

CHAPTER 5

REPATRIATION

On 5 October 1976 the name of the Department of Repatriation was changed to the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The Repatriation Commission, established under the *Repatriation Act* 1920, 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 Department of Repatriation. The Chairman of the Commission is also the Secretary of the Department of Repatriation, 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 disability and dependants' pensions (previously called war pensions) and service pensions and allowances to eligible veterans and their dependants; the provision of medical treatment for veterans for injuries and illnesses caused or aggravated by their service; the provision of medical treatment in certain circumstances for veterans who are suffering from injuries and illnesses not caused or aggravated by service; the provision of medical treatment for widows and dependants of deceased veterans whose deaths are service-related; 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, with the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve and the Special Overseas Forces serving in prescribed areas, and in the Regular Defence Forces in certain circumstances.

For information on war service land settlement *see* Chapter 22, Rural Industry; for statistics relating to defence service homes *see* Chapter 9, Housing and Building.

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

REPATRIATION: TOTAL EXPENDITURE^(a) (\$'000)

Class	1970–71	1971–72	1972–73	1973–74	1974–75
Pensions, allowances and other benefits	240,539	266,107	303,183	362,196	477,608
Medical treatment	74,627	87,328	97,297	120,446	162,340
Administration	16,700	18,913	20,791	24,807	32,143
Works, rent and maintenance	7,981	5,301	6,870	8,903	14,792
Total expenditure	339,847	377,649	428,141	516,352	686,883

^(a) Includes expenditure by Departments other than Repatriation as follows: 1970–71, \$5,852,357; 1971–72, \$4,982,764; 1972–73, \$6,645,558; 1973–74, \$8,369,015; 1974–75, \$14,088,376.

Disability and dependants' pensions

The first provision for the payment of disability pensions to veterans and pensions to 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 during the 1939–45 War.

For a brief description of eligibility for disability and dependants' 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

Disability and dependants' 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 6 May 1976 are as follows.

Pensions for service-related incapacity—*Special Rate* (totally and permanently incapacitated (T. & P.I.) or blinded), \$78.85; an equivalent rate is payable for temporary total incapacity or to a veteran pensioned for pulmonary tuberculosis who is, as a result, unfit for employment; *Intermediate Rate*. (Capable of part-time work only), \$54.30; veterans 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, \$29.80. *Dependants*—Pensions are also payable to the dependants of incapacitated veterans: Wife, \$4.05; eligible children, \$1.38; (Maximum rates).

Pensions in respect of death—*War and defence widows* (where death was related to war or defence service or, at the date of death, the veteran was receiving a disability pension at the Special Rate, or its equivalent in respect of pulmonary tuberculosis, or as a double amputee) \$41.25; eligible widows may also receive a domestic allowance, \$12; *children* (under 16 years of age) or *student children* over 16 years of age undergoing full-time education, \$10.45; double orphans (both parents deceased), \$20.90.

Allowances—various allowances are provided to supplement disability and dependants' 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: *Attendants allowance* (for the severely disabled), maximum \$24.90; *Clothing allowances* (where clothing is subject to damage from surgical aids, etc.), from 55 cents to \$1.05; *Domestic allowance* (payable to eligible war and defence widows), \$12. Other allowances payable include: *Sustenance allowance*; *Fares, subsistence and attendance allowance*; *Recreation transport allowance*; *Funeral benefits, etc.*

Summary of disability and dependants' pensions

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

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1974-75

		1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a)	Korea and Malaya operations	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Serving Members	Total
New claims granted	No.	269	8,683	371	114	1,573	283	11,293
Restorations	No.	15	2,806	98	18	46	..	2,983
Claims disallowed(b)	No.	170	2,802	53	5	322	555	3,187
Pensions cancelled (gross)	No.	79	17,651	794	110	461	15	19,110
Deaths of pensioners	No.	4,959	7,523	52	6	34	..	12,574
Pensions in force at 30 June 1975	No.	58,548	424,913	11,173	2,125	16,725	340	(c)513,824
Annual pension liability at 30 June 1975	\$'000	77,593	246,598	3,189	431	3,041	79	330,931
Amount paid in pensions during the year 1974-75	\$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	314,058

(a) Includes Interim Forces. (b) Number of veterans who had their claims for all their disabilities disallowed.
(c) At 30 June 1975 includes 12,494 student children over 16 years of age.

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA

	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
New claims granted . . .	16,437	13,041	17,849	12,672	11,293
Restorations	569	240	2,254	2,356	2,983
<i>Total additions</i>	<i>17,006</i>	<i>13,281</i>	<i>20,103</i>	<i>15,028</i>	<i>14,276</i>
Pensions cancelled (gross) . . .	20,158	17,826	15,619	18,149	19,110
Deaths of pensioners	11,990	12,124	11,674	11,642	12,574
<i>Total reductions</i>	<i>32,148</i>	<i>29,950</i>	<i>27,293</i>	<i>29,791</i>	<i>31,684</i>

Classes of disability and dependants' pensions

The following tables provide an analysis of the total number of new claims granted, pensions in force, and class of pension for 1974-75.

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA, 1974-75

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War(a) operations	Korea and Malaya	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Serving Members	Total
Veterans	42	1,884	59	18	216	104	2,323
Wives and widows of veterans	102	2,585	65	22	352	73	3,199
Children	9	4,121	245	73	999	106	5,553
Other dependants	116	93	2	1	6	..	218
Total	269	8,683	371	114	1,573	283	11,293

(a) Includes Interim Forces.

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS IN FORCE: AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1975

Class	1914-18 War	1939-45 War(u) operations	Korea and Malaya	Far East Strategic Reserve	Special Overseas Service	Serving Members	Total(b)
Veterans	15,507	176,441	3,479	609	5,700	132	201,868
Wives	22,046	158,887	2,811	509	4,259	83	188,595
Children	192	53,860	4,510	938	6,333	113	65,946
War widows	20,533	29,269	172	32	123	6	50,135
Children of deceased veterans	21	2,087	102	26	230	6	2,472
Orphans	3	112	6	..	1	..	122
Parents	19	3,643	84	9	77	..	3,832
Others	227	614	9	2	2	..	854
Total	58,548	424,913	11,173	2,125	16,725	340	513,824

(a) Includes Interim Forces. (b) Includes 12,494 student children over 16 years of age.

DISABILITY PENSIONS FOR INCAPACITATED VETERANS IN FORCE: BY CLASS OF PENSION AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1975

Class	1914-18	1939-45	Korea and Far	Far	Special	Serving Members	Total
	War	War(a)	Malaya operations	East Strategic Reserve	Overseas Service		
Special Rate (T. & P. I.) or equivalent	4,231	13,794	140	7	37	3	18,212
Intermediate Rate	129	1,724	18	3	5	..	1,879
General Rate—from 10 per cent to 100 per cent assessed disability(b)	11,147	160,923	3,321	599	5,658	129	181,777
Total	15,507	176,441	3,479	609	5,700	132	201,868

(a) Includes Interim Forces. (b) Excludes 80 veterans who also receive benefits under items 1-6 of Schedule 5 and are included above under Special Rate (T. & P.I.) or equivalent.

Number of disability and dependants' pensions and annual liability, States, etc.

The following table shows the number of pensions in force and annual liability at 30 June 1975, according to place of payment.

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, 30 JUNE 1975

Place of payment	Number of disability and dependants' pensions in force at 30 June 1975(a)			Total	Annual pension liability at 30 June(b) (\$'000)
	Incapacitated veterans	Dependants of incapacitated veterans	Dependants of deceased veterans		
New South Wales(c)	72,751	88,662	21,205	182,618	122,137
Victoria	52,063	67,196	15,837	135,096	87,875
Queensland	32,541	42,419	7,975	82,935	53,119
South Australia(d)	18,682	23,545	4,866	47,093	27,614
Western Australia	16,737	20,958	4,026	41,721	23,197
Tasmania	8,219	11,231	2,013	21,463	14,520
Overseas	875	1,326	697	2,898	2,469
Total	201,868	255,337	56,619	513,824	330,931

(a) Includes Interim Forces 1939-45 War. (b) Includes domestic allowance payable to widows. (c) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (d) Includes Northern Territory.

Summary of disability and dependants' pensions, 1970-71 to 1974-75

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 1971 to 1975.

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA

Year	Number of disability and dependants' pensions in force at 30 June(a)					Total	Annual pension liability at 30 June(c) (\$'000)
	Pensions granted	Claims disallowed (b)	Incapacitated veterans	Dependants of incapacitated veterans	Dependants of deceased veterans		
1970-71	16,437	5,110	218,355	291,828	59,356	569,539	185,974
1971-72	13,041	4,957	215,483	278,392	58,949	552,824	196,897
1972-73	17,849	3,853	211,356	276,043	58,269	545,668	227,351
1973-74	12,688	3,680	206,865	266,918	57,491	531,274	272,094
1974-75	11,302	3,187	201,868	255,337	56,619	513,824	330,931

(a) Includes Interim 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 1970-71 to 1974-75, the amounts paid in pensions and the places where they were paid.

DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID^(a)
(**\$'000**)

<i>Place of payment</i>	<i>1970-71</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1974-75</i>
New South Wales ^(b)	68,992	76,791	81,599	91,874	115,502
Victoria	52,546	57,357	60,739	67,329	83,673
Queensland	30,813	34,183	36,821	41,174	50,685
South Australia ^(c)	15,722	17,270	18,405	20,962	26,525
Western Australia	13,114	14,384	15,428	17,338	21,812
Tasmania	8,226	9,089	9,851	11,176	13,698
Overseas	1,595	1,573	1,646	1,832	2,162
Total	191,008	210,647	224,489	251,685	314,058

(a) Includes domestic allowances paid to widows.
(c) Includes Northern Territory.

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

Miscellaneous disability and dependants' 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* 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 1975, and the table thereafter shows the amounts paid during the years 1970-71 to 1974-75 and the place of payment.

MISCELLANEOUS DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS: NUMBER OF PENSIONS AND ANNUAL LIABILITY, AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1975

<i>Class</i>	<i>Number of pensions in force at 30 June 1975</i>			<i>Total</i>	<i>Annual pension liability at 30 June^(b) (\$'000)</i>
	<i>Veterans^(a)</i>	<i>Dependants of veterans</i>	<i>Dependants of deceased veterans</i>		
Act of grace	112	130	53	295	246
Seamen's war pension	64	70	52	186	164
New Guinea civilians	3	..	59	62	150
Total	179	200	164	543	560

(a) 'Veterans' in this context is a person in respect of whose war-time experience a pension is paid. (b) Includes domestic allowances payable to widows.

MISCELLANEOUS DISABILITY AND DEPENDANTS' PENSIONS^(a)
(**\$'000**)

<i>Place of payment</i>	<i>1970-71</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1974-75</i>
New South Wales ^(b)	179	214	216	212	286
Victoria	90	107	124	130	164
Queensland	50	62	72	71	108
South Australia ^(c)	32	36	46	47	58
Western Australia	26	29	34	25	33
Tasmania	4	5	5	6	9
Overseas	1	1	1	1	1
Total	382	454	498	492	659

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

(b) Includes Australian Capital Territory.

Service pensions

The *Repatriation Act* 1920 provides for a service pension to be paid (subject to a means test on income and property, where the person is neither blind nor at least 70 years of age), to the following persons:

- male veterans who suffer from pulmonary tuberculosis or 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;
- female veterans 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;
- veterans of other British Commonwealth Forces who served outside the country of enlistment or within that country if a campaign medal has been awarded in respect of such service. Ten years residence in Australia is a necessary qualification.

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 6 May 1976, the maximum weekly rates are as follows:

Standard Rate, \$41.25, *Married Rate*, \$34.25; *Guardian's Allowance*, \$4 (\$6 if caring for a child under 6 years or an invalid child requiring full-time care); *Supplementary assistance*, \$5 (or \$2.50 payable to each of a married couple); *Additional pension for eligible children*, \$7.50 for each child.

A veteran in receipt of a service pension is entitled, with certain exceptions, to free medical benefits for disabilities not service-related. 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.

SERVICE PENSIONS, SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA, 1974-75

	<i>South African War</i>	<i>1914-18 War</i>	<i>1939-45 War</i>	<i>Korea-Malaya operations</i>	<i>Special Overseas Service</i>	<i>Miscellaneous (a)</i>	<i>Total</i>
New claims granted . . . . .	..	944	22,063	109	9	48	23,173
Restorations . . . . .	..	44	367	1	..	2	414
Cancellations (gross) . . . . .	..	735	3,179	16	4	6	3,940
Deaths	6	3,107	3,318	9	3	4	6,447
Pensions in force at 30 June 1975	40	28,892	92,259	390	15	130	121,726
Annual liability at 30 June 1975							
\$'000	57	43,765	136,751	581	20	190	181,364
Amount paid in pensions during 1974-75 \$'000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	155,207

(a) Act of grace pensions.

SERVICE PENSIONS: SUMMARY, AUSTRALIA

	<i>1970-71</i>	<i>1971-72</i>	<i>1972-73(a)</i>	<i>1973-74</i>	<i>1974-75</i>
New claims granted	10,321	10,349	24,888	23,229	23,173
Restorations	680	794	1,384	641	414
<i>Total additions</i>	<i>11,001</i>	<i>11,143</i>	<i>26,272</i>	<i>23,870</i>	<i>23,587</i>
Cancellations (gross)	3,378	5,098	2,538	5,793	3,940
Deaths	5,276	5,135	5,238	5,692	6,447
<i>Total reductions</i>	<i>8,654</i>	<i>10,233</i>	<i>7,776</i>	<i>11,485</i>	<i>10,387</i>

(a) The increased number of new claims granted and restorations in 1972-73 were partly due to easing of the means test and to an ageing population of ex-service personnel.

Class of service pensions

The following tables give an analysis of the total number of new claims granted and pensions in force for 1974-75.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NEW CLAIMS GRANTED, AUSTRALIA 1974-75

Class	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea-Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Miscellaneous	Total
Veterans	636	12,851	75	5	29	13,596
Wives and widows of veterans	308	9,211	34	4	19	9,576
Children	1	..	..	..	1
Total	944	22,063	109	9	48	23,173

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER IN FORCE, 30 JUNE 1975

State	South African War	1914-18 War	1939-45 War	Korea-Malaya operations	Special Overseas Service	Miscellaneous	Total
New South Wales(a)	11	9,130	29,489	143	7	43	38,823
Victoria	13	8,438	23,013	71	4	36	31,575
Queensland	5	4,457	17,480	87	3	24	22,056
South Australia(b)	4	3,277	8,674	20	1	17	11,994
Western Australia	4	2,499	9,256	47	..	8	11,815
Tasmania	3	1,088	4,265	17	..	2	5,370
Overseas . . . . .	..	3	82	5	..	..	93
Total	40	28,892	92,259	390	15	130	121,726

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) 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 1970-71 to 1974-75.

SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER OF EACH CLASS OF PENSION AND ANNUAL LIABILITY AUSTRALIA

Year	Number of service pensions at 30 June payable to—							Annual pension liability at 30 June (\$'000)	
	Veterans who are—			Dependants(a) of veterans where the veteran is—					
	Aged veterans	Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis	An Aged veteran	Permanently unemployable	Suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis	Miscellaneous		
1970-71	38,666	18,122	1,201	1,017	16,729	1,030	43	76,808	43,334
1971-72	39,657	17,668	1,203	1,186	16,922	1,028	49	77,713	51,432
1972-73	47,430	19,121	1,333	9,488	17,617	1,065	71	96,125	82,011
1973-74	56,069	19,182	1,416	15,512	15,384	852	(b)90	108,505	119,181
1974-75	62,443	19,292	1,425	22,115	15,432	889	(b)130	121,726	181,364

(a) Includes dependants of deceased service pensioners.

(b) Includes British Commonwealth veterans.

NOTE. See footnote (a) last table previous page.

SERVICE PENSIONS: AMOUNT PAID
(S'000)

<i>Place of payment</i>	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75
New South Wales(a)	13,963	15,633	23,011	33,105	49,985
Victoria	10,696	12,075	18,033	26,532	40,180
Queensland	8,042	9,150	13,567	19,070	28,033
South Australia(b)	4,651	5,185	7,467	10,340	15,133
Western Australia	4,769	5,298	7,394	10,191	15,149
Tasmania	1,604	1,841	2,827	4,356	6,669
Overseas	7	12	17	32	58
Total	43,732	49,194	72,316	103,626	155,207

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

Medical treatment for veterans and dependants of veterans

Medical treatment is provided for all disabilities which have been accepted as being service-related. In addition and subject to certain conditions, treatment is provided for disabilities not due to war service for: veterans receiving disability pensions at or exceeding the maximum general (100 per cent) rate; veterans who have contracted pulmonary tuberculosis; veterans of the First World War including nurses; widows and certain dependants of veterans whose deaths have been accepted as service-related and of deceased T. & P.I. pensioners; and certain service pensioners, including service pensioners of the South African 1899-1902. Veterans who have contracted pulmonary tuberculosis may receive treatment for that condition. During 1972-73 nursing home-care benefits were extended to T. & P.I. and Intermediate Rate disability pensioners suffering from chronic non-service related disabilities and to war and defence widows, widowed mothers and First World War nurses.

Treatment is provided at the six Repatriation General Hospitals (one in each State) and five auxiliary hospitals and an ANZAC hostel in Victoria. The total number of available beds for patients in wards of parts of wards, open for use in all these institutions at 30 June 1975 was 3,508 and expenditure during 1974-75 amounted to \$75,061,851. In addition expenditure of \$85,786,766 was incurred during 1974-75 on medical services outside these institutions.

Community patients. Where spare bed capacity exists in the Repatriation General Hospitals, patients may be admitted from the general community (mainly veterans with conditions that are not service-related, hospital staff and the local community).

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
30 JUNE 1975

<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(a)	170	93	52	31	22	12	380
Nursing staff	815	497	417	278	257	59	2,323
Other staff	1,278	901	539	407	480	137	3,742
<i>Total, general hospitals</i>	<i>2,263</i>	<i>1,491</i>	<i>1,008</i>	<i>716</i>	<i>759</i>	<i>208</i>	<i>6,445</i>
Other in-patient institutions(b)	274	138	234	29	54	..	729
Out-patient clinics(b)	178	76	22	32	31	..	339
Limb and appliance centres(b)	86	77	32	22	15	13	245
Grand total	2,801	1,782	1,296	799	859	221	7,758

a) Medical Officers only, excludes psychologists, speech therapists, etc.

(b) 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 treatment episodes, e.g. a person who is admitted to hospital twice during a year is counted twice.

**REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS: IN-PATIENTS
TREATED, 1974-75**

	<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	887	446	454	292	338	98	2,515
Admissions and re-admissions during year	17,160	10,147	9,925	5,815	7,198	1,621	51,866
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>18,047</i>	<i>10,593</i>	<i>10,379</i>	<i>6,107</i>	<i>7,536</i>	<i>1,719</i>	<i>54,381</i>
Discharges	16,152	9,231	9,608	5,443	6,790	1,541	48,765
Deaths	982	860	391	383	409	94	3,119
In-patients at end of year	913	502	380	281	337	84	2,497
Average daily beds occupied	847	464	404	267	314	82	2,377
OTHER REPATRIATION INSTITUTIONS							
In-patients at beginning of year	192	115	149	..	41	..	497
Admissions and re-admissions during year	2,291	912	1,054	55	248	..	4,560
<i>Total in-patients treated</i>	<i>2,483</i>	<i>1,027</i>	<i>1,203</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>5,057</i>
Discharges	2,153	863	976	31	241	..	4,264
Deaths	137	59	75	1	9	..	281
In-patients at end of year	193	105	152	23	39	..	512
Average daily beds occupied	189	100	144	12	41	..	486

In addition to the Repatriation institutions, eligible patients are treated in other country and metropolitan hospitals and nursing homes at Repatriation expense. During 1974-75, 22,387 Repatriation in-patients were accommodated and treated in hospitals and 8,209 in nursing homes.

Repatriation psychiatric patients requiring custodial care are, by agreement with the State Governments, accommodated at the expense of the Department of Repatriation in separate wings of psychiatric hospitals administered by the State authorities. Excluding 66 on trial leave, there were 690 Repatriation patients in these hospitals at 30 June 1975.

Out-patient treatment is provided throughout Australia at Repatriation hospitals and clinics and through the Repatriation Local Medical Officer Scheme. During 1974-75, 635,290 out-patients were treated at Repatriation institutions, and visits to or by local medical officers totalled 2,651,338. The number of Repatriation local medical officers in Australia at 30 June 1975 was 6,717.

Artificial limb and appliance services

In each State the Department of Repatriation 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 Government 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 1974-75 are as follows: arms, 304; legs, 2,365; surgical and adapted footwear, 7,731; other surgical appliances, 1,614; and repairs, 28,925.

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 veterans and their dependants.

These include educational training schemes, namely the *Soldiers' Children Education Scheme* (full details of which appear later in this section).

In addition, gift cars and an annual allowance for their upkeep are provided for veterans who, as a result of 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 \$100 may be made towards the funeral expenses of eligible veterans and certain of their dependants. Payment of up to \$10 may be made to provide such necessities as meals, sleeping accommodation, etc., for veterans in need of immediate relief. Also certain concessions in telephone rental charges are provided for some classes of veterans and their dependants, including blinded veterans, war and defence widows and certain service and Special Rate disability pensioners. Veterans who have been blinded as a result of service may be issued with talking book machines. The Australian Red Cross Society supplies 'book' records or cassettes for these machines, free of charge, thus enabling the blinded to enjoy a wide range of literature.

Expenditure in 1974-75 on general Repatriation benefits for all wars was \$7,680,000, comprising Soldiers' Children Education Scheme, \$3,667,000; recreation transport allowance, \$861,000; and other benefits \$3,156,000.

Trust (and other) funds administered by the Department of Repatriation held \$15,904,800 in securities (face value) and \$1,083,935 in cash, a total of \$16,988,735 at 30 June 1975.

Reciprocal arrangements with the United Kingdom, New Zealand and other countries provide for the payment of pensions, etc. to eligible Australian veterans living overseas and to eligible veterans from overseas who are living in Australia.

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 veterans. 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 veterans whose deaths have been accepted as service-related; or of veterans who died from causes not service-related but who were receiving at the date of death a disability pension at a Special Rate for blindness, total and permanent incapacity, pulmonary tuberculosis, or amputation of two or more limbs; or of veterans who, as a result of 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 until the child reaches twelve years of age, school requisites and fares are provided. From the commencement of secondary education or from the age of twelve years, whichever is earlier an education allowance is payable while the child is undertaking primary or secondary education. Assistance beyond 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, FROM 1 JANUARY 1975 (\$)

<i>Type of training</i>	<i>Living at home</i>	<i>Living away from home</i>
At school—		
Aged 12 and under 14 years	3.70	12.15
Aged 14 „ „ 16 years	5.55	12.15
Aged 16 „ „ 18 years	12.15	18.80
Professional (university, etc.)	19.23	30.77
Agricultural . . . . .	. . .	6.10
Industrial (apprenticeship, etc.)	4.45	8.80

The following tables show the costs of education under the scheme for the year ended 30 June 1975 and the number of children in receipt of benefit at 30 June 1975.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: EXPENDITURE, 1974-75
(\$'000)

	N.S.W.(a)	Vic.	Qld	S.A.(b)	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.
Cost of education of beneficiaries—							
Under 12 years of age	4	4	5	1	1	1	16
12 years of age and over	1,429	942	569	354	199	153	3,646
Total expenditure	1,433	946	574	355	200	154	(c)3,662

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Excludes overseas expenditure of \$20,000.

SOLDIERS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME: NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFITS(a)
AT 30 JUNE 1975

Type of training	N.S.W. (b)	Vic.	Qld	S.A. (c)	W.A.	Tas.	Over- seas	Total
At school—								
Aged under 14 years(d)	432	249	203	88	66	75	7	1,120
Aged 14 and under 16 years	581	391	301	123	74	107	6	1,583
Aged 16 and under 18 years	468	364	150	114	62	40	12	1,210
Total at school	1,481	1,004	654	325	202	222	25	3,913
Professional	532	372	230	145	74	47	9	1,409
Agricultural . . . . .	..	..	..	2	3	..	..	5
Industrial . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Grand total	2,013	1,376	884	472	279	269	34	5,327

(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 Chapter 22, Rural Industry.

Re-establishment benefits for former regular and former national servicemen

Subject to prescribed conditions, vocational training and business loans are provided for former regular and former national servicemen, with a view to ensuring that they are not at a disadvantage when they return to civil life. Loans from \$5,000 (business and professional) and \$10,000 (agricultural) may be granted to veterans in these categories who satisfy prescribed requirements in respect of suitability of their proposed business propositions and adequacy of security. Agricultural loans are administered by the Department of Primary Industry.

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 1975 was \$11,058,551. 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 veterans, and that the balance of the Fund should be used to provide relief for veterans and their dependants in necessitous circumstances.

The Fund is administered by ten 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 veterans who are eligible for benefits, and for their dependants; benefits for children of eligible veterans who are suffering from serious and incapacitating afflictions; and education benefits for the children of eligible veterans. 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 1975 was \$13,897,840 (\$409,403 during 1975) distributed as follows: *Welfare relief*, \$4,335,935 (\$155,051); *Assistance for afflicted children*, \$344,609 (\$2,092); and *Educational assistance*, \$9,217,296 (\$252,260).

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

Ex-service personnel, widows and children

In November 1971, a survey based on the quarterly population survey (*see* Chapter 20, Employment and Unemployment) was conducted at the request of the Department of Repatriation and the Services Canteens Trust Fund. The survey questions were designed to identify four classes of person, namely:

- (a) those who had served in the Australian armed forces during wartime;
- (b) those ex-service personnel who had a disability which had been accepted by the Repatriation Department as having been war-caused and those who were in receipt of a war pension;
- (c) widows of men who had served during wartime;
- (d) children, under 21 years of age, of ex-service personnel or their widows.

Details of the survey were published in Year Book No. 59, page 112 and the mimeographed bulletin *Ex-service Personnel, Widows and Children*, November 1971 (Reference No. 15.1).