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CHAPTER 5

REPATRIATION

The Repatriation Commission, established under the *Repatriation Act* 1920–1970, 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 Chairman of the Commission is also the Permanent Head of the Repatriation Department, which provides the administrative machinery through which the Commission operates. 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; the provision of medical treatment for widows and dependants of deceased ex-servicemen whose deaths are due to war service; and a wide range of other benefits for eligible persons.

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.

For information on war service land settlement *see* Chapter 23, Rural Industry; for statistics relating to war service homes *see* Chapter 9, Housing and Building.

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 This Act was repealed in 1920 by the *Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act* 1920 (amended from 31 December 1950 to the Repatriation Act).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 1 April 1971 are as follows.

Pensions for war-caused incapacity—Special rate (totally and permanently incapacitated or blinded), \$39.00; 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), \$28.50; 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) \$16.00; eligible war widows may also receive a domestic allowance, \$8.00; *children* (under 16 years of age), 1st child, \$6.00; 2nd and subsequent children, \$5.00 each; double orphans (both parents deceased), \$12.00.

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 \$4.50 to \$6.00; *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), \$8.00. 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, 1969-70

	1914–18 War	1939–45 War(a)	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Total
New claims granted . . . No.	640	12,674	612	190	3,013	17,129
Restorations . . . No.	27	276	11	2	1	317
Claims disallowed(b) . . . No.	573	3,816	144	50	750	5,333
Pensions cancelled (gross) . . . No.	177	20,595	346	33	71	21,222
Deaths of pensioners . . . No.	5,645	6,086	40	3	11	11,785
Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1970 . . .	83,388	480,876	11,809	1,814	6,789	584,676
Annual pension liability at 30 June 1970 . . . \$'000	53,969	122,265	1,485	192	819	178,730
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1969–70 \$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	183,086

(a) Includes interim forces and native members of the forces for all their disabilities disallowed.

(b) Number of ex-servicemen who had their claims

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1965-66 TO 1969-70

	1965–66	1966–67	1967–68	1968–69	1969–70
New claims granted . . .	22,750	21,121	19,967	17,570	17,129
Restorations . . .	571	526	343	429	317
<i>Total additions</i> . . .	<i>23,321</i>	<i>21,647</i>	<i>20,310</i>	<i>17,999</i>	<i>17,446</i>
Pensions cancelled (gross) . . .	26,450	25,732	24,539	22,285	21,222
Deaths of pensioners . . .	10,308	10,898	10,950	11,247	11,785
<i>Total reductions</i> . . .	<i>36,758</i>	<i>36,630</i>	<i>35,489</i>	<i>33,532</i>	<i>33,007</i>

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 1969-70.

WAR PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1969-70

<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	288	4,091	120	39	1,212	5,750
Wives and widows of ex-servicemen	332	4,418	130	41	782	5,703
Children	16	3,980	354	109	1,000	5,459
Other dependants	4	185	8	1	19	217
Total	640	12,674	612	190	3,013	17,129

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

WAR PENSIONS IN FORCE: AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1970

<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	27,881	185,369	3,219	505	2,867	219,841
Wives	30,946	160,639	2,547	398	1,615	196,145
Children	301	99,678	5,635	831	1,993	108,438
War widows	23,702	24,761	145	23	94	48,725
Children of deceased ex-servicemen	40	4,520	145	48	169	4,922
Orphans	16	162	3	..	1	182
Parents	302	5,234	109	8	50	5,703
Others	200	513	6	1	..	720
Total	83,388	480,876	11,809	1,814	6,789	584,676

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

WAR PENSIONS FOR INCAPACITATED EX-SERVICEMEN IN FORCE BY CLASS OF PENSION AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1970

<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	8,494	14,286	97	10	22	22,909
Intermediate rate	181	1,331	17	2	2	1,533
General rate—from 10 per cent to 100 per cent assessed disability	19,206	169,752	3,105	493	2,843	195,399
Total	27,881	185,369	3,219	505	2,867	219,841

(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 1970, according to place of payment.

**WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY
STATES, ETC., 30 JUNE 1970**

Place of payment	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June 1970(a)				Annual pension liability at 30 June(b) (\$'000)
	Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen	Total	
New South Wales(c)	78,336	105,714	21,897	205,947	63,968
Victoria	59,392	82,671	17,051	159,114	49,851
Queensland	33,597	48,627	8,027	90,251	28,246
South Australia(d)	20,349	28,586	5,199	54,134	14,914
Western Australia	18,449	25,257	4,254	47,960	12,631
Tasmania	8,635	13,040	2,123	23,798	7,590
Overseas	1,083	1,508	881	3,472	1,530
Total	219,841	305,403	59,432	584,676	178,730

(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, 1965-66 to 1969-70

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 1966 to 1970.

WAR PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1965-66 TO 1969-70

Year	Number of war pensions in force at 30 June(a)—					Total	Annual pension liability at 30 June(c) (\$'000)
	Pensions granted	Claims disallowed (b)	Incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of incapacitated ex-servicemen	Dependants of deceased ex-servicemen		
1965-66	22,750	5,071	223,377	365,583	57,195	646,155	156,904
1966-67	21,121	4,819	222,912	350,365	57,897	631,174	163,388
1967-68	19,967	4,578	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
1969-70	17,129	5,333	219,841	305,403	59,432	584,676	178,730

(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 disallowed. (c) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows.

The following table shows, for the years 1965-66 to 1969-70, the amounts paid in pensions and the places where they were paid.

**WAR PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID(a), STATES, ETC., 1965-66 TO 1969-70
(\$'000)**

Place of payment	1965-66(b)	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69(b)	1969-70
New South Wales(c)	58,851	55,884	57,424	64,981	65,469
Victoria	49,526	46,882	47,146	51,566	51,214
Queensland	25,928	24,992	25,525	28,543	29,055
South Australia(d)	14,633	13,613	13,807	15,326	15,151
Western Australia	12,617	11,869	11,914	13,038	12,786
Tasmania	6,914	6,650	6,786	7,617	7,831
Overseas	1,677	1,509	1,519	1,414	1,580
Total	170,146	161,399	164,121	182,485	183,086

(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 1940-1970* 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 1970, and the table thereafter shows the amounts paid during the years 1965-66 to 1969-70 and the place of payment.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1970

Class	Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1970			Total	Annual pension liability at 30 June (\$'000)
	Members(a)	Dependants of members	Dependants of deceased members		
Act of grace	118	141	53	312	132
Seamen's war pension	81	99	70	250	94
New Guinea civilians	1	..	68	69	78
Total	200	240	191	631	304

(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.
1965-66 TO 1969-70
(\$'000)**

Place of payment	1965-66(a)	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69(a)	1969-70
New South Wales(b)	161	148	159	174	176
Victoria	76	71	71	87	84
Queensland	46	44	44	46	47
South Australia(c)	34	29	29	30	31
Western Australia	20	20	20	23	25
Tasmania	4	4	4	4	4
Overseas	3	1	1	1	1
Total	344	317	328	365	368

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

Service pensions

The *Repatriation Act 1920-1970* provides for a service pension to be paid, subject to a means test on 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 1 April 1971, the maximum weekly rates are as follows.

Standard (Single) Rate, \$16; *Standard (Married) Rate* (wife not eligible for Age or Invalid pension) Husband \$16; wife if otherwise eligible, \$7; *Married Rate* (wife receiving Age or Invalid pension from Department of Social Services), \$14.25; *Guardian's 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, 1969-70

	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea- Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Miscel- laneous (b)	Total	
New claims granted	1	3,246	9,916	88	2	6	13,259	
Restorations	1	750	885	6	..	..	1,642
Cancellations (gross)	1	848	2,001	7	1	..	2,858	
Deaths	18	3,250	1,506	5	1	1	4,781	
Pensions in force at 30 June 1970	150	37,516	36,541	181	1	31	74,420	
Annual liability at 30 June 1970	\$'000	85	21,714	19,039	76	..	15	40,929
Amount paid in pensions during 1969-70 \$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	39,912

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

SERVICE PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1965-66 TO 1969-70

	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
New claims granted	8,048	8,578	8,880	7,479	13,259
Restorations	1,052	1,056	1,052	780	1,642
<i>Total additions</i>	<i>9,100</i>	<i>9,634</i>	<i>9,932</i>	<i>8,259</i>	<i>(a)14,901</i>
Cancellations (gross)	4,259	4,197	4,017	5,009	2,858
Deaths	4,000	4,362	4,373	4,601	4,781
<i>Total reductions</i>	<i>8,259</i>	<i>8,559</i>	<i>8,390</i>	<i>9,610</i>	<i>7,639</i>

(a) Part of the increase in 1969-70 is due to variation in the Means Test in September 1969. See Chapter 13—Welfare Services.

Classes of service pensions

The following tables give an analysis of the total number of new claims granted and pensions in force for 1969-70.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1969-70

Class	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea- Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Miscel- laneous	Total
Ex-servicemen	1	2,212	6,923	44	1	4	9,185
Wives and widows of ex- servicemen . . . . .	..	1,009	2,333	19	1	2	3,364
Children . . . . .	..	25	660	25	..	..	710
Total	1	3,246	9,916	88	2	6	13,259

(a) Includes native members of the forces.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE, STATES, 30 JUNE 1970

State	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea-Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Miscellaneous	Total
New South Wales(b)	32	11,951	11,406	73	..	3	23,465
Victoria	25	10,359	7,877	30	1	15	18,307
Queensland	30	6,052	8,005	37	..	4	14,128
South Australia(c)	29	4,317	3,372	16	..	6	7,740
Western Australia	30	3,495	4,237	18	..	3	7,783
Tasmania	4	1,342	1,644	7	..	..	2,997
Australia	150	37,516	36,541	181	1	31	74,420

(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 1965-66 to 1969-70.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER OF EACH CLASS OF PENSION AND ANNUAL LIABILITY AUSTRALIA, 1965-66 TO 1969-70

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			
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
1969-70	37,792	17,362	1,154	17,058	1,023	31	74,420	40,929

(a) Includes dependants of deceased service pensioners.

SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID, STATES, ETC. 1965-66 TO 1969-70 (\$'000)

Place of payment	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
New South Wales(a)	9,499	9,998	10,844	11,358	12,806
Victoria	6,626	6,720	7,420	8,070	9,767
Queensland	4,477	4,715	5,292	5,799	7,184
South Australia(b)	3,025	3,134	3,416	3,710	4,253
Western Australia	3,571	3,612	3,777	4,071	4,491
Tasmania	964	935	1,014	1,093	1,404
Overseas	10	11	8	7	8
Australia	28,172	29,126	31,771	34,108	39,912

(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 1970 was 3,682, and expenditure during 1969–70 amounted to \$31,377,907. In addition, expenditure of \$37,016,939 was incurred during 1969–70 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 1970

Type of institution	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
General hospitals—							
Medical staff	124	91	50	28	28	9	330
Nursing staff	698	443	346	226	204	50	1,967
Other staff	1,132	800	500	329	408	110	3,279
<i>Total, general hospitals</i>	<i>1,954</i>	<i>1,334</i>	<i>896</i>	<i>583</i>	<i>640</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>5,576</i>
Other in-patient institutions(a)	210	121	170	35	43	..	579
Out-patient clinics(a)	171	80	20	37	25	..	333
Limb and appliance centres(a)	73	70	29	20	14	11	217
Grand total	2,408	1,605	1,115	675	722	180	6,705

(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, 1969-70

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS							
In-patients at beginning of year	1,110	652	454	322	324	100	2,962
Admissions and re-admissions during year	18,252	10,434	8,837	5,777	5,690	1,735	50,725
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>19,362</i>	<i>11,086</i>	<i>9,291</i>	<i>6,099</i>	<i>6,014</i>	<i>1,835</i>	<i>53,687</i>
Discharges	17,461	9,651	8,390	5,444	5,323	1,670	47,939
Deaths	962	878	389	362	363	84	3,038
In-patients at end of year	939	557	512	293	328	81	2,710
Average daily beds occupied	981	599	443	290	317	86	2,717

OTHER REPATRIATION INSTITUTIONS

In-patients at beginning of year	154	99	129	30	41	..	453
Admissions and re-admissions during year	1,815	646	984	133	370	..	3,948
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>1,969</i>	<i>745</i>	<i>1,113</i>	<i>163</i>	<i>411</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>4,401</i>
Discharges	1,711	611	946	135	362	..	3,765
Deaths	69	18	35	1	4	..	127
In-patients at end of year	189	116	132	27	45	..	509
Average daily beds occupied	190	103	130	30	38	..	491

In addition to the Repatriation institutions, eligible patients are treated in other country and metropolitan hospitals and nursing homes at Repatriation expense. During 1969-70, 16,754 Repatriation in-patients were accommodated and treated in hospitals and 1,176 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 120 on trial leave, there were 780 Repatriation patients in these hospitals at 30 June 1970.

Out-patient treatment is provided throughout the Commonwealth at Repatriation hospitals and clinics and through the Repatriation Local Medical Officer Scheme. During 1969-70, 611,562 out-patients were treated at Repatriation institutions, and visits to or by local medical officers totalled 2,820,291. The number of Repatriation local medical officers in the Commonwealth at 30 June 1970 was 6,063.

Artificial limb and appliance services

In each State the Repatriation Department maintains a limb and appliance centre, catering for patients requiring artificial limbs, surgical aids and appliances. The centres fit eligible Repatriation patients and those from other Commonwealth departments and instrumentalities, and, when possible, patients from State Government and philanthropic organisations, and private persons who cannot be fitted satisfactorily elsewhere.

Details of production at all centres during 1969-70 are as follows: arms, 181; legs, 1,652; surgical footwear, 8,638; adapted footwear, 1,761; other surgical appliances, 5,951; and repairs, 25,027.

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' Training Scheme*, the *War 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 1969-70 on general Repatriation benefits for all wars was \$4,943,000, comprising: *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme*, \$3,204,000; recreation transport allowance, \$688,000; and other benefits \$1,051,000. In addition, \$20,000 was expended by other Commonwealth authorities on Repatriation employment and vocational training.

Trust and other funds administered by the Department in addition to general departmental expenditure as at 30 June 1970 amounted to \$11,346,160 in securities and \$716,025 in cash, a total of \$12,062,185.

Reciprocal arrangements with the United Kingdom, New Zealand and other countries provide for the payment of pensions, etc., to eligible Australian ex-servicemen living overseas and to eligible ex-servicemen from overseas who are living in Australia. During 1969-70, \$1,838,109 was paid overseas and \$5,573,071 paid in Australia on behalf of overseas administrations.

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 1971
(**\$**)

<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.)	13.46	21.16
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 1970 and the number of children in receipt of benefit at 30 June 1970.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: EXPENDITURE, 1969-70
(**\$'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	6	9	2	1	2	29
12 years of age and over	1,166	842	547	290	174	140	3,159
Total expenditure	1,175	848	556	292	175	142	(c)3,188

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory.
of \$16,000.

(b) Includes Northern Territory.

(c) Excludes overseas expenditure

**SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFITS(a)
AT 30 JUNE 1970**

<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>Over- seas</i>	<i>Total</i>
At school—								
Aged under 14 years(d)	683	511	398	154	116	119	10	1,991
Aged 14 and under 16 years	942	649	463	227	142	157	14	2,594
Aged 16 and under 18 years	771	544	237	159	99	64	15	1,889
<i>Total at school</i>	<i>2,396</i>	<i>1,704</i>	<i>1,098</i>	<i>540</i>	<i>357</i>	<i>340</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>6,474</i>
Professional	450	412	174	154	96	57	8	1,351
Agricultural	9	11	13	3	2	1	..	39
Industrial	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	5
Grand total	2,855	2,132	1,285	697	455	398	47	7,869

(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 chapter 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 1969-70

**REPATRIATION: TOTAL EXPENDITURE(a), 1965-66 TO 1969-70
(\$'000)**

<i>Class</i>	<i>1965-66</i>	<i>1966-67</i>	<i>1967-68</i>	<i>1968-69</i>	<i>1969-70</i>
Pensions, allowances and other benefits	202,698	194,783	200,446	221,678	228,309
Medical treatment	50,868	55,897	59,645	62,743	68,395
Administration	10,074	11,543	12,292	13,196	14,972
Works, rent and maintenance	3,197	3,120	4,414	4,929	5,423
Total expenditure	266,837	265,344	276,797	302,546	317,098

(a) Includes expenditure by Departments other than Repatriation as follows: 1965-66, \$3,118,322; 1966-67, \$3,040,306; 1967-68, \$4,330,994; 1968-69, \$4,841,789; 1969-70, \$5,298,982.

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 1970 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. 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. The trustees and members of regional committees 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 1970 was \$11,810,188 (\$390,666 during 1970) distributed as follows: *Welfare relief*, \$3,603,347 (\$118,102); *Assistance for afflicted children*, \$323,090 (\$6,445); and *Educational assistance*, \$7,883,751 (\$266,119).

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