absence from Australia is deemed to have been born in Australia. There is no means test.

Endowment may be paid in respect of a child whose father is not a British subject if—the child was born in Australia; the mother is a British subject; and the child is likely to remain permanently in Australia. Endowment is also payable to aboriginal natives of Australia unless they are nomadic, or unless the child concerned is wholly or mainly dependent on the Commonwealth or a State and also to children of members of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of the United Kingdom who are serving with the Australian Forces from the time of arrival of the children in Australia.

From 20th June, 1950, the rate of endowment payable has been (a) where the endowee has the custody of one child only—5s. per week; (b) where the endowee has the custody of two or more children—in respect of the elder or eldest child 5s. per week and in respect of each other child 10s. per week; and (c) in the case of an approved institution the rate is 10s. per week for each child inmate. From 1st July, 1941, the rate of endowment was 5s. per week for each child in excess of one in a family, and for each child under sixteen years in an approved institution. The rate was increased to 7s. 6d. per week from 25th June, 1945, and to 10s. per week from 9th November, 1948. There are provisions to meet cases of families divided by reason of divorce, separation, unemployment, death of a parent or other circumstances.

The number of endowed family group claims in force at 30th June, 1954 was 1,280,439 an increase of 33,453 or 2.7 per cent. during the year. The following table shows particulars of the operations in each State and Australia during 1953-54 :—

## CHILD ENDOWMENT : SUMMARY, 1953-54.

State.	Family Groups.					Total Payments to Endowees and Institutions.
	Claims in force at end of year.	Endowed Children.		Annual Liability at 30th June, 1954.		
		Total.	Average per claim.	Total.	Average Liability per claim.	
	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£
New South Wales(a)	501,272	1,031,898	2.06	20,312,812	40.52	19,137,687
Victoria .. ..	339,022	629,220	2.06	13,772,434	40.62	13,164,948
Queensland ..	183,726	407,970	2.22	8,218,782	44.73	8,002,569
South Australia(b) ..	117,644	245,973	2.09	4,865,926	41.36	4,577,489
Western Australia ..	93,117	202,098	2.17	4,044,027	43.43	3,882,899
Tasmania .. ..	45,246	101,540	2.24	2,051,842	45.17	1,988,637
Overseas .. ..	412	878	2.13	17,472	42.41	6,570
Total .. ..	1,280,439	2,689,577	2.10	53,283,295	41.61	50,760,799

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

The following table shows particulars of the operations in each State and Territory during 1954-55 :—

## CHILD ENDOWMENT : SUMMARY, 1954-55.

State or Territory.	Family Groups.					Total Payments to Endowees and Institutions.
	Claims in force at end of year.	Endowed Children.		Annual Liability at 30th June, 1955.		
		Total.	Average per claim.	Total.	Average Liability per claim.	
	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	495,063	1,026,195	2.07	20,245,251	40.89	19,421,535
Victoria ..	350,395	729,399	2.08	14,409,239	41.12	13,735,475
Queensland ..	188,868	422,906	2.24	8,540,272	45.22	8,249,095
South Australia ..	120,384	254,879	2.12	5,061,862	42.05	4,713,548
Western Australia..	96,621	212,025	2.19	4,256,577	44.05	4,069,037
Tasmania ..	46,407	104,736	2.26	2,119,845	45.68	2,032,363
Northern Territory	2,068	4,479	2.17	89,570	43.31	132,808
Australian Capital Territory ..	4,009	8,670	2.16	173,303	43.23	169,621
Overseas ..	412	878	2.13	17,472	42.41	6,420
Total ..	1,304,227	2,764,167	2.12	54,913,391	42.10	52,529,902

In addition to the children endowed in families, child endowment benefits were paid in respect of children in approved institutions during 1953-54 and 1954-55 as follows :— 1953-54, 27,397 ; and 1954-55, 24,394.

The following table shows, as at 30th June, 1955, the number of claims in force and the number of endowed children classified according to the number of endowed children in the family :—

**CHILD ENDOWMENT : NUMBER OF CHILDREN(a), 30th JUNE, 1955.**

Size of Family.	Claims in force.	Number of endowed children.	Size of Family.	Claims in force.	Number of endowed children.
One child ..	476,672	476,672	Ten children ..	294	2,940
Two children ..	445,194	890,388	Eleven children ..	85	935
Three children ..	227,676	683,028	Twelve children ..	25	300
Four children ..	96,372	385,488	Thirteen children ..	5	65
Five children ..	35,561	177,805	Fourteen children ..	1	14
Six children ..	13,845	83,070	Fifteen children ..	1	15
Seven children ..	5,377	37,639			
Eight children ..	2,263	18,104			
Nine children ..	856	7,704	Total ..	1,304,227	2,764,167

(a) Under 16 years of age.

### § 6. Widows' Pensions.

Widows' pensions and the rates in each class, as from 18th October, 1955, have been payable to the following classes of women :—

Class "A"—A widow who has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years. Rate £221 per annum.

Class "B"—A widow, not less than 50 years of age, who has no children under 16 years of age in her custody, care and control. Rate £175 10s. per annum.

Class "C"—A widow, under 50 years of age, who has no children under the age of 16 years in her custody, care and control, but is in necessitous circumstances within 26 weeks after the death of her husband. Rate £3 7s. 6d. per week for not more than 26 weeks. If at her husband's death, a widow is with child, this period will be extended until the birth of the child. She would then, of course, become eligible for an "A" class widow's pension.

Class "D"—A woman whose husband has been serving a term of imprisonment for at least six months, if she has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years or is not less than 50 years of age. Rate £15 10s. per annum.

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 as his wife on a permanent and bona fide domestic basis); a deserted wife (i.e. a woman deserted by her husband for not less than six months); a divorcee (i.e. a woman whose marriage has been dissolved and who has not remarried); and a woman whose husband is an inmate of a mental hospital.

The residential qualification is five years' continuous residence in Australia immediately prior to the date of lodgment of the claim. This period is reduced to one year where the claimant and her husband were residing permanently in Australia when the husband died.

A widow's pension is not payable to :—a woman who is not a British subject unless she was a British subject before her marriage ; a woman who is in receipt of an age or invalid pension, tuberculosis allowance, or a war widow's pension under the Repatriation Act in respect of the death of her husband ; a woman who has deprived herself of property or income in order to qualify for a pension ; a deserted wife or a divorcee who has not taken reasonable action to obtain maintenance from her husband or former husband ; a woman who is not of good character ; a woman who is not deserving of a pension ; a woman in Class " A " in receipt of income of £403 per annum or more or owning property, apart from her permanent home and other exempt property, to the net value of more than £1,750 or a woman in Classes " B " or " D " in receipt of income of £357 10s. per annum or more or owning property, apart from her permanent home and other exempt property, to the net value of more than £1,750.

Widows' pensions may be granted to aboriginal native women of Australia under the same conditions as age pensions.

Permissible income is £182 per annum. Any income in excess of this amount is deducted from the pension. " Income " has the same meaning as for age pensions. Any amount in excess of 15s. per week received by a deserted wife, or a divorcee from her husband or former husband, for the maintenance of a child is taken into account in the claimant's income.

The rate of pension for women in Classes " B " and " D " is reduced by £1 per annum for every complete £12 of the value of property which exceeds £200 up to £1,750. Property disregarded for pension is the same as for age pensions.

The pension payable to a Class " A " widow may be continued after her child reaches 16 years and until the age of 18 years is reached if the child continues with full time education at a school or university and is still dependent on the widow and is not in employment.

The number of widows' pensions by Class, current at 30th June, 1954, was as follows :—Class " A ", 18,100 ; Class " B ", 22,314 ; Class " C ", 131 ; Class " D ", 181 ; total, 40,726. The amount paid in pensions during 1953-54 was £6,625,679. The following table shows details of widows' pensions paid in each State in the year 1953-54 :—

## WIDOWS' PENSIONS AT 30th JUNE, 1954.(a)

State.	Pensions Current.(b)		Children for whom Pensions Payable.	Average Fort-nightly rate of Pension.	Amount paid in Pensions during 1953-54.	
	Number.	Per 10,000 of Population.			Amount.	Per head of Population. (c)
			No.	£ s. d.	£	s. d.
New South Wales(d) ..	16,675	48	7,844	6 8 0	2,766,555	16 1
Victoria ..	9,827	40	3,853	6 5 3	1,567,098	12 11
Queensland ..	6,943	53	3,242	6 7 6	1,119,173	17 2
South Australia(e) ..	3,157	39	1,339	6 4 9	506,269	12 7
Western Australia ..	2,753	43	1,106	6 4 0	435,154	13 10
Tasmania ..	1,371	44	716	6 5 0	230,289	14 11
Total ..	40,726	45	18,100	6 6 8	£6,625,679	14 11

(a) The Commonwealth Government commenced to pay widows' pensions from 1st July, 1942.  
 (b) Excludes sixteen pensions in respect of pensioners in Benevolent Homes. (c) Based on mean population for the financial year. (d) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (e) Includes Northern Territory. (f) Includes £1,141 paid overseas.

The number of widows' pensions by Class, current at the 30th June, 1955, was as follows:—Class "A", 18,683; Class "B", 22,491; Class "C", 191; Class "D", 182; total, 41,547. The amount paid in pensions during 1954-55 was £6,862,422. The following table shows the details of widows' pensions paid in each State and Territory in the year 1954-55:—

WIDOWS' PENSIONS AT 30th JUNE, 1955.(a)

State or Territory.	Pensions Current.(b)		Children for whom Pensions Payable.	Average Fort-nightly rate of Pension.	Amount paid in Pensions during 1954-55.	
	Number.	Per 10,000 of Population.			Amount.	Per head of Population. (c)
			No.	£ s. d.	£	s. d.
New South Wales ..	17,006	49	8,076	6 9 8	2,817,474	16 3
Victoria ..	9,795	39	3,966	6 6 3	1,622,173	13 0
Queensland ..	7,123	53	3,365	6 8 6	1,179,395	17 10
South Australia ..	3,287	40	1,421	6 7 3	533,437	13 3
Western Australia ..	2,848	43	1,090	6 4 7	451,002	13 11
Tasmania ..	1,409	45	723	6 10 3	237,635	15 2
Northern Territory ..	19	11	9	(d)	3,411	4 2
Australian Capital Territory ..	60	19	33	(e)	9,150	5 10
Overseas ..	(f)	(f)	(f)	(f)	8,745	..
Total ..	41,547	45	18,683	6 8 2	6,862,422	15 1

(a) The Commonwealth Government commenced to pay widows' pensions from 1st July, 1942.  
 (b) Excludes fourteen pensions in respect of pensioners in Benevolent Homes. (c) Based on mean population for the financial year. (d) Included in average rate for South Australia. (e) Included in average rate for New South Wales. (f) Included in figures for State in which pensioner is permanently domiciled.

## § 7. Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.

From 1st July, 1945, men over 16 and under 65 years of age, and women over 16 and under 60 years of age and who were qualified in other respects, have been eligible to apply for an unemployment benefit or a sickness benefit. There is a twelve months' residential requirement but this is waived if the claimant is likely to remain permanently in Australia. A person in receipt of an age, invalid or widow's pension, or a service pension (as distinct from a war pension) under the Repatriation Act or a tuberculosis allowance is ineligible to receive a benefit.

To qualify for an unemployment benefit a person must establish that he is unemployed and that his unemployment is not due to his being a direct participant in a strike; that he is capable and willing to undertake suitable work; and that he has taken reasonable steps to obtain such work. Registration with the local Commonwealth District Employment Officer is necessary.

To qualify for a sickness benefit a person must establish that he is temporarily incapacitated for work by reason of sickness or accident and that he has thereby suffered a loss of salary, wages or other income.

A married woman is not qualified to receive a sickness benefit if it is reasonably possible for her husband to maintain her. Where her husband is able to maintain her only partially, a benefit may be paid at such rate as is considered reasonable in the circumstances. In exceptional cases a married woman may qualify for an unemployment benefit in her own right.

A benefit may be paid only to those aboriginal natives of Australia who are considered suitable, by reason of character, standard of intelligence and social development.

The maximum weekly rates of benefit payable and permissible income from 22nd September, 1952, are as follows :—

A married claimant can receive £2 10s. and £2 for a dependent spouse and 5s. for one child under 16 years of age with other income of £1. The amount for an unmarried claimant 21 years of age or over is £2 10s. with other income of £1, for those between 18 years and under 21 years £2 with other income of 15s., for those 17 years and under 18 years £1 10s. with other income of 10s., and for those 16 years and under 17 years £1 10s. with other income of 5s.

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

Additional benefit of up to £2 per week may be paid in respect of a claimant's housekeeper where no such benefit is payable in respect of his wife, provided there are one or more children under 16 years of age in the home and the woman is substantially dependent on the claimant but is not employed by him.

Any income in excess of the permissible income is deducted from the rate of benefit. For unemployment benefit purposes, the incomes of the claimant and his spouse are taken into account, but where the claimant and his spouse are permanently separated any income received by the spouse may be disregarded. For sickness benefit purposes, the income of claimant only is taken into account, while up to £2 per week is disregarded of any payment received from an approved friendly society or other similar approved body in respect of the incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable. "Income" does not include child endowment, or other payments in respect of children, the Commonwealth hospital benefits and pharmaceutical benefits, or a tuberculosis allowance or an amount paid in reimbursement of medical, dental or similar expenses actually paid.

Where a person qualified for sickness benefit receives or is entitled to receive (in respect of the same period and the same incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable) any payment by way of compensation (including workers' compensation), damages, or otherwise under any law (except payments for which he has contributed), the amount of the compensation, etc., is not taken into account as income but is deducted from the rate of sickness benefit otherwise payable.

There is a waiting period of seven days in respect of which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable. A special benefit may be granted to a person not qualified for

unemployment or sickness benefit who is not in receipt of an age, invalid or widows' pension or a service pension, if by reason of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances, or for any other reason, he is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants. Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries are eligible to participate in the Commonwealth rehabilitation service under the same conditions as invalid pensioners. Payment of an unemployment or sickness benefit may be refused if the claimant or beneficiary, on being required, fails to undergo a medical examination or to receive treatment or undertake training or to do any suitable work. See A, § 3, page 547. The following table shows the number admitted to benefit during 1954-55, the number of persons on benefit at 30th June, 1955, and the amount paid for each benefit during 1954-55.

## UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFITS, 1954-55.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Total.
<b>Admissions to benefits—</b>									
<b>Unemployment—</b>									
Males ..	5,140	1,724	9,656	332	1,119	359	8	12	18,350
Females ..	2,459	674	2,303	175	209	112	2	16	5,950
Persons ..	7,599	2,398	11,959	507	1,328	471	10	28	24,300
<b>Sickness—</b>									
Males ..	17,430	9,816	8,219	4,140	3,332	1,645	87	82	44,751
Females ..	5,778	3,279	2,066	857	707	298	4	26	13,015
Persons ..	23,208	13,095	10,285	4,997	4,039	1,943	91	108	57,766
<b>Special—(a)</b>									
Males ..	778	382	529	203	105	43	1	5	2,046
Females ..	474	606	205	87	59	63	1	7	1,502
Persons ..	1,252	988	734	290	164	106	2	12	3,548
<b>Total—(a)</b>									
Males ..	23,348	11,922	18,404	4,675	4,556	2,047	96	99	65,147
Females ..	8,711	4,559	4,574	1,119	975	473	7	49	20,467
Persons ..	32,059	16,481	22,978	5,794	5,531	2,520	103	148	85,614
<b>Persons on benefit at end of year—</b>									
<b>Unemployment—</b>									
Males ..	569	196	640	32	203	30	..	..	1,670
Females ..	471	123	324	38	36	15	..	2	1,009
Persons ..	1,040	319	964	70	239	45	..	2	2,679
<b>Sickness—</b>									
Males ..	2,398	1,476	933	497	352	172	6	14	5,848
Females ..	953	527	303	142	88	42	1	1	2,057
Persons ..	3,351	2,003	1,236	639	440	214	7	15	7,905
<b>Special—(a)</b>									
Males ..	180	115	98	45	32	13	..	2	485
Females ..	564	439	313	84	75	83	1	1	1,560
Persons ..	744	554	411	129	107	96	1	3	2,045
<b>Total—(a)</b>									
Males ..	3,147	1,787	1,671	574	587	215	6	16	8,003
Females ..	1,988	1,080	940	264	190	140	2	4	4,626
Persons ..	5,135	2,876	2,611	838	786	355	8	20	12,629
<b>Benefits Paid—</b>									
Unemployment	£ 253,974	99,305	270,416	12,386	26,709	15,952	112	584	679,438
Sickness ..	£ 673,235	387,452	254,082	137,117	98,868	51,716	1,559	2,913	1,607,842
Special (b) ..	£ 125,719	122,202	58,155	16,001	17,217	12,322	40	931	352,587
<b>Total (b)</b>	£ 1,052,928	608,959	583,553	165,504	142,794	79,990	1,711	4,428	2,639,867

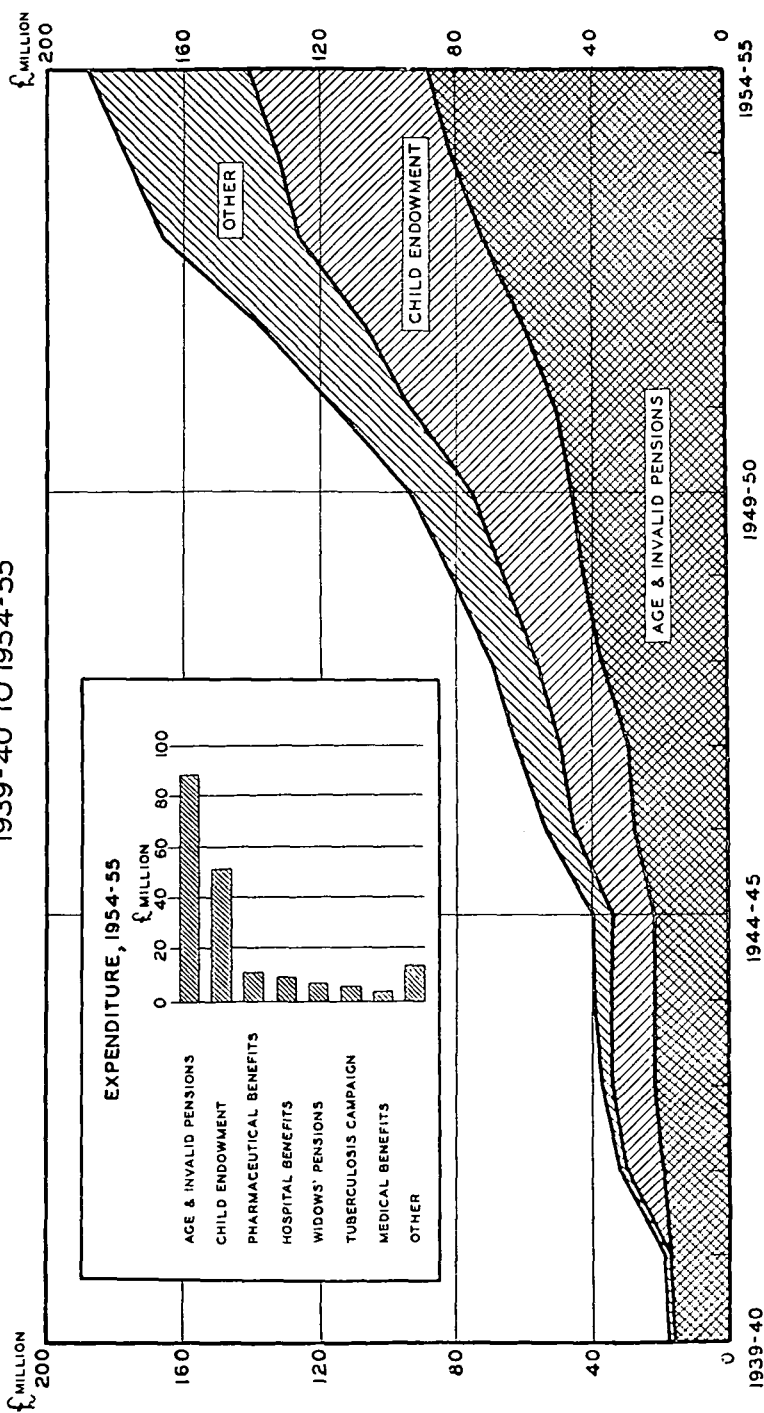
(a) Excludes migrants.

(b) Includes payments to migrants.

The following table shows the number of persons who were admitted to benefit, the number receiving benefit at the end of the year and the amount paid for each benefit for Australia during the years 1950-51 to 1954-55.

# COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

1939-40 TO 1954-55





## SUMMARY : AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number Admitted to Benefit.			Persons on Benefit at end of Year.			Amount Paid in Benefits.		
	Un-employment.	Sick-ness.	Special. (a)	Un-employment.	Sick-ness.	Special. (a)	Un-employment.	Sick-ness.	Special. (b)
1950-51 ..	11,904	61,410	2,785	604	7,044	921	£ 62,444	£ 745,716	£ 229,053
1951-52 ..	27,486	51,043	2,786	8,294	6,378	1,148	187,011	709,337	110,759
1952-53 ..	175,082	50,324	2,989	25,914	8,135	1,088	1,560,717	1,303,294	292,431
1953-54 ..	62,133	56,536	3,631	6,083	7,802	1,852	2,505,163	1,675,593	362,393
1954-55 ..	24,300	57,766	3,548	2,679	7,905	2,045	679,438	1,607,842	352,587

(a) Excludes migrants.

(b) Includes payments to migrants.

## § 8. Reciprocal Agreements with Other Countries.

1. **New Zealand.**—An agreement between the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for reciprocity in social services came into operation on 1st July, 1949.

The reciprocal arrangements cover age and invalid pensions, widows' pensions, child endowment and unemployment and sickness benefits, and apply to both permanent and temporary changes of residence.

Residence in one country counts as residence in the other country in relation to entitlement to benefits in which a residential qualification applies.

Persons from one country taking up permanent residence in the other country become eligible for any of the specified benefits of the new country under the same conditions (with one or two exceptions) as apply to citizens of that country.

Persons in receipt of any of the specified benefits in one country may continue to receive those benefits while temporarily absent in the other country. These payments are made on an agency basis by the appropriate authority of the country in which the person is temporarily resident.

2. **United Kingdom.**—The Governments of the United Kingdom and Australia signed a reciprocal agreement on social services in London on 8th June, 1953.

The agreement covers age and invalid pensions, widows' pensions, child endowment, and unemployment and sickness benefits. Under the agreement former residents of the United Kingdom over pension age—65 years for men and 60 years for women—who were in the National Insurance Scheme when they left the United Kingdom will be eligible to receive Australian pensions without having to complete 20 years' residence in Australia.

Subject to the means test, these persons so entitled have any United Kingdom pensions they receive supplemented by Australia to bring the total payments in most cases to the maximum pension rate for Australians—at present £4 per week.

Similar principles apply to widows' pensions. Australian residential requirements will be waived for these pensions, also for invalid pensions, child endowment and unemployment and sickness benefits.

With few exceptions, all these benefits will be payable to former residents of the United Kingdom at the same rates as are payable to Australian citizens.

Persons from Australia going to the United Kingdom for permanent residence will be treated in the United Kingdom as if they had been insured under the National Insurance Scheme while in Australia, so that they can qualify for various National Insurance benefits.

Families who go from one country to another will be able to qualify for child endowment, or family allowances, as soon as they arrive in their new country.

There is also provision for the safeguard of social service rights for Australians going to the United Kingdom for temporary residence, and vice versa.

The agreement came into operation in both countries on 7th January, 1954.

## B. OTHER SERVICES.

### § 1. Benevolent Homes.

1. **General.**—The public provisions for the care of indigent old people have 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 homes 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 1953-54 are given in the following table.

#### BENEVOLENT HOMES : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1953-54.

(£.)

Particulars.	N.S.W.(a)	Vic.(b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<b>Revenue—</b>							
Government Aid	759,577	556,446	330,834	89,319	136,417	109,549	1,982,142
Municipal Aid ..	..	871	..	..	..	..	871
Public Subscriptions, Legacies	} 265,651	{ 42,044	17,143	2	843	..	}
Fees (c) ..							
Other ..							
		{ 347,618	168,288	29,286	115,856	53,723	1,093,313
		15,250	31,467	3,917	1,310	915	
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>1,025,228</b>	<b>962,229</b>	<b>547,732</b>	<b>122,524</b>	<b>254,426</b>	<b>164,187</b>	<b>3,076,326</b>
<b>Expenditure—</b>							
Salaries and Wages ..	400,976	531,676	256,772	81,070	156,356	98,705	1,525,555
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings ..	98,136	39,956	7,624	11,465	6,211	1,576	164,968
All Other ..	300,129	274,338	277,223	25,910	69,448	63,906	1,010,954
Capital (d) ..	225,987	117,685	4,547	4,079	22,411	..	374,709
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>1,025,228</b>	<b>963,655</b>	<b>546,166</b>	<b>122,524</b>	<b>254,426</b>	<b>164,187</b>	<b>3,076,186</b>

(a) These figures relate to the three State hospitals and homes only. (b) Year ended 31st March, 1954. (c) Includes Commonwealth Hospital Benefits and Age and Invalid Pension receipts. (d) Includes such items as purchase of land, cost of new buildings and additions to buildings.

4. **The Aged Persons Homes Act.**—The *Aged Persons Homes Act* No. 81, 1954 operated from 16th December, 1954. The purpose of the Act is to encourage and assist the provision of suitable homes for aged persons, ("Aged Person" means a man who has reached the age of 65 years or a woman who has reached 60 years and includes the wife or husband of an aged person residing or desiring to reside with the aged person) and in particular homes at which aged persons may reside in conditions approaching as nearly as possible normal domestic life, and, in the case of married people, with proper regard to the companionship of husband and wife.

Subject to this section, a society, association or other organization is eligible for assistance under this Act if—

- (a) it is carried on otherwise than for purposes of profit or gain to the individual members ; and
- (b) it is a religious organization ; an organization, the principal objects or purposes of which are charitable or benevolent ; an organization of former members of the Defence Forces established in every State or a State branch of such an organization ; or an organization approved by the Governor-General for the purpose of this Act.

A trustee or trustees under a trust established for charitable or benevolent purposes shall, if the Governor-General so approves, be deemed to be an organization referred to in the last preceding sub-section.

An organization conducted or controlled by, or by persons appointed by, the Government of the Commonwealth or of a State or a local governing body established under the law of a State, is not eligible for assistance under this Act.

Where the Director-General is satisfied that a building or buildings erected or to be erected, or purchased or to be purchased, by an organization is or are intended to be used permanently by or on behalf of the organization as a home or homes for the accommodation of aged persons, he may, in his discretion, approve that building or proposed building or those buildings or proposed buildings as a home for the purposes of this Act.

A building or proposed building shall not be approved under this section unless—

- (a) it was in course of erection by the organization on the 4th May, 1954 ;
- (b) its erection by the organization was commenced after the date specified in the last preceding paragraph or is to be commenced after the date of the approval ; or
- (c) it was purchased by the organization after the date specified in paragraph (a) of this sub-section or is to be so purchased after the date of the approval.

The Director-General may, in his discretion, on behalf of the Commonwealth, make a grant of moneys in accordance with this Act to an organization as assistance towards meeting the capital cost of an approved home.

A grant under this section shall be made at such time, or by such instalments and at such times, as are determined by agreement between the Director-General and the organization or, in the absence of agreement, by the Director-General.

A payment under this Act shall not be made except to a corporation in which, or to trustees in whom, the approved home is or is to be vested.

Subject to this section the amount of a grant under the Act in respect of an approved home shall be an amount not exceeding—

- (a) one half of the capital cost of the home, as determined by the Director-General ; or
- (b) the sum of the moneys expended, and the moneys presently available for expenditure, by the organization towards the capital cost of the home, being moneys which the Director-General is satisfied did not become available as a result of the borrowing of those moneys or any other moneys by the organization and were not received by the organization from the Government of the Commonwealth or of a State or from a local governing body or other authority established by a State Act, whichever is the less.

The Director-General shall not make, or agree to make, a grant under this Act to an organization in respect of an approved home unless he is satisfied that the sum of the moneys expended, and the moneys presently available for expenditure, by the organization towards the capital cost of the home together with the amount of the grant, will be not less than the capital cost of the home.

## § 2. 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 of State Departments during 1953-54 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, 1953-54.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<i>A. Children maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In State shelters, industrial schools, reformatories, etc.(b) ..	718	276	1,115	213	54	47	5,305
In licensed or approved institutions ..	650	1,556					
Boarded out—							
With own mothers ..	5,511	2,238	3,346	22	21	..	11,138
With licensed foster-mothers, guardians, relatives and friends	1,463	381	287	3,344	1,378	80	6,933
Total children maintained or subsidized by the State	8,342	4,451	4,748	3,648	1,882	305	23,376
<i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In licensed or approved institutions ..	(c) 1,597	..	..	79	619	..	2,295
Boarded out ..	173	..	..	1,683	259	..	2,115
On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts) ..	2,448	641	175	314	741	..	4,319
In service or apprenticed	92	161	296	128	146	..	823
Adopted or otherwise placed ..	427	150	..	719	83	..	1,379
Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State ..	4,737	952	471	2,923	1,848	..	10,931
Total children under State control or supervision ..	13,079	5,403	5,219	6,571	3,730	305	34,307
<i>Gross cost of children's relief ..</i>	£ 1,014,182	£ 450,519	£ 339,735	£ 254,249	£ 115,095	£ 23,514	£ 2,197,294
<i>Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..</i>	71,501	35,476	23,673	42,101	15,810	2,600	191,161
<i>Net Cost to State ..</i>	942,681	415,043	316,062	212,148	99,285	20,914	2,006,133

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1953.  
after-care ex-institution inmates.

(b) Includes inmates of hospitals.

(c) Includes 544

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.

### § 3. 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, while others only rarely come near the stations. The aboriginal native race is extinct in Tasmania. The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1953-54 was as follows (figures in brackets are for year 1952-53):—New South Wales, £151,100 (£148,652); Victoria, £10,960 (£9,534); Queensland, £510,696 (£489,654); South Australia, £84,815 (£44,049); Western Australia, £180,517 (£154,400); Northern Territory, £354,266 (£278,492); Australian Capital Territory, £3,227 (£2,739); total for Australia, £1,295,581 (£1,127,520).

### § 4. 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 headquarters at Melbourne, and each State centre, or branch, as it is now called, is controlled by this 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 1953-54 being:—New South Wales, 1,796; Victoria, 7,146; Queensland, 1,587; South Australia, 5,108; Western Australia, 485; and Tasmania, 3,557.

### § 5. Royal Humane Society.

The Royal Humane Society of Australasia with head office at 188 Collins-street Melbourne has as its main object the granting of awards to all who with bravery, skill and perseverance promptly risk their own lives in saving or attempting to save those of their fellow creatures. The classes of awards are (a) Gold Medal; (b) Silver Medal; (c) Bronze Medal; and (d) Certificate of Merit. The Clarke Medal is awarded for the outstanding case of the year, and the Rupert Wilks Trophy is awarded for the most outstanding bravery by a child under 13 years of age. About 75 awards are made annually.

### § 6. The Order Of St. John.

The Priory in Australia of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem is the governing body of the various activities of the Order which comprise the St. John Ambulance Association, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Hospitallers' Clubs in all States and Commonwealth Territories.

The teaching of first aid to the injured, home nursing, hygiene and child welfare are undertaken by the Association and carried out in a practical manner by the Brigade and qualified members of the public throughout the Commonwealth, in times of peace and war.

The Hospitallers' Clubs in each State undertake the collection of funds for the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem, and other duties which tend to bring together all persons interested in the work of St. John.

The Order of St. John has established ambulance transport services in some States, acts as an ancillary to such services in other States, provides technical reserves for the medical services of the Crown and trained personnel for the various air raid precaution organizations.

The Life Saving Medal is awarded by the Order as warranted.

### § 7. 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 homes 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.