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CHAPTER XV

WELFARE SERVICES

NOTE.—Further information on subjects dealt with in this chapter may be found in the annual *Bulletin Finance, Part I.—Public and Private Finance*. Current and summarized information is contained in the *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* and the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*.

COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

NOTE.—The Commonwealth Welfare Services outlined in this chapter are those administered by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services. Particulars of benefits provided under the National Health Service appear in Chapter XVII. Public Health, page 698.

Particulars of Commonwealth capital expenditure on mental hospitals and the Anti-Tuberculosis campaign are given in Chapter XVII. Public Health (*see pp. 700 and 703*). Grants are made to private organizations for the construction of homes for elderly people (*see p. 654*).

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—Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund Expenditure.

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, or of capital works associated with the benefits.

For particulars of the income of the fund, *see* Chapter XXI. Public Finance—Commonwealth Consolidated Revenue Fund Expenditure. The following table sets out expenditure from the fund during 1961–62.

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE FROM NATIONAL WELFARE FUND
ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, 1961-62.**
(£'000)

Service	N.S.W.	Vic.	Q'ld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T. (a)	A.C.T. (a)	Abr- oad	Total
Social Services—										
Age and Invalid Pen- sions ..	72,143	44,682	28,368	16,422	12,172	5,702	359	214	183	180,245
Child Endowment ..	23,617	18,021	10,085	6,336	5,103	2,497	278	416	25	66,378
Commonwealth Re- habilitation Service ..	190	220	108	102	78	25	..	..	..	723
Funeral Benefits ..	150	97	59	31	26	12	..	1	..	376
Maternity Allowances ..	1,442	1,057	589	344	279	145	23	24	5	3,908
Unemployment Bene- fits ..	4,402	3,603	2,636	893	726	348	7	22	..	12,637
Sickness Benefits ..	1,104	647	429	199	190	81	5	10	..	2,665
Special Benefits(b) ..	166	278	79	33	27	19	..	1	..	603
Widows' Pensions ..	5,729	3,680	2,516	1,377	1,186	519	30	32	25	15,094
National Health Ser- vices—										
Hospital Benefits ..	9,038	5,493	2,994	1,966	1,998	651	30	32	..	22,202
Medical Benefits ..	4,534	2,802	1,159	1,186	942	289	..	..	..	10,912
Medical Benefits for Pensioners ..	1,915	1,094	589	390	286	115	..	9	..	4,398
Nutrition of Children ..	1,327	1,034	564	332	263	171	23	28	..	3,742
Pharmaceutical Bene- fits ..	10,188	7,739	3,648	2,142	1,795	545	..	(c) 35	..	26,092
Pharmaceutical Bene- fits for Pensioners ..	4,000	2,082	1,351	829	610	225	..	..	..	9,097
Tuberculosis Cam- paign—										
Allowances ..	313	199	191	83	40	47	..	..	..	873
Maintenance and Surveys(d) ..	1,495	1,110	783	345	397	184	..	(e) 19	..	4,333
Miscellaneous(f) ..	75	55	112	11	17	27	19	(g) 532	..	848
Rental Rebates ..	..	..	65	..	..	..	..	..	..	65
Total ..	141,828	93,893	56,325	33,021	26,135	11,602	774	1,375	238	365,191

(a) Payments for some Health Services to residents of the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory are included in the amounts shown for States. (b) Includes special benefits to migrants in reception and training centres. (c) Includes payments to Bush Nursing Centres and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. (d) Paid to the State Governments as a contribution towards the cost of surveys and the maintenance of institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis. (e) Includes costs of manufacturing B.C.G. Vaccine for distribution throughout Australia. (f) 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. (g) Includes £255,990 for the production of poliomyelitis vaccine, £100,000 for running expenses of the Blood Fractionation Plant at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, £107,668 for the Home Nursing Service throughout Australia, and £20,300 for the production of smallpox vaccine.

Expenditure from the fund during each of the years 1957-58 to 1961-62, and the amount per head of population for each service during 1961-62, are shown in the following table.

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
FROM THE NATIONAL WELFARE FUND**

Service.	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	
					Amount £'000	Per head £
Social Services—	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Age and Invalid Pensions ..	121,577	129,571	147,005	157,926	180,245	16.99
Child Endowment(a) ..	58,734	67,540	62,532	74,303	66,378	6.26
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service ..	608	670	681	693	723	0.07
Funeral Benefits ..	325	346	353	367	376	0.04
Maternity Allowances ..	3,560	3,599	3,652	3,898	3,908	0.37
Unemployment, Sickness and Special Benefits ..	7,331	8,652	7,253	7,140	15,905	1.50
Widows' Pensions ..	9,832	10,777	12,137	13,468	15,094	1.42
National Health Services—						
Hospital Benefits ..	10,823	14,802	18,599	20,668	22,202	2.09
Medical Benefits ..	7,086	7,780	9,292	9,976	10,912	1.03
Medical Benefits for Pensioners ..	3,198	3,806	4,113	4,200	4,398	0.41
Nutrition of Children ..	2,756	3,069	3,359	3,560	3,742	0.35
Pharmaceutical Benefits ..	12,911	18,455	20,761	20,543	26,092	2.46
Pharmaceutical Benefits for Pensioners ..	2,123	2,517	3,574	7,338	9,097	0.86
Tuberculosis Campaign—						
Allowances ..	1,255	1,063	1,026	947	873	0.08
Maintenance ..	4,511	4,787	4,337	4,179	4,333	0.41
Miscellaneous ..	855	768	689	1,046	848	0.08
Rental Rebates ..	..	25	..	352	65	0.01
Total ..	247,485	278,227	299,363	330,604	365,191	34.43

(a) See footnote (a) to table on p. 646.

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* 1947–1962.

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
Supplementary assistance (age, invalid and widow's pensions)	..	..	..	15th October, 1958
Unemployment benefit	..	..	..	1st July, 1945
Widow's pension	..	..	..	30th June, 1942
Wives' and children's allowances for pensioners who are invalids	..	..	..	8th July, 1943.

§ 2. 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 are British subjects and who have resided in Australia continuously for at least 10 years, which need not be immediately prior to the date of claim for a pension. If a person has completed five years but not 10 years continuous residence and has lived in Australia for periods which in total exceed 10 years, the period of continuous residence otherwise required is reduced by the total of his periods of residence in Australia in excess of 10 years. 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, are counted as residence. Residence in New Zealand or the United Kingdom may be treated as residence in Australia.

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 at any time), 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 10 years' residence is necessary. But if a person has completed five years but not 10 years continuous residence and has lived in Australia for periods which, in total exceed 10 years, the period of continuous residence otherwise required is reduced by the total of his periods of residence in Australia in excess of 10 years. Residence in New Zealand or the United Kingdom may be treated as residence in Australia. Certain absences do not affect eligibility.

Aboriginals, 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; a person who has deprived himself of property or income in order to qualify for a pension; a person whose annual rate of income (including pension) is £455 (£910 for a married couple) or more; a person who owns property apart from his permanent home and other exempt property, valued at £4,750 or more (£9,500 for a married couple). A pensioner with dependent children may, in certain circumstances, have additional income of 10 shillings a week for each child under 16 years of age.

Since 5th October, 1961, the maximum rate of pension has been £273 per annum (£5 5s. 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 £123 10s. per annum (£2 7s. 6d. a week). A child's allowance of £39 per annum (15s. a week) is also paid to an invalid pensioner for the first child under 16 years of age. The pension is increased, subject to the means test, by £26 per annum (10s. a week) for each other child under 16 years. 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, 1962, 524,794 age pensioners (88 per cent. of all age pensioners) and 90,576 invalid pensioners (93 per cent. of all invalid pensioners) were receiving the maximum pension.

If a pensioner is an inmate of a benevolent home, £1 17s. a week of his pension is paid to him. The rest is paid to the home for his maintenance. The balance is not paid to the home if the patient is in an infirmary ward, as payments under the Commonwealth Hospital Benefit Scheme are made in that case.

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 15s. a week) are subject to a means test which applies to income and to property. From March, 1961, the means tests previously applied separately on income and property were merged into one composite means test. The pension payable depends on the claimant's *means as assessed*. These consist of his annual rate of income plus a property component equal to £1 for each complete £10 of his net property above £200. A person's *means as assessed* may consist entirely of income, entirely of property component, or of various combinations of income and property component. The pension payable is calculated by deducting from the maximum annual rate of pension the amount by which the *means as assessed* exceeds £182. No pension is payable if the pensioner's property is £4,750 or more.

Certain types of income are excepted. The main exceptions are:—income from property; gifts or allowances from children, parents, brothers or sisters; benefits (other than annuities) from friendly societies; child endowment or other payments for children; Commonwealth health benefits and amounts received from registered benefit organizations.

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 and the value of any reversionary interests.

For the purposes of the means 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. The pension is then assessed as for a single pensioner.

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 ..	s. d.	£ s.	£ s.	1st April, 1943(c) ..	s. d.	£ s.	£ s.
12th October, 1916 ..	10 0	26 0	52 0	19th August, 1943(c) ..	26 6	68 18	101 8
1st January, 1920 ..	12 6	32 10	58 10	25th November, 1943(c) ..	27 0	70 4	102 14
13th September, 1923 ..	15 0	39 0	65 0	25th November, 1943(e) ..	26 6	68 18	101 8
8th October, 1925 ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	5th July, 1945 ..	27 0	70 4	102 14
23rd July, 1931 ..	20 0	52 0	84 10	13th August, 1946 ..	32 6	84 10	117 0
13th October, 1932(b) ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	3rd July, 1947 ..	32 6	84 10	136 10
26th October, 1933 ..	15 0	39 0	71 10	21st October, 1948 ..	37 6	97 10	149 10
4th July, 1935(c) ..	17 6	45 10	78 0	2nd November, 1950 ..	42 6	110 10	188 10
24th September, 1936 ..	18 0	46 16	79 6	1st November, 1951 ..	50 0	130 0	208 0
9th September, 1937 ..	19 0	49 8	81 18	2nd October, 1952 ..	60 0	156 0	234 0
26th December, 1940 ..	20 0	52 0	84 10	29th October, 1953 ..	67 6	175 10	253 10
3rd April, 1941(c) ..	21 0	54 12	87 2	14th October, 1954 ..	70 0	182 0	286 0
11th December, 1941 ..	21 6	55 18	88 8	27th October, 1955 ..	70 0	182 0	286 0
2nd April, 1942(c) ..	23 6	61 2	93 12	24th October, 1957 ..	80 0	208 0	390 0
2nd April, 1942(d) ..	24 0	62 8	94 18	8th October, 1959 ..	87 6	227 10	409 10
1st October, 1942(c) ..	25 0	65 0	97 10	6th October, 1960 ..	95 0	247 0	429 0
7th January, 1943(c) ..	25 6	66 6	98 16	5th October, 1961 ..	100 0	260 0	442 0
	26 0	67 12	100 2		105 0	273 0	455 0

(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.

The number of age pensioners at 30th June, 1962, was 594,012 of whom 185,583 (or 31 per cent.) were males and 408,429 (or 69 per cent.) were females. This was an increase of 31,222 for the year.

During 1961–62, 71,234 age pension claims were granted and 42,302 pensions expired through cancellations and deaths. Of these, deaths accounted for 35,346.

The recorded ages of the 71,234 persons (27,583 males and 43,651 females) to whom age pensions were granted during the year 1961–62 ranged from 10,666 at age 60 to 15 who were over 97; 50,720 were in the 60–69 age-group. The conjugal condition of the new pensioners was as follows:—Males—single, 3,170; married, 20,001; widowed, 4,016; and divorced, 396; Females—single, 5,656; married, 23,461; widowed, 13,601; and divorced, 933.

The number of invalid pensioners at 30th June, 1962, was 97,246 of whom 52,168 (or 54 per cent.) were males and 45,078 (or 46 per cent.) were females. During 1961–62, 18,177 invalid pension claims were granted, 7,156 pensions ceased through cancellation or death, and 2,245 invalid pensioners were transferred to the age pension list.

The recorded ages of the 18,177 persons (11,249 males and 6,928 females) to whom invalid pensions were granted during 1961–62 were as follows:—1,623 (9 per cent.) were in the 16–19 years age-group; 3,112 (17 per cent.) were in the 20–44 years age-group; 8,735 (48 per cent.) were in the 45–59 years age-group; 3,882 (21 per cent.) were in the 60–64 years age-group; and 825 (5 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, 3,719; married, 6,541; widowed, 675; and divorced, 314; Females—single, 2,338; married, 3,268; widowed, 1,022; and divorced, 300.

The following table shows the number of pensions in force at 30th June, 1962, in each State and Territory.

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS, 30th JUNE, 1962

Particulars	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Age Pensions in force—									
Males	73,360	45,315	31,856	16,700	12,061	5,548	507	236	185,583
Females	160,922	107,218	61,801	38,313	27,043	11,974	562	596	408,429
Persons	234,282	152,533	93,657	55,013	39,104	17,522	1,069	832	594,012
Invalid Pensions in force—									
Males	21,629	11,629	8,202	4,181	4,399	1,822	225	81	52,168
Females	20,103	9,890	6,448	3,479	3,427	1,477	154	100	45,078
Persons	41,732	21,519	14,650	7,660	7,826	3,299	379	181	97,246

The sum disbursed in age and invalid pensions in 1961–62, including the amount paid to homes for the maintenance of pensioners and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners, represented an expenditure of £16 19s. 11d. per head of population as compared with £15 4s. in 1960–61.

The following table gives details of age and invalid pensions for the years 1957–58 to 1961–62.

AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA

Year	Pensioners at end of year				Total payments (c)	Average weekly pension as at 30th June		
	Age		Invalid	Total (b)		Age	Invalid	Age and Invalid combined
	No.	Rate (a)						
1957-58 ..	(d) 496,757	482	No. (d) 77,451	No. 574,208	£ 121,577,042	s. 83 5	s. 85 10	s. 83 9
1958-59 ..	513,789	490	83,853	597,642	129,571,447	83 4	86 8	83 10
1959-60 ..	(e) 538,022	501	(e) 80,816	618,838	147,005,341	90 3	94 8	90 10
1960-61 ..	562,790	510	88,642	651,432	157,925,892	97 10	100 6	98 2
1961-62 ..	594,012	529	97,246	691,258	180,244,590	101 11	105 3	102 5

(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) On 30th June, 1958, 15,205 invalid pensioners in New South Wales were transferred to their correct designation of age pensioners. (e) On 30th June, 1960, a number of invalid pensioners were transferred to their correct designation of age pensioners as follows:—Victoria, 4,843; Queensland, 4,908; and Western Australia, 486.

§ 3. 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, is 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 claimant 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 aboriginals 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, 1962, was 1,523,074, an increase of 21,894 or 1.5 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, 1962.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: CLAIMS AND ENDOWED CHILDREN, 30th JUNE, 1962

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	566,102	1,218,517	2.15	130	6,665	1,225,182
Victoria ..	417,482	921,582	2.21	119	4,627	926,209
Queensland ..	215,496	508,823	2.36	56	2,884	511,707
South Australia ..	144,375	323,944	2.24	53	1,612	325,556
Western Australia	112,006	262,646	2.34	69	3,421	266,067
Tasmania ..	53,050	126,634	2.39	18	381	127,015
Northern Territory	4,703	10,819	2.30	34	5,095	15,914
Australian Capital Territory ..	9,603	21,959	2.29	..	..	21,959
Abroad ..	257	525	2.04	..	..	525
Total ..	1,523,074	3,395,449	2.23	479	24,685	3,420,134

The following table shows, as at 30th June, 1962, the number of claims in force and the number of endowed children, classified according to the number of endowed children in the family group. The families included in the table are not necessarily made up entirely of the children of one marriage, but may include step-children, foster children, adopted children, and any other children under the custody, care and control of the claimant.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: ENDOWED CHILDREN IN FAMILY GROUPS, 30th JUNE, 1962

Number of endowed children in family group			Claims in force	Endowed children	Number of endowed children in family group			Claims in force	Endowed children
1	..	..	525,087	525,087	9	..	..	1,331	11,979
2	..	..	493,031	986,062	10	..	..	444	4,440
3	..	..	282,059	846,177	11	..	..	147	1,617
4	..	..	134,628	538,512	12	..	..	60	720
5	..	..	52,602	263,010	13	..	..	9	117
6	..	..	21,698	130,188	14 and over	..	..	8	134
7	..	..	8,354	58,478					
8	..	..	3,616	28,928					
					Total	..	..	1,523,074	3,395,449

The following table shows the annual liability in respect of child endowment at 30th June, 1962, and the actual expenditure thereon for the year 1961-62 in each State and Territory.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: LIABILITY AND EXPENDITURE, 1961-62
(£)

State or Territory	Annual liability at 30th June, 1962			Total payments to endowees and institutions during 1961-62
	Family groups	Institutions	Total	
New South Wales	24,322,116	173,290	24,495,406	23,617,265
Victoria	18,533,866	120,302	18,654,168	18,020,653
Queensland	10,427,950	74,984	10,502,934	10,085,376
South Australia	6,545,669	41,912	6,587,581	6,335,522
Western Australia	5,372,718	88,946	5,461,664	5,102,478
Tasmania	2,602,834	9,906	2,612,740	2,496,713
Northern Territory	220,155	132,470	352,625	278,462
Australian Capital Territory	446,095	..	446,095	416,488
Abroad	10,309	..	10,309	24,671
Total	68,481,712	641,810	69,123,522	66,377,628

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 1958 to 1962 and the actual expenditure for the years 1957-58 to 1961-62.

CHILD ENDOWMENT: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA

At 30th June—	Family group claims	Institutions	Endowed children	Annual liability for endowment (a)	Total payments (a)(b)
				£	£
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	(c) 67,539,615
1960	1,476,835	443	3,252,413	65,363,883	62,531,977
1961	1,501,180	465	3,340,302	67,332,512	(d) 74,302,614
1962	1,523,074	479	3,420,134	69,123,522	66,377,628

(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. Figures for annual liability, therefore, reflect trends in expenditure on child endowment more accurately than do figures for payments.
 (b) Year ended 30th June, (c) Expenditure for this year includes five twelve-weekly payments.
 (d) Endowment payable on 4th July, 1961, to the credit of bank accounts and in cash at post offices was brought to account in 1960-61.

§ 4. Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service

The Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service has been set up to help persons who are unable to work because of physical handicap, or who have had to give up their employment because of sickness or injury. It helps disabled persons to reach their maximum physical fitness and to prepare for suitable employment. 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 service is 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. 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 widow's 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 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.

Disabled persons who cannot qualify for the free service may pay for rehabilitation themselves, or they may be sponsored by governmental or private organizations. Rehabilitation allowances, training allowances, living-away-from-home allowances and other allowances are not payable in these cases. Books, tools, etc., are available on a repayment basis.

The numbers of persons receiving benefits who were examined, accepted, trained and placed in employment during the year 1961-62 are shown in the following table.

COMMONWEALTH REHABILITATION SERVICE: AUSTRALIA, 1961-62

Type	Examined	Accepted	Completed training	Placed in employment	
				After training	Without training
Invalid pensioners	10,224	222	79	52	61
Widow pensioners	46	2	..	..	..
Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries	9,612	888	182	163	519
Special beneficiaries	1	..	1	1	..
Recipients of tuberculosis allowance	408	54	37	43	11
Persons aged 14-15 years ..	188	60	20	17	29
Persons provided with rehabilitation on payment of the cost ..	138	92	5	4	73
Total	20,617	1,318	324	280	693

§ 5. 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.

The following table shows the number of funeral benefits which were granted in each State and Territory in the years 1957-58 to 1961-62.

FUNERAL BENEFITS GRANTED: AUSTRALIA

(Number)

State or Territory	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62
New South Wales	12,895	14,092	14,764	15,019	15,228
Victoria	8,740	9,290	9,069	9,200	9,702
Queensland	4,565	4,880	4,891	5,523	6,000
South Australia	2,802	3,170	3,141	3,192	3,103
Western Australia	2,358	2,352	2,448	2,654	2,605
Tasmania	1,097	1,111	1,100	1,100	1,174
Northern Territory	6	8	3	7	11
Australian Capital Territory ..	33	58	49	54	66
Australia	32,496	34,961	35,465	36,749	37,889

§ 6. 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 child had developed for at least 5½ 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 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 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. Aborigines, 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 1957-58 to 1961-62.

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: AMOUNT PAID IN EACH STATE

(£'000)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Abroad	Total
1957-58.. ..	1,281	969	547	323	271	138	11	18	2	3,560
1958-59.. ..	1,266	1,020	546	328	267	139	11	20	2	3,599
1959-60.. ..	1,277	1,008	575	337	275	143	12	21	4	3,652
1960-61.. ..	1,399	1,069	590	359	284	148	20	24	5	3,898
1961-62.. ..	1,442	1,057	589	344	279	145	23	24	5	3,908

The following table shows the number of maternity allowance claims paid in each State or Territory during the years 1957-58 to 1961-62.

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: CLAIMS PAID IN EACH STATE

(Number)

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Abroad	Total
1957-58..	79,220	60,666	34,000	20,001	16,829	8,509	666	1,137	121	221,149
1958-59..	80,289	63,428	34,266	20,541	16,594	8,608	682	1,276	95	225,779
1959-60..	81,241	62,853	35,515	21,443	17,012	8,985	767	1,311	262	229,389
1960-61..	85,751	66,511	35,587	21,774	17,648	9,077	1,215	1,511	310	239,384
1961-62..	87,659	65,847	36,339	21,328	17,366	8,942	1,398	1,662	300	240,841

The following table shows the number of claims paid in each State at the several rates of maternity allowances during the year 1961-62.

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: CLAIMS PAID AT EACH RATE, 1961-62

(Number)

State or Territory	Single births			Multiple births								Total claims paid
	£15	£16	£17 10s.	Twins				Triplets			Quad-ruplets	
				£20	£21	£22 10s.	£25	£26	£27 10s.	£31		
New South Wales ..	28,055	40,770	17,912	231	457	226	2	5	1	..	87,659	
Victoria ..	20,909	30,060	14,136	202	335	193	2	5	5	..	65,847	
Queensland ..	10,237	15,990	9,720	85	178	126	1	1	1	..	36,339	
South Australia ..	6,271	9,976	4,823	69	121	68	..	..	..	..	21,328
Western Australia ..	5,060	8,040	4,112	34	85	34	..	1	..	..	17,366
Tasmania ..	2,532	3,952	2,345	33	46	33	..	1	..	..	8,942
Northern Territory	467	521	390	7	7	6	..	..	..	..	1,398
Australian Capital Territory ..	511	778	353	3	13	4	..	..	..	..	1,662
Abroad ..	85	160	50	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	300
Total ..	74,127	110,247	53,841	664	1,246	691	5	13	7	..	240,841	

§ 7. 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 are unemployed or who are temporarily incapacitated for work and thereby suffer loss of income. 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.

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

Rates of benefit were increased as from 1st March, 1962. The maximum weekly rates of benefit payable and permissible income in respect of benefit periods which commenced on or after 1st March, 1962, are 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	4	2	6	2	0	0

An additional benefit of £3 a week may be paid for a dependent spouse and 15s. a week for each dependent child under 16 years of age if resident in Australia. Prior to March, 1962, additional benefit was paid for only one dependent child under 16 years. Additional benefit, at the same rate as that for a dependent spouse, may be paid where a woman is keeping house for a claimant who has one or more children under 16 years of age in his care. It may be granted only if no such benefit is payable for his wife and the housekeeper is substantially dependent on him but 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 relevant line of the final column in the table above. For unemployment benefit purposes, the income of the spouse is also taken into account, unless the claimant and his spouse are permanently separated. For sickness benefit purposes, the income 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 1961-62, special benefits were granted to 3,932 migrants at a cost of £92,144.

The following table shows the number admitted to benefit during 1961-62, the number of persons on benefit at 30th June, 1962, and the amount paid for each benefit during 1961-62.

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND SPECIAL BENEFITS, 1961-62

Particulars	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
Persons admitted to benefit—									
Unemployment—									
Males ..	74,298	58,555	52,475	16,795	12,022	6,462	425	617	221,649
Females ..	20,782	13,646	12,250	5,039	3,503	1,811	68	188	57,287
Persons ..	95,080	72,201	64,725	21,834	15,525	8,273	493	805	278,936
Sickness—									
Males ..	17,859	10,621	8,764	4,092	4,335	1,589	117	164	47,541
Females ..	6,485	4,212	2,573	1,215	1,077	411	26	46	16,045
Persons ..	24,344	14,833	11,337	5,307	5,412	2,000	143	210	63,586
Special—									
Ordinary—									
Males ..	372	250	469	101	57	48	3	2	1,302
Females ..	465	1,362	184	71	100	45	..	5	2,232
Persons ..	837	1,612	653	172	157	93	3	7	3,534
Migrants—									
Persons ..	723	2,961	..	248	..	..	..	..	3,932
Total—									
Males(a) ..	92,529	69,426	61,708	20,988	16,414	8,099	545	783	270,492
Females(a) ..	27,732	19,220	15,007	6,325	4,680	2,267	94	239	75,564
Persons(b) ..	120,984	91,607	76,715	27,361	21,094	10,366	639	1,022	349,988
Persons on benefit at end of year—									
Unemployment—									
Males ..	11,511	10,794	5,138	1,747	1,824	1,343	14	30	32,401
Females ..	5,456	3,544	2,294	1,310	843	435	3	38	13,923
Persons ..	16,967	14,338	7,432	3,057	2,667	1,778	17	68	46,324
Sickness—									
Males ..	3,091	1,740	1,224	576	529	234	13	16	7,423
Females ..	1,187	739	445	210	185	70	2	9	2,847
Persons ..	4,278	2,479	1,669	786	714	304	15	25	10,270
Special—									
Ordinary—									
Males ..	167	153	79	38	27	14	2	..	480
Females ..	506	872	253	99	100	81	..	..	1,911
Persons ..	673	1,025	332	137	127	95	2	..	2,391
Migrants—									
Persons ..	19	98	..	1	..	..	..	..	118
Total—									
Males(a) ..	14,769	12,687	6,441	2,361	2,380	1,591	29	46	40,204
Females(a) ..	7,149	5,155	2,992	1,619	1,128	586	5	47	18,681
Persons(b) ..	21,937	17,940	9,433	3,981	3,508	2,177	34	93	59,103
Benefits paid—									
Unemployment £	4,402,094	3,603,254	2,636,105	892,830	726,082	347,870	6,666	21,865	12,636,766
Sickness £	1,104,059	646,820	428,968	198,449	190,706	81,403	4,340	10,177	2,664,922
Special(b) £	166,238	278,524	78,564	33,221	26,705	19,124	137	678	603,191
Total Benefits Paid(b) £	5,672,391	4,528,598	3,143,637	1,124,500	943,493	448,397	11,143	32,720	15,904,879

(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 1957-58 to 1961-62.

UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS AND SPECIAL BENEFITS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA

Year	Number admitted to benefit			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)
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
1959-60 ..	108,224	59,159	14,590	21,374	8,755	2,650	4,504,504	2,238,281	510,163
1960-61 ..	161,113	58,184	14,001	21,569	8,513	2,829	4,468,532	2,151,479	519,907
1961-62 ..	278,936	63,586	7,466	52,950	9,286	2,867	12,636,766	2,664,922	603,191

(a) Includes migrants in reception and training centres.

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

§ 8. Widows' Pensions

Widows' pensions are payable according to the following classes. The rates shown have been in operation since 10th October, 1961.

Class "A". A widow who has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of 16 years—£286 per annum (£5 10s. a week) plus £39 per annum (15s. 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—£240 10s. per annum (£4 12s. 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 the 26 weeks after the death of her husband—£4 12s. 6d. a week for not more than 26 weeks after the death of her husband. If the widow is pregnant, this period may be extended until the child's birth. She may then become eligible for a Class "A" widow's pension.

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, a woman whose husband has been imprisoned for at least six months, and a woman whose husband is in a mental hospital. Certain dependent females also 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 are ignored.

A widow's pension is not payable to an alien, 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. Aborigines, 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. The pension payable depends on the claimant's *means as assessed*. These consist of her annual rate of income together with a property component equal to £1 for every complete £10 by which the value of her property is in excess of a stipulated sum. In the case of a Class "B" widow, £200 of property is exempt. A Class "A" widow has a basic exemption of £1,000 when the value of her property exceeds £2,250, but no property component is calculated where she has property of no more than £2,250 in value. A Class "A" pension is not payable where a widow has property valued at £5,680 or more; no Class "B" pension is payable where property is £4,430 or more. There is no specific means test for the Class "C" pension, which is paid only 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, 1962, was as follows:—Class "A", 24,584; Class "B", 32,157; Class "C", 95; total, 56,836.

The amount paid in pensions during 1961-62 was £15,094,520. The following table shows details of widows' pensions paid in each State and Territory in the year 1961-62.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS AT 30th JUNE, 1962

State or Territory	Pensions current			Average weekly pension	Amount paid in pensions during 1961-62
	Class "A"	All classes	Total per 10,000 of population		
				s. d.	£
New South Wales	8,937	21,187	53	104 2	5,728,971
Victoria	5,845	14,251	48	104 3	3,680,477
Queensland	4,553	9,452	61	105 8	2,516,160
South Australia	2,220	5,218	53	104 2	1,377,357
Western Australia	1,905	4,570	61	102 8	1,185,604
Tasmania	998	1,912	54	106 4	518,474
Northern Territory	59	117	42	103 10	29,627
Australian Capital Territory ..	67	129	20	107 0	32,648
Abroad	(a)	(a)	..	..	25,202
Total	24,584	56,836	53	104 5	15,094,520

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

§ 9. 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. **Britain.**—A new reciprocal agreement on social services between Britain 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 Britain for permanent residence are treated in Britain 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.

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.

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

2. **Revenue and Expenditure.**—Details regarding revenue and expenditure for the year 1960-61 are given in the following table.

BENEVOLENT HOMES: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1960-61

(£)

Particulars	N.S.W.(a)	Vic.	Q'land	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Australia
Revenue—							
Government aid ..	786,411	1,349,105	642,646	149,216	234,714	391,001	3,553,093
Municipal aid ..	..	823	..	..	..	142,421	143,244
Public subscrip- tions, legacies ..	} 284,016	{ 132,139	21,627	..	4,564	..	}
Fees(b) ..							
Other ..							
		{ 570,151	223,792	1,060	294,713	59,883	1,678,461
		16,633	51,733	3,138	13,710	1,302	
Total ..	1,070,427	2,068,851	939,798	153,414	547,701	594,607	5,374,798
Expenditure—							
Salaries and wages	642,346	1,067,296	490,470	100,324	373,861	301,562	2,975,859
Upkeep and repair of buildings ..	36,730	86,315	12,346	7,759	25,806	11,191	180,147
All other ..	342,304	476,168	399,894	43,316	136,114	139,573	1,537,369
Capital(c) ..	49,047	413,817	95,069	2,015	11,920	142,421	714,289
Total ..	1,070,427	2,043,596	997,779	153,414	547,701	594,747	5,407,664

(a) These figures relate to the two 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.

3. **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 in 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 basis of £2 for each £1 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 £837,895 in 1957-58, £1,767,470 in 1958-59, £1,871,748 in 1959-60, £2,153,551 in 1960-61 and £3,472,514 in 1961-62.

§ 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 general 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. **Children under Government Authority.**—The following table shows the expenditure by State Departments during 1960-61 in connexion with children under their control or supervision. The figures refer, in addition to neglected children, to uncontrollable and convicted children who are wards of a government authority, as well as children whose parents obtain assistance from the government without giving up the legal right of custody.

CHILDREN UNDER GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY: COST OF MAINTENANCE, 1960-61.

(£)

Particulars	N.S.W.	Vic.(a)	Q'land	S. Aust.	W. Aust.	Tas.	Aust.
Gross cost of children's relief	2,343,952	1,605,383	601,242	457,393	275,359	98,244	5,381,573
Receipts from parents' contributions, etc. ..	116,821	50,560	39,262	50,402	30,471	8,834	296,350
<i>Net Cost to State</i>	<i>2,227,131</i>	<i>1,554,823</i>	<i>561,980</i>	<i>406,991</i>	<i>244,888</i>	<i>89,410</i>	<i>5,085,223</i>

(a) Year ended 31st December, 1961.

The total expenditure on children's relief in the foregoing table shows considerable variation between the States, owing to 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 1961-62 was as follows (figures

in brackets are for the year 1960–61:—New South Wales, £280,838 (£250,658); Victoria, £50,000 (£25,000); Queensland, £803,529 (£770,013); South Australia, £524,038 (£428,021); Western Australia, £1,300,443 (£762,294); Northern Territory, £1,011,983 (£965,227); Australian Capital Territory, £4,372 (£5,485); Australia, £3,975,203 (£3,206,698).

§ 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 gives instruction to school pupils and members of other bodies throughout Australia except on surf beaches. 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 Australasia 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.

§ 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.

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

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

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 the order.

The Order of St. John maintains ambulance transport services in some States, acts as an auxiliary 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, 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.