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## CHAPTER 13

### WELFARE SERVICES

This chapter relates to welfare services other than those concerned specifically with education, health and repatriation. The latter are dealt with, in the main, in the relevant chapters of this Year Book. Apart from a summary of government expenditure on welfare services and short descriptions of certain interstate organisations providing welfare services, the chapter is devoted to a description in some detail of the services provided by the Commonwealth. For information on the many important welfare services provided by State and local governments, especially in the fields of child and Aboriginal welfare, reference should be made to the Year Books or Statistical Registers of the States and the annual reports of the State departments concerned. Information on pension and superannuation schemes provided for government and semi-government employees, mine workers, parliamentarians, and employees of private business is included in the chapter Private Finance.

In addition, there are numerous services of this nature provided by charitable and other non-government institutions and organisations. There are institutions providing shelter and caring for needy, aged, infirm or handicapped persons, neglected children, destitute persons, wayward boys and girls, and the like. Many organisations, too, provide aid in kind (food, clothing, etc.), auxiliary medical and nursing services, and other assistance to relieve suffering and hardship. Considerable work is also done by such organisations in the rehabilitation or establishment in the community of various types of people, such as prisoners and migrants, and in the prevention and alleviation of cruelty and maltreatment of any sort. Comprehensive information regarding the activities of such organisations is not available.

Further information on subjects dealt with in this chapter is included in the annual bulletins *Australian National Accounts*, *Commonwealth Finance*, and *State, Territory and Local Government Authorities' Finance and Government Securities*. Current and summarised information on Commonwealth social services is contained in the *Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics* and the *Monthly Review of Business Statistics*.

#### Expenditure on welfare services

This section deals with various government payments for the relief of the aged, indigent, infirm, widowed and unemployed, assistance to families, Aboriginal welfare, etc. For summary statements of cash payments to persons made by public authorities under various functional heads, see *Australian National Accounts* and the other annual bulletins mentioned above.

#### Commonwealth expenditure on welfare services

Information concerning the cost of administering each Commonwealth benefit separately is not compiled. However, the chapter Public Finance, and, in more detail, the annual bulletin *Commonwealth Finance*, present an analysis of Commonwealth expenditure by function and economic type, from which some estimates of administrative costs can be derived. Commonwealth expenditure on Aboriginal welfare is included on page 440 and that on grants for the construction of homes for the aged and for accommodation for disabled persons on pages 454 and 455 respectively.

#### The National Welfare Fund

The National Welfare Fund was established by the *National Welfare Fund Act 1943* to finance a scheme of national welfare and has operated from 1 July 1943. The Principal Act was amended by the *National Welfare Fund Act 1952*. At the Fund's commencement it was used to finance funeral benefits and maternity allowances, but other social and health benefits were made a charge on the fund from time to time, and at present expenditure on all benefits except repatriation, telephone rental concessions 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. Since the contributions to the fund from Consolidated Revenue equal expenditure from the fund, the balances in the fund grow each year by the interest on investment of these balances.

**NATIONAL WELFARE FUND: RECEIPTS, EXPENDITURE, AND BALANCES**  
**1963-64 TO 1967-68**  
 (\$'000)

Year	Income		Total	Expenditure	Balance in fund at end of year
	Contribution from Consolidated Revenue	Interest on investments			
1963-64	832,696	4,157	836,853	832,696	418,382
1964-65	890,366	4,199	894,564	890,366	422,581
1965-66	941,574	4,241	945,815	941,574	426,822
1966-67	1,031,117	4,284	1,035,401	1,031,117	431,106
1967-68	1,075,049	4,327	1,079,376	1,075,049	435,433

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE FROM NATIONAL WELFARE FUND**  
**STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1967-68**  
 (\$'000)

Service, etc.	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T. (a)	A.C.T. (a)	Abroad	Total
<b>Social services—</b>										
Age and invalid pensions	200,962	129,334	82,210	46,711	36,418	15,414	1,336	1,111	488	513,984
Widows' pensions	22,745	15,807	9,564	5,937	4,346	2,125	217	249	71	61,061
Funeral benefits	500	362	210	134	90	39	..	3	..	1,338
Maternity allowances	2,462	2,102	1,103	670	605	254	64	87	3	7,349
Child endowment(b)	64,684	52,675	28,177	17,835	14,845	6,612	1,209	1,810	74	187,920
Unemployment benefits	3,665	2,425	2,913	1,637	304	264	19	15	..	11,242
Sickness benefits	2,502	1,646	941	563	420	165	22	30	..	6,290
Special benefits(c)	351	664	149	58	33	42	1	2	..	1,300
Sheltered employment allowances(d)	11	..	..	88	5	..	..	..	..	104
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service	645	493	284	267	193	58	..	2	..	1,944
States Grants (Deserted Wives)(e)	140	..	..	25	35	..	..	..	..	201
<b>Total social services</b>	<b>298,666</b>	<b>205,508</b>	<b>125,553</b>	<b>73,926</b>	<b>57,295</b>	<b>24,973</b>	<b>2,868</b>	<b>3,309</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>792,734</b>
<b>Health services—</b>										
Hospital benefits	11,697	6,279	3,268	2,467	2,060	735	(f)80	(f)12	..	26,598
Hospital benefits for pensioners	8,871	5,272	4,259	1,969	2,316	783	40	156	..	23,665
Nursing home benefits	10,386	5,121	3,752	2,202	2,222	800	..	3	..	24,486
Medical benefits	18,314	12,301	4,499	5,774	4,093	1,450	..	..	..	46,431
Medical benefits for pensioners	6,217	4,242	2,364	1,607	1,172	460	5	49	..	16,116
Pharmaceutical benefits	28,989	20,031	10,036	6,685	4,974	2,049	(g)	(h)255	..	73,019
Pharmaceutical benefits for pensioners	13,563	7,505	5,016	3,038	2,143	850	(g)	..	..	32,115
Tuberculosis campaign—										
Allowances	363	251	285	80	55	38	17	2	..	1,091
Maintenance and surveys(i)	3,813	3,306	2,415	620	807	304	..	2	..	11,269
Milk for school children	3,350	2,623	1,372	952	850	503	75	106	..	9,831
<b>Miscellaneous health services—</b>										
Commonwealth Health laboratories	183	101	565	22	36	101	106	193	..	1,307
Blood products(j)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	863	..	863
Home Nursing Service—subsidies to States	209	288	95	32	131	10	..	..	..	765
Radio-active isotopes(k)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	134	155
Hearing aids for school children and pensioners(l)	152	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	195	351
Poliomyelitis vaccine(m)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	908	1	908
<b>Total health services</b>	<b>106,108</b>	<b>67,322</b>	<b>37,928</b>	<b>25,447</b>	<b>20,860</b>	<b>8,083</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>268,972</b>
Rental losses(n)	..	..	44	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Home savings grants(o)	4,597	4,470	1,820	1,235	740	305	8	124	..	13,299
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>409,371</b>	<b>277,301</b>	<b>165,345</b>	<b>100,609</b>	<b>78,894</b>	<b>33,360</b>	<b>3,199</b>	<b>6,003</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>1,075,049</b>

(a) Payments for some hospital, medical and pharmaceutical benefits for residents of the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory are included in the amounts shown for the States. (b) Includes payments for student children aged 16 to 20 years. (c) Includes special benefits paid to migrants in Commonwealth centres or hostels awaiting their first placement in employment in Australia. (d) Commenced 6 July 1967. (e) Commenced 1 January 1968. (f) Excludes insured patients and pensioner patients. Payments for insured patients are included in amounts shown for States. (g) Included in South Australia. (h) Includes \$137,966 for Royal Flying Doctor Service and Bush Nursing Services and \$11,907 for Immigration medical services not allocable by State; and \$105,000 for A.C.T. public hospitals. Other payments for pharmaceutical benefits in the A.C.T. are included in the amount shown for N.S.W. (i) Mainly payments to State Governments as a contribution towards the cost of surveys and the maintenance of institutions for the treatment of tuberculosis. (j) Cost of processing blood products by the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories. (k) Cost of purchases by the Commonwealth X-Ray and Radium Laboratory. (l) Purchases of component parts by the Commonwealth Acoustic Laboratories. (m) Cost of vaccine from Commonwealth Health Laboratories. (n) Contributions to States, under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Act 1945, for losses on rental housing. (o) Expenditure under the Home Savings Grant Act 1964.

**COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE FROM NATIONAL WELFARE FUND  
TOTAL, 1963-64 TO 1967-68**

Service, etc.	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	
					Amount	Per head
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$
<b>Social services—</b>						
Age and invalid pensions . . . . .	399,880	426,597	442,355	481,840	513,984	43.10
Widows' pensions . . . . .	41,569	47,044	50,017	56,438	61,061	5.12
Funeral benefits . . . . .	812	866	1,050	1,334	1,338	0.11
Maternity allowances . . . . .	7,457	7,294	7,159	7,294	7,349	0.62
Child endowment(b) . . . . .	168,758	172,830	176,432	199,282	187,920	15.76
Unemployment, sickness and special benefits(c) . . . . .	21,625	14,540	15,557	19,044	18,832	1.58
Sheltered employment allowances(d) . . . . .	..	..	..	..	104	0.01
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service . . . . .	1,489	1,604	1,660	1,844	1,944	0.16
States Grants (Deserted Wives)(e) . . . . .	..	..	..	..	201	0.02
<b>Total social services . . . . .</b>	<b>641,590</b>	<b>670,774</b>	<b>694,229</b>	<b>767,076</b>	<b>792,734</b>	<b>66.47</b>
<b>Health services—</b>						
Hospital and nursing home benefits . . . . .	42,863	45,206	46,084	48,667	51,085	4.28
Hospital benefits for pensioners . . . . .	13,354	13,585	14,659	18,731	23,665	1.98
Medical benefits . . . . .	24,848	35,277	41,282	43,841	46,431	3.89
Medical benefits for pensioners . . . . .	9,531	9,320	13,365	14,351	16,116	1.35
Pharmaceutical benefits . . . . .	58,237	60,638	67,713	72,001	73,019	6.12
Pharmaceutical benefits for pensioners . . . . .	20,602	21,564	24,071	29,280	32,115	2.69
<b>Tuberculosis campaign—</b>						
Allowances . . . . .	1,593	1,458	1,286	1,193	1,091	0.09
Maintenance and surveys(i) . . . . .	10,473	10,146	13,379	10,983	11,269	0.94
Milk for school children . . . . .	7,775	8,059	8,493	9,021	9,831	0.82
Miscellaneous health services . . . . .	1,785	2,859	3,453	3,947	4,349	0.36
<b>Total health services . . . . .</b>	<b>191,060</b>	<b>208,113</b>	<b>233,785</b>	<b>252,014</b>	<b>268,972</b>	<b>22.55</b>
Rental losses(n) . . . . .	45	130	213	142	44	..
Home savings grants(o) . . . . .	..	11,349	13,346	11,885	13,299	1.12
<b>Grand total . . . . .</b>	<b>832,696</b>	<b>890,366</b>	<b>941,574</b>	<b>1,031,117</b>	<b>1,075,049</b>	<b>90.14</b>

For footnotes (b), (c), (d), (e), (i), (n), and (o) see table on page 438.

**State expenditure on certain welfare services**

The following table shows net expenditure from State government funds on certain welfare services. The figures exclude expenditure on unemployment, bush fire, flood, etc., relief, Aboriginal welfare, and some other items which are excluded because information cannot be obtained for all States. Loan fund expenditure is excluded also. Because of differences in organisation and accounting methods, the information shown for some classes is not on exactly the same basis for all States; it may also be incomplete because particulars of some activities are not separately recorded and are therefore excluded. The expenditure shown is 'net' in the sense that receipts for services rendered have been deducted from gross expenditure.

**NET EXPENDITURE BY STATE GOVERNMENTS ON CERTAIN WELFARE  
SERVICES, 1967-68  
(\$'000)**

Service	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Total
Relief of aged, indigent and infirm, child welfare, etc. . . . .	15,791	11,293	5,840	3,147	3,108	1,968	41,148
Miners' phthisis . . . . .	67	53	..	..	62	..	182
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>15,858</b>	<b>11,346</b>	<b>5,840</b>	<b>3,147</b>	<b>3,170</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>41,330</b>

### Aboriginal welfare

The Aboriginal population as defined at the 1966 Census of Population and Housing includes persons who, at the Census, stated themselves to be 'Aboriginal', or who stated themselves to be more than half Aboriginal, or who were half Aboriginal and half European. The number enumerated in this group at the 1966 Census was 80,207 persons. This figure excludes Torres Strait Islanders, persons who stated that they were less than half Aboriginal and persons who are half Aboriginal and half non-European. An independent estimate, which includes each of these categories, made by the Commonwealth Office of Aboriginal Affairs sets the total Aboriginal population at about 122,000 persons. The Aboriginal population is increasing at a rate faster than the Australian average and some forecasts suggest that the number might double by the end of the century.

The aim of the Commonwealth Government is to help the Aborigines to become an integral part of the Australian community life. There is the widest range of social levels in the Aboriginal population. Few tribal Aborigines still live a nomadic life. Most live a settled, but in many other ways traditional, tribal life. There are others at all stages between this and full participation in the life of the Australian community.

*Commonwealth and State expenditure from Consolidated Revenue.* Expenditure out of Commonwealth and State Consolidated Revenue Funds specifically on Aboriginal welfare during the years 1963-64 to 1967-68 is shown in the following table. The figures hereunder do not represent total Commonwealth and State expenditure on Aborigines. They exclude expenditure from Trust Funds and Loan Funds and there may be some other activities for which figures are not available. As citizens, Aborigines benefit like other Australians from services provided by various Government departments.

In recent years the Commonwealth, State and Northern Territory legislatures have been active in progressively removing all discriminatory legislation from the relevant Acts of the Commonwealth and State Parliaments and from the relevant Ordinances of the Northern Territory, and therefore direct benefits are not as readily identifiable as they were in the past. In the legal and formal sense none of the opportunities open to Australians generally is closed to Aborigines. There are no Aborigines in Tasmania.

**ABORIGINAL WELFARE: EXPENDITURE FROM CONSOLIDATED REVENUE  
FUNDS, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1963-64 TO 1967-68  
(\$'000)**

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
1963-64 . . . . .	605	120	1,705	1,212	1,550	3,045	11	8,248
1964-65 . . . . .	712	130	1,764	1,270	1,880	3,201	6	8,965
1965-66 . . . . .	809	130	2,016	1,428	2,151	2,595	7	9,136
1966-67 . . . . .	909	131	2,317	1,490	2,315	3,151	2	10,314
1967-68 . . . . .	814	200	3,009	1,634	2,690	3,983	2	12,333

In the 1968-69 Budget the Commonwealth provided \$10,000,000 in an Aboriginal Trust Account, \$5,000,000 of which is to be used to assist the States in helping Aborigines in the specific fields of health, housing and education. The remaining \$5,000,000 forms a capital fund for Aboriginal corporate or individual ventures with economic potential.

*Referendum 1967:* A referendum in May 1967 led to two changes in the Commonwealth Constitution. The first was the repeal of section 127 of the Constitution which provided that in reckoning the numbers for census purposes, Aborigines should not be counted. The second was the deletion of the words 'other than the Aboriginal race in any State' from Section 51 (xxvi) which relates to the power of the Commonwealth Parliament to make laws with respect to people of any race. The Federal Government can now make special laws for the people of the Aboriginal race. The Australian people voted overwhelmingly in support of these changes, and the Federal Government, whose aim is to help the Aborigines to become an integral part of Australian community life now shares with the States, power and responsibilities for the advancement of Aborigines.

*Office of Aboriginal Affairs:* The Commonwealth Government has created an Office of Aboriginal Affairs, in Canberra, as the agency co-ordinating policy affecting Aborigines, as well as continuing its financial and administrative responsibilities for Aborigines in the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory through the Department of the Interior. The Office serves a Council, comprising a Chairman and two members, which has two functions: to advise in the framing of national policies for the Aboriginal citizens of Australia; and to consult with Commonwealth Departments and authorities whose activities have a bearing on Aboriginal welfare.

### Commonwealth social services

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 28 September 1946. The enabling Act was assented to on 19 December 1946.

Before 1947, Commonwealth social service benefits were paid under various Acts. On 1 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 1947-1968*.

#### Social service benefits provided

The social service benefits provided by the Commonwealth Government under the *Social Services Act 1947-1968*, and the date on which each came into operation, are:

Age pension . . . . .	1 July 1909
Child endowment . . . . .	1 July 1941
Child endowment—student children . . . . .	14 January 1964
Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service . . . . .	10 December 1948
Funeral benefit . . . . .	1 July 1943
Guardians' allowances for widowers and other unmarried age and invalid pensioners with children in their care . . . . .	14 October 1965
Invalid pension . . . . .	15 December 1910
Maternity allowance . . . . .	10 October 1912
Sheltered employment allowances . . . . .	30 June 1967
Sickness benefit . . . . .	1 July 1945
Special benefit . . . . .	1 July 1945
Supplementary assistance (age, invalid and widows' pensions) . . . . .	15 October 1958
Training scheme for widow pensioners . . . . .	27 September 1968
Unemployment benefit . . . . .	1 July 1945
Widows' pensions . . . . .	30 June 1942
Widows' pensions—children's allowances . . . . .	2 October 1956
Wives' and children's allowances for pensioners who are invalids . . . . .	8 July 1943
Wives' and children's allowances for age pensioners . . . . .	14 October 1965

#### Age and invalid pensions

Age pensions are payable to men, sixty-five years of age and over, and women, sixty years of age and over, who have lived in Australia continuously for at least ten years, which need not be immediately prior to the date of claim for a pension. If a person has completed five years', but not ten years', continuous residence, and has lived in Australia for periods which exceed a total of ten years, the period of continuous residence otherwise required is reduced by the total of his periods of residence in Australia in excess of ten years. Any periods of absence during which a person's home remains in Australia, and absences in certain other circumstances, are counted as residence, and any absence in an external Territory of the Commonwealth, while not counting as residence, does not interrupt continuity of residence in Australia. Residence in New Zealand or the United Kingdom may be treated as residence in Australia.

Invalid pensions are payable to persons, sixteen years of age and over, who have lived 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 eighty-five per cent, or permanently blind. If the incapacity or blindness first occurred outside Australia, except during a temporary absence, a period of ten years' continuous residence is necessary, but if a person has completed five years', but

not ten years', continuous residence and has lived in Australia for periods which exceed a total of ten years, the period of continuous residence otherwise required is reduced by the total of his periods of residence in Australia in excess of ten years. Residence in New Zealand or the United Kingdom may be treated as residence in Australia. Certain absences do not affect eligibility.

*Current rates of pension.* The maximum standard rate was increased to \$728 per annum (\$14 a week) from 27 September 1968. This is payable to a single, widowed, or divorced pensioner, a married man whose wife receives a wife's allowance, or a married pensioner whose spouse is not receiving an age or invalid pension, an unemployment, sickness or special benefit, a tuberculosis allowance, or a service pension. The maximum married rate was also increased from 27 September 1968, and is \$1,300 per annum (\$25 a week) for a married couple, both pensioners, i.e. \$650 per annum (\$12.50 a week) each. For a married person whose spouse receives a tuberculosis allowance, or a service pension, the maximum rate is also \$650 per annum (\$12.50 a week).

A wife's allowance may be granted, subject to the means test, to the wife of an invalid pensioner or of an age pensioner permanently incapacitated, blind, or who has the care of a child, if she is not receiving an age or invalid pension, or a service pension under the *Repatriation Act 1920-1968* (see Chapter 5, Repatriation). The maximum annual rate of a wife's allowance is \$364 per annum (\$7 a week). Additional pension of \$130 per annum (\$2.50 a week) is also payable, subject to a means test, for each dependent child under 16 years. A guardian's allowance of up to \$4 a week is payable to widowers and other unmarried age or invalid pensioners who have one or more children in their care.

Eligibility for the additional pension for children is extended to include a child over sixteen years until he reaches twenty-one years, provided he is wholly or substantially dependent on the pensioner and is receiving full-time education at a school, college or university. Supplementary assistance of up to \$2 a week, subject to a means test, is available to pensioners receiving the maximum standard rate pension if they pay rent or pay for board and lodging or for lodging. From 1958 to October 1965 the rate was \$1 a week, and supplementary assistance was available only to maximum standard rate pensioners paying rent who were considered to depend entirely on the pension. At 30 June 1968, 601,286 age pensioners (88 per cent of all age pensioners) and 106,971 invalid pensioners (93 per cent of all invalid pensioners) were receiving the maximum pension.

If the pensioner is an inmate of a benevolent home, the maximum payable to him is \$4.80 a week if he is eligible for the standard rate pension, or \$4.50 a week otherwise. The rest is paid to the home for his maintenance. The balance is not paid to the home if the pensioner is in an infirmary ward, as payments under the Commonwealth Hospital Benefits Scheme are made in that case. The maximum payable to a standard rate pensioner is increased if supplementary assistance is also payable.

A table showing the maximum rates of pension operating since 1 July 1909 at dates prior to 14 October 1965 is included on page 608 of Year Book No. 51. Details of increased allowances payable from 14 October 1965 to 27 September 1968, when the current rates of pensions and allowances became operative, are included on page 505 of Year Book No. 52 and page 465 of Year Book No. 54.

*Means test.* Age and invalid pensions (other than pensions paid to blind persons) and allowances paid to wives are subject to a means test which applies to income and property. From March 1961 the means tests which previously applied separately on income and property were merged into one composite means test. The rate of pension payable depends on the claimant's *means as assessed*. These consist of his annual rate of income plus a property component equal to \$2 for each complete \$20 of his net property above \$400. A persons' *means as assessed* may consist entirely of income, entirely of the property component, or of various combinations of income and property component. From 27 April 1967 the pension payable is calculated by deducting from the applicable maximum annual rate of pension, plus, where applicable, guardian's allowance, and or additional pension for children, the amount by which *means as assessed* exceed \$442 where the pensioner is married or \$520 where the pensioner is single, widowed, or divorced. Where the standard rate applies, no pension is payable where the value of property is \$12,880 or more (\$14,960 or more if qualified for a guardian's allowance) if the pensioner is single, widowed or divorced; or \$12,100 if the pensioner is married. Where the married rate applies, no pension is payable where the value of property is \$11,320 or more. The wife's allowance is affected by income and property on the same basis as the pension, i.e. it is reduced by the amount of *means as assessed* over \$442. Supplementary assistance is reduced by the amount by which *means as assessed* exceed \$52.

Certain types of income are exempted. 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 organisations. A pensioner's income may also be reduced by up to \$156 per annum (\$3 a week) for each dependent child under sixteen years (twenty-one years if a full-time student).

Certain types of property are disregarded. They include the permanent home of the pensioner, his furniture and personal effects, the surrender value (up to \$1,500) 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.

#### AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS: STATES AND TERRITORIES, 30 JUNE 1968

<i>Pensions in force</i>	<i>N.S.W.(a)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>N.T.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
<b>Age—</b>									
Males . . . . .	76,066	49,402	34,882	18,810	14,724	6,178	620	488	201,170
Females . . . . .	186,625	125,375	73,188	45,622	34,126	14,233	707	1,219	481,095
<i>Persons</i> . . . . .	<i>262,691</i>	<i>174,777</i>	<i>108,070</i>	<i>64,432</i>	<i>48,850</i>	<i>20,411</i>	<i>1,327</i>	<i>1,707</i>	<i>682,265</i>
<b>Invalid—</b>									
Males . . . . .	25,025	14,910	10,686	5,243	4,682	2,065	278	130	63,019
Females . . . . .	21,184	11,808	8,935	4,341	3,628	1,483	188	159	51,726
<i>Persons</i> . . . . .	<i>46,209</i>	<i>26,718</i>	<i>19,621</i>	<i>9,584</i>	<i>8,310</i>	<i>3,548</i>	<i>466</i>	<i>289(b)</i>	<i>114,745</i>

(a) See footnote (e) to table on page 444. (b) Includes 291 pensioners tentatively transferred to sheltered employment allowances.

#### NEW PENSIONERS, BY SEX AND MARITAL STATUS: AUSTRALIA, 1967-68

<i>Marital status</i>	<i>Age pensioners</i>			<i>Invalid pensioners</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	
Single(a) . . . . .	2,981	4,996	7,977	5,089	3,736	8,825	16,802
Married . . . . .	17,543	20,123	37,666	7,697	3,665	11,362	49,028
Widowed . . . . .	2,797	21,751	24,548	672	1,065	1,737	26,285
Divorced . . . . .	444	1,106	1,550	449	439	888	2,438
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>23,765</b>	<b>47,976</b>	<b>71,741</b>	<b>13,907</b>	<b>8,905</b>	<b>22,812</b>	<b>94,553</b>

(a) Includes married but permanently separated.

The average age of new age pensioners was 68.4 years for men and 66.5 years for women.

#### NEW INVALID PENSIONERS, BY AGE GROUP: AUSTRALIA, 1967-68

		<i>16-19</i>	<i>20-44</i>	<i>45-59</i>	<i>60-64</i>	<i>65 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
		<i>years</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>years</i>	<i>and over</i>	
Males . . . . .	number	1,174	2,571	5,563	4,081	518	13,907
Females . . . . .	number	1,089	1,840	5,336	257	383	8,905
<i>Persons</i> . . . . .	<i>number</i>	<i>2,263</i>	<i>4,411</i>	<i>10,899</i>	<i>4,338</i>	<i>901</i>	<i>22,812</i>
	<i>Per cent</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>100</i>

Persons at or above the qualifying age for age pensions, when granted invalid pensions, are generally those with insufficient residence to qualify for age pension.



## AGE AND INVALID PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1963-64 TO 1967-68

Year	Pensioners at end of year				Total payments during year (b)	Average weekly pension as at end of year		
	Age		Invalid	Total		Age (c)	Invalid (c)	Age and invalid combined (c)
	Number	Rate (a)						
			No.	No.	\$'000	\$	\$	\$
1963-64	615,186	530	109,725	724,911	399,880	10.71	11.26	10.79
1964-65	628,100	532	107,473	735,573	426,597	11.18	11.73	11.26
1965-66	636,984	530	106,645	743,629	442,355	11.33	12.24	11.46
1966-67	651,363	(d)532	112,314	763,677	481,840	12.38	13.30	12.52
1967-68	(e)682,265	546	(e)114,745	(e)797,010	513,984	(f)12.22	13.37	(f)12.39

(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 allowances and supplementary assistance. (c) Includes supplementary assistance. (d) For earlier years persons of pensionable age—see footnote (a)—exclude Aborigines, while the number of pensioners includes Aborigines throughout. (e) The 1967-68 figures are adjusted by reducing the number of invalid pensioners by 3,178 and increasing the number of age pensioners by 1,485 following the introduction of computer processing in New South Wales. (f) Decrease in average rates for age pensions at 30 June 1968 was due to the increased number of new pensioners who became eligible for part pensions as a result of amending legislation approved in April 1967.

The sum paid in age and invalid pensions in 1967-68, including the amount paid to homes for the maintenance of pensioners and allowances to wives of invalid pensioners, represented an expenditure of \$43.10 per head of population, compared with \$41.15 in 1966-67.

#### Sheltered employment allowance

This allowance, which reduces on a graduated scale as earnings from a sheltered workshop increase, was introduced on 30 June 1967 to provide an incentive for invalid pensioners and certain other disabled people to engage in approved sheltered employment. The allowance is paid to invalid pensioners so engaged in lieu of invalid pension and to disabled people who are not receiving a pension but would be likely to become permanently incapacitated to a pensionable degree if not provided with sheltered employment and are otherwise qualified to receive an invalid pension.

The maximum rate of the allowance is the same as the maximum rate of invalid pension. Additional benefits such as wife's allowance and additional pension for children that would be paid if the person were an invalid pensioner are added to the sheltered employment allowance to form one composite payment.

The means test is the same as for invalid pensions except that, in relation to earnings from sheltered employment, half the amount by which a single person's earnings exceed \$10 a week is disregarded; in the case of a married person, half the amount by which his earnings exceed \$17 but not \$25 a week is disregarded.

During 1967-68, thirteen workshops were approved under the Social Services Act 1947-68 to pay sheltered employment allowances on behalf of the Department of Social Services. At 30 June 1968, six workshops were paying the allowances to 309 employees including 291 who had been tentatively transferred from invalid pensions and who are also included in the number of invalid pensioners shown in the tables on pages 443 and 444. Employees in other sheltered workshops continued to receive invalid pensions. Expenditure for the year 1967-68 was \$104,365.

#### Child endowment

A person who is resident in Australia and has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of sixteen years or of a student child over sixteen but under twenty-one years, or an approved institution of which children are inmates, is qualified to receive an endowment in respect of each such child. 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.

*Rates of endowment.* From 1 July 1941 the rate of endowment was 50c a week for each child under sixteen in excess of one in a family, and for each child under sixteen in an approved institution. The rate was increased to 75c a week in June 1945, and to \$1.00 a week in November 1948. From June 1950, 50c a week became payable for the first or only child in a family. From January 1964 the rate was increased to \$1.50 a week for the third and subsequent children under sixteen years in families and for each child in an institution, and that amount also became payable for full-time students between sixteen and twenty-one years. Full-time student children are those receiving full-time education at a school, college or university and who are not in employment or engaged in work on their own account. From September 1967 the weekly rate for the fourth and each subsequent child under sixteen years in a family was increased by progressive amounts of 25c each, making \$1.75 payable for the fourth child, \$2.00 for the fifth, and so on.

*Number of claims and endowed children—children under sixteen years.* The number of families receiving child endowment at 30 June 1968 in respect of children under sixteen years was 1,669,629, an increase of 29,239 or 1.8 per cent during the year.

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: CLAIMS AND ENDOWED CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS  
STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1968**

State, Territory, etc.	Family groups			Approved institutions		Total endowed children under 16 years
	Claims in force	Endowed children under 16 years		Number (a)	Endowed child inmates under 16 years	
		Number	Average number per claim			
New South Wales . . . . .	604,456	1,294,661	2.14	138	6,185	1,300,846
Victoria . . . . .	462,300	1,015,234	2.20	112	5,303	1,020,537
Queensland . . . . .	234,989	545,691	2.32	56	3,730	549,421
South Australia . . . . .	159,723	352,366	2.21	56	1,912	354,278
Western Australia . . . . .	130,389	302,516	2.32	71	3,976	306,492
Tasmania . . . . .	54,912	127,849	2.33	22	432	128,281
Northern Territory . . . . .	8,236	18,958	2.30	35	5,669	24,627
Australian Capital Territory . . . . .	14,339	31,920	2.23	1	32	31,952
Abroad . . . . .	285	644	2.26	..	..	644
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>1,669,629</b>	<b>3,689,839</b>	<b>2.21</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>27,239</b>	<b>3,717,078</b>

(a) All institutions approved for receipt of endowment.

The following table shows, as at 30 June 1968, the number of claims in force and the number of endowed children under sixteen years in family groups, 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 in the custody, care and control of the claimant.

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: ENDOWED CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS IN FAMILY GROUPS  
TOTAL, 30 JUNE 1968**

Number of endowed children under 16 years in family group	Claims in force	Endowed children under 16 years	Number of endowed children under 16 years in family group	Claims in force	Endowed children under 16 years
1 . . . . .	578,130	578,130	9 . . . . .	1,309	11,781
2 . . . . .	543,950	1,087,900	10 . . . . .	505	5,050
3 . . . . .	314,377	943,131	11 . . . . .	158	1,738
4 . . . . .	143,330	573,320	12 . . . . .	74	888
5 . . . . .	54,504	272,520	13 . . . . .	19	247
6 . . . . .	21,400	128,400	14 . . . . .	2	28
7 . . . . .	8,304	58,128	15 or more . . . . .	5	82
8 . . . . .	3,562	28,496	<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>1,669,629</b>	<b>3,689,839</b>

Number of claims and endowed children—student children sixteen to twenty-one years

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: CLAIMS AND ENDOWED STUDENT CHILDREN  
STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1968**

State, Territory, etc.	Family groups			Approved institutions		Total endowed student children
	Claims in force	Endowed student children Number	Average number per claim	Number(a)	Endowed student child inmates	
New South Wales . . . . .	60,978	66,456	1.09	13	112	66,568
Victoria . . . . .	49,574	54,834	1.11	32	100	54,934
Queensland . . . . .	14,046	15,144	1.08	14	137	15,281
South Australia . . . . .	17,447	18,801	1.08	17	197	18,998
Western Australia . . . . .	10,106	10,870	1.08	22	129	10,999
Tasmania . . . . .	3,824	4,163	1.09	3	3	4,166
Northern Territory . . . . .	340	367	1.08	5	21	388
Australian Capital Territory . . . . .	2,147	2,410	1.12	..	..	2,410
Abroad . . . . .	26	31	1.19	..	..	31
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>158,488</b>	<b>173,076</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>173,775</b>

(a) With claims in respect of student children. Included with approved institutions in table on page 447.

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: ENDOWED STUDENT CHILDREN IN FAMILY GROUPS  
TOTAL, 30 JUNE 1968**

Number of endowed student children in family group	Claims in force	Endowed student children	Number of endowed student children in family group	Claims in force	Endowed student children
1 . . . . .	144,559	144,559	5 . . . . .	2	10
2 . . . . .	13,292	26,584			
3 . . . . .	617	1,851	<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>158,488</b>	<b>173,076</b>
4 . . . . .	18	72			

Liability and expenditure—children under sixteen years

**CHILD ENDOWMENT: CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS  
LIABILITY AND EXPENDITURE, STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1967-68  
(\$'000)**

State, Territory, etc.	Annual liability at 30 June 1968			Total payments to endowees and institutions during year(a)
	Family groups	Approved institutions	Total	
New South Wales . . . . .	62,184	482	62,667	59,635
Victoria . . . . .	49,521	414	49,935	47,822
Queensland . . . . .	27,734	291	28,025	26,675
South Australia . . . . .	17,103	149	17,252	16,426
Western Australia . . . . .	15,144	310	15,454	14,030
Tasmania . . . . .	6,484	34	6,518	6,271
Northern Territory . . . . .	975	442	1,418	1,180
Australian Capital Territory . . . . .	1,542	2	1,544	1,694
Abroad . . . . .	34	..	32	(b) 74
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>180,720</b>	<b>2,125</b>	<b>182,845</b>	<b>173,808</b>

(a) See footnote (b) on page 447. available.

(b) Includes expenditure for endowed student children; separate figures not available.

*Liability and expenditure—student children sixteen to twenty-one years***CHILD ENDOWMENT: STUDENT CHILDREN, LIABILITY, AND EXPENDITURE, STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1967-68**

(\$'000)

State, Territory, etc.	Annual liability at 30 June 1968			Total payments to endowees and institutions during year
	Family groups	Approved institutions	Total	
New South Wales . . . . .	5,184	9	5,192	5,049
Victoria . . . . .	4,277	8	4,285	4,853
Queensland . . . . .	1,181	11	1,192	1,502
South Australia . . . . .	1,466	15	1,482	1,409
Western Australia . . . . .	848	10	858	815
Tasmania . . . . .	325	..	325	341
Northern Territory . . . . .	29	2	30	29
Australian Capital Territory . . . . .	188	..	188	155
Abroad . . . . .	..	..	..	(a)
<b>Total</b> . . . . .	<b>13,498</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>13,552</b>	<b>14,112</b>

(a) Included in preceding table showing expenditure for endowed children under sixteen years; separate figures not available.

*Child endowment summary, 1963-64 to 1967-68***CHILD ENDOWMENT: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1963-64 TO 1967-68**

Year	At end of year					
	Family group claims in force			Total endowed children	Annual liability for endowment (b)	Total payments during year (b)
	For children under 16 years(a)	For student children(a)	Approved institutions			
					\$'000	\$'000
1963-64 . . . . .	1,555,630	113,062	502	3,631,047	175,766	(c)168,758
1964-65 . . . . .	1,582,801	128,641	487	3,710,616	180,065	172,830
1965-66 . . . . .	1,610,490	132,900	488	3,762,646	182,288	176,432
1966-67 . . . . .	1,640,390	151,623	487	3,834,917	185,940	(c)199,282
1967-68 . . . . .	1,669,629	158,488	491	3,890,853	196,957	187,920

(a) Claims by families with children under sixteen and student children are shown in both columns. Information on the number of families having such dual claims is not available. (b) 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. (c) Expenditure for this year includes five twelve-weekly payments.

**Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service**

The Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service was 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 fourteen or fifteen who, without treatment and training, would be likely to qualify for an invalid pension on

reaching the age of sixteen 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 \$4.00 a week, is paid instead. With an invalid pensioner, or a sickness, unemployment, or special beneficiary, the rehabilitation allowance 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 connection with treatment, training or attendance for an interview or for medical examination may also be paid. Necessary artificial replacements, surgical aids and appliances may be provided, free of charge, to a person receiving treatment and training or who needs them to assist him to engage in a suitable vocation after the discontinuance of his treatment and training or who needs them otherwise to assist in his rehabilitation. He may also be provided with books, equipment and tools of trade costing up to \$80 in any period of twelve months. Where books, equipment and tools of trade provided to assist a person to engage in a suitable vocation are retained by him, he is liable to repay the cost but is not required to make repayment until after he has commenced employment. The repayment may be made by instalments. If the treatment or vocational training does not result in the trainee's 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 government or private organisations. 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.

*Numbers dealt with by the service*

COMMONWEALTH REHABILITATION SERVICE: AUSTRALIA, 1967-68

Type	Referred	Accepted	Completed training	Placed in employment	
				After training (a)	Without training
Invalid pensioners . . . . .	10,644	347	99	123	103
Widow pensioners . . . . .	8	1	..	..	..
Unemployment and sickness beneficiaries . . . . .	12,130	910	149	168	604
Special beneficiaries . . . . .	2	..	..	..	..
Recipients of tuberculosis allowance . . . . .	42	13	10	8	6
Persons aged 14-15 years . . . . .	123	60	16	21	42
Persons provided with rehabilitation on payment of the cost by themselves or by another authority . . . . .	117	110	1	8	91
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>23,066</b>	<b>1,441</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>846</b>

(a) Includes persons who had received training prior to 1 July 1967.

Of the 1,441 persons accepted during 1967-68, 74 per cent were under forty years of age. The average number undergoing rehabilitation at the end of each month during the year was 977. Total cost of this service during 1967-68 was \$1,943,617.

**Funeral benefits**

A funeral benefit of up to \$20.00 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 met partly by payment from a contributory funeral benefit fund of an organisation other than a friendly society, funeral benefit is payable to the extent of the amount (not above \$20.00) by which the cost of the funeral exceeded the amount paid from the fund. The maximum amount payable is increased to \$40.00 where an age, invalid or widow pensioner is liable for the funeral expenses of a spouse, a child under sixteen years, or another age, invalid or widow pensioner.

**FUNERAL BENEFITS GRANTED: STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1963-64 TO 1967-68**  
(Number)

<i>State, Territory, etc.</i>	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
New South Wales . . . . .	16,680	17,709	17,015	18,567	17,092
Victoria . . . . .	10,594	11,280	11,354	12,386	12,292
Queensland . . . . .	6,176	6,542	6,596	7,188	7,129
South Australia . . . . .	3,618	3,801	3,751	4,031	4,531
Western Australia . . . . .	2,749	2,981	2,709	3,129	3,151
Tasmania . . . . .	1,242	1,324	1,340	1,347	1,345
Northern Territory . . . . .	14	18	8	2	7
Australian Capital Territory . . . . .	73	94	92	108	122
Abroad . . . . .	2	5	2	6	3
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>41,148</b>	<b>43,755</b>	<b>42,867</b>	<b>46,764</b>	<b>45,672</b>

Total cost of funeral benefits granted during 1967-68 was \$1,338,495.

**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 health scheme. They are not subject to a means test.

Subject to certain conditions, a maternity allowance is payable to a woman who gives birth to a child, either in Australia or on board a ship proceeding to Australia or from a port in Australia or an Australian Territory to another such port, and, on the date on which she lodges her claim, is residing in Australia or is in Australia and intends to remain permanently, provided she receives no benefit similar to a maternity allowance from the country from which she came. A woman who gives birth to a child during a temporary absence from Australia may also be eligible. 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 permanently.

*Rates of allowance.* The allowance is \$30.00 if the mother has no other children, \$32.00 if she has one or two children under sixteen, and \$35.00 if she has three or more other children under sixteen. The amount is increased by \$10.00 for each additional child born at a birth. An advance payment of \$20.00 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 five and a half months.

*Claims paid*

**MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: CLAIMS PAID AT EACH RATE**  
**STATES AND TERRITORIES, ETC., 1967-68**  
(Number)

<i>State, Territory, etc.</i>	<i>Multiple births</i>											<i>Total claims paid</i>
	<i>Single births</i>			<i>Twins</i>			<i>Triples</i>			<i>Quad-ruplets</i>		
	\$30	\$32	\$35	\$40	\$42	\$45	\$50	\$52	\$55	\$60	\$65	
N.S.W. . . . .	29,753	34,993	11,918	211	369	164	1	6	..	..	..	77,415
Vic. . . . .	24,510	29,856	10,940	258	353	155	3	5	2	1	..	66,083
Qld . . . . .	12,305	15,001	6,790	107	152	106	2	1	..	1	..	34,465
S.A. . . . .	7,880	9,860	3,147	60	109	48	..	3	..	..	..	21,107
W.A. . . . .	6,909	8,723	3,149	65	73	48	..	2	..	..	..	18,969
Tas. . . . .	2,851	3,568	1,436	27	35	21	..	1	..	..	..	7,939
N.T. . . . .	644	811	498	9	11	10	..	..	1	..	1	1,985
A.C.T. . . . .	1,047	1,243	397	7	16	7	..	..	..	..	..	2,717
Abroad . . . . .	57	31	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>85,956</b>	<b>104,086</b>	<b>38,282</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>1,118</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>230,776</b>

**MATERNITY ALLOWANCES: CLAIMS PAID, STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC.  
1963-64 TO 1967-68**

Year	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Abroad	Total
<b>NUMBER</b>										
1963-64.	83,580	64,438	34,966	21,096	16,988	8,437	1,663	2,013	270	233,451
1964-65.	80,592	64,424	33,963	20,820	16,667	7,821	1,661	2,015	176	228,139
1965-66.	77,739	63,934	33,488	20,594	16,764	7,578	1,731	2,178	305	224,311
1966-67.	79,078	66,098	33,489	20,596	17,510	7,606	1,955	2,211	242	228,785
1967-68.	77,415	66,083	34,465	21,107	18,969	7,939	1,985	2,717	96	230,776
<b>AMOUNT (\$'000)</b>										
1963-64.	2,649	2,065	1,128	675	546	272	54	60	9	7,457
1964-65.	2,569	2,058	1,093	666	534	251	53	64	6	7,294
1965-66.	2,475	2,040	1,075	657	536	243	55	70	8	7,159
1966-67.	2,514	2,104	1,077	654	559	243	62	72	8	7,294
1967-68.	2,462	2,102	1,103	670	605	254	64	87	3	7,349

#### Unemployment, sickness, and special benefits

Unemployment and sickness benefits are paid to males over sixteen and under sixty-five years of age, and females over sixteen and under sixty 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* 1920-1968 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 unemployment benefit in her own right.

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, and who, because of age, physical or mental disability or domestic circumstances, or for any other reason, is unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for himself and his dependants. Recipients of special benefits include, among others, persons caring for invalid parents, also deserted wives and persons ineligible for age, invalid or widows' pensions because of lack of residence qualifications.

Special benefits are also paid to migrants who are in Commonwealth centres or hostels 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.

*Rates of benefit.* The maximum weekly rates of benefit payable and permissible income in respect of benefit periods which commenced on or after 1 March 1962 are as follows.

	Maximum weekly rate	Permissible weekly income
	\$	\$
Unmarried person under 18 years of age . . . . .	3.50	2.00
Unmarried person 18 to 20 years of age . . . . .	4.75	2.00
All others . . . . .	8.25	4.00

An additional benefit of \$6 a week may be paid for a dependent spouse and \$1.50 a week for each dependent child under sixteen years of age if resident in Australia. 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 sixteen 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 preceding table. 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, a tuberculosis allowance, or an amount paid in reimbursement of medical, dental or similar expenses. 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.

### Benefits

#### UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS, AND SPECIAL BENEFITS STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1967-68

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.	
<b>Number admitted to benefit—</b>										
<b>Unemployment—</b>										
Males . . . . .	33,255	24,287	(a)31,632	14,851	3,769	2,108	219	297	(a)110,418	
Females . . . . .	15,162	8,366	12,245	6,949	2,917	1,638	70	91	47,438	
Persons . . . . .	48,417	32,653	(a)43,877	21,800	6,686	3,746	289	388	(a)157,856	
<b>Sickness—</b>										
Males . . . . .	20,695	11,703	9,275	4,792	4,334	1,376	233	231	52,639	
Females . . . . .	7,867	5,028	3,248	1,932	1,462	576	54	118	20,285	
Persons . . . . .	28,562	16,731	12,523	6,724	5,796	1,952	287	349	72,924	
<b>Special—</b>										
<b>Ordinary—</b>										
Males . . . . .	540	283	364	93	53	37	23	2	1,395	
Females . . . . .	473	1,968	303	94	80	62	5	4	2,989	
Persons . . . . .	1,013	2,251	667	187	133	99	28	6	4,384	
<b>Migrants—</b>										
Persons . . . . .	1,944	5,066	..	221	..	..	..	..	7,231	
<b>Total—</b>										
Males(b) . . . . .	54,490	36,273	(a)41,271	19,736	8,156	3,521	475	530	(a)164,452	
Females(b) . . . . .	23,502	15,362	15,796	8,975	4,459	2,276	129	213	70,712	
Persons(c) . . . . .	79,936	56,701	(a)57,067	28,932	12,615	5,797	604	743	(a)242,395	
<b>Persons on benefit at end of year—</b>										
<b>Unemployment—</b>										
Males . . . . .	3,745	4,436	2,200	2,215	391	334	16	13	13,350	
Females . . . . .	2,692	1,705	1,615	1,246	355	301	4	7	7,925	
Persons . . . . .	6,437	6,141	3,815	3,461	746	635	20	20	21,275	
<b>Sickness—</b>										
Males . . . . .	2,756	1,538	982	629	463	200	16	20	6,604	
Females . . . . .	1,147	771	274	282	176	91	9	16	2,766	
Persons . . . . .	3,903	2,309	1,256	911	639	291	25	36	9,370	
<b>Special—</b>										
<b>Ordinary—</b>										
Males . . . . .	248	68	78	22	14	10	9	..	449	
Females . . . . .	462	1,002	470	102	96	77	6	1	2,216	
Persons . . . . .	710	1,070	548	124	110	87	15	1	2,665	
<b>Migrants—</b>										
Persons . . . . .	133	152	..	14	..	..	..	..	299	
<b>Total—</b>										
Males(b) . . . . .	6,749	6,042	3,260	2,866	868	544	41	33	20,403	
Females(b) . . . . .	4,301	3,478	2,359	1,630	627	469	19	24	12,907	
Persons(c) . . . . .	11,183	9,672	5,619	4,510	1,495	1,013	60	57	33,609	
<b>Benefits paid—</b>										
Unemployment . . . . .	\$'000	3,665	2,425	2,913	1,637	304	264	19	15	11,242
Sickness . . . . .	\$'000	2,502	1,646	941	563	420	165	22	30	6,290
Special . . . . .	\$'000	351	664	149	58	33	42	1	2	1,300
<b>Total benefits paid</b> . . . . .	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>6,518</b>	<b>4,734</b>	<b>4,004</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>18,832</b>

(a) Excludes 277 Torres Strait Islanders first placement in employment in Australia.

(b) Excludes migrants in Commonwealth centres or hostels awaiting their first placement in employment in Australia.

(c) Includes migrants in the category described in footnote (b).



**UNEMPLOYMENT, SICKNESS, AND SPECIAL BENEFITS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA  
1963-64 TO 1967-68**

Year	Number admitted to benefit			Average number of persons on benefit at end of each week			Amount paid in benefits		
	Un-employment	Sickness	Special (a)	Un-employment	Sickness	Special (a)	Un-employment	Sickness	Special (a)
							\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
1963-64	139,500	69,503	7,602	25,925	10,994	2,684	13,458	6,901	1,266
1964-65	88,512	68,637	6,719	13,742	10,457	2,567	6,807	6,498	1,235
1965-66	114,497	69,585	7,838	14,927	10,044	2,507	7,813	6,483	1,261
1966-67	151,024	72,276	9,340	20,640	10,108	2,413	11,186	6,611	1,247
1967-68	157,856	72,924	11,615	21,496	9,935	2,532	11,242	6,290	1,300

(a) Includes migrants in Commonwealth centres or hostels awaiting their first placement in employment in Australia.

### Widows' pensions

*Rates and conditions.* Widows' pensions are payable according to the following classes. The rates shown have been in operation since September 1968.

*Class 'A'.* A widow who has the custody, care and control of one or more children under the age of sixteen years—\$936 per annum (\$18 a week). This includes the standard rate pension of \$728 per annum (\$14 a week) and a mother's allowance of \$208 per annum (\$4 a week). In addition, extra pension of \$130 per annum (\$2.50 a week) for each child under sixteen years is payable, subject to the means test. Payment may be made for a child over sixteen years until he reaches twenty-one years, if he is wholly or substantially dependent on the widow and is receiving full-time education at a school, college or university.

*Class 'B'.* A widow who has no children under sixteen years of age or eligible full-time student children in her custody, care and control, and who is not less than fifty years of age or who, after having attained the age of forty-five years, ceased to receive a Class 'A' widows' pension because she no longer had the custody, care and control of a child—\$650 per annum (\$12.50 a week).

*Class 'C'.* A widow who is under fifty years of age and has no children under the age of sixteen years, or eligible full-time student children, in her custody, care and control, but is in necessitous circumstances within the twenty-six weeks after the death of her husband—\$12.50 a week for not more than twenty-six 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 up to \$104 per annum (\$2 a week), subject to a means test, if they pay rent or pay for board and lodging or for lodging. From October 1958 to October 1965 the rate was \$1 a week and was payable to widows, otherwise qualified, who were considered to be entirely dependent on the pension.

For classes 'A' and 'B' the term 'widow' includes a wife who has been deserted by her husband without just cause for a period of at least six months, 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 residence qualification is five years' continuous residence in Australia immediately prior to the date of lodgment of the claim, but this period may be waived 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 a woman receiving an age or invalid pension, a sheltered employment allowance, a tuberculosis allowance, or a war widow's pension, or to a deserted wife or divorcee who has not taken reasonable action to obtain maintenance from her husband or former husband.

*Means test.* 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 \$2 for every complete \$20 by which the value of her property is in excess of a stipulated sum. A Class 'A' widow has a basic exemption of \$2,000 when

the value of her property exceeds \$4,500, but no property component is calculated where she has property of no more than \$4,500 in value. A Class 'A' pension is not payable where a widow has property valued at \$16,560 or more. In the case of a Class 'B' widow, \$400 of property is exempt and no Class 'B' pension is payable where property is \$12,100 or more. In each case the maximum rate of pension is reduced by the amount by which the widow's *means as assessed* exceed \$520. 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. Supplementary assistance is reduced by the amount by which *means as assessed* exceed \$52.

The average age of new widow pensioners admitted during 1967-68 was: Class 'A', 37.7 years; Class 'B', 57.8 years; Class 'C', 43.7 years; and for all classes, 47.2 years.

### Pensions

#### WIDOWS' PENSIONS: STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC., 1967-68

State, Territory, etc.	Number admitted —all classes (a)	Pensions current at end of year				Average weekly pension at end of year (b)	Amount paid in pensions during year (b) (c)
		Class 'A'	Class 'B'	Class 'C'	All classes		
						\$	\$'000
New South Wales . . .	5,837	13,163	14,711	41	27,915	15.78	22,745
Victoria . . . . .	4,213	9,293	10,051	28	19,372	15.85	15,807
Queensland . . . . .	2,432	5,782	5,937	13	11,732	15.87	9,564
South Australia . . . .	1,565	3,480	3,922	9	7,411	15.69	5,937
Western Australia . . .	1,346	2,520	2,950	12	5,482	15.33	4,346
Tasmania . . . . .	546	1,379	1,207	2	2,588	16.21	2,125
Northern Territory . . .	46	130	109	..	239	16.46	217
Australian Capital Territory . . . . .	119	152	178	..	330	15.67	249
Abroad . . . . .	..	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	..	71
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>16,104</b>	<b>(e)35,899</b>	<b>(e)39,065</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>(e)75,069</b>	<b>(f)15.79</b>	<b>61,061</b>

(a) Excludes transfers from one class to another. (b) Includes supplementary assistance and allowances. (c) Includes payments to benevolent homes for maintenance of pensioners. (d) Included in the figures for the State or Territory in which the pensioner is normally domiciled. (e) and (f) See footnotes (d) and (e) to next table.

#### WIDOWS' PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1963-64 TO 1967-68

Year	Number admitted —all classes (a)	Pensions current at end of year				Average weekly pension at end of year (b)	Amount paid in pensions during year (b) (c)
		Class 'A'	Class 'B'	Class 'C'	All classes		
						\$	\$'000
1963-64 . . . . .	14,207	27,371	34,659	94	62,124	13.57	41,569
1964-65 . . . . .	14,243	29,713	35,574	111	65,398	14.09	47,044
1965-66 . . . . .	13,972	31,796	36,703	107	68,606	14.53	50,017
1966-67 . . . . .	15,727	34,526	38,259	105	72,890	15.81	56,438
1967-68 . . . . .	16,104	(d)35,899	(d)39,065	105	(d)75,069	(e)15.79	61,061

(a) Excludes transfers from one class to another. (b) Includes supplementary assistance and allowances. (c) Includes payments to benevolent homes for maintenance of pensioners. (d) During 1967-68, a reduction of 769 Class 'A' and 233 Class 'B' pensioners was made following the introduction of computer processing in New South Wales. (e) Decrease in average rate due mainly to the increased number of new pensioners who became eligible for part pension as a result of amending legislation approved in April 1967.

#### Training scheme for widow pensioners

In September 1968 a scheme was introduced to help widow pensioners acquire vocational skills which will enable them to undertake gainful employment. Training may take the form of refresher courses or it may involve training for new skills. During training the widow continues to receive

her pension for as long as she remains eligible. In addition to pension, she may qualify for a training allowance of \$4 a week and a living-away-from-home allowance of \$5 a week. The cost of tuition fees and fares may also be met.

#### Reciprocal social services agreements with other countries

*New Zealand.* An agreement between the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for reciprocity in social services came into operation on 3 September 1943 and was amended from 1 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 may be treated as residence in the other country in relation to entitlement to benefits in which a residential qualification applies. Persons from one country taking up a 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.

*Britain.* A reciprocal agreement on social services between Britain and Australia came into operation on 7 January 1954. Amendments became effective from 1 April 1958 and 1 October 1962. Under the current agreement residence in one country may be treated 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.

#### Commonwealth assistance to aged persons homes and sheltered workshops and for accommodation for disabled persons employed in sheltered workshops

*The Aged Persons Homes Act 1954-1967.* This Act is designed to encourage the provision of homes in which aged persons may reside in conditions approaching normal domestic life.

To be eligible for assistance under the Act an organisation must be:

- (a) carried on otherwise than for the purposes of profit or gain to the individual members; and
- (b) a religious organisation, an organisation the principal objects or purposes of which are charitable or benevolent, an organisation of former members of the defence forces established in every State or a State branch of such an organisation, an organisation approved by the Governor-General for the purposes of the Act, or a local governing body.

An organisation conducted or controlled by, or by persons appointed by, the Government of the Commonwealth or of a State is not eligible for assistance under the Act.

The Director-General of Social Services may make a grant of money to an organisation 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 organisation (\$1 for each \$1 from 1954 to 1957), not counting money which the organisation receives from a governmental body (other than a local governing body) or borrowed. Before a grant is made the Director-General must be satisfied that the sum of the money expended and the money at present available for expenditure by the organisation 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.

The following table gives information regarding grants approved during 1967-68. The amounts granted include new grants approved in 1967-68 together with adjustments made during the year in respect of grants originally approved in earlier years.

AGED PERSONS HOMES: GRANTS APPROVED, AMOUNTS GRANTED, AND BEDS PROVIDED, STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1967-68

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Total
Grants approved . No.	53	40	14	40	14	9	..	..	170
Amounts granted \$'000	3,967	2,338	768	1,998	833	316	..	..	10,220
Beds provided . No.	1,054	621	233	597	237	89	..	..	2,831

The following table gives information regarding grants approved for each of the years 1963-64 to 1967-68. The amounts granted in each year include new grants approved in that year together with adjustments made during the year in respect of grants originally approved in earlier years.

**AGED PERSONS HOMES: GRANTS APPROVED,  
AMOUNTS GRANTED, AND BEDS PROVIDED  
AUSTRALIA 1963-64 TO 1967-68**

Year	Grants approved	Amounts granted	Beds provided
	No.	\$'000	No.
1963-64 . . . . .	134	7,281	2,466
1964-65 . . . . .	151	6,680	2,083
1965-66 . . . . .	149	9,576	2,807
1966-67 . . . . .	158	11,095	3,227
1967-68 . . . . .	170	10,220	2,831

Since the commencement of the Act in December 1954, 1,658 grants amounting to \$79,718,526 have been approved, and accommodation has been provided for 29,275 aged persons.

*The Sheltered Employment (Assistance) Act 1967.* This Act superseded the *Disabled Persons Accommodation Act 1963*. Under the latter Act, which was in operation from 25 November 1963 to 30 June 1967, total grants of \$372,118 had been approved. The new Act, which came into operation on 30 June 1967, provides for subsidies of \$2 for \$1 to eligible organisations towards the capital cost of sheltered workshops, the equipment for them, and accommodation for disabled people employed or likely to be employed in sheltered workshops. The Act covers the erection of buildings and the purchase of existing buildings. In both cases the cost of land is included in the capital cost as is the cost of any necessary conversion of an existing building. The subsidy may also be paid towards the rental, for up to three years, where rented premises are used to provide sheltered employment. Organisations eligible for grants under the Act are the same as those specified under the Aged Persons Homes Act. A substantial number of the people employed in the sheltered workshop must be medically qualified for an invalid pension, or be likely to become so qualified if not provided with sheltered employment, and must receive payment for their work before the organisation can qualify for a subsidy.

The total subsidy for the 103 grants approved during 1967-68 amounted to \$1,725,340. Of these grants, 24 were for workshop buildings and extensions involving a subsidy of \$1,203,249. When completed, these buildings are expected to provide sheltered employment for an additional 1,156 disabled people. The remaining grants and subsidies approved were divided as follows: 65 grants totalling \$124,530 for workshop equipment; 9 in respect of rental of premises used as sheltered workshops, \$18,176; and 5 grants involving \$379,385 for projects providing accommodation for 113 disabled workshop employees.

#### **The States Grants (Deserted Wives) Act 1968**

This Act came into operation on 21 June 1968 with retrospective effect from 1 January 1968. The Act provides for assistance to be given by the Commonwealth to the States in respect of aid for mothers with children where the mothers are not eligible for benefits under the Social Services Act. Broadly, these include deserted wives during the first six months of desertion, wives during the first six months of the husband's imprisonment, deserted de facto wives and de facto wives of prisoners, and other unmarried mothers who are ineligible for Commonwealth widows' pension.

The type of assistance attracting a Commonwealth grant may be provided in the form of cash, food or clothing. The grant is made by the Commonwealth to the States on the basis of half the cost of the approved assistance paid to the mother or half the amount of Class A widows' pension whichever is the lesser.

By 30 June 1968 all States except Victoria had agreed to take advantage of the legislation but, largely because of the time factor, only three States had applied for payment of the Commonwealth subsidy.

#### **Telephone rental concessions**

Effective from 1 October 1964 an amendment to the Telephone Regulations of the Post and Telegraph Act provides that a telephone service for qualified age, invalid and widow pensioners and blind people is available at an annual rental equal to two-thirds of the amount otherwise payable. The Department of Social Services re-imburses the Postmaster-General's Department for the cost of the scheme including administrative costs. Expenditure during 1967-68 was \$1,578,656, plus administrative costs amounting to \$48,197.

### Compassionate allowances

These allowances are paid by the Commonwealth on a discretionary basis to certain people who are unable to qualify for pensions or other benefits under the provisions of the Social Services Act. Expenditure on compassionate allowances and payments of a similar nature during 1967-68 was \$84,344.

## Selected non-government organisations

### National Safety Council of Australia

The National Safety Council of Australia was founded in Victoria in 1927. In 1959 it was re-organised, and new Articles of Association were adopted in 1961, placing it on a more truly federal basis and reflecting the expanded character of the Council in the forty-one years since its formation. The objects of the Council are to devise and encourage the adoption of safety measures of all kinds, to promote discussion of all matters relating to safety measures, to conduct an educational campaign among the people of Australia to stimulate the adoption and observance of safety measures, and to consider, initiate and support improvements in the laws of the Commonwealth of Australia, the States and local governing bodies, calculated to prevent accidents.

The Council is now registered in Canberra, with Divisions established in all States. It is managed by a Federal Council responsible for those objectives which are of a national character. Each State Division controls its own affairs which are of State or local character.

### Life saving

There are two life saving organisations in Australia, the Royal Life Saving Society—Australia and the Surf Life Saving Association of Australia. The objects of these organisations 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 organisations; 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 life saving.

The Royal Life Saving Society operates at lakes, rivers, and 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 of Australia controls all life saving activities on the ocean beaches throughout Australia. In all, over 230 clubs are affiliated, comprising a membership of over 25,000. Volunteer patrols operate every week-end, and in recent years over 5,000 rescues have been recorded during each surfing season. The total number of recorded rescues during the past sixty-one years is 162,669.

### 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 thirteen years of age.

### 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, and 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 National Headquarters at Canberra was opened by the Prior, His Excellency the Governor-General in May 1968.