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CHAPTER XV.

WELFARE SERVICES.

A. COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICE BENEFITS.

§ 1. Introduction.

Under the provisions of section 51 of the Constitution, the Commonwealth Government is empowered to legislate on :—

“(xxiii) Invalid and old-age pensions :

(xxiiiia) *The provision of maternity allowances, widows' pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services (but not so as to authorise any form of civil conscription), benefits to students and family allowances:”.*

The latter paragraph was inserted in the constitution after being accepted by the electors at a referendum on the 28th September, 1946. The enabling act was assented to on the 19th December, 1946.

Before 1947, each social service benefit was paid under a separate act. On the 1st July, 1947, all acts providing social service benefits were amalgamated with the passage of the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947. This act eliminated certain anomalies and obsolete provisions and changed the title “old-age pension” to “age pension”. The word “Consolidation:” was dropped from the short title of the act in 1954. The act is at present styled the *Social Services Act 1947-1956*.

The social service benefits provided by the Commonwealth Government, and the date on which each came into operation, are :—

Age pension	..	..	..	..	1st July, 1909
Child endowment (for other than first child)	..	..	..	..	1st July, 1941
Child endowment (for first child)	..	..	..	..	20th June, 1950
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service	..	..	..	..	10th December, 1948
Funeral benefit	...	..	..	..	1st July, 1943
Invalid pension	..	..	..	..	15th December, 1910'
Maternity allowance	..	..	..	..	10th October, 1912
Sickness benefit	..	..	..	..	1st July, 1945
Special benefit	..	..	..	..	1st July, 1945
Tuberculosis allowance	..	..	..	..	13th July, 1950
Unemployment benefit	..	..	..	..	1st July, 1945
Widow's pension	..	..	..	..	30th June, 1942

Particulars of benefits provided under the National Health Service appear in Chapter XIV.—Public Health and Related Institutions, pp. 498-504.

§ 2. Commonwealth Expenditure on Social and Health Services.

The Commonwealth expenditure in each State and Territory on social and health services excluding cost of administration for the year 1955-56 is shown in the following table:—

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, 1955-56.

(£'000.)

Social and Health Services.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Over-seas.	Total.
Social Benefits—										
Age and Invalid Pension ..	42,406	24,836	15,178	8,859	6,681	3,450	33	110	72	101,625
Child Endowment ..	21,971	16,165	9,383	5,498	4,684	2,285	150	239	6	60,381
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service ..	119	165	56	88	61	16	..	..	..	505
Funeral Benefits ..	131	83	44	29	23	9	..	..	..	319
Maternity Allowances ..	1,207	935	526	304	276	137	8	15	2	3,410
Tuberculosis Allowances ..	651	413	276	163	112	75	..	..	..	1,690
Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits—										
Unemployment(a) ..	215	70	288	11	77	10	..	1	..	672
Sickness(a) ..	641	350	244	134	94	51	2	3	..	1,519
Special(b) ..	125	127	69	20	16	14	..	1	..	372
Widows' Pensions ..	3,160	1,799	1,328	609	531	268	3	12	13	7,723
National Health Services—										
Hospital Benefits ..	3,979	2,293	1,384	748	779	312	37	21	..	9,553
Medical Benefits ..	2,449	1,299	528	491	533	113	..	..	..	5,413
Medical Benefits for Pensioners ..	1,346	668	347	254	198	55	..	6	..	2,874
Nutrition of Children ..	1,040	539	307	183	135	185	1	14	..	2,405
Pharmaceutical Benefits ..	4,329	2,900	1,352	805	718	201	..	75	..	10,380
Pharmaceutical Benefits for Pensioners ..	709	314	223	137	96	29	..	..	..	1,508
Tuberculosis Campaign Maintenance Payments ..	1,484	1,108	576	283	397	145	..	14	..	4,007
Miscellaneous ..	46	33	73	8	11	19	7	(c) 313	..	510
Total	86,008	54,097	32,182	18,624	15,423	7,374	241	824	93	214,866

(a) Does not include special variations of advances for payments in regional areas, made at the end of the year. (b) Includes payments to migrants. (c) Includes an amount of £250,000 for the production of poliomyelitis vaccine.

The amount of Commonwealth expenditure on social and health services, excluding cost of administration, during the years 1938-39 and 1951-52 to 1955-56, for Australia, is shown in the following table:—

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

Social and Health Services.	1938-39.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
Social Benefits—						
Age and Invalid Pensions ..	15,992	59,788	72,424	81,293	88,006	101,625
Child Endowment ..	..	46,625	53,244	50,761	52,530	60,381
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service ..	..	361	454	429	451	505
Funeral Benefits ..	..	276	270	288	304	319
Maternity Allowances ..	436	3,157	3,248	3,226	3,362	3,410
Tuberculosis Allowances ..	..	1,777	1,908	1,877	1,904	1,690
Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits ..	(a)	1,008	6,255	4,543	2,640	2,563
Widows' Pensions ..	(b)	5,615	6,334	6,626	6,862	7,723
National Health Services—						
Hospital Benefits ..	..	6,683	7,223	8,330	9,321	9,553
Medical Benefits ..	..	..	..	1,434	4,210	5,413
Medical Benefits for Pensioners ..	..	1,036	1,740	2,115	2,516	2,874
Nutrition of Children ..	..	815	1,521	1,999	2,237	2,405
Pharmaceutical Benefits ..	..	7,327	6,487	8,219	9,445	10,380
Pharmaceutical Benefits for Pensioners ..	..	358	729	1,011	1,295	1,508
Mental Institution Benefits ..	..	518	523	495	225	..
Tuberculosis Campaign(c) ..	..	2,102	2,968	3,703	3,753	4,007
Miscellaneous ..	..	162	183	216	258	(d) 510
Total	16,428	137,608	165,511	176,565	189,319	214,866

(a) Unemployment relief was paid by State Governments in 1938-39. (b) Widows' pensions were paid by some of the State Governments in 1938-39. (c) Includes reimbursements to States for the maintenance of hospitals. (d) Includes an amount of £250,000 for the production of poliomyelitis vaccine.

§ 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 a 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 (including any occasional absences not exceeding, in total, six months), and who are permanently incapacitated for work or permanently blind. 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), whether any such period was before or after the occurrence of the permanent incapacity or blindness.

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, by reason of their character, intelligence and social development, to be suitable persons to receive pensions.

A pension is not payable to:—an alien (except a woman who, before marriage, was a British subject); a person who has deprived himself of property or income, or who has brought about his incapacity, 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 has deserted his spouse or children for six months immediately preceding the date of the claim (age pension only).

Since the 27th October, 1955, the maximum rate of pension has been £208 per annum.

A pensioner who is an inmate of a benevolent home is paid so much of his pension as does not exceed £72 16s. per annum (£1 8s. per week) and the balance, if any, of the pension is paid to the institution for his maintenance.

The wife of an invalid pensioner (or an age pensioner who is permanently incapacitated for work or permanently blind) may be granted a wife's allowance of not more than £91 per annum (£1 15s. per week). A child's allowance of £29 18s. per annum (11s. 6d. per week) is also paid to an invalid pensioner who is maintaining one or more children under 16 years of age.

Age and invalid pensions (other than invalid pensions paid to blind persons) and allowances paid to wives of invalid pensioners (but not allowances paid on behalf of children of invalid pensioners) are subject to a means test. They are reduced by the amount by which a pensioner's income from sources other than his pension exceeds £182 per annum (£3 10s. per week). For this purpose, certain types of allowances received are not counted as income. These include gifts or allowances received from the pensioner's children, benefits from friendly societies, payments for illness, infirmity or old age from a trade union, State food relief, maternity allowances, child endowment or any other payment received for children maintained by the pensioner, allowances received under the national health service, and interest on war gratuities. 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 the bank is also disregarded.

The annual rate of pension or allowance is further reduced by £1 per annum for every complete £10 by which the value of property owned by a pensioner or his spouse exceeds £200, and the pension cuts out altogether if the value of the property exceeds £1,750. For this purpose, certain types of property are disregarded. They include the permanent home of the pensioner, his furniture and personal effects, the surrender value (up to £750) of life insurance policies, the capital value of annuities or contingent interests, the present value of any reversionary interests, inheritances not received and war gratuities.

For the purposes of the administration of the means test, the income and property of a married person is deemed to be half the total income and property of the husband and wife (unless they are legally separated). This provision means that the pension of a married pensioner, whether or not his spouse is a pensioner, will not be reduced because of his income from other sources unless that income exceeds £364 per annum (£7 per week), nor will his pension be reduced on account of the value of his property unless that value exceeds £400.

The following statement shows the rates of pension at 1st July, 1909 and the rates as they have been varied since that date, subject in all cases, 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	1st October, 1942(b) ..	25	6	66	6	98	16
12th October, 1916 ..	12	6	32	10	7th January, 1943(b) ..	26	0	67	12	100	2
1st January, 1920 ..	15	0	39	0	1st April, 1943(b) ..	26	6	68	18	101	8
13th September, 1923 ..	17	6	45	10	19th August, 1943(b) ..	27	0	70	4	102	14
8th October, 1925 ..	20	0	52	0	25th November, 1943(b) ..	26	6	68	18	101	8
23rd July, 1931 ..	17	6	45	10	25th November, 1943(d) ..	27	0	70	4	102	14
13th October, 1932(a) ..	17	0	39	0	5th July, 1945 ..	32	6	84	10	117	0
26th October, 1933 ..	17	6	45	10	13th August, 1946 ..	32	6	84	10	117	0
4th July, 1935(b) ..	18	0	46	16	3rd July, 1947 ..	37	6	97	10	149	10
24th September, 1936 ..	19	0	49	8	21st October, 1948 ..	42	6	110	10	188	10
9th September, 1937 ..	20	0	52	0	2nd November, 1950 ..	50	0	130	0	208	0
26th December, 1940 ..	21	0	54	12	1st November, 1951 ..	60	0	156	0	234	0
3rd April, 1941(b) ..	21	6	55	18	2nd October, 1952 ..	67	6	175	10	253	10
11th December, 1941 ..	23	6	61	2	29th October, 1953 ..	70	0	182	0	286	0
2nd April, 1942(b) ..	24	0	62	8	14th October, 1954 ..	70	0	182	0	286	0
2nd April, 1942(c) ..	25	0	65	0	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 change 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.

During 1955–56, 54,328 age pension claims were granted and 1,848 pensioners were transferred from the invalid pension list, while 36,260 pensions expired through cancellations and deaths. The number of age pensioners at 30th June, 1956 was 446,207, of whom 152,954 (or 34 per cent.) were males, and 293,253 (or 66 per cent.) were females.

The recorded ages of the 54,328 persons (20,023 males and 34,305 females) to whom age pensions were granted during the year 1955–56 varied considerably, ranging from 9,013 at age 60 to four at age 100, but 38,223 were in the 60–69 years age-group. The conjugal condition of these new pensioners was as follows :—Males—single, 2,228 ; married, 14,451 ; and widowed, 3,344 ; Females—single, 4,322 ; married, 17,619 ; and widowed, 12,364.

During 1955–56, 11,681 invalid pension claims were granted, 5,557 pensions ceased through cancellations or deaths, and 1,848 were transferred to the age pension list. The number of invalid pensioners at the 30th June, 1956, was 82,775, of whom 46,774 (or 57 per cent.) were males and 36,001 (or 43 per cent.) were females.

The recorded ages of the 11,681 persons (7,063 males and 4,618 females) to whom invalid pensions were granted during 1955–56 varied from 16 to 97, 5,998 (or 51 per cent.) being in the 45–59 years age-group, and 2,406 (or 21 per cent.) being in the 60–64 years age-group.

The conjugal condition of persons to whom invalid pensions were granted during the year was as follows :—Males—single, 2,249 ; married, 4,356 ; and widowed, 458 ; Females—single, 1,737 ; married, 2,002 ; and widowed, 879.

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS, 30th JUNE, 1956.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Total.
Age Pensions in force—									
Males	65,359	33,016	25,543	13,067	11,110	4,585	71	203	152,954
Females	115,184	79,633	40,656	28,716	19,134	9,489	67	374	293,253
Persons	180,543	112,649	66,199	41,783	30,244	14,074	138	577	446,207
Masculinity(a)	56.74	41.46	62.83	45.50	58.06	48.32	105.97	54.28	52.16
Invalid Pensions in force—									
Males	23,755	10,036	6,669	2,439	2,542	1,275	21	37	46,774
Females	16,764	8,077	5,496	2,421	1,883	1,321	7	32	36,001
Persons	40,519	18,113	12,165	4,860	4,425	2,596	28	69	82,775
Masculinity(a)	141.70	124.25	121.34	100.74	135.00	96.52	300.00	115.63	129.92
Age and Invalid Pensioners—									
Total Payments 1955-56(b) £'000.	42,406	24,836	15,178	8,859	6,681	3,450	33	110	101,625
Annual Liability—									
Age Pensioners .. £'000.	36,303	22,352	13,162	8,309	6,018	2,802	28	114	89,088
Invalid Pensioners	8,319	3,632	2,480	996	901	532	6	14	16,880
Total Annual Liability £'000.	44,622	25,984	15,642	9,305	6,919	3,334	34	128	105,968

(a) Number of males to each 100 females. (b) Includes amounts paid to benevolent homes for the maintenance of 6,244 pensioners, allowances paid to 12,556 wives and allowances payable on behalf of 7,932 children of invalid pensioners. (c) Includes £72,000 paid abroad.

The sum disbursed in age and invalid pensions in 1955-56, including the amount paid to homes for the maintenance of pensioners and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners, represented an expenditure of £10 18s. 2d. 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 1951-52 to 1955-56 :—

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year ended 30th June—	Pensioners at End of Year.				Amount Paid to Pensioners.	Total Payment to Pensioners and Homes.(b)	Average Fortnightly Pension as at 30th June.		
	Age.		Invalid.	Total.			Age.	Invalid.	Age and Invalid Com- bined.
	No.	Rate. (a)							
1939 ..	232,836	376	88,812	321,648	£ 15,798,038	£ 15,991,782	s. d. (c)	s. d. (c)	s. d. 38 5
1952 ..	352,049	397	67,963	420,012	59,512,514	59,788,003	114 2	116 4	114 6
1953 ..	374,791	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
1956 ..	446,207	449	82,775	528,982	101,242,275	101,625,068	153 7	156 10	154 1

(a) Per 1,000 persons of pensionable age (males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over). (b) Includes allowances to wives of invalid pensioners payable from the 8th July, 1943, but excludes funeral benefits in respect of deaths of pensioners, £275,850 in 1951-52; £270,448 in 1952-53; £287,798 in 1953-54; £303,784 in 1954-55; and £318,941 in 1955-56. (c) Not available.

§ 4. Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service.

The Commonwealth 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 and persons receiving 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 to receive an invalid pension, 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 numbers of persons receiving benefits who were examined, accepted, trained and placed in employment during the years 1954-55 and 1955-56 are shown in the following table :—

COMMONWEALTH REHABILITATION SERVICE : OPERATIONS, AUSTRALIA.

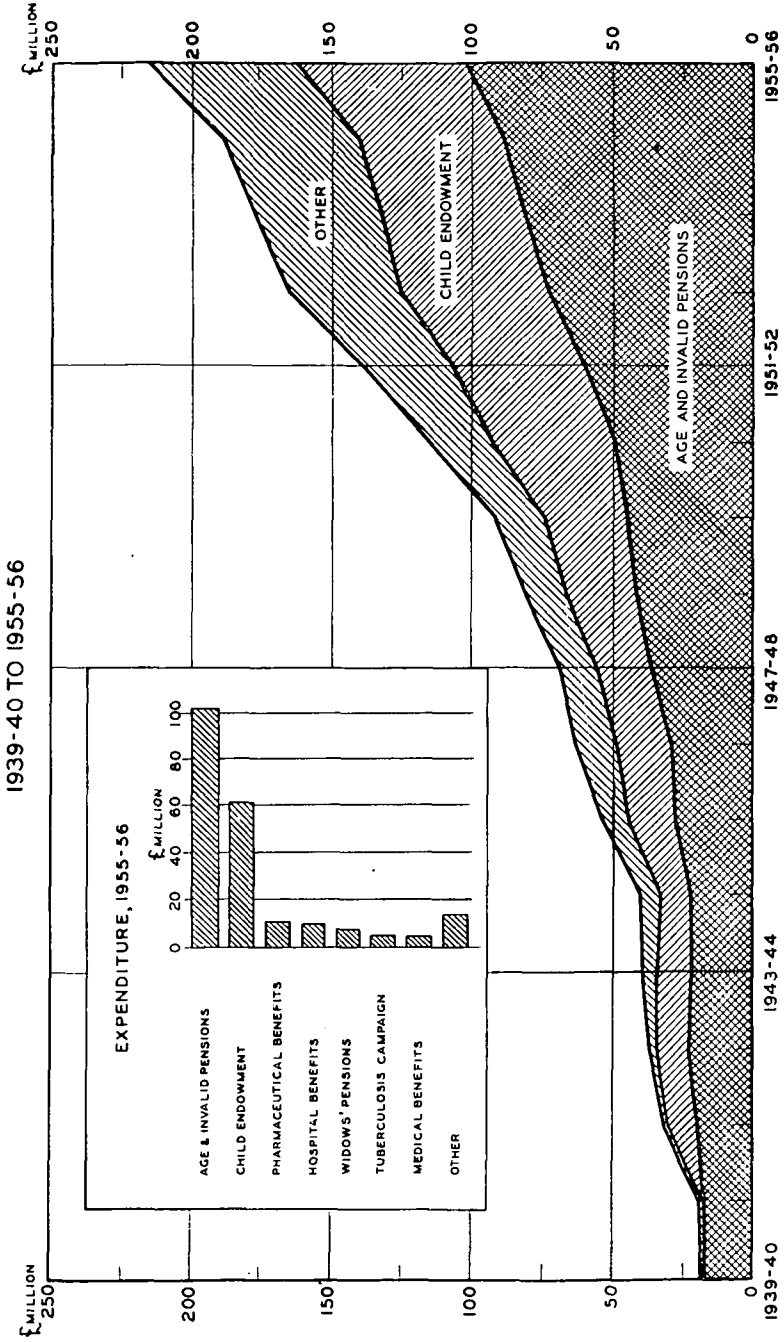
Type.	Examined.	Accepted.	Completed Training.	Placed in Employment.		
				After Training.	Without Training.	
Invalid Pensioners ..	1954-55	10,724	337	112	101	104
	1955-56	10,947	306	92	83	103
Unemployment and Sickness Beneficiaries	1954-55	9,933	829	120	98	581
	1955-56	8,815	815	105	100	481
Recipients of Tuberculosis Allowances	1954-55	1,085	344	177	175	54
	1955-56	788	288	172	202	69
Special Cases ..	1954-55	73	73	..	..	55
	1955-56 ^a	310	173	1	1	91

(a) Includes persons aged 14-15 years not eligible in previous years.

§ 5. Funeral Benefits.

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.

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES



The following table shows the number of funeral benefits which were paid in each State and Territory for the years 1951-52 to 1955-56 :

FUNERAL BENEFITS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA.

State.	Benefits Granted.(a)				
	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
New South Wales	11,367	11,405	11,397	13,108	13,148
Victoria	7,925	7,537	8,269	7,921	8,216
Queensland	3,868	3,813	4,051	4,590	4,501
South Australia	2,169	2,394	2,529	2,668	2,864
Western Australia	1,970	1,817	1,871	2,045	2,335
Tasmania	895	864	913	1,053	918
Northern Territory	(b)	(b)	(b)	3	6
Australian Capital Territory ..	(c)	(c)	(c)	20	31
Australia	28,194	27,830	29,030	31,408	32,019

(a) Includes benefits granted to recipients of, or claimants for, a tuberculosis allowance, who would otherwise be qualified to receive an age or invalid pension. (b) Included with South Australia.
(c) Included with New South Wales.

§ 6. Maternity Allowances.

A maternity allowance is payable to a woman who, at the date of giving birth to a child, is residing in Australia. 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. Payment may also be made 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 by reason of their character, standard of intelligence and social development.

Since 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 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 1955-56 :—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Particulars.		1938-39.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.	1955-56.
Claims Paid ..	No.	80,916	191,587	195,722	203,042	199,814	208,179	212,865
Claims Rejected ..	..	6,272	306	180	190	229	204	227
Amount Paid ..	£	436,614	3,057,519	3,156,992	3,248,305	3,225,919	3,362,307	3,410,408

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 1951-52 to 1955-56 :—

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
1952	72,688	52,144	30,737	17,380	15,074	7,626	..	..	73	195,722
1953	74,011	55,297	31,058	19,068	15,535	7,983	..	..	90	203,042
1954	72,380	54,219	30,889	18,749	15,803	7,726	..	..	48	199,814
1955	76,614	55,720	31,782	18,506	16,261	7,940	481	787	88	208,179
1956	75,591	58,385	32,764	19,036	17,180	8,328	510	961	110	212,865

(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 1955-56 :—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES : NUMBER OF CLAIMS PAID AT EACH RATE, 1955-56.

State or Territory.	Single Births.			Multiple Births.						Total Claims Paid.	
	£15.	£16.	£17 10s.	Twins.			Triplets.				Quad-rup-lets. £30.
				£20.	£21.	£22 10s.	£25.	£26.	£27 10s.		
New South Wales ..	24,392	36,405	13,914	202	460	211	1	3	3	..	75,591
Victoria	18,659	28,412	10,590	176	365	181	1	1	..	..	58,385
Queensland	9,733	15,230	7,422	90	166	120	..	..	2	1	32,764
South Australia ..	5,636	9,500	3,654	71	126	46	1	1	1	..	19,036
Western Australia ..	5,070	8,340	3,544	46	119	60	..	1	..	..	17,180
Tasmania	2,361	3,883	1,989	27	43	24	..	1	..	..	8,328
Northern Territory ..	159	234	110	3	2	2	..	..	..	..	510
Australian Capital Territory ..	289	482	173	5	5	6	1	..	..	..	961
Overseas	46	59	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110
Total	66,345	102,545	41,401	620	1,286	650	4	7	6	1	212,865

§ 7. Child Endowment.

A 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. Both the claimant and the child must either have been born in Australia or have been living

in Australia for the preceding twelve months, but this requirement 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, or the child is likely to remain permanently in Australia. Endowment is 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 in respect of 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.

Since 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—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 on 25th June, 1945, and to 10s. per week on 9th November, 1948. There are provisions to meet cases of families divided by reason of divorce, separation, unemployment or death of a parent.

The number of families with one or more endowed children at 30th June, 1956 was 1,339,807 an increase of 35,580 or 2.7 per cent. during the year. The following table shows particulars of the operations in each State and Territory during 1955-56:—

CHILD ENDOWMENT : SUMMARY, 1955-56.

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, 1956.		
		Total.	Average per claim.	Total.	Average Annual Liability per claim.	
	No.	No.	No.	£	£	£
New South Wales ..	506,512	1,049,901	2.07	20,712,770	40.89	21,970,665
Victoria ..	361,848	760,667	2.10	15,073,318	41.66	16,165,052
Queensland ..	194,028	437,588	2.26	8,854,924	45.64	9,382,484
South Australia ..	122,425	261,074	2.13	5,196,399	42.45	5,498,475
Western Australia ..	100,047	220,792	2.21	4,439,981	44.38	4,684,167
Tasmania ..	47,552	108,285	2.28	2,197,234	46.21	2,284,644
Northern Territory ..	2,419	5,311	2.20	106,639	44.08	149,945
Australian Capital Territory ..	4,847	10,643	2.20	213,707	44.09	238,937
Overseas ..	129	263	2.04	5,161	40.01	6,317
Total ..	1,339,807	2,854,524	2.13	56,800,133	42.39	60,380,686

In addition to the endowments paid in respect of children in families, child endowment benefits were paid in respect of 21,140 children in 392 approved institutions during 1955-56.

The following table shows, as at 30th June, 1956, 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 ENDOWED CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE IN FAMILIES, 30th JUNE, 1956.

Number of Endowed Children in Family.		Claims in Force.	Number of Endowed Children.	Number of Endowed Children in Family.		Claims in Force.	Number of Endowed Children.
1	.. ..	485,695	485,695	10	.. ..	299	2,990
2	.. ..	454,937	909,874	11	.. ..	81	891
3	.. ..	237,317	711,951	12	.. ..	18	216
4	.. ..	100,898	403,592	13	.. ..	9	117
5	.. ..	36,907	184,535	14	.. ..	..	..
6	.. ..	14,880	89,280	15	.. ..	3	45
7	.. ..	5,595	39,165				
8	.. ..	2,339	18,712				
9	.. ..	829	7,461				
				Total	..	1,339,807	2,854,524

§ 8. Widows' Pensions.

As from 18th October, 1955, widows' pensions have been payable to the following classes of women at the rates shown for each class.

Class "A"—A widow who has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years.—£221 per annum (£4 5s. per week).

Class "B"—A widow who has no children under 16 years of age in her custody, care and control, and who is not less than 50 years of age or who, after having attained the age of 45 years, ceased to receive a Class "A" widow's pension by reason of the fact that she no longer had the custody, care and control of a child—£175 10s. per annum (£3 7s. 6d. per week).

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

Class "D"—A woman whose husband has been serving a term of imprisonment for a 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.—£175 10s. per annum (£3 7s. 6d. per week).

The term "widow" includes; (i) a woman who was wholly or mainly maintained by a man as his wife on a permanent and bona fide domestic basis for not less than three years immediately before his death; (ii) a woman who has been deserted by her husband without just cause for not less than six months; (iii) a divorcee who has not remarried; and (iv) 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, but this period may be reduced to one year under certain circumstances.

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, 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, or a woman who is not deserving of a pension. Widow's pensions may be granted to aboriginal native women of Australia under the same conditions as age pensions.

Widows' pensions are subject to a means test. They are reduced by the amount by which a pensioner's income from sources other than her pension exceeds £182 per annum (£3 10s. per week).

The pension of a woman in Class "B" or "D" is further reduced by £1 per annum for every complete £12 by which the value of her property exceeds £200.

No pension is payable to a woman who owns property valued at more than £1,750. The types of income and property disregarded in the case of widow's pensions are the same as in the case of age and invalid pensions except that 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 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 the 30th June, 1956, was as follows:—Class "A", 19,511; Class "B", 22,991; Class "C", 204; Class "D", 224; total, 42,930. The amount paid in pensions during 1955-56 was £7,722,796. The following table shows the details of widows' pensions paid in each State and Territory in the year 1955-56:—

WIDOWS' PENSIONS AT 30th JUNE, 1956.

State or Territory.	Pensions Current.(a)			Average Fort-nightly rate of Pension.	Amount paid in Pensions during 1955-56.	
	Class "A".	All Classes.	Total per 10,000 of Population.		Amount.	Per head of Population. (b)
			No.	£ s. d.	£	s. d.
New South Wales ..	8,260	17,357	49	7 9 4	3,159,863	17 11
Victoria ..	4,302	10,246	39	7 6 0	1,799,184	14 0
Queensland ..	3,493	7,293	53	7 7 9	1,328,033	19 8
South Australia ..	1,548	3,505	41	7 5 9	608,900	14 7
Western Australia ..	1,143	3,015	45	7 2 8	530,751	15 10
Tasmania ..	718	1,419	44	7 9 4	268,296	16 10
Northern Territory ..	10	25	14	6 16 11	3,177	3 8
Australian Capital Territory ..	37	70	20	(c)	12,022	7 2
Overseas ..	(d)	(d)	..	(d)	12,570	..
Total ..	19,511	42,930	46	7 7 6	7,722,796	16 7

(a) Excludes seventeen pensions in respect of pensioners in benevolent homes. (b) Based on mean population for the financial year. (c) Included in average rate for New South Wales. (d) Included in figures for State in which pensioner is permanently domiciled.

§ 9. Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits.

Since 1st July, 1945, men over 16 and under 65 years of age, and women over 16 and under 60 years of age and 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 eligible 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:—

Age and Marital Status of Claimant.	Maximum Weekly Benefit Payable.	Permissible Weekly Income.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Person over 21 years of age	2 10 0	1 0 0
Married person under 21 years of age	2 0 0	15 0
Unmarried person 18–20 years of age	1 10 0	10 0
Unmarried person 17 years of age	1 10 0	5 0

An additional benefit of £2 per week may be paid for a dependent spouse and 5s. for one dependent child under 16 years of age. If no allowance is paid for a dependent spouse, a similar benefit may be paid for a claimant's housekeeper, 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.

The weekly rate of benefit is reduced by the amount by which a beneficiary's income from sources other than his pension exceeds the amount shown in the final column of the relevant line in the above table. For unemployment benefit purposes, the incomes of the claimant and his spouse are taken into account, unless they are permanently separated. For sickness benefit purposes, the income of the 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. There is no means test on property.

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 widow's 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. The following table shows the number admitted to benefit during 1955–56, the number of persons on benefit at 30th June, 1956, and the amount paid for each benefit during 1955–56.

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND SPECIAL BENEFITS, 1955-56.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Total.
<i>Admissions to Benefit—</i>									
<i>Unemployment—</i>									
Males	8,061	3,169	13,115	750	4,781	358	3	65	30,302
Females	2,578	974	2,718	311	386	96	6	13	7,082
Persons	10,639	4,143	15,833	1,061	5,167	454	9	78	37,384
<i>Sickness—</i>									
Males	16,866	9,261	7,907	4,164	3,486	1,675	64	79	43,502
Females	5,500	3,049	2,067	872	695	275	9	16	12,483
Persons	22,366	12,310	9,974	5,036	4,181	1,950	73	95	55,985
<i>Special—(a)</i>									
Males	811	371	603	203	137	63	2	4	2,194
Females	424	648	202	88	65	52	..	6	1,485
Persons	1,235	1,019	805	291	202	115	2	10	3,679
<i>Total—(a)</i>									
Males	25,738	12,801	21,625	5,117	8,404	2,096	69	148	75,998
Females	8,502	4,671	4,987	1,271	1,146	423	15	35	21,050
Persons	34,240	17,472	26,612	6,388	9,550	2,519	84	183	97,048
<i>Persons on benefit at end of year—</i>									
<i>Unemployment—</i>									
Males	1,585	1,134	897	210	1,499	63	..	7	5,395
Females	728	278	373	109	107	8	..	5	1,608
Persons	2,313	1,412	1,270	319	1,606	71	..	12	7,003
<i>Sickness—</i>									
Males	2,298	1,234	828	498	328	202	4	9	5,401
Females	806	440	320	153	82	39	2	1	1,843
Persons	3,104	1,674	1,148	651	410	241	6	10	7,244
<i>Special—(a)</i>									
Males	197	71	89	37	23	13	1	1	432
Females	482	458	326	88	76	82	..	3	1,515
Persons	679	529	415	125	99	95	1	4	1,947
<i>Total—(a)</i>									
Males	4,080	2,439	1,814	745	1,850	278	5	17	11,228
Females	2,016	1,176	1,019	350	265	129	2	9	4,966
Persons	6,096	3,615	2,833	1,095	2,115	407	7	26	16,194
<i>Benefits Paid—</i>									
Unemployment (b) £	215,672	69,664	287,871	10,961	76,888	9,963	73	728	671,820
Sickness (b) .. £	641,550	350,172	243,952	134,243	93,854	50,901	1,487	2,914	1,519,073
Special (c) .. £	124,747	127,437	69,178	20,086	16,291	13,710	124	674	372,220
<i>Total Benefits Paid c</i> £	981,969	547,273	601,001	165,290	187,033	74,574	1,684	4,289	2,563,113

(a) Excludes migrants. (b) Does not include special variations of advances for payments in regional areas, made at the end of the year. (c) 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 1951-52 to 1955-56.

SUMMARY : AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number Admitted to Benefits.			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)
1951-52 ..	27,486	51,043	2,786	8,294	6,378	1,148	£ 187,011	£ 709,887	£ 110,759
1952-53 ..	175,082	50,325	2,989	25,914	8,135	1,985	4,569,747	1,391,294	292,431
1953-54 ..	62,133	56,536	3,631	6,083	7,802	1,852	2,505,463	1,675,593	362,398
1954-55 ..	24,300	57,766	3,548	2,679	7,905	2,045	679,438	1,607,842	352,587
1955-56 ..	37,384	55,985	3,679	7,003	7,244	1,947	c 671,820	c 1,519,073	372,220

(a) Excludes migrants. (b) Includes payments to migrants. (c) Does not include special variations of advances for payments in regional areas, made at the end of the year.

§ 10. 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.**—A reciprocal agreement on social services between the United Kingdom and Australia came into operation on the 7th January, 1954.

Under this agreement, former residents of the United Kingdom who were in the National Insurance Scheme when they left the United Kingdom are eligible to receive age, invalid and widows' pensions, child endowment and unemployment and sickness benefits without complying with the Australian residential requirements. Subject to the means test, persons entitled to receive United Kingdom pensions on account of age, invalidity and widowhood are entitled to have their United Kingdom pensions supplemented by the Commonwealth Government to bring their total payments up to the maximum pension rate in Australia.

Australians going to the United Kingdom for permanent residence are 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 the other 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.

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 1954–55 are given in the following table.

BENEVOLENT HOMES : REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1954-55.

(£.)

Particulars.	N.S.W.(a)	Vic.(b)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Total.
<i>Revenue—</i>							
Government Aid ..	819,691	800,358	347,310	76,885	337,720	212,225	2,594,189
Municipal Aid ..	..	1,525	..	..	..	..	1,525
Public Subscriptions, Legacies..		68,210	18,013	..	678	..	
Fees (c) ..	250,756	469,556	170,940	32,393	136,989	34,076	1,241,153
Other ..								17,322	35,906	3,700	1,551	1,063
<i>Total</i> ..	<i>1,070,447</i>	<i>1,356,971</i>	<i>572,169</i>	<i>112,978</i>	<i>476,938</i>	<i>247,364</i>	<i>3,836,867</i>
<i>Expenditure—</i>							
Salaries and Wages	436,015	701,824	270,413	77,988	175,126	144,473	1,805,839
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings ..	158,625	48,130	8,803	6,398	7,425	7,104	236,485
All Other ..	281,963	330,614	286,234	26,330	77,588	92,136	1,094,865
Capital (d) ..	193,844	230,817	3,322	2,262	216,799	..	647,044
<i>Total</i> ..	<i>1,070,447</i>	<i>1,311,385</i>	<i>568,772</i>	<i>112,978</i>	<i>476,938</i>	<i>243,713</i>	<i>3,784,233</i>

(a) These figures relate to the three State hospitals and homes only. (b) 15 months ended 30th June, 1955. (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* 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.

To be eligible for assistance under this act an organization must be—

- (a) carried on otherwise than for purposes of profit or gain to the individual members; and
- (b) 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.

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.

The Director-General of Social Services may make a grant of money to an organization as assistance towards meeting the cost of the construction or purchase of a home to be used permanently for the accommodation of aged persons.

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.

The grant is made on a £1 for £1 basis with money raised by the organization, not counting money which the organization received from a governmental body or borrowed. Before a grant is made, the Director-General must be 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. **Children under Government Authority.**—The following table summarizes the transactions of State Departments during 1954–55 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, 1954-55.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
<i>A. Children maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In State shelters, industrial schools, reformatories, etc.(b)	828	221	1,148	214	47	35	5,247
In licensed or approved institutions	673	1,425						61	386	209
Boarded out—							
With own mothers ..	5,756	2,478	3,494	19	1,386	..	19,083
With licensed foster-mothers, guardians, relatives and friends ..	1,633	391	282	3,535				109
<i>Total children maintained or subsidized by the State</i>	<i>8,890</i>	<i>4,515</i>	<i>4,924</i>	<i>3,829</i>	<i>1,819</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>24,330</i>
<i>B. Children not maintained or subsidized by the State.</i>							
In licensed or approved institutions	(c) 1,708	..	..	80	628	..	2,416
Boarded out	190	..	..	1,807	286	..	2,283
On probation (from Institutions or Children's Courts)	2,643	805	168	279	862	..	4,757
In service or apprenticed	44	147	287	190	148	..	816
Adopted or otherwise placed	324	132	..	430	100	..	986
<i>Total children not maintained or subsidized by the State</i>	<i>4,909</i>	<i>1,084</i>	<i>455</i>	<i>2,786</i>	<i>2,024</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>11,258</i>
<i>Total children under State control or supervision ..</i>	<i>13,799</i>	<i>5,599</i>	<i>5,379</i>	<i>6,615</i>	<i>3,843</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>35,588</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross cost of children's relief	1,113,736	576,583	406,674	258,165	130,097	31,280	2,516,535
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..	83,307	33,745	29,327	43,842	19,290	2,755	212,266
<i>Net Cost to State ..</i>	<i>1,030,429</i>	<i>542,838</i>	<i>377,347</i>	<i>214,323</i>	<i>110,807</i>	<i>28,525</i>	<i>2,304,269</i>

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1954.
463 after-care ex-institution inmates.

(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.

§ 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 1954-55 was as follows (figures in brackets are for year 1953-54):—New South Wales, £170,694 (£151,100); Victoria, £13,131 (£10,960); Queensland, £592,218 (£512,549); South Australia, £84,989 (£83,844); Western Australia, £327,253 (£180,517); Northern Territory, £413,833 (£354,266); Australian Capital Territory, £3,241 (£3,227); total for Australia £1,605,359 (£1,296,463).

§ 4. Lifesaving.

There are three lifesaving societies in Australia—The Royal Lifesaving Society, the Australian Lifesaving Society and the Surf Lifesaving Association. The object of these societies is the saving of life from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation. Among other things, they aim to encourage an ability to swim and a knowledge of lifesaving techniques on the part of pupils in schools and colleges. Numerous certificates of proficiency in various grades are issued annually throughout Australia.

§ 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 comprises 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, and provides technical reserves for the medical services of the Crown.

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.