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## CHAPTER 5

### REPATRIATION

The Repatriation Commission, established under the *Repatriation Act 1920–1969*, 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 Canberra 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 South African War 1899–1902, the Korea and Malaya operations and with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve and the Special Overseas Forces serving in prescribed areas.

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

For information on war service land settlement *see* Chapter 18, Public Finance; for statistics relating to war service homes *see* Chapters 9, Housing and Building and 18, Public Finance.

For detailed information about repatriation pensions, benefits and services, reference should be made to the annual reports of the Repatriation Commission.

#### 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 This Act was repealed in 1920 by the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act 1920* (amended from 31 December 1950 to the Repatriation Act).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.

For a brief description of eligibility for war pensions; the conditions for payment of the various rates and allowances; and of operation of the Appeals Tribunals, *see* pages 91–93 of Year Book 55, Chapter 5, Repatriation.

#### Pensions and allowances

War pensions and associated allowances are not subject to a means test, except in the case of dependants other than wives, widows, widowed mothers and children. Pensions and allowances payable and the main weekly rates from 2 October 1969 are as follows.

*Pensions for war-caused incapacity—Special rate* (totally and permanently incapacitated or blinded), \$36.00; an equivalent rate is payable for temporary total incapacity or to an ex-serviceman pensioned for pulmonary tuberculosis who is, as a result, unfit for employment; *Intermediate Rate*. (Capable of part-time work only), \$26.50; ex-servicemen pensioned for pulmonary tuberculosis and able only to work part-time receive the same rate; *General Rate* (capable of full-time employment), 100 per cent basic rate, \$12. *Dependants*—Pensions are also payable to the dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen: Wife, \$4.05; children under 16 years, \$1.38; (Maximum rates).

*Pensions in respect of death—War Widows* (where death was due to war service or, at the date of death, the ex-serviceman was receiving a war pension at the special rate, or its equivalent in respect of pulmonary tuberculosis, or as a double amputee) \$15.00; eligible war widows may also receive a domestic allowance, \$7.50; *children* (under 16 years of age), 1st child, \$5.40; 2nd and subsequent children, \$4.25 each; double orphans (both parents deceased), \$10.15.

*Allowances*—various allowances are provided to supplement war pensions and these vary according to the type and severity of disablement and the special needs of the pensioner. The main allowances and maximum weekly rates payable are: *Special compensation allowance* (payable to certain general rate pensioners assessed as being 75 per cent to 100 per cent incapacitated), from \$3.75 to \$5.00; *Attendants allowance* (for the severely disabled), maximum \$14; *Clothing allowances* (where clothing is subject to damage from surgical aids, etc.), from 43 cents to 85 cents; *Domestic allowance* (payable to eligible war widows), \$7.50. Other allowances payable include: *Sustenance allowance*; *Fares, subsistence and attendance allowance*; *Recreation transport allowance*; *Funeral benefits, etc.*

#### 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 1957–1968*), 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, 1968-69

	1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Total
New claims granted . . . No.	859	14,240	612	200	1,659	17,570
Restorations . . . No.	50	368	8	3	..	429
Claims rejected(b) . . . No.	668	3,610	164	57	451	4,950
Pensions cancelled (gross) . . . No.	213	21,759	219	31	63	22,285
Deaths of pensioners . . . No.	5,556	5,642	40	5	4	11,247
Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1969 . . .	88,525	494,662	11,603	1,668	3,855	600,313
Annual pension liability at 30 June 1969 . . . \$'000	53,661	116,105	1,400	163	490	171,818
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1968-69 \$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	(c)182,485

(a) Includes interim forces and native members of the forces. (b) Number of ex-servicemen who had their claims for all their disabilities rejected. (c) Includes five 12-weekly payments

#### WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1964-65 TO 1968-69

	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69
New claims granted . . . . .	27,879	22,750	21,121	19,967	17,570
Restorations . . . . .	803	571	526	343	429
<i>Total additions</i> . . . . .	28,682	23,321	21,647	20,310	17,999
Pensions cancelled (gross) . . . . .	25,948	26,450	25,732	24,539	22,285
Deaths of pensioners . . . . .	10,342	10,308	10,898	10,950	11,247
<i>Total reductions</i> . . . . .	36,290	36,758	36,630	35,489	33,532

## Classes of war pensions

The following tables provide an analysis of the total number of new claims granted, pensions in force, and class of pension for 1968-69.

## WAR PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1968-69

<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 . . . . .	375	4,505	126	45	726	5,777
Wives and widows of ex-servicemen . . . . .	453	4,785	135	37	432	5,842
Children . . . . .	25	4,816	348	114	491	5,794
Other dependants . . . . .	6	134	3	4	10	157
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>14,240</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>17,570</b>

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

## WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE: AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1969

<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 . . . . .	30,738	185,334	3,133	470	1,668	221,343
Wives . . . . .	32,932	159,825	2,477	365	876	196,475
Children . . . . .	345	114,824	5,583	764	1,080	122,596
War widows . . . . .	23,898	23,532	136	20	70	47,656
Children of deceased ex-servicemen . . . . .	52	4,974	161	41	125	5,353
Orphans . . . . .	22	171	2	..	1	196
Parents . . . . .	324	5,515	106	7	30	5,982
Others . . . . .	214	487	5	1	5	712
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>88,525</b>	<b>494,662</b>	<b>11,603</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>3,855</b>	<b>600,313</b>

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

## WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE BY CLASS OF PENSION, AUSTRALIA 30 JUNE 1969

<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>
Special rate (T.P.I.) or equivalent . . . . .	9,425	14,010	91	5	9	23,540
Intermediate rate . . . . .	192	1,191	15	2	1	1,401
General rate—from 10 per cent to 100 per cent assessed disability . . . . .	21,121	170,133	3,027	463	1,658	196,402
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>30,738</b>	<b>185,334</b>	<b>3,133</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>221,343</b>

(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 at 30 June 1969, according to place of payment.

**WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY  
STATES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1969**

Place of payment	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June 1969(a)			Total	Annual pension liability(b) (\$'000)
	Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen		
New South Wales(c)	78,707	110,186	21,759	210,652	61,388
Victoria	60,247	87,422	17,024	164,693	48,216
Queensland	33,355	50,285	7,901	91,541	26,835
South Australia(d)	20,573	30,193	5,101	55,867	14,400
Western Australia	18,668	26,529	4,295	49,492	12,333
Tasmania	8,644	13,731	2,100	24,475	7,161
Abroad	1,149	1,553	891	3,593	1,485
<b>Total</b>	<b>221,343</b>	<b>319,899</b>	<b>59,071</b>	<b>600,313</b>	<b>171,818</b>

(a) Includes interim forces and native members of the forces 1939-45 War. (b) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows. (c) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (d) Includes Northern Territory.

**Summary of war pensions, 1964-65 to 1968-69**

The following table shows the number of pensions granted, claims rejected, pensions in force, and the annual liability for pensions in each of the years ended 30 June 1965 to 1969:

**WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1964-65 TO 1968-69**

Year	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June(a)—					Total	Annual pension liability at 30 June(c) (\$'000)
	Pensions granted	Claims rejected(b)	Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen		
1964-65	27,879	15,146	223,343	379,968	56,441	659,752	140,889
1965-66	22,750	15,071	223,377	365,583	57,195	646,155	156,904
1966-67	21,121	14,819	222,912	350,365	57,897	631,174	163,388
1967-68	19,967	14,578	222,479	334,823	58,674	615,976	164,848
1968-69	17,570	4,950	221,343	319,899	59,071	600,313	171,818

(a) Includes interim forces and native members of the forces 1939-45 War. (b) The number of claimants who had the claims for all their disabilities rejected. (c) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows.

The following table shows, for the years 1964-65 to 1968-69, the amounts paid in pensions and the places where they were paid.

**WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID(a), STATES, ETC., 1964-65 TO 1968-69  
(\$'000)**

Place of payment	1964-65	1965-66(b)	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69(b)
New South Wales(c)	52,809	58,851	55,884	57,424	64,981
Victoria	45,064	49,526	46,882	47,146	51,566
Queensland	23,295	25,928	24,992	25,525	28,543
South Australia(d)	13,209	14,633	13,613	13,807	15,326
Western Australia	11,430	12,617	11,869	11,914	13,038
Tasmania	6,210	6,914	6,650	6,786	7,617
Abroad	1,466	1,677	1,509	1,519	1,414
<b>Total</b>	<b>153,483</b>	<b>170,146</b>	<b>161,399</b>	<b>164,121</b>	<b>182,485</b>

(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 1969, and the table thereafter shows the amounts paid during the years 1964-65 to 1968-69 and the place of payment.

**MISCELLANEOUS WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1969**

Class	Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1969			Total	Annual pension liability (\$'000)
	Members(a)	Dependants of Members	Dependants of deceased members		
Act of grace . . . . .	124	147	58	329	128
Seamen's war pension . . . . .	81	106	70	257	88
New Guinea civilians . . . . .	1	..	79	80	32
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>248</b>

(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.  
1964-65 TO 1968-69  
(\$'000)**

Place of payment	1964-65	1965-66(a)	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69(a)
New South Wales(b)	156	161	148	159	174
Victoria . . . . .	70	76	71	71	87
Queensland . . . . .	42	46	44	44	46
South Australia(c) . . . . .	30	34	29	29	30
Western Australia . . . . .	17	20	20	20	23
Tasmania . . . . .	4	4	4	4	4
Abroad . . . . .	1	3	1	1	1
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>365</b>

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

**Service pensions**

The *Repatriation Act 1920-1969* 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 (or in a designated *Operational* or *Special Overseas Service* area) 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.

veterans of the South African War 1899-1902 who were members of a naval or military force or contingent raised in Australia for active service in that war.

**Rates of pension**

Maximum service pension rates and allowances are the same as those paid to Age and Invalid pensioners under the *Social Services Act*. The means test provisions relating to payments are similar.

For information on conditions relating to the various rates and allowances and the operation of the means test, see Chapter 13, Welfare Services.

From 2 October 1969, the maximum weekly rates are as follows.

Standard (Single) Rate, \$15; Standard (married) Rate (wife not eligible for Age or Invalid pension) Husband \$15; wife if otherwise eligible, \$7; Married rate (wife receiving Age or Invalid pension from Department of Social Services), \$13.25; *Guardians Allowance*, \$4 (\$6 if caring for a child under 6 years or an invalid child requiring full time care); *Supplementary assistance*, \$2; *Additional pension for eligible children*, \$2.50 for first and \$3.50 for each subsequent child; In addition \$0.25 is payable in respect of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th children.

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 service. 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, 1968-69

	<i>South African War</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War(a)</i>	<i>Korea-Malaya operations</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>Miscellaneous (b)</i>	<i>Total</i>
New claims granted . . . . .	10	1,660	5,786	20	1	2	7,479
Restorations . . . . .	1	271	500	8	..	..	780
Cancellations (gross) . . . . .	1	1,328	3,663	16	..	1	5,009
Deaths . . . . .	17	3,272	1,309	1	..	2	4,601
Pensions in force at 30 June 1969	167	37,621	29,246	111	1	22	67,168
Annual liability at 30 June 1969							
\$'000	89	19,774	13,355	44	1	10	33,273
Amount paid in pensions during 1968-69 . . . . . \$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	34,108

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

#### SERVICE PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1964-65 TO 1968-69

	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69
New claims granted . . . . .	8,273	8,048	8,578	8,880	7,479
Restorations . . . . .	1,035	1,052	1,056	1,052	780
<i>Total additions</i> . . . . .	<i>9,308</i>	<i>9,100</i>	<i>9,634</i>	<i>9,932</i>	<i>8,259</i>
Cancellations (gross) . . . . .	4,948	4,259	4,197	4,017	5,009
Deaths . . . . .	3,947	4,000	4,362	4,373	4,601
<i>Total reductions</i> . . . . .	<i>8,895</i>	<i>8,259</i>	<i>8,559</i>	<i>8,390</i>	<i>9,610</i>

### Classes of service pensions

The following tables give an analysis of the total number of new claims granted and pensions in force for 1968-69.

#### SERVICE PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1968-69

<i>Class</i>	<i>South African War</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War(a)</i>	<i>Korea-Malaya operations</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>Miscellaneous</i>	<i>Total</i>
Ex-servicemen . . . . .	10	1,212	3,942	11	1	1	5,177
Wives and widows of ex-servicemen . . . . .	..	430	1,226	3	..	1	1,660
Children . . . . .	..	18	618	6	..	..	642
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,660</b>	<b>5,786</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7,479</b>

(a) Includes native members of the forces.

**SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE, STATES, 30 JUNE 1969**

State	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea-Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Miscellaneous	Total
New South Wales(b)	38	11,986	9,167	34	..	1	21,226
Victoria	31	10,240	6,261	18	..	11	16,561
Queensland	30	6,077	6,271	28	1	4	12,411
South Australia(c)	31	4,327	2,690	10	..	4	7,062
Western Australia	32	3,691	3,559	14	..	2	7,298
Tasmania	5	1,300	1,298	7	..	..	2,610
<b>Australia</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>37,621</b>	<b>29,246</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>67,168</b>

(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 1964-65 to 1968-69.

**SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER OF EACH CLASS OF PENSION AND ANNUAL LIABILITY AUSTRALIA, 1964-65 TO 1968-69**

Number of service pensions at 30 June payable to—

Year	Ex-servicemen who are—			Dependants(a) of ex-servicemen where the ex-serviceman is—		Miscellaneous	Total	Annual pension liability at 30 June (\$'000)
	Aged ex-servicemen	Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis	Aged or permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis			
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
1968-69	35,404	14,797	1,060	14,910	975	22	67,168	33,273

(a) Includes dependants of deceased service pensioners.

**SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID, STATES, ETC. 1964-65 TO 1968-69 (\$'000)**

Place of payment	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69
New South Wales(a)	8,494	9,499	9,998	10,844	11,358
Victoria	5,974	6,626	6,720	7,420	8,070
Queensland	4,048	4,477	4,715	5,292	5,799
South Australia(b)	2,766	3,025	3,134	3,416	3,710
Western Australia	3,320	3,571	3,612	3,777	4,071
Tasmania	904	964	935	1,014	1,093
Abroad	2	10	11	8	7
<b>Australia</b>	<b>25,508</b>	<b>28,172</b>	<b>29,126</b>	<b>31,771</b>	<b>34,108</b>

(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 certain service pensioners, including service pensioners of the South African War 1899-1902.



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 wards or parts of wards, open for use, in all these institutions at 30 June 1969 was 3,978, and expenditure during 1968–69 amounted to \$28,181,029. In addition, expenditure of \$34,561,984 was incurred during 1968–69 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 1969

Type of institution	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
General hospitals—							
Medical staff . . . . .	115	83	38	32	24	8	300
Nursing staff . . . . .	747	499	350	229	201	53	2,079
Other staff . . . . .	1,123	809	483	319	424	118	3,276
<i>Total, general hospitals</i> . . . . .	<i>1,985</i>	<i>1,391</i>	<i>871</i>	<i>580</i>	<i>649</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>5,655</i>
Other in-patient institutions(a) . . . . .	217	117	170	35	40	..	579
Out-patient clinics(a) . . . . .	172	78	21	37	27	..	335
Limb and appliance centres(a) . . . . .	71	66	28	20	13	12	210
<i>Grand total</i> . . . . .	<i>2,445</i>	<i>1,652</i>	<i>1,090</i>	<i>672</i>	<i>729</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>6,779</i>

(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, 1968-69

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
<b>REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS</b>							
In-patients at beginning of year . . . . .	1,144	737	475	318	408	96	3,178
Admissions and re-admissions during year . . . . .	19,975	10,686	8,707	5,389	5,721	1,763	52,241
<i>Total in-patients treated</i> . . . . .	<i>21,119</i>	<i>11,423</i>	<i>9,182</i>	<i>5,707</i>	<i>6,129</i>	<i>1,859</i>	<i>55,419</i>
Discharges . . . . .	18,931	9,822	8,346	5,030	5,435	1,694	49,258
Deaths . . . . .	1,078	949	382	355	370	65	3,199
In-patients at end of year . . . . .	1,110	652	454	322	324	100	2,962
Average daily number resident . . . . .	1,088	646	434	303	357	89	2,917
<b>OTHER REPATRIATION INSTITUTIONS</b>							
In-patients at beginning of year . . . . .	177	101	129	28	37	..	472
Admissions and re-admissions during year . . . . .	1,407	700	923	118	352	..	3,500
<i>Total in-patients treated</i> . . . . .	<i>1,584</i>	<i>801</i>	<i>1,052</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>389</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>3,972</i>
Discharges . . . . .	1,393	680	904	116	346	..	3,439
Deaths . . . . .	37	23	19	..	2	..	81
In-patients at end of year . . . . .	154	98	129	30	41	..	452
Average daily number resident . . . . .	163	103	125	27	33	..	451

In addition to the Repatriation institutions, eligible patients are treated in other country and metropolitan hospitals and nursing homes at Repatriation expense. During 1968-69, 15,577 Repatriation in-patients were accommodated and treated in hospitals and 891 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 124 on trial leave, there were 817 Repatriation patients in these hospitals at 30 June 1969.

Out-patient treatment is provided throughout the Commonwealth at Repatriation hospitals and clinics and through the Repatriation Local Medical Officer Scheme. During 1968-69, 605,506 out-patients were treated at Repatriation institutions, and visits to or by local medical officers totalled 2,777,222. The number of Repatriation local medical officers in the Commonwealth at 30 June 1969 was 5,887.

## 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 1968-69 on general Repatriation benefits for all wars was \$4,719,000, comprising; *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme*, \$3,154,000; recreation transport allowance, \$607,000; and other benefits \$958,000. In addition, \$18,000 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 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. 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. 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 scale of maximum allowances payable to eligible children at various stages of education is as follows.

**SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME  
WEEKLY RATES OF ALLOWANCES, 1 JANUARY 1970**

(\$)

<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.) . . . . .	11.93	19.25
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 1969 and the number of children in receipt of benefit at 30 June 1969.

**SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: EXPENDITURE, 1968-69**

(\$'000)

	<i>N.S.W. (a)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A. (b)</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
Cost of education of beneficiaries—							
Under 12 years of age . . . . .	9	7	9	3	2	1	31
12 years of age and over . . . . .	1,127	850	537	288	180	127	3,109
<b>Total expenditure . . . . .</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>(c)3,140</b>

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Excludes overseas expenditure of \$14,000.

**SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFITS(a)  
AT 30 JUNE 1969**

<i>Type of training</i>	<i>N.S.W. (b)</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A. (c)</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Abroad</i>	<i>Total</i>
At school—								
Aged under 14 years(d) . . . . .	753	552	411	183	129	136	11	2,175
Aged 14 and under 16 years . . . . .	1,071	727	504	221	177	159	19	2,878
Aged 16 and under 18 years . . . . .	835	580	303	181	114	70	13	2,096
<b>Total at school . . . . .</b>	<b>2,659</b>	<b>1,859</b>	<b>1,218</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>7,149</b>
Professional . . . . .	425	410	214	157	81	62	9	1,358
Agricultural . . . . .	6	10	10	1	4	1	..	32
Industrial . . . . .	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	5
<b>Grand total . . . . .</b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>2,284</b>	<b>1,442</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>8,544</b>

(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 where it is necessary or desirable for effective re-settlement. 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 in need of financial assistance for their re-establishment in civil life and who, prior to call-up, were engaged on their own account in professional practice, business, or agricultural occupations, or who, because of their call-up, were prevented from engaging in these occupations or, in any other case where it is considered desirable in the circumstances to grant a loan.

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

**Repatriation—Total expenditure 1968-69**

Total expenditure on Repatriation during the year ended 30 June 1969, including \$4,841,789 by other Departments, was \$302,546,435 distributed as follows:

	\$'000
Pensions, allowances and other benefits . . . . .	221,678
Medical treatment . . . . .	62,743
Administration . . . . .	13,196
Works, rent and maintenance . . . . .	4,929
	<hr/>
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>302,546</b>

**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 1969 was \$11,055,541. 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 and regional committees appointed by the trustees to assist with administration. 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 both welfare relief and educational benefits.

The total assistance granted under these three schemes from the inception of the Fund to 31 December 1969 was \$11,419,522 (\$425,865 during 1969) distributed as follows: *Welfare relief*, \$3,485,245 (\$123,143); *Assistance for Afflicted Children*, \$316,645 (\$6,439); and *Educational assistance*, \$7,617,632 (\$296,283).

For detailed information on the operation of the Fund reference should be made to the annual reports of the Services Canteen Trust Fund.

