

This page was added on 03 December 2012 to include the Disclaimer below.
No other amendments were made to this Product

DISCLAIMER

Users are warned that this historic issue of this publication series may contain language or views which, reflecting the authors' attitudes or that of the period in which the item was written, may be considered to be inappropriate or offensive today.

CHAPTER XVIII.

WELFARE SERVICES.

A. COMMONWEALTH SOCIAL SERVICES.

§ 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:

(xxiiiA) The provision of maternity allowances, widows' pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services (but not so as to authorize 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 28th September, 1946. The enabling Act was assented to on 19th December, 1946.

Before 1947, each social service benefit was paid under a separate Act. On 1st July, 1947, with the passage of the Social Services Consolidation Act 1947, all Acts providing social service benefits were amalgamated. 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 1947–1959.

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
Unemployment benefit .. .. .	..	1st July, 1945
Widows' pension .. .. .	..	30th June, 1942

Information concerning these benefits appears in later sections of this chapter, pages 687–700. Particulars of benefits provided under the National Health Service appear in Chapter XVII.—Public Health, pages 660–666.

§ 2. Commonwealth Expenditure on Social and Health Services.

1. **National Welfare Fund.**—The National Welfare Fund was established by the National Welfare Fund Act 1943 to finance a scheme of national welfare. In introducing this measure to Parliament, the Prime Minister said that part of the scheme was to be introduced immediately, and part was to be deferred until after the end of the war. A certain balance, which would therefore accrue to the fund, would be invested in Commonwealth securities, and would thus provide finance for the war effort.

The fund operated from 1st July, 1943. At its commencement, it was used to finance funeral benefits and maternity allowances. Other social and health benefits were made a charge on the fund from time to time. At present, expenditure on all benefits except repatriation and a few minor social and health benefits is met from the fund. The fund is used only to finance the benefits themselves; it is not used to finance the cost of administering the benefits, nor on capital works associated with the benefits.

For particulars of the income of the fund, *see* Chapter XXI, Public Finance, Part A, § 2, III., para. 6. The following table sets out expenditure from the fund during 1958–59.

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE FROM NATIONAL WELFARE FUND
ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, 1958-59.
(£'000.)**

Service.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Over-seas.	Total.
<i>Social Services—</i>										
Age and Invalid Pensions ..	53,654	31,645	19,569	11,575	8,622	4,218	54	162	72	129,571
Child Endowment ..	24,293	18,369	10,339	6,308	5,198	2,502	201	138	12	67,540
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service ..	177	203	80	97	93	20	..	..	..	670
Funeral Benefits ..	140	92	48	31	23	11	..	..	..	346
Maternity Allowances ..	1,266	1,020	546	328	267	139	11	20	2	3,599
Unemployment Benefits ..	2,422	1,224	1,154	362	655	134	1	7	..	5,959
Sickness Benefits ..	920	509	346	183	159	70	2	7	..	2,196
Special Benefits(a) ..	142	187	89	37	23	18	..	1	..	497
Widows' Pensions ..	4,275	2,545	1,800	947	800	371	7	23	9	10,777
<i>National Health Services—</i>										
Hospital Benefits ..	6,350	3,426	1,972	1,225	1,285	477	39	28	..	14,802
Medical Benefits ..	3,384	1,872	824	796	700	204	..	..	..	7,780
Medical Benefits for Pensioners ..	1,710	932	482	323	259	92	..	8	..	3,806
Nutrition of Children ..	1,190	783	475	236	182	181	3	19	..	3,069
Pharmaceutical Benefits ..	7,421	5,265	2,372	1,556	1,222	503	..	116	..	18,455
Pharmaceutical Benefits for Pensioners ..	1,138	525	394	228	176	56	..	..	..	2,517
Tuberculosis Campaign—										
Allowances ..	364	224	206	132	78	59	..	..	..	1,063
Maintenance(b) ..	1,765	1,046	799	429	558	170	..	20	..	4,787
Miscellaneous(c) ..	14	41	102	9	15	19	12	556	..	768
Rental Rebates(e) ..	..	..	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	25
Total ..	110,625	69,908	41,597	24,802	20,340	9,244	330	1,286	95	278,227

(a) Includes special benefits to migrants in reception and training centres. (b) Paid to the State Governments as a contribution towards the maintenance of institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis. (c) This item covers the cost of district laboratory services, the free supply of prophylactic materials and biological products (e.g., insulin, poliomyelitis and diphtheria prophylactics), the supply and maintenance of hearing aids for children, subsidies to voluntary organizations conducting home-nursing services, and certain costs associated with the blood transfusion services of the Australian Red Cross Society. (d) Includes an amount of £403,911 for the production of poliomyelitis vaccine. (e) Contribution to rental rebates under 1945 Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement.

Expenditure from the fund during each of the years 1954-55 to 1958-59 is shown in the following table. A graph showing expenditure from the fund from 1942-43 to 1958-59 is to be found on page 691.

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE FROM NATIONAL WELFARE FUND
ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES.
(£'000.)**

Service.	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.
<i>Social Services—</i>					
Age and Invalid Pensions ..	88,006	101,625	109,210	121,577	129,571
Child Endowment (a) ..	52,530	60,381	57,037	58,734	67,540
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service ..	451	505	568	608	670
Funeral Benefits ..	304	319	341	325	346
Maternity Allowances ..	3,362	3,410	3,482	3,560	3,599
Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits ..	2,640	2,563	4,000	7,331	8,652
Widows' Pensions ..	6,862	7,723	8,862	9,832	10,777
<i>National Health Services—</i>					
Hospital Benefits ..	9,321	9,553	9,813	10,823	14,802
Medical Benefits ..	4,210	5,413	6,146	7,086	7,780
Medical Benefits for Pensioners ..	2,516	2,874	2,999	3,198	3,806
Mental Institution Benefits ..	225	..	..	..	..
Nutrition of Children ..	2,237	2,405	2,607	2,756	3,069
Pharmaceutical Benefits ..	9,445	10,380	9,924	12,911	18,455
Pharmaceutical Benefits for Pensioners ..	1,295	1,508	1,793	2,123	2,517
Tuberculosis Campaign—					
Allowances ..	1,904	1,690	1,461	1,255	1,063
Maintenance ..	3,753	4,007	4,755	4,511	4,787
Miscellaneous ..	258	510	925	855	768
Rental Rebates ..	..	..	..	..	25
Total ..	189,319	214,866	223,923	247,485	278,227

(a) See footnote to table on p. 693.

2. **Capital Expenditure.**—Particulars of Commonwealth capital expenditure on mental hospitals and the Anti-Tuberculosis campaign are given in Chapter XVII., Public Health, see pages 661 and 664. Grants are made to private organizations for the construction of homes for elderly people (see para. 4, p. 701).

3. **Administrative Expenditure.**—Information concerning the cost of administering each benefit separately is not compiled. Particulars of the cost of administering the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services may be found in Chapter XXI., Public Finance, Division A, Section 2, III., para. 5.

§ 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, any periods of absence during which a person's home remained in Australia, and absences in certain other circumstances including, 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 certain absences), and who are permanently incapacitated for work to the extent of at least 85 per cent. or permanently blind. If the incapacity or blindness first occurred outside Australia, except during a temporary absence, a total of 20 years' residence is necessary. Certain absences count as residence.

Aboriginal natives, other than those who are nomadic or primitive, are eligible for age and invalid pensions on the same conditions as other members of the community.

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 in order to qualify for a pension; a person in receipt of income of £429 per annum (£858 per annum for a married couple); or a person who owns property, apart from his permanent home and other exempt property, to the net value of more than £2,250 (£4,500 for a married couple). Pensioners with children may, in certain circumstances, have additional income of 10s. a week for each child under 16 years of age.

Since 8th October, 1959, the maximum rate of pension has been £247 per annum (£4 15s. a week). 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. a week). A child's allowance of £29 18s. per annum (11s. 6d. a week) is also paid to an invalid pensioner who is maintaining a child under 16 years of age. If a pensioner is maintaining more than one child, his pension is increased, subject to the means test, by £26 per annum (10s. a week) for each additional child. Supplementary assistance of £26 per annum (10s. a week) is payable to single pensioners and to married pensioners whose spouses do not receive pension or allowance, if the pensioner pays rent and is considered to be entirely dependent on his pension. At 30th June, 1959, 395,540 age pensioners (77 per cent. of all age pensioners) and 73,018 invalid pensioners (87.1 per cent. of all invalid pensioners) were receiving an annual pension of £227 10s. or more.

If a pensioner is an inmate of a benevolent home, £1 13s. a week of his pension is paid to him. The rest is paid to the home for his maintenance, except where he is a patient in an infirmary ward.

Age and invalid pensions (other than invalid pensions paid to blind persons) and allowances paid to wives of invalid pensioners (but not the child's allowance of 11s. 6d. a week) are subject to a means test. They are reduced by the amount by which a pensioner's other income exceeds £182 per annum (£3 10s. a week). Certain types of income are excepted. The main exceptions are:—Income from property; gifts or allowances from children, parents, brothers or sisters; benefits from friendly societies; child endowment or other payments for children; Commonwealth health benefits and amounts received from registered benefit organizations.

The value of free board and lodging received by a pensioner is assessed as income of 12s. 6d. a week.

The annual rate of pension or allowance is further reduced by £1 for every complete £10 by which the value of property owned by a pensioner exceeds £200, and no pension is

payable if the value of the property exceeds £2,250. 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 interest, and the present value of any reversionary interests.

For the purposes of the mean test, the income and property of a married person are considered to be half the total income and property of the husband and wife (unless they are legally separated or in other special circumstances). This means that the pension of a married pensioner, whether or not his spouse is a pensioner, will not be reduced because of his other income unless that income exceeds £364 per annum (£7 a week), nor will his pension be reduced because of his property unless the value of that property 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.(a)

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.	
1st July, 1909 ..	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>£ s.</i>	<i>£ s.</i>	7th January, 1943(c) ..	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>£ s.</i>	<i>£ s.</i>
12th October, 1916 ..	10 0	26 0	52 0	1st April, 1943(c) ..	26 0	67 12	100 2
1st January, 1920 ..	12 6	32 10	58 10	19th August, 1943(c) ..	27 0	70 4	102 14
13th September, 1923 ..	15 0	39 0	65 0	25th November, 1943(c) ..	26 6	68 18	101 8
8th October, 1925 ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	25th November, 1943(e) ..	27 0	70 4	102 14
23rd July, 1931 ..	20 0	52 0	84 10	5th July, 1945 ..	32 6	84 10	117 0
13th October, 1932(b) ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	13th August, 1946 ..	32 6	84 10	136 10
26th October, 1933 ..	15 0	39 0	71 10	3rd July, 1947 ..	37 6	97 10	149 10
4th July, 1935(c) ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	21st October, 1948 ..	42 6	110 10	188 10
24th September, 1936 ..	18 0	46 16	79 6	2nd November, 1950 ..	50 0	130 0	208 0
9th September, 1937 ..	19 0	49 8	81 18	1st November, 1951 ..	60 0	156 0	234 0
26th December, 1940 ..	20 0	52 0	84 10	2nd October, 1952 ..	67 6	175 10	253 10
3rd April, 1941(c) ..	21 0	54 12	87 2	29th October, 1953 ..	70 0	182 0	286 0
11th December, 1941 ..	21 6	55 18	88 8	14th October, 1954 ..	70 0	182 0	364 0
2nd April, 1942(c) ..	23 0	62 8	94 18	27th October, 1955 ..	80 0	208 0	390 0
2nd April, 1942(d) ..	24 0	62 8	94 18	24th October, 1957 ..	87 6	227 10	409 10
1st October, 1942(c) ..	25 0	65 0	97 10	8th October, 1959 ..	95 0	247 0	429 0
	25 6	66 6	98 16				

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

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

During 1958–59, 54,683 age pension claims were granted, 1,114 pensioners were transferred from the invalid pension list, and 39,201 pensions expired through cancellations and deaths. The number of age pensioners at 30th June, 1959, was 513,789, of whom 165,375 (or 32 per cent.) were males, and 348,414 (or 68 per cent.) were females.

The recorded ages of the 54,683 persons (21,229 males and 33,454 females) to whom age pensions were granted during the year 1958–59 varied considerably, ranging from 8,845 at age 60 to four who were over 97; 39,626 were in the 60–69 age-group. The conjugal condition of these new pensioners was as follows:—Males—single, 2,281; married, 15,543; and widowed and divorced, 3,405; Females—single, 4,181; married, 18,418; and widowed and divorced, 10,855.

During 1958–59, 13,903 invalid pension claims were granted, 5,870 pensions ceased through cancellation or death, and 1,114 invalid pensioners were transferred to the age pension list. The number of invalid pensioners at 30th June, 1959 was 83,853, of whom 46,014 (or 55 per cent.) were males and 37,839 (or 45 per cent.) were females. Pensioners in benevolent homes have been included.

The recorded ages of the 13,903 persons (8,111 males and 5,792 females) to whom invalid pensions were granted during 1958-59 varied widely, 1,152 (8 per cent.) were in the 16-19 years age-group, 2,321 (17 per cent.) were in the 20-44 years age-group; 7,057 (51 per cent.) were in the 45-59 years age-group, 2,567 (18 per cent.) were in the 60-64 years age-group, and 806 (6 per cent.) were over 65 years of age.

The conjugal condition of persons to whom invalid pensions were granted during the year was as follows:—Males—single, 2,597; married, 4,928; and widowed and divorced, 586: Females—single, 2,010; married, 2,804; and widowed and divorced, 978.

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS, 30th JUNE, 1959.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<i>Age Pensions in force—</i>									
Males	66,993	37,232	28,442	14,933	12,494	4,957	105	219	165,375
Females	144,667	90,920	46,643	33,037	22,135	10,477	99	436	348,414
Persons	211,660	128,152	75,085	47,970	34,629	15,434	204	655	513,789
<i>Invalid Pensions in force—</i>									
Males	17,042	12,319	8,479	3,130	3,368	1,591	40	45	46,014
Females	15,285	8,813	6,918	2,684	2,573	1,479	24	63	37,839
Persons	32,327	21,132	15,397	5,814	5,941	3,070	64	108	83,853

The sum disbursed in age and invalid pensions in 1958-59, including the amount paid to homes for the maintenance of pensioners and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners, represented an expenditure of £13 0s. 4d. per head of population as compared with £12 9s. 7d. in 1957-58.

The following table gives details of age and invalid pensions for the years 1954-55 to 1958-59:—

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year ended 30th June—	Pensioners at End of Year.				Total Payments. (c)	Average Fortnightly Pension as at 30th June.		
	Age.		Invalid.	Total. (b)		Age.	Invalid.	Age and Invalid Com- bined.
	No.	Rate. (a)						
1955 ..	(d)425,556	439	(e) 78,498	510,186	£ 88,006,077	134 7	137 7	135 1
1956 ..	(d)446,207	449	(e) 82,775	535,226	101,625,068	153 7	156 10	154 1
1957 ..	465,781	460	88,236	554,017	109,209,972	152 10	157 8	153 7
1958(f) ..	496,757	482	77,451	574,208	121,577,042	166 11	171 9	167 7
1959 ..	513,789	490	83,853	597,642	129,571,447	166 9	173 5	167 8

(a) Number of pensioners per 1,000 persons of pensionable age (males aged 65 years and over and females aged 60 years and over). (b) Includes age and invalid pensioners in benevolent homes. (c) Includes allowances and supplementary assistance. (d) Excludes age pensioners in benevolent homes. (e) Excludes invalid pensioners in benevolent homes. (f) On 30th June, 1958, 15,205 invalid pensioners in New South Wales were transferred to their correct designation of age pensioners.

§ 4. 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 16 years, or an approved institution of which children are inmates, shall be qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each child under 16. There are provisions to meet cases of families divided because of divorce, separation, unemployment or death of a parent. There is no means test.

Twelve months' residence in Australia is required if the mother and the child were not born here, but this requirement is waived if the Department of Social Services is satisfied that they are likely to remain in Australia permanently. Where the child's father is not a British subject, endowment is payable if the child was born in Australia, if the mother is a British subject, or if the Department is satisfied that the child is likely to remain permanently in Australia.

Under certain conditions, endowment may be paid to Australians who are temporarily absent overseas. Endowment is payable to aboriginal natives unless they are nomadic or primitive.

From 1st July, 1941, the rate of endowment was 5s. a week for each child in excess of one in a family, and for each child under 16 in an approved institution. The rate was increased to 7s. 6d. a week in June, 1945, and to 10s. a week in November, 1948. Since June, 1950, the rates of endowment have been 5s. a week for the first child in a family, 10s. a week for each other child in a family, and 10s. a week for each child in an institution.

The number of families receiving child endowment at 30th June, 1959, was 1,451,516, an increase of 36,138 or 2.5 per cent. during the year. The following table shows, for each State and Territory, the number of claims for child endowment in force and the number of endowed children at 30th June, 1959.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: CLAIMS AND ENDOWED CHILDREN, 30th JUNE, 1959.

State or Territory.	Family Groups.			Institutions.		Total Endowed Children.
	Claims in force.	Endowed Children.		Number.	Endowed Child Inmates.	
		Number.	Average number per claim.			
New South Wales	543,246	1,141,012	2.10	123	5,930	1,146,942
Victoria ..	396,476	851,489	2.15	99	5,041	856,530
Queensland ..	207,998	478,098	2.30	48	3,182	481,280
South Australia ..	136,139	296,849	2.18	48	1,459	298,308
Western Australia	106,752	241,552	2.26	66	3,538	245,090
Tasmania ..	50,838	117,979	2.32	19	489	118,468
Northern Territory	3,255	7,283	2.24	18	2,668	9,951
Australian Capital Territory ..	6,576	14,774	2.25	..	..	14,774
Overseas ..	236	480	2.03	..	..	480
Total ..	1,451,516	3,149,516	2.17	421	22,307	3,171,823

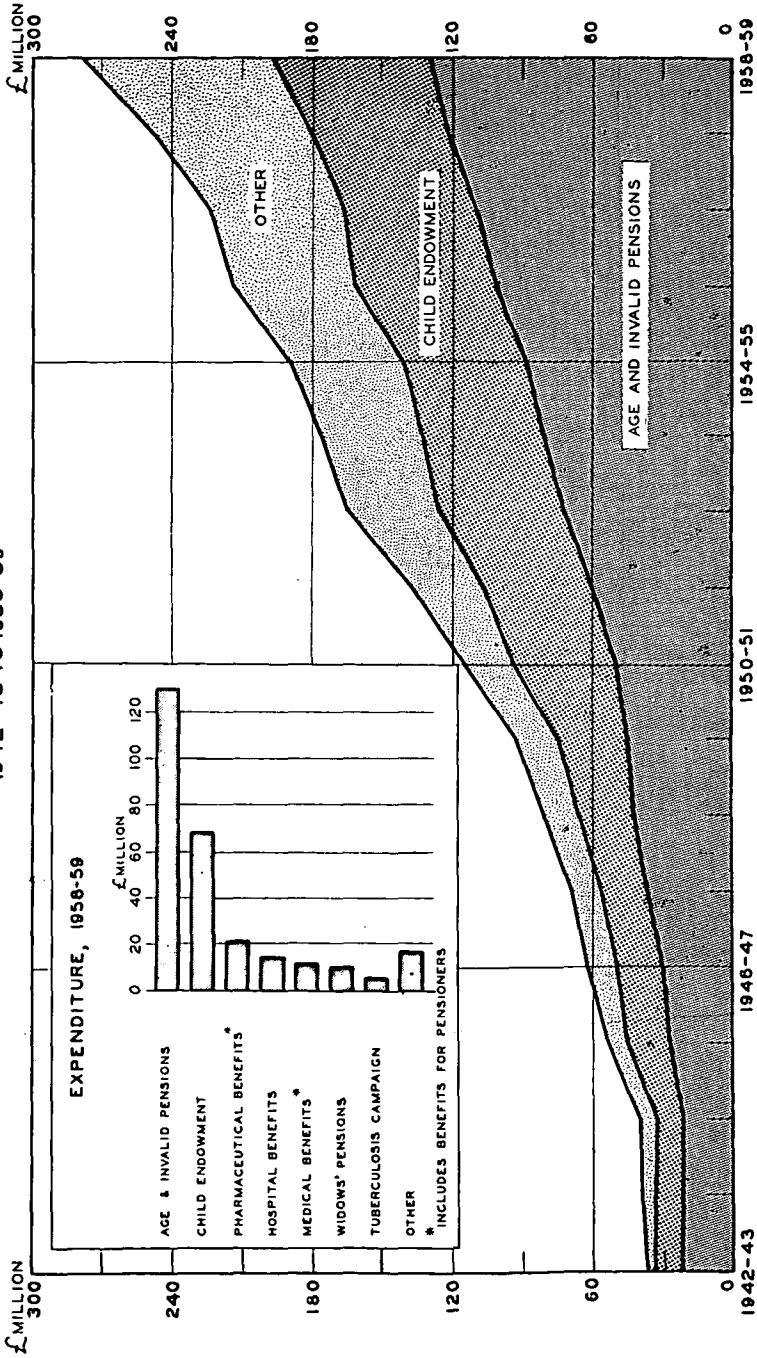
The following table shows, as at 30th June, 1959, the number of claims in force and the number of endowed children, classified according to the number of endowed children in the family:—

CHILD ENDOWMENT: ENDOWED CHILDREN IN FAMILIES, 30th JUNE, 1959.

Number of Endowed Children in Family.	Claims in Force.	Endowed Children.	Number of Endowed Children in Family.	Claims in Force.	Endowed Children.
1	517,654	517,654	10	389	3,890
2	479,856	959,712	11	107	1,177
3	264,179	792,537	12	31	372
4	116,483	465,932	13	11	143
5	44,564	222,820	14	3	42
6	17,433	104,598	17	1	17
7	6,839	47,873	21	1	21
8	2,957	23,656			
9	1,008	9,072	Total ..	1,451,516	3,149,516

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

1942-43 TO 1958-59



The following table shows the annual liability in respect of child endowment at 30th June, 1959, and the actual expenditure thereon for the year 1958-59 in each State and Territory.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: LIABILITY AND EXPENDITURE, 1958-59.

(£.)

State or Territory.	Annual Liability at 30th June, 1959.			Total Payments to Endowees and Institutions during 1958-59.
	Family Groups.	Institutions.	Total.	
New South Wales ..	22,604,114	154,180	22,758,294	24,292,358
Victoria	16,984,526	131,066	17,115,592	18,368,991
Queensland	9,726,574	82,732	9,809,306	10,339,251
South Australia ..	5,948,267	37,934	5,986,201	6,308,497
Western Australia ..	4,892,576	91,988	4,984,564	5,197,754
Tasmania	2,406,560	12,714	2,419,274	2,501,806
Northern Territory ..	147,043	69,368	216,411	200,947
Australian Capital Territory	298,636	..	298,636	317,715
Overseas	9,412	..	9,412	12,296
Total	63,017,708	579,982	63,597,690	67,539,615

The following table shows, for Australia, the number of claims, the number of endowed children and the annual liability at 30th June for each of the years from 1955 to 1959 and the actual expenditure for the years 1954-55 to 1958-59.

CHILD ENDOWMENT SUMMARY: AUSTRALIA.

At 30th June—	Family Group Claims.	Institutions.	Endowed Children.	Annual Liability for Endowment. (a)	Total Payments. (a) (b)
				£	£
1955	1,304,227	392	2,788,561	55,547,635	52,529,902
1956	1,339,807	392	2,875,664	57,349,773	60,380,685
1957	1,378,169	397	2,978,191	59,516,769	57,036,962
1958	1,415,378	415	3,073,945	61,522,656	58,733,561
1959	1,451,516	421	3,171,823	63,597,690	67,539,615

(a) A number of endowments are paid every twelve weeks. During two years out of every three, there are four such payments, but every third year there are five. Since the size of the amount causes considerable fluctuations in the figures for expenditure from year to year, figures for annual liability reflect trends in expenditure on child endowment more accurately than do figures for expenditure.

(b) Year ended 30th June.

§ 5. 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 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 and widow pensioners, persons receiving unemployment, sickness or special benefits, persons receiving tuberculosis allowances and persons aged 14 or 15 who, without treatment and training, would be likely to qualify for

an invalid pension on reaching the age of 16 years. Other persons may participate in the scheme upon reimbursement of the cost of treatment and training. During treatment, payment of pension or benefit continues. When vocational training begins, the pension or benefit is suspended and a rehabilitation allowance, together with a training allowance of £1 10s. a week, is paid instead. With an invalid pensioner, or a sickness, unemployment or special beneficiary, this is equivalent to and calculated in the same manner as an invalid pension. In the case of a widow pensioner, the rate is the same as that of the widows' pension.

Living-away-from-home allowances are paid where necessary. 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 in employment.

If the treatment or vocational training does not result in the trainee being able to engage in employment, he receives the pension or benefit to which he is entitled.

The numbers of persons receiving benefits who were examined, accepted, trained and placed in employment during the year 1958-59 are shown in the following table:—

COMMONWEALTH REHABILITATION SERVICE: AUSTRALIA, 1958-59.

Type.	Examined.	Accepted.	Completed Training.	Placed in Employment.	
				After Training.	Without Training.
Invalid pensioners	12,348	258	89	79	50
Widow pensioners	6	1	..	..	1
Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries	8,037	828	169	155	484
Recipients of Tuberculosis allowance	469	100	55	74	35
Persons aged 14-15 years	155	82	27	31	29
Persons provided with rehabilitation on payment of the cost	112	75	1	1	71
Total	21,127	1,344	341	340	670

§ 6. Funeral Benefits.

A funeral benefit of up to £10 is 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, or of a person who at the time of his death was receiving, or was a claimant for, a tuberculosis allowance, if he would otherwise have been 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 table shows the number of funeral benefits which were paid in each State and Territory for the years 1954-55 to 1958-59.

FUNERAL BENEFITS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA.

State.	Benefits Granted.				
	1954-55.	1955-56.	1956-57.	1957-58.	1958-59.
New South Wales	13,108	13,148	13,927	12,895	14,092
Victoria	7,921	8,216	9,262	8,740	9,290
Queensland	4,590	4,501	4,830	4,565	4,880
South Australia	2,668	2,864	2,974	2,802	3,170
Western Australia	2,045	2,335	2,366	2,358	2,352
Tasmania	1,053	918	1,002	1,097	1,111
Northern Territory	3	6	2	6	8
Australian Capital Territory ..	20	31	28	33	58
Australia	31,408	32,019	34,391	32,496	34,961

§ 7. Maternity Allowances.

Maternity allowances are paid to provide financial assistance towards the expenses associated with the birth of children and are additional to the benefits provided under the Commonwealth hospital benefits scheme. They are not subject to a means test.

The allowance is £15 if the mother has no other children, £16 if she has one or two other children and £17 10s. if she has three or more other children under the age of 16 years. The amount is increased by £5 for each additional child born at a birth. An advance payment of £10 on account of a maternity allowance may be made four weeks before the expected date of birth. The balance is payable immediately after the birth. 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 $\frac{5}{4}$ months.

A maternity allowance is payable to a woman who, at the date of giving birth to a child, is residing in Australia, is temporarily abroad or who is on board a ship proceeding from a port in Australia or an Australian Territory to another port in Australia, or another Australian Territory, or on board a ship proceeding to Australia, provided she receives no maternity benefit from the country from which she came. An alien mother may receive the allowance 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, or if she is likely to remain in Australia. Aboriginal natives, other than those who are nomadic or primitive, are eligible for maternity allowances on the same conditions as other members of the community.

The following table gives details of the amount paid in each State for the years 1954-55 to 1958-59:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: AMOUNT PAID IN EACH STATE.
(£'000.)

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Over-seas.	Total.
1955	1,250	892	513	297	261	128	7	13	1	3,362
1956	1,207	935	526	304	276	137	8	15	2	3,410
1957	1,252	949	532	319	271	131	9	17	2	3,482
1958	1,281	969	547	323	271	138	11	18	2	3,560
1959	1,266	1,020	546	328	267	139	11	20	2	3,599

The following table shows the number of maternity allowance claims paid in each State or Territory during the years 1954-55 to 1958-59:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: CLAIMS PAID IN EACH STATE.

Year ended 30th June—	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S.Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Over-seas.	Total.
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
1957	77,387	59,648	32,882	19,929	16,853	8,166	579	1,067	106	216,617
1958	79,220	60,666	34,000	20,001	16,829	8,509	666	1,137	121	221,149
1959	80,289	63,428	34,266	20,541	16,594	8,608	682	1,276	95	225,779

The following table shows the number of claims paid in each State at the several rates of maternity allowances during the year 1958-59:—

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: CLAIMS PAID AT EACH RATE, 1958-59.

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 ..	25,876	37,750	15,718	231	455	245	1	7	6	80,289
Victoria	20,109	29,925	12,608	193	370	217	4	..	2	63,428
Queensland	9,699	15,806	8,389	87	168	113	2	1	1	34,266
South Australia ..	6,177	9,655	4,452	54	121	80	..	..	2	20,541
Western Australia ..	4,619	7,995	3,770	51	110	48	..	1	..	16,594
Tasmania	2,467	3,915	2,112	26	52	36	..	..	..	8,608
Northern Territory ..	215	280	180	3	3	1	..	..	..	682
Australian Capital Territory ..	386	619	256	2	10	3	..	..	..	1,276
Overseas	38	47	7	1	2	..	..	..	..	95
Total	69,586	105,992	47,492	648	1,291	743	7	9	11	225,779

§ 8. Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits.

Unemployment and Sickness benefits are paid to men over 16 and under 65 years of age, and women over 16 and under 60 years of age who, through unemployment, sickness or accident, suffer temporary loss of regular earnings. They must have been living in Australia during the preceding twelve months or be likely to remain permanently in Australia. A person receiving 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 Office is necessary.

To qualify for a sickness benefit, a person must establish that he is temporarily incapacitated for work because 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.

Aboriginal natives, other than those who are nomadic or primitive, are eligible for these benefits on the same conditions as other members of the community.

The maximum weekly rates of benefit payable and permissible income since the 17th October, 1957, have been as follows:—

Age and Marital Status of Claimant.	Maximum Weekly Rates.			Permissible Weekly Income.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Unmarried person under 18 years of age	1	15	0	1	0	0
Unmarried person 18–20 years of age	2	7	6	1	0	0
All others	3	5	0	2	0	0

An additional benefit of £2 7s. 6d. a week may be paid for a dependent spouse and 10s. 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 other income 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 any payment received from an approved friendly society or other similar approved body in respect of the incapacity for which sickness benefit is payable is disregarded. "Income" does not include child endowment, or other payments for children, Commonwealth hospital and pharmaceutical benefits, or a tuberculosis allowance or an amount paid in reimbursement of medical, dental or similar expenses paid. There is no means test on property.

The amount of compensation, damages or similar payment, or war pension, if paid in respect of the same incapacity as that for which sickness benefit is claimed, is deducted from the sickness benefit. If not paid in respect of the same incapacity, compensation is regarded as income and war pension is ignored.

There is a waiting period of seven days for which unemployment or sickness benefit is not payable. Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries are eligible to participate in the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service under the same conditions as invalid pensioners.

A special benefit may be granted to a person not qualified for unemployment or sickness benefit who is not receiving an age, invalid or widow's pension or a service pension, if because 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. Special benefits are also paid to migrants who are in reception centres and are awaiting their first placement in employment in Australia. During this time, they receive a short instruction in English and in Australian conditions to facilitate their assimilation into the community and employment.

During the year 1958–59, special benefits were granted to 9,642 migrants at a cost of £76,975.

The following table shows the number admitted to benefit during 1958–59, the number of persons on benefit at 30th June, 1959, and the amount paid for each benefit during 1958–59.

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND SPECIAL BENEFITS, 1958-59.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'land.	S. Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
<i>Persons Admitted to</i>									
<i>Benefit—</i>									
<i>Unemployment—</i>									
Males	43,417	17,865	31,529	6,211	13,298	2,866	52	188	115,426
Females	12,154	6,636	5,434	2,516	1,932	846	16	56	29,590
Persons	55,571	24,501	36,963	8,727	15,230	3,712	68	244	145,016
<i>Sickness—</i>									
Males	17,113	9,803	7,775	4,036	4,125	1,621	52	113	44,638
Females	6,105	3,485	2,055	1,023	925	409	13	27	14,042
Persons	23,218	13,288	9,830	5,059	5,050	2,030	65	140	58,680
<i>Special—</i>									
<i>Ordinary—</i>									
Males	752	342	665	174	69	49	3	5	2,059
Females	607	959	177	110	81	50	..	16	2,000
Persons	1,359	1,301	842	284	150	99	3	21	4,059
<i>Migrants—</i>									
Persons	499	8,462	306	355	20	..	..	..	9,642
<i>Total—</i>									
Males(a)	61,282	28,010	39,969	10,421	17,492	4,536	107	306	162,123
Females(a)	18,866	11,080	7,666	3,649	2,938	1,305	29	99	45,632
Persons(b)	80,647	47,552	47,941	14,425	20,450	5,841	136	405	217,397
<i>Persons on benefit at end</i>									
<i>of year—</i>									
<i>Unemployment—</i>									
Males	8,554	4,041	3,447	636	2,500	502	2	9	19,691
Females	3,508	1,972	1,030	696	439	168	3	21	7,837
Persons	12,062	6,013	4,477	1,332	2,939	670	5	30	27,528
<i>Sickness—</i>									
Males	2,573	1,454	1,026	480	527	188	2	12	6,262
Females	992	518	353	157	122	64	1	4	2,211
Persons	3,565	1,972	1,379	637	649	252	3	16	8,473
<i>Special—</i>									
<i>Ordinary—</i>									
Males	218	108	129	53	35	17	1	..	561
Females	514	608	281	112	93	92	..	3	1,703
Persons	732	716	410	165	128	109	1	3	2,264
<i>Migrants—</i>									
Persons	34	495	10	14	..	..	..	..	553
<i>Total—</i>									
Males(a)	11,345	5,603	4,602	1,169	3,062	707	5	21	26,514
Females(a)	5,014	3,098	1,664	965	654	324	4	28	11,751
Persons(b)	16,393	9,196	6,276	2,148	3,716	1,031	9	49	38,818
<i>Benefits Paid—</i>									
<i>Unemployment</i> .. £	2,422,069	1,224,299	1,153,218	362,402	654,160	134,870	1,057	7,173	5,959,248
<i>Sickness</i> £	920,460	508,980	346,383	182,787	159,230	69,873	1,741	7,073	2,196,527
<i>Special (b)</i> .. £	141,950	186,997	88,900	36,998	23,337	17,669	36	648	496,535
<i>Total Benefits Paid b</i> £	3,484,479	1,920,276	1,588,501	582,187	836,727	222,412	2,834	14,894	8,652,310

(a) Excludes migrants in reception and training centres.

(b) Includes migrants in reception and training centres.

The following table shows the number of persons who were admitted to benefit, the average number receiving benefit at the end of each week and the amount paid for each benefit for Australia during each of the years 1954-55 to 1958-59:—

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND SPECIAL BENEFITS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA.

Year.	Number Admitted to Benefits.			Average Number of Persons on Benefit at end of each week.			Amount Paid in Benefits.		
	Un-employment.	Sick-ness.	Special. (a)	Un-employment.	Sick-ness.	Special. (a)	Un-employment.	Sick-ness.	Special. (b)
							£	£	£
1954-55 ..	24,300	57,766	14,854	3,871	7,967	2,411	679,438	1,607,842	352,587
1955-56 ..	37,384	55,985	19,417	3,948	7,303	2,504	671,820	1,519,073	372,220
1956-57 ..	96,030	52,791	14,876	12,452	7,006	2,762	2,096,036	1,498,526	404,865
1957-58 ..	143,877	54,517	17,886	23,847	7,262	2,812	4,919,775	1,857,263	553,706
1958-59 ..	145,016	58,680	13,701	27,669	8,242	2,596	5,959,248	2,196,527	496,535

(a) Includes migrants in reception and training centres.

(b) Includes payments to migrants in reception and training centres.

(c) Does not include special variations of advances for payments in regional areas, made at the end of the year.

§ 9. Widows' Pensions.

Widows' pensions are payable to the following classes of women. The rates shown have been in operation since 13th October, 1959.

Class "A"—A widow who has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years—£260 per annum (£5 a week) plus £26 per annum (10s. a week) for each child after the first in her custody, care and control.

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 because she no longer had the custody, care and control of a child—£214 10s. per annum (£4 2s. 6d. a week).

Class "C"—A widow who is under 50 years of age and 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—£4 2s. 6d. a week for not more than 26 weeks. If at the time of her husband's death the widow is pregnant, this period will be extended until the child's birth. She may then become eligible for a class "A" widow's pension.

Class "D"—A woman whose husband has been in prison 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—£214 10s. per annum (£4 2s. 6d. a week).

Widow pensioners may receive supplementary assistance of £26 per annum (10s. a week) if they pay rent and are considered to be dependent entirely on their pensions.

For classes "A" and "B", the term "widow" includes a deserted wife, a divorcee and a woman whose husband is in a mental hospital. Certain "dependent females" may qualify for "A", "B" or "C" Class pensions.

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 if the widow and her husband were living permanently in Australia when he died. Certain absences count as residence.

A widow's pension is not payable to an alien, unless she was a British subject before her marriage, a woman receiving an age or invalid pension, a 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, or a deserted wife or a divorcee who has not taken reasonable action to obtain maintenance from her husband or former husband. Aboriginal natives, other than those who are nomadic or primitive, are eligible for widows' pensions on the same conditions as other members of the community.

Widows' pensions are subject to a means test on income and property. They are reduced by the amount by which a pensioner's income from other sources exceeds £182 per annum (£3 10s. a week). In determining the amount of income, the income of a Class "A" widow is reduced by £26 per annum (10s. a week) less the amount of any payment other than child endowment received by her in respect of her child. If a woman in Class "A" owns property worth more than £2,250, she is disqualified from receiving pension. Property valued at less than this amount does not affect the rate of her pension. With Class "B" and Class "D" widows, the annual rate of pension is reduced by £1 for every £12 of property owned by the pensioner above £200 up to £1,750 and by £1 for every £10 of property above £1,750 up to £2,250. No pension is paid if the net value of property is more than £2,250. There is no specific means test for Class "C" pension which is paid where it is evident that a widow has insufficient means of support. The types of income and property disregarded for means test purposes are the same as for age and invalid pensions.

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

The number of widows' pensions by class, current at 30th June, 1959, was as follows: Class "A", 22,296; Class "B", 27,020; Class "C", 131; Class "D", 259; total, 49,706.

The amount paid in pensions during 1958–59 was £10,777,127. The following table shows details of widows' pensions paid in each State and Territory in the year 1958–59:—

WIDOWS' PENSIONS AT 30th JUNE, 1959.

State or Territory.	Pensions Current.			Average Fort-nightly Pension.	Amount paid in Pensions during 1958–59.	
	Class "A".	All Classes.	Total per 10,000 of Population.		Amount.	Per head of Population.
New South Wales	8,621	19,528	52	£ s. d. 8 11 6	£ 4,275,055	£ s. d. 1 2 11
Victoria	5,337	12,141	43	8 7 6	2,545,460	18 4
Queensland	4,028	8,077	56	8 12 0	1,800,063	1 5 3
South Australia	1,863	4,343	47	8 9 4	946,667	1 0 11
Western Australia	1,515	3,833	53	8 3 11	800,460	1 2 6
Tasmania	865	1,663	49	8 14 2	370,629	1 1 9
Northern Territory	18	31	15	9 6 2	7,503	7 8
Australian Capital Territory	49	90	20	8 15 8	22,681	10 6
Overseas	(a)	(a)	..	(a)	8,609	..
Total	22,296	49,706	49	8 10 0	10,777,127	1 1 8

(a) Included in figures for State in which pensioner is permanently domiciled.

§ 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.

2. **United Kingdom.**—A new reciprocal agreement on social services between the United Kingdom and Australia came into operation on 1st April, 1958, replacing the original agreement which operated from 7th January, 1954.

Under this agreement, residence in one country now counts as residence in the other country as the basis for entitlement to benefits in which a residential qualification applies.

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.

There is also provision for the safeguard of social service rights for persons going from one country to the other for temporary residence.

B. OTHER SERVICES.

§ 1. Benevolent Homes.

1. **General.**—Numerous establishments exist 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. In many cases, relatives of poor and afflicted persons contribute to their maintenance.

An entirely satisfactory statistical tabulation of all forms of charitable aid provided by benevolent institutions is difficult because these services differ considerably.

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 1957–58 are given in the following table.

BENEVOLENT HOMES: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1957–58.
(£.)

Particulars.	N.S.W.(a)	Vic.	Q'land.	S.Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	Australia.
<i>Revenue—</i>							
Government Aid ..	849,290	1,140,973	447,588	110,550	194,538	290,537	3,033,476
Municipal Aid ..	..	703	..	..	..	..	703
Public Subscriptions, Legacies ..		161,480	53,274	..	692	..	
Fees(b) ..	} 297,890	485,346	193,850	29,844	207,209	42,037	} 1,546,513
Other ..		10,991	57,754	3,491	2,484	171	
<i>Total</i> ..	1,147,180	1,799,493	752,466	143,885	404,923	332,745	4,580,692
<i>Expenditure—</i>							
Salaries and Wages	566,647	675,651	355,351	93,554	251,574	216,881	2,159,658
Upkeep and Repair of Buildings ..	97,208	49,861	23,678	16,908	36,009	10,917	234,581
All Other ..	334,756	278,921	328,693	31,137	101,588	105,221	1,180,316
Capital (c) ..	148,569	715,292	22,163	2,286	15,752	..	904,062
<i>Total</i> ..	1,147,180	1,719,725	729,885	143,885	404,923	333,019	4,478,617

(a) These figures relate to the three State hospitals and homes only. (b) Includes Commonwealth hospital benefits and age and invalid pension receipts. (c) 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 which operated from 16th December, 1954, was amended in October, 1957. The purpose of the Act is to encourage the provision of homes at which aged persons may reside in conditions approaching normal domestic life.

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 purposes 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, including land, to be used permanently for the accommodation of aged persons. The grant is made on a £2 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 money expended and the money 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. Expenditure by the Commonwealth Government was £436,236 in 1954-55, £397,994 in 1955-56, £751,136 in 1956-57, £837,895 in 1957-58 and £1,767,470 in 1958-59.

§ 2. Orphanages, Industrial Schools, etc.

1. **General.**—The methods of caring for orphans and neglected children differ extensively, some being placed 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 shows the expenditure by State Departments during 1957-58 in connexion with children under their control or supervision. In addition to neglected children, the figures refer to 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: COST OF MAINTENANCE, 1957-58.

Particulars.	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land.	S.Aust.	W.Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Gross cost of children's relief	1,926,585	1,031,208	485,625	272,783	240,106	43,429	3,999,736
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. . .	99,773	51,774	27,584	39,423	27,413	6,371	252,338
<i>Net Cost to State</i>	<i>1,826,812</i>	<i>979,434</i>	<i>458,041</i>	<i>233,360</i>	<i>212,693</i>	<i>37,058</i>	<i>3,747,398</i>

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1958.

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 particulars 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 race is extinct in Tasmania. The expenditure from Consolidated Revenue in 1958-59 was as follows (figures in brackets are for the year 1957-58:—New South Wales, £204,576 (£205,028); Victoria, £25,000 (£24,999); Queensland, £726,693 (£672,798); South Australia, £365,561 (£262,657); Western Australia, £591,020 (£529,144); Northern Territory, £719,695 (£684,308); Australian Capital Territory, £4,687 (£4,166); Australia, £2,637,232 (£2,383,100).

§ 4. Lifesaving.

There are two life saving organizations in Australia, the Royal Life Saving Society—Australia, and the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia.

The objects of these organizations are the prevention of death from drowning and other forms of asphyxiation; the education of the general public in methods of life saving and resuscitation of the apparently drowned or asphyxiated; technical education in water safety; the encouragement of swimming and life saving in schools and other organizations; the encouragement of all aspects of swimming and aquatics which would assist in saving lives; and the initiation of research within the field of water safety and lifesaving.

The Royal Life Saving Society operates at lakes, rivers, bay and harbour beaches, and the Surf Life Saving Association patrols surf beaches.

Numerous certificates and medallions of proficiency in various grades are awarded.

§ 5. Royal Humane Society.

The Royal Humane Society of Australia has as its main object the granting of awards to all who with bravery, skill and perseverance 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 50 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 Hospitaliers' Clubs in all States and Commonwealth Territories.

Members of the St. John Ambulance Association teach first aid to the injured, home nursing, hygiene and child welfare.

Members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade provide first aid at public functions.

The Hospitaliers' 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 the order.

The Order of St. John maintains 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 Lifesaving Medal is awarded by the Order as warranted.

§ 7. Other Charitable Institutions.

Owing to the variety of names and functions of other charitable institutions it has been found impracticable to give detailed particulars. 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 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, bushfire, flood and mining accident relief funds.