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CHAPTER 5

REPATRIATION

The Repatriation Commission, established under the *Repatriation Act 1920–1968*, consists of three full-time members. It is responsible for the administration of the Repatriation Act and associated legislation, all matters of policy, and the general administration and overall supervision of the Repatriation Department. The central office is in Melbourne and there is a branch office, under the control of a Deputy Commissioner, in each State.

The principal functions of the Department are: the payment of war and service pensions to eligible ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and their dependants; the provision of medical treatment for ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen for injuries and illnesses caused or aggravated by their war service; the provision of medical treatment in certain circumstances for ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who are suffering from injuries and illnesses not caused or aggravated by war service; and the provision of medical treatment for widows and dependants of deceased ex-servicemen whose deaths are due to war service.

Benefits are provided in respect of service, not only in the 1914–18 and 1939–45 Wars, but also in the Korea and Malaya operations and with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve and the Special Overseas Forces.

Other functions of the Repatriation Department are outlined in a later section of this chapter.

For information on war service land settlement *see* Chapter 19, Public Finance; for statistics relating to war service homes *see* Chapters 9, Housing and Building and 19, Public Finance.

War pensions

The first provision for the payment of war pensions to ex-servicemen and their dependants was made by the Commonwealth Parliament in the *War Pensions Act 1914*. This Act was repealed in 1920 by the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1920* (amended from 31 December 1950 to the Repatriation Act). Amendments to the Act in 1943 considerably widened the eligibility provisions, to the benefit mainly of members of the Citizen Military Forces who had not served outside Australia. The main features relating to war pensions under repatriation legislation are set out in the following paragraphs.

Eligibility for pensions

Claims for eligibility for war pensions are determined in the first instance by Repatriation Boards, of which there is one in each State of the Commonwealth. Members of women's services are eligible for pensions and other benefits, as prescribed in the Act, on the same basis as male members of the forces.

A member of the forces who served (a) outside Australia, (b) in the Territories of Australia, such as Papua and New Guinea, or (c) within Australia in circumstances which can be regarded as combat against the enemy is covered for war pension purposes in respect of incapacity or death which may result from any occurrence that happened during the period from the date of his enlistment to the date of the termination of his service in respect of that enlistment.

In other cases where a member served only in Australia, incapacity or death to be pensionable must have arisen out of, or have been attributable to service.

There is a third ground applicable to all members except those with less than six months camp service or active service. This provides that, where a condition existed at enlistment, a pension may accrue if it is considered that the condition was aggravated by service.

Korea and Malaya operations. The commencement of hostilities in Korea and Malaya in 1950 made necessary the insertion in the Repatriation Act of a new division, under the terms of which the pension provisions of the Act were extended to Australian ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who served or were allotted for duty in prescribed operational areas. A new Regulation was also made, in 1951, to make such service personnel eligible for almost all the benefits available under the existing Regulations applicable to members of the forces.

Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act 1956–1966. Provision was made under this Act for Australian forces who served in south-east Asia as part of the British Commonwealth Strategic Reserve. This Act, together with Regulations made under it, gave members with Malayan service the right to many benefits available under the Repatriation Act.

Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act 1962-1968. This legislation provides repatriation benefits for serving members of the defence forces, the circumstances of whose service expose them to risks above the normal conditions of peace-time service. Regulations made under the Act prescribe special areas within which service qualifies for Repatriation benefits. Service in the following special areas during certain periods carries entitlement to Repatriation benefits: the Malayan Peninsula and Singapore and fifty miles to seaward but excluding the territories of Indonesia; South Vietnam, and an area 100 miles to seaward of both North and South Vietnam; an area in Borneo comprising Sarawak, Brunei and Sabah, and an area fifty miles to seaward but excluding any territories of the Philippines.

Pulmonary tuberculosis. An exception is made in the case of war pension for pulmonary tuberculosis for which there are special provisions in certain circumstances.

Rates

The main classes of war pensions are the special rate, the intermediate rate, the general rate, and the war widow's pension. These are not subject to a means test except where stated for certain classes of dependants.

The *special rate* of war pension is payable where, because of war service, an ex-serviceman is totally and permanently incapable of earning other than a negligible percentage of a living wage or has been blinded. An amount equivalent to the special rate pension may also be granted to an ex-serviceman pensioned for pulmonary tuberculosis and temporarily unfit for employment; to an ex-serviceman who is temporarily incapacitated by war-caused disability for a period of not less than three months to such a degree as to prevent him from earning more than a negligible percentage of a living wage; or to a double amputee. The weekly rate is \$33.50 plus \$4.05 wife's allowance and \$1.38 for each child under sixteen years.

The *intermediate rate* of war pension is payable where an ex-serviceman, because of the severity of incapacity from his accepted war disabilities, can work only part-time or intermittently and consequently is unable to earn a living wage. An amount equivalent to the intermediate rate may be granted to ex-servicemen pensioned for pulmonary tuberculosis and unfit for full time work. The weekly rate is \$24.25 plus \$4.05 wife's allowance and \$1.38 for each child under sixteen years.

The *general rate* of war pension is the rate payable to those who suffer war-caused disabilities but are not thereby prevented from working, although their earning capacity may be reduced. The actual pension payable is assessed in accordance with the degree of incapacity suffered. The maximum (100 per cent) rate is \$12 a week. A wife and children under sixteen years also receive pensions at rates according to the assessed degree of incapacity of the ex-serviceman, the maximum being \$4.05 for a wife and \$1.38 for each child.

The *war widow's pension* is paid to widows of ex-servicemen who died as a result of war service and to their children under the age of sixteen years. A war widow's pension may also be paid to the widow of an ex-serviceman who was receiving, at the time of his death, or is subsequently adjudged to have been entitled to receive, the special rate of war pension or the rate payable to double amputees. The weekly rates are: widow, \$14; first child, \$5.40; second and each subsequent child, \$4.25.

Other dependants of an ex-serviceman who is suffering from a disability due to war service may be granted pensions under certain circumstances. Such pensions are subject to a means test and are assessed in accordance with the degree of the ex-serviceman's incapacity. Except in the case of a widowed mother of an unmarried ex-serviceman, other dependants are required to prove dependence on the ex-serviceman.

Allowances

The following allowances are provided in addition to pension.

Domestic allowance (\$7 a week). This is paid, in addition to pension, to a widow of an ex-serviceman whose death is due to war service if she is fifty years of age, or is permanently unemployable, or has a dependent child under the age of sixteen years, or a dependent child over sixteen years being educated or trained and not in receipt of an adequate living wage.

Attendant's allowance (maximum rate \$12 a week). This allowance is paid, in addition to war pension, to certain classes of seriously disabled ex-servicemen, for example, the war blinded, the paralysed, and certain double amputees.

Clothing allowance. To compensate for exceptional wear and tear or damage to clothing, a clothing allowance at rates ranging from 43c to 85c may be paid to an ex-serviceman who is blinded, or who has lost an arm or a leg as a result of his war service, or who is required to wear a surgical aid or appliance. It may also be paid where an ex-serviceman's clothing is damaged as a result of a war-caused disability or of the medical treatment of that disability. An amount of up to \$22.10 in any one year is payable for damage to clothing under certain conditions.

Sustenance allowance. This allowance is paid where an ex-serviceman is prevented from following his normal occupation through treatment of a war-caused disability or while undergoing medical investigation. The rate payable, where out-patient treatment is being received for a period of up to four weeks, or in-patient medical investigation is being carried out, is the same as the general (100 per cent) rate pension, less the amount of any war pension being paid.

Where an ex-serviceman is receiving in-patient treatment for a war-caused disability or is undergoing periods of essential convalescence immediately following discharge from hospital, or is prevented from following his usual occupation because of the necessity of out-patient treatment or combined periods of out-patient and in-patient treatment for a war-caused disability for a continuous period in excess of four weeks, a higher rate to bring the sustenance allowance up to the equivalent of the special rate is paid.

The wife, and any children under sixteen years of age, of an ex-serviceman who is receiving a sustenance allowance, are paid an amount which, when added to any war pension being paid, is equal to the full general rate pension for a wife and such children.

Recreation transport allowance. This allowance, which is payable at rates not exceeding \$20 per month, provides transport for recreation purposes and may be paid to an ex-serviceman who, as a result of war service, suffers certain amputations of the arms or legs or is seriously disabled to the extent that his powers of locomotion are negligible.

Other allowances and general assistance. These include a special compensation allowance for the severely incapacitated, an allowance for amputees, re-establishment loans and allowances, funeral benefits, vocational training allowances for education and training of children, fares and allowances for loss of remunerative time in connection with medical or pension purposes, and motor vehicle allowances for seriously disabled ex-servicemen.

Appeals tribunals

The principal Act was amended as from 1 June 1929 to create tribunals to hear appeals in respect of war pensions. War Pensions Entitlement Appeal Tribunals are empowered to hear and decide any appeal by or on behalf of ex-servicemen or their dependants against decisions of a Repatriation Board or the Repatriation Commission that the incapacity or death of an ex-serviceman did not arise out of war service. Assessment Appeal Tribunals were created to hear and decide any appeal against a current assessment or a 'Nil' assessment of war pension made by a Repatriation Board or the Repatriation Commission in respect of the incapacity of an ex-serviceman which had been accepted as due to service. Provision was made by subsequent legislation to enable the tribunals to hear appeals by certain members whose applications for a service pension had been refused on the grounds that they were not permanently unemployable or suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Summary of war pensions

The following tables provide a summary of war pensions (excluding miscellaneous war pensions) for the 1914-18 War, the 1939-45 War (including war pensions payable under the *Interim Forces Benefits Act 1947-1966* and the *Native Members of the Forces Act 1957-1966*), the Korea and Malaya operations, the Far East Strategic Reserve, and the Special Overseas Service. Statistics relating to miscellaneous war pensions are shown later in this section.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1967-68

		1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service(b)	Total
New claims granted	No.	976	16,732	722	250	1,287	19,967
Restorations	No.	50	273	9	5	6	343
Claims rejected(c)	No.	920	5,113	273	96	518	6,920
Pensions cancelled (gross)	No.	304	23,930	222	25	58	24,539
Deaths of pensioners	No.	5,524	5,378	40	5	3	10,950
Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1968		93,446	507,507	11,247	1,506	2,270	615,976
Annual pension liability at 30 June 1968	\$'000	53,282	109,854	1,269	145	298	164,848
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1967-68	\$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	164,121

(a) Includes interim forces and native members of the forces. (b) See page 92—*Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act 1962-1966*. (c) Number of ex-servicemen who had their claims for all their disabilities rejected.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1963-64 TO 1967-68

	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
New claims granted	32,417	27,879	22,750	21,121	19,967
Restorations	992	803	571	526	343
<i>Total additions</i>	<i>33,409</i>	<i>28,682</i>	<i>23,321</i>	<i>21,647</i>	<i>20,310</i>
Pensions cancelled (gross)	25,285	25,948	26,450	25,732	24,539
Deaths of pensioners	9,441	10,342	10,308	10,898	10,950
<i>Total reductions</i>	<i>34,726</i>	<i>36,290</i>	<i>36,758</i>	<i>36,630</i>	<i>35,489</i>

Classes of war pensions

The following tables provide an analysis of the total number of new claims granted, pensions in force, and members on special rates for 1967-68.

WAR PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1967-68

<i>Class</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War(a)</i>	<i>Korea and Malaya operations</i>	<i>Far East Strategic Reserve</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ex-servicemen	441	5,094	151	59	566	6,311
Wives and widows of ex-servicemen	500	5,401	158	57	299	6,415
Children	18	6,061	406	130	408	7,023
Other dependants	17	176	7	4	14	218
Total	976	16,732	722	250	1,287	19,967

(a) Includes interim forces and native members of the forces.

WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE: AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1968

<i>Class</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War(a)</i>	<i>Korea and Malaya operations</i>	<i>Far East Strategic Reserve</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ex-servicemen	33,617	184,442	3,033	432	955	222,479
Wives	34,817	158,402	2,380	332	482	196,413
Children	410	130,381	5,434	673	661	137,559
War widows	23,942	22,336	127	18	54	46,477
Children of deceased ex-servicemen	63	5,412	149	42	92	5,758
Orphans	27	155	3	1	..	186
Parents	343	5,920	116	7	26	6,412
Others	227	459	5	1	..	692
Total	93,446	507,507	11,247	1,506	2,270	615,976

(a) Includes interim forces and native members of the forces.

**WAR PENSIONS: MEMBERS ON SPECIAL RATES OR EQUIVALENT, AUSTRALIA
30 JUNE 1968**

<i>Class</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War(a)</i>	<i>Korea and Malaya operations</i>	<i>Far East Strategic Reserve</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>Total</i>
Totally and permanently incapacitated ex-servicemen	9,578	11,644	53	..	3	21,278
Blinded ex-servicemen	181	235	1	..	1	418
Tuberculous ex-servicemen	288	186	5	1	..	480
Tuberculous ex-servicemen (intermediate rate)	71	181	4	..	..	256
Temporarily totally incapacitated ex-servicemen	267	1,580	17	5	5	1,874
Ex-servicemen suffering other disabilities	42	50	2	..	3	97
Total	10,427	13,876	82	6	12	24,403

(a) Includes interim forces and native members of the forces.

Number of war pensions and annual liability, States, etc.

The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability for each war, field of operations, or service at 30 June 1968, according to place of payment. (The amount paid is shown on page 98 of this chapter.)

**WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY
STATES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1968**

<i>Place of payment</i>	<i>Number of war pensions in force at 30 June 1968</i>			<i>Total</i>	<i>Annual pension liability(a) (\$'000)</i>
	<i>Incapacitated ex-servicemen</i>	<i>Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen</i>	<i>Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen</i>		
1914-18 WAR					
New South Wales(b)	10,911	11,288	8,379	30,578	17,927
Victoria	10,824	11,168	8,074	30,066	17,457
Queensland	4,637	4,735	2,675	12,047	7,002
South Australia(c)	2,672	2,958	1,958	7,588	4,139
Western Australia	2,579	3,147	1,587	7,313	3,375
Tasmania	1,396	1,421	1,006	3,823	2,411
Abroad	598	818	615	2,031	971
Total	33,617	35,535	24,294	93,446	53,282
1939-45 WAR(d)					
New South Wales(b)	65,829	98,977	12,827	177,633	39,770
Victoria	49,560	78,933	8,771	137,264	29,035
Queensland	27,769	45,805	5,042	78,616	18,186
South Australia(c)	17,761	28,351	3,107	49,219	9,653
Western Australia	15,935	24,047	2,666	42,648	8,476
Tasmania	7,050	12,511	1,048	20,609	4,260
Abroad	538	696	284	1,518	474
Total	184,442	289,320	33,745	507,507	109,854

(a) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory. (d) Includes interim forces and native members of the forces.

WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY
STATES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1968—*continued*

Place of payment	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June 1968			Total	Annual pension liability(a) (\$'000)
	Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen		
KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS					
New South Wales(b)	1,199	2,927	167	4,293	493
Victoria	685	1,667	47	2,399	253
Queensland	532	1,490	86	2,108	258
South Australia(c)	214	601	19	834	86
Western Australia	243	700	36	979	102
Tasmania	108	349	18	475	50
Abroad	52	83	24	159	27
Total	3,033	7,817	397	11,247	1,269
FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE					
New South Wales(b)	192	484	34	710	64
Victoria	67	140	19	226	26
Queensland	112	250	9	371	38
South Australia(c)	15	40	1	56	3
Western Australia	32	56	2	90	7
Tasmania	12	30	1	43	4
Abroad	2	6	2	10	3
Total	432	1,006	68	1,506	145
SPECIAL OVERSEAS SERVICE					
New South Wales(b)	396	482	77	955	125
Victoria	187	199	28	414	55
Queensland	198	319	47	564	74
South Australia(c)	68	74	9	151	17
Western Australia	60	58	9	127	19
Tasmania	44	13	..	57	8
Abroad	2	..	..	2	..
Total	955	1,145	170	2,270	298
TOTAL					
New South Wales(b)	78,527	114,158	21,484	214,169	58,379
Victoria	61,323	92,107	16,939	170,369	46,826
Queensland	33,248	52,599	7,859	93,706	25,558
South Australia(c)	20,730	32,024	5,094	57,848	13,898
Western Australia	18,849	28,008	4,300	51,157	11,979
Tasmania	8,610	14,324	2,073	25,007	6,733
Abroad	1,192	1,603	925	3,720	1,475
Grand total	222,479	334,823	58,674	615,976	164,848

(a) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

Summary of war pensions, 1963-64 to 1967-68

The following table shows, for each war, field of operations, or service, and in total, the number of pensions granted, claims rejected, pensions in force, and the annual liability for pensions in each of the years ended 30 June 1964 to 1968.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1963-64 TO 1967-68

Year	Pensions granted	Claims rejected(a)	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June—			Total	Annual pension liability at 30 June (b) (\$'000)
			Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen		
1914-18 WAR							
1963-64	2,050	1,678	44,401	43,521	23,846	111,768	47,145
1964-65	1,631	1,481	41,820	41,353	24,191	107,364	47,730
1965-66	1,455	1,402	39,219	39,511	24,311	103,041	54,818
1966-67	1,184	1,110	36,429	37,499	24,342	98,270	55,307
1967-68	976	920	33,617	35,535	24,294	93,446	53,282
1939-45 WAR(c)							
1963-64	29,301	6,113	175,377	341,464	30,816	547,657	85,363
1964-65	25,173	5,525	178,558	331,398	31,865	541,821	92,050
1965-66	20,156	5,620	180,976	318,210	32,418	531,604	100,837
1966-67	18,150	5,409	182,830	304,038	33,009	519,877	106,615
1967-68	16,732	5,113	184,442	289,320	33,745	507,507	109,854
KOREA AND MALAYA OPERATIONS							
1963-64	862	271	2,554	6,175	322	9,051	945
1964-65	858	231	2,687	6,673	340	9,700	1,031
1965-66	801	277	2,807	7,140	370	10,317	1,116
1966-67	687	233	2,905	7,486	390	10,781	1,195
1967-68	722	273	3,033	7,817	397	11,247	1,269
FAR EAST STRATEGIC RESERVE							
1963-64	196	58	223	396	39	658	62
1964-65	208	49	275	536	39	850	76
1965-66	170	87	314	646	52	1,012	99
1966-67	284	98	378	835	58	1,271	126
1967-68	250	96	432	1,006	68	1,506	145
SPECIAL OVERSEAS SERVICE							
1963-64	8	..	1	5	2	8	1
1964-65	9	..	3	8	6	17	3
1965-66	168	17	61	76	44	181	34
1966-67	816	152	370	507	98	975	145
1967-68	1,287	518	955	1,145	170	2,270	298
TOTAL							
1963-64	32,417	8,120	222,556	391,561	55,025	669,142	133,516
1964-65	27,879	7,286	223,343	379,968	56,441	659,752	140,889
1965-66	22,750	7,403	223,377	365,583	57,195	646,155	156,904
1966-67	21,121	7,002	222,912	350,365	57,897	631,174	163,388
1967-68	19,967	6,920	222,479	334,823	58,674	615,976	164,848

(a) The number of claimants who had the claims for all their disabilities rejected. (b) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows. (c) Includes interim forces and native members of the forces.

REPATRIATION

The following table shows, for the years 1963-64 to 1967-68, the amounts paid in pensions and the places where they were paid.

WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID^(a), STATES, ETC., 1963-64 TO 1967-68
(\$'000)

Place of payment	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
	(b)		(b)		
New South Wales ^(c)	53,108	52,809	58,851	55,884	57,424
Victoria	45,526	45,064	49,526	46,882	47,146
Queensland	23,040	23,295	25,928	24,992	25,525
South Australia ^(d)	13,500	13,209	14,633	13,613	13,807
Western Australia	11,547	11,430	12,617	11,869	11,914
Tasmania	6,152	6,210	6,914	6,650	6,786
Abroad	1,656	1,466	1,677	1,509	1,519
Total	154,530	153,483	170,146	161,399	164,121

(a) Includes domestic allowances paid to widows. (b) Includes five 12-weekly payments.
(c) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (d) Includes Northern Territory.

Miscellaneous war pensions

The Commission is also responsible for the payment of pensions and allowances to beneficiaries under the *Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances Act 1940-1967* and Cabinet decisions granting eligibility to persons who were attached to the armed forces during war-time.

The following table shows the number and class of pensions and the annual liability at 30 June 1968, and the table thereafter shows the amounts paid during the years 1963-64 to 1967-68 and the place of payment.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL
LIABILITY, AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1968

Class	Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1968				Annual pension liability (\$'000)
	Members (a)	Dependants of members	Dependants of deceased members	Total	
Act of grace	124	143	57	324	121
Seamen's war pension	81	110	74	265	85
New Guinea civilians	1	..	80	81	82
Total	206	253	211	670	288

(a) 'Member' in this context is a person in respect of whose wartime experience a pension is paid.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID, STATES, ETC.
1963-64 TO 1967-68
(\$'000)

Place of payment	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
	(a)		(a)		
New South Wales ^(b)	150	156	161	148	159
Victoria	71	70	76	71	71
Queensland	45	42	46	44	44
South Australia ^(c)	35	30	34	29	29
Western Australia	17	17	20	20	20
Tasmania	5	4	4	4	4
Abroad	..	1	3	1	1
Total	323	321	344	317	328

(a) Includes five 12-weekly payments. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.
(c) Includes Northern Territory.

Service pensions

The *Repatriation Act 1920–1968* provides for a service pension to be paid, subject to a means test of income and property, to the following persons:

- ex-servicemen who served in a theatre of war and have attained the age of sixty years or are permanently unemployable;
- ex-servicemen who suffer from pulmonary tuberculosis, irrespective of the area of their service; and
- ex-servicewomen who suffer from tuberculosis, or who served in a theatre of war, or served abroad or embarked for service abroad and have attained the age of fifty-five years, or are permanently unemployable.

Rates of pension

The maximum rate of service pension is the same as that paid to an age or invalid pensioner by the Department of Social Services. An ex-serviceman receives a pension of \$14 a week and his wife \$7 a week. If, however, an ex-serviceman's wife is receiving a social service pension, a tuberculosis allowance or a service pension as a member of the forces, his rate is \$12.50 a week and no Repatriation pension is payable to his wife. The service pension of an ex-serviceman is increased by \$2.50 a week for each eligible child and, in addition, a pension of 25c a week is payable in respect of the second, third and fourth of such eligible children. *Eligible child* means a child of a service pensioner under the age of sixteen years, or a child over that age who is wholly or substantially dependent on the pensioner and is undergoing full-time education, in which case pension may continue until the child's twenty-first birthday.

Supplementary assistance of \$2.00 a week is paid in addition to service pension to an ex-serviceman who is paying rent, or for lodging, or board and lodging, and whose *means as assessed* do not exceed \$1.00 a week or \$2.00 a week if he is married. (The allowance is reduced if the *means as assessed* exceed these amounts.)

A service pensioner who is unmarried, widowed, divorced, or married but separated, and who has care and control of one or more children, qualifies for a guardian's allowance of \$4.00 a week.

The means test sets limits to the amount of income or property which a pensioner may have for the purpose of service pension. The amount of service pension payable depends upon the claimant's *means as assessed*, which consist of his annual rate of income plus a property component equal to \$1.95 for each complete unit of \$20 of net value of property above \$400. For married couples, except where they are separated or in other special circumstances, the income and property of each for purposes of applying the means test is taken to be half the total income and property of both, even if only one is a pensioner or claimant. A person's *means as assessed* may consist entirely of income, entirely of property, or of both income and property components. If a single person's *means as assessed* do not exceed \$10 a week, he receives the maximum rate of pension. If his *means as assessed* exceed \$10 a week, the rate payable is the maximum rate less the amount by which *means as assessed* exceed \$10 a week. If his *means as assessed* are \$24 a week or more, no service pension is payable.

Income means earnings and other forms of income derived from any source, with certain exceptions, of which the principal are: certain income derived from property; gifts or allowances from children, parents, brothers or sisters; benefits from friendly societies; child endowment; Commonwealth health benefits. The value of board and lodging received by a pensioner, either free or in return for services, is normally assessed as income at \$1.25 a week. Property includes all real and personal property, such as houses, land, money in hand, in a bank or on loan, shares, investments or legacies, vehicles used for business purposes, and livestock. Property does not include an applicant's permanent home, furniture or personal effects, the surrender value of life insurance policies (up to \$1,500), the value of any reversionary interest, the capital value of any life interest, annuity or contingent interest, or vehicles maintained only for personal use.

Eligibility for service pensions was extended on 1 November 1941 to veterans of the South African War 1899–1902 and in 1943 to members of the Forces of the 1939–45 War. Members of the Forces who served in Korea and those who served in Malaya prior to the commencement of the *Repatriation (Far East Strategic Reserve) Act 1956–1966* are also eligible. During 1968, eligibility was extended to members of the forces under the *Repatriation (Special Overseas Service) Act 1962–1968*.

An ex-serviceman or ex-servicewoman in receipt of a service pension is entitled, with certain exceptions, to free medical benefits for disabilities not caused by war. These benefits include general practitioner service, specialist service where necessary, full pharmaceutical benefits, surgical aids and appliances (including spectacles), dental treatment, and treatment in Repatriation General Hospitals.

Operations

SERVICE PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1967-68

	<i>South African War</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War(a)</i>	<i>Korea- Malaya operations</i>	<i>Miscel- laneous (b)</i>	<i>Total</i>
New claims granted	8	2,406	6,439	25	2	8,880
Restorations . . . . .	..	437	609	6	..	1,052
Cancellations (gross)	1	1,501	2,502	12	1	4,017
Deaths	22	3,290	1,056	5	..	4,373
Pensions in force at 30 June 1968	174	40,300	27,930	101	22	68,527
Annual liability at 30 June 1968						
\$'000	84	20,049	11,262	33	8	31,436
Amount paid in pensions during 1967-68 \$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	31,771

(a) Includes native members of the forces. (b) Act of grace pensions.

SERVICE PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1963-64 TO 1967-68

	<i>1963-64</i>	<i>1964-65</i>	<i>1965-66</i>	<i>1966-67</i>	<i>1967-68</i>
New claims granted	10,026	8,273	8,048	8,578	8,880
Restorations	1,065	1,035	1,052	1,056	1,052
<i>Total additions</i>	<i>11,091</i>	<i>9,308</i>	<i>9,100</i>	<i>9,634</i>	<i>9,932</i>
Cancellations (gross)	4,679	4,948	4,259	4,197	4,017
Deaths	3,573	3,947	4,000	4,362	4,373
<i>Total reductions</i>	<i>8,252</i>	<i>8,895</i>	<i>8,259</i>	<i>8,559</i>	<i>8,390</i>

Classes of service pensions

The following tables give an analysis of the total number of new claims granted and pensions in force for 1967-68.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1967-68

<i>Class</i>	<i>South African War</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War(a)</i>	<i>Korea- Malaya opera- tions</i>	<i>Miscell- aneous</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ex-servicemen	8	1,743	3,887	17	2	5,657
Wives and widows of ex-servicemen . . . . .	..	617	1,387	2	..	2,006
Children . . . . .	..	46	1,165	6	..	1,217
Other . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Total</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2,406</i>	<i>6,439</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>8,880</i>

(a) Includes native members of the forces.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE, STATES, 30 JUNE 1968

<i>State</i>	<i>South African War</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War(a)</i>	<i>Korea- Malaya opera- tions</i>	<i>Miscell- aneous</i>	<i>Total</i>
New South Wales(b)	35	12,865	8,721	34	..	21,655
Victoria	34	10,915	5,962	20	11	16,942
Queensland	32	6,462	5,964	20	3	12,481
South Australia(c)	35	4,611	2,510	9	4	7,169
Western Australia	33	4,036	3,502	11	4	7,586
Tasmania	5	1,411	1,271	7	..	2,694
<i>Australia</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>40,300</i>	<i>27,930</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>68,527</i>

(a) Includes native members of the forces. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory.

Number, by class, of service pensions and amount paid

The following tables show the number of each class of service pension in force, the annual liability and the amounts paid for the years 1963-64 to 1967-68.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER OF EACH CLASS OF PENSION AND ANNUAL LIABILITY AUSTRALIA, 1963-64 TO 1967-68

Year	Number of service pensions at 30 June payable to—						Total	Annual pension liability at 30 June (\$'000)
	Ex-servicemen who are—			Dependants(a) of ex-servicemen where the ex-serviceman is—				
	Aged ex-servicemen	Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis	Aged or permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis	Miscellaneous		
1963-64 .	32,855	14,527	1,122	14,817	1,466	1	64,788	24,652
1964-65 .	33,959	14,296	1,080	14,480	1,354	9	65,178	25,685
1965-66 .	34,403	14,396	1,070	14,716	1,299	10	65,894	26,637
1966-67 .	34,814	14,512	1,073	15,421	1,152	21	66,993	31,239
1967-68 .	35,254	14,874	1,049	16,237	1,091	22	68,527	31,436

(a) Includes dependants of deceased service pensioners.

SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID, STATES, ETC. 1963-64 TO 1967-68 (\$'000)

Place of payment	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68
New South Wales(a) .	7,981	8,494	9,499	9,998	10,844
Victoria	5,654	5,974	6,626	6,720	7,420
Queensland	3,823	4,048	4,477	4,715	5,292
South Australia(b)	2,689	2,766	3,025	3,134	3,416
Western Australia	3,177	3,320	3,571	3,612	3,777
Tasmania	874	904	964	935	1,014
Abroad . . . . .	..	2	10	11	8
Australia	24,198	25,508	28,172	29,126	31,771

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory.

Medical treatment for ex-servicemen and dependants of ex-servicemen

Medical treatment is provided for all disabilities which have been accepted as due to war service. In addition, and subject to certain conditions, treatment is provided for disabilities not due to war service for: ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen receiving war pensions at or exceeding the maximum general (100 per cent) rate; ex-servicemen who have contracted pulmonary tuberculosis; nurses who served in the 1914-18 war; widows and certain dependants of ex-servicemen whose deaths have been accepted as due to war service and of deceased T.P.I. pensioners; and service pensioners, including service pensioners of the Boer War.

In-patient treatment for eligible patients is provided at the six Repatriation General Hospitals (one in each State) and seven auxiliary hospitals and sanatoriums as follows: *New South Wales*—Lady Davidson Hospital; *Victoria*—Macleod Hospital and Anzac Hostel; *Queensland*—Kenmore Hospital and Rosemount Hospital; *South Australia*—Birrlee Hospital; and *Western Australia*—The Edward Millen Hospital. The Anzac Hostel specialises in the care and treatment of long-term patients.

The total number of available beds for patients in open wards or parts of wards in all these institutions at 30 June 1968 was 4,126, and expenditure amounted to \$27,034,947. In addition, expenditure of \$32,610,172 was incurred on medical services outside these institutions.

Repatriation hospitals and institutions

Details of full-time staff in Repatriation general hospitals and other Repatriation institutions are given in the following table.

**REPATRIATION HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: FULL-TIME STAFF
STATES, 30 JUNE 1968**

<i>Type of institution</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
General hospitals—							
Medical staff	123	88	36	27	27	8	309
Nursing staff	746	524	315	237	210	56	2,088
Other staff	1,132	802	478	313	412	110	3,247
<i>Total, general hospitals</i>	<i>2,001</i>	<i>1,414</i>	<i>829</i>	<i>577</i>	<i>649</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>5,644</i>
Other in-patient institutions(a)	218	122	170	36	43	..	589
Out-patient clinics(a)	173	81	24	35	25	..	338
Limb and appliance centres(a)	77	69	28	20	13	11	218
Grand total	2,469	1,686	1,051	668	730	185	6,789

(a) Total staff.

The following table gives details of in-patients treated at Repatriation general hospitals and other Repatriation institutions in each State. The figures shown refer to cases, e.g. a person who is admitted to hospital twice during a year is counted twice.

**REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: IN-PATIENTS
TREATED, STATES, 1967-68**

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS							
In-patients at beginning of year	1,307	693	473	286	368	101	3,228
Admissions and re-admissions during year	19,636	11,536	9,219	5,327	5,732	1,757	53,207
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>20,943</i>	<i>12,229</i>	<i>9,692</i>	<i>5,613</i>	<i>6,100</i>	<i>1,858</i>	<i>56,435</i>
Discharges	18,691	10,594	8,758	4,942	5,300	1,674	49,959
Deaths	1,108	898	459	353	392	88	3,298
In-patients at end of year	1,144	737	475	318	408	96	3,178
Average daily number resident	1,179	675	440	302	362	98	3,056
OTHER REPATRIATION INSTITUTIONS							
In-patients at beginning of year	184	112	130	31	19	..	476
Admissions and re-admissions during year	1,374	417	1,022	129	280	..	3,222
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>1,558</i>	<i>529</i>	<i>1,152</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>3,698</i>
Discharges	1,341	420	1,010	129	259	..	3,159
Deaths	40	8	13	3	3	..	67
In-patients at end of year	177	101	129	28	37	..	472
Average daily number resident	172	104	122	30	27	..	455

In addition to the Repatriation institutions, eligible patients may be treated in other country and metropolitan hospitals and nursing homes at Repatriation expense. During 1967-68, 14,707 Repatriation in-patients were accommodated and treated in hospitals and 869 in nursing homes.

Repatriation psychiatric patients requiring custodial care are, by agreement with the State Governments, accommodated at the expense of the Repatriation Department in separate wings of psychiatric hospitals administered by the State authorities. Excluding 117 on trial leave, there were 818 Repatriation patients in these hospitals at 30 June 1968.

Out-patient treatment is provided throughout the Commonwealth at Repatriation hospitals and clinics and through the Repatriation Local Medical Officer Scheme. During 1967-68, 611,772 out-patients were treated at Repatriation institutions, and visits to or by local medical officers totalled 2,709,367.

General Repatriation benefits and miscellaneous

Other Repatriation Department activities

In addition to the payment of pensions and the provision of medical treatment, the Department also provides various benefits and allowances designed to meet the needs of special classes of ex-servicemen and their dependants.

These include educational and vocational training schemes, namely the *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme* (full details of which appear later in this section), the *Korea and Malaya Training Scheme*, the *Disabled Members' and Widows' Training Scheme* and the *National Service Vocational Training Scheme*.

In addition, gift cars and an annual allowance for their upkeep are provided for ex-servicemen who, as a result of war service, have suffered the amputation of both legs above the knees or amputation of one leg above the knee plus any two other amputations (above the ankle or at or above the wrist) or complete paraplegia resulting in the total loss of the use of both legs. A grant of up to \$50 may be made towards the funeral expenses of eligible ex-servicemen and certain of their dependants. Payment of up to \$10 may be made to provide such necessities as meals, sleeping accommodation etc., for ex-servicemen in need of immediate relief. Also certain concessions in telephone charges are provided for some classes of ex-servicemen and their dependants, including war blinded ex-servicemen, war widows and certain service and special rate war pensioners. Ex-servicemen who have been blinded as a result of war service may be issued with talking book machines. The Australian Red Cross Society supplies 'book' records for these machines, free of charge, thus enabling the blinded to enjoy a wide range of literature.

Expenditure in 1967-68 on general Repatriation benefits for all wars was \$4,226,000, comprising; *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme*, \$2,720,000; recreation transport allowance, \$618,000; and other benefits \$888,000. In addition, \$24,000 was expended by other Commonwealth authorities on Repatriation employment and vocational training.

Soldiers' Children Education Scheme

The *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme* was established in 1921 and operates with the assistance of the voluntary Education Boards in each State. These Boards consist of representatives of government and non-government education authorities and of ex-service and other organisations which have a general interest in the welfare of the children of ex-servicemen. The objects of the Scheme are to assist and encourage eligible children in acquiring a standard of education compatible with their aptitude and ability, and to prepare them to enter an agricultural, commercial, professional, or industrial calling of their own choice.

Eligible children. Eligible children are children of ex-servicemen whose deaths have been accepted as due to war service; or of ex-servicemen who died from causes not due to war service but who were receiving at the date of death a war pension at a special rate for blindness, total and permanent incapacity, pulmonary tuberculosis, or amputation of two or more limbs; or of ex-servicemen who, as a result of war service, are blinded, totally and permanently incapacitated, or receiving the special rate pension for pulmonary tuberculosis and are likely to receive such pension for a period of at least three years.

General benefits. From the commencement of primary education up to twelve years, school requisites and fares are provided. An education allowance is also payable for a child from commencement of secondary education or from the age of twelve years, whichever is the earlier, while the child is undertaking primary or secondary education. Further assistance beyond, or parallel with, the later years of secondary education is provided where an approved beneficiary continues with a course of specialised education or training necessary for a career. Specialised education covers a wide range and may include: professional degree or diploma courses at universities and technical colleges; theological training; cadet and pupilage training, i.e. training combined with employment, such as nursing, pharmacy and journalism; industrial, including apprenticeship training, and other courses of trade and business training approved by an Education Board; and agricultural training at an agricultural college. At this stage of training, in addition to the education allowance, fees are paid and text books, essential equipment and other minor benefits are provided.

All education allowances are subject to an allowed income limit test, i.e. the amount of education allowance payable depends on the amount of income a child receives over the allowed limit. The child's income for the purpose of determining the allowance payable means earnings from employment and other earnings from personal exertion and such portion of a scholarship, bursary or grant as the Education Board determines to be income. Income does not include war or service pensions paid for the child or any similar payment, income the child receives from private means, or income from casual employment during the entire period of a school or university vacation where the student is to continue as a full-time student under the scheme after the vacation. The parent's income does not affect the child's allowance. The scale of maximum allowances payable to eligible children at various stages of education is as follows.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME
WEEKLY RATES OF ALLOWANCES, OCTOBER 1968
(£)

<i>Type of training</i>	<i>Living at home</i>	<i>Living away from home</i>
At school—		
Aged 12 and under 14 years	2.18	7.28
Aged 14 „ „ 16 years	3.30	7.28
Aged 16 „ „ 18 years	7.28	11.25
Professional (university, etc.)	10.75	17.40
Agricultural . . . . .	..	3.65
Industrial (apprenticeship, etc.)	2.65	5.30

The following tables show the costs of education under the scheme for the year ended 30 June 1968 and the number of children in receipt of benefit at 30 June 1968.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: EXPENDITURE, 1967-68
(£'000)

	<i>N.S.W.</i> (a)	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i> (b)	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Cost of education of beneficiaries—							
Under 12 years of age	9	8	8	3	1	2	31
12 years of age and over	929	740	481	248	171	102	2,671
Total expenditure	938	748	489	251	172	104	(c)2,702

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Excludes overseas expenditure of \$18,000.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFITS(a)
AT 30 JUNE 1968

<i>Type of training</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i> (b)	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i> (c)	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Abroad</i>	<i>Total</i>
At school—								
Aged under 14 years(d)	858	588	487	201	158	135	7	2,434
Aged 14 and under 16 years	1,071	780	487	248	195	172	15	2,968
Aged 16 and under 18 years	754	538	316	188	107	73	12	1,988
Total at school	2,683	1,906	1,290	637	460	380	34	7,390
Professional	370	377	213	148	73	43	13	1,237
Agricultural	6	9	12	..	5	..	..	32
Industrial . . . . .	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	11
Grand total	3,059	2,303	1,515	785	538	423	47	8,670

(a) Refers only to children in receipt of an education allowance. (b) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes Northern Territory. (d) From 12 years of age or the commencement of secondary education, whichever is the earlier.

Settlement of returned service personnel on the land

Reference to the settlement of returned service personnel on the land will be found in the chapters Public Finance and Rural Industry.

Re-establishment benefits for national servicemen

Subject to prescribed conditions, special re-establishment benefits are provided for national servicemen under the *Defence (Re-establishment) Act 1965-1968*. They apply to all national servicemen whether or not they have served on 'special service' and ensure that servicemen will not be at a disadvantage on their return to civil life. The scheme includes appropriate full or part-time training as a supplement to skills acquired in the Army, refresher training for specialists and training for those who, for various reasons, may not be able to return to their former employment. The assistance includes payment of tuition fees, other associated fees and fares, and provision of books and equipment as appropriate. A training allowance is also provided for trainees undertaking full-time studies.

Re-establishment loans may be granted, subject to certain conditions, to those national servicemen who, prior to call-up, were engaged in professional practice, business, or agricultural occupations, or who, because of their call-up, were prevented from engaging in these occupations, and who are in need of financial assistance for their re-establishment in civil life.

The maximum amounts of the loans are business and professional \$3,000, agricultural \$6,000.

Expenditure by the Repatriation Department, 1967-68

The net expenditure by the Department for the year ended 30 June 1968 was \$276,797,400 distributed as follows:

	\$'000
Pensions, allowances and other benefits	200,446
Medical treatment	59,645
Administration	12,292
Works, rent and maintenance	4,414
	<hr/>
Total	276,797

The Services Canteens Trust Fund

The Services Canteens Trust Fund was established under the *Services Trust Funds Act 1947*. Its funds are derived from the assets and profits of wartime services canteens, mess and regimental funds of disbanded units, and several other sources.

The total amount transferred to the Fund to 31 December 1968 was \$11,055,041. The Act prescribed that, of this, \$5 million and such further amounts as the trustees of the Fund might from time to time decide, should be devoted to the provision of education facilities for the children of eligible ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen, and that the balance of the Fund should be used to provide relief for ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and their dependants in necessitous circumstances.

The Fund is administered by eleven honorary trustees appointed by the Governor-General. The trustees have power to determine the persons or groups of persons to benefit from the Fund and the extent of the benefits to be granted within the provisions of the Act, and to appoint regional committees to assist with the administration. Members of regional committees are all persons who served in the 1939-45 War or are widows of men who served during the war. They serve in an honorary capacity.

Assistance from the Fund

Persons eligible for assistance from the Fund are those who, between 3 September 1939 and 30 June 1947, served in the Australian Naval, Military or Air Forces, including members of the canteens staff of any ship of the Royal Australian Navy, persons duly accredited to any part of the Defence Forces who served in an official capacity on full-time paid duty, and their dependants. The trustees have introduced schemes for providing welfare relief for ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who are eligible for benefits, and for their dependants; benefits for children of eligible ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who are suffering from serious and incapacitating afflictions; and education benefits for the children of eligible ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen. From its inauguration in 1947 the Fund is to be available for forty years for welfare relief and for thirty years for educational benefits.

Welfare relief. The trustees have prescribed a policy for welfare relief which makes assistance available only to those who are in genuine distress from which they cannot extricate themselves by their own efforts. To 31 December 1968, \$3,362,102 has been granted as welfare relief from the Fund,

\$2,013,080 to ex-servicemen and their dependants, and \$1,349,022 to widows and orphans. The amount granted during 1968 was \$136,311. A total of 34,927 ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen and 18,813 widows and orphans were granted welfare assistance from the Fund to 31 December 1968.

Assistance under Afflicted Children's Scheme. The Fund assists dependent children suffering from afflictions which permanently disable or seriously retard their progress or prevent the enjoyment of normal health and strength, and who face a prospect of dependence on others for all or part of their lives. The extent to which assistance will be granted in a particular case depends largely on the nature of the child's affliction, the facilities available, the family circumstances, and the funds that can be made available. Up to 31 December 1968, 2,650 afflicted children had been assisted under the Afflicted Children's Scheme, involving an expenditure of \$310,206. The amount granted during 1968 was \$8,504. The number of new children assisted in 1968 was 27.

Educational Assistance Scheme. Educational assistance is restricted to children who are fifteen years of age and over, fourteen years and over in the case of orphans and where there are exceptional circumstances. The object is to assist eligible children to obtain the highest education within their capacity. Assistance is in the form of awards ranging up to \$300 a year depending on the nature of the course undertaken and the family circumstances. These awards are granted chiefly for children at secondary education level, but are also available for other types of education.

The number of children assisted under the educational assistance scheme to 31 December 1968 was 54,808, and the expenditure on educational assistance to 31 December 1968 was \$7,321,349. The number of awards granted in 1968 was 6,274 at a value of \$425,518.

Total assistance. The total assistance granted under the three schemes during 1968 was \$570,333 and from the inception of the Fund to 31 December 1968 totalled \$10,993,657.