

Social Security and Welfare

Contents	Page
COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICES	233
Payments for the retired	234
Payments for people with disabilities and the sick	235
Disability Support Pension	235
Sickness Allowance	235
Mobility Allowance	236
Child Disability Allowance	236
Other payments	236
Payments for the unemployed	236
Payments for families with children	237
Family allowance	237
Family allowance supplement	238
Sole parent pension	238
Jobs, Education and Training Program for sole parents	239
Child Support Scheme	240
Double orphan's pension	240
Provisions for special circumstances	240
Widowed person allowance	240
Class 'B' widow pension	241
Fringe benefits	241
Pharmaceutical allowance	242
Financial Information Service for pensioners	242
International agreements and payments of pensions abroad	242

Contents	Page
COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE THROUGH WELFARE ORGANISATIONS	242
Supported Accommodation Assistance Program	242
Crisis Accommodation — Youth Social Justice Strategy	243
Children's Services Program	243
Emergency Relief Program	245
People with disabilities	245
Home and Community Care Program	246
Hearing Services Program	248
Residential care for aged people	248
Future directions	249
Hostel funding	249
VETERANS' AFFAIRS	250
Benefits Program	251
Compensation Sub-program	251
Income-support Sub-program	253
Treatment for veterans and dependants of veterans	255
Repatriation General Hospitals	255
Repatriation Auxiliary Hospitals	256
Artificial limbs and appliances	256
Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service	257
The Office of Australian War Graves	257
HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE	257
Household expenditure	257
Household income	258
The effects of government benefits and taxes on household income	258
Income distribution	260
BIBLIOGRAPHY	265

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICES

On 1 July 1947, with the passage of the *Social Services Consolidation Act 1947*, all Acts providing social service benefits were amalgamated into the *Social Security Act*

1947. This Act was repealed and replaced with the *Social Security Act 1991* which commenced on 1 July 1991.

The main social security payments provided by the Commonwealth under the 1991 Act for 1991–92 and the date on which each payment came into effect are listed below.

8.1 SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS, 1991–92

<i>Type of payment</i>	<i>Amount paid in 1991–92 (\$m)</i>	<i>Date of operation</i>
The Retired		
Age Pension	9,680	1 July 1909
Wife's Pension	207	5 October 1972
Carer's Pension	37	1 November 1985
Pharmaceutical Allowance	—	1 November 1990
Bereavement Allowance	—	1 January 1990
People with Disabilities and the Sick		
Invalid Pension	1,008	15 December 1910
Disability Support Pension	1,748	12 November 1991
Sheltered Employment Allowance	36	30 June 1967
Rehabilitation Allowance	36	1 March 1983
Sickness Allowance	445	1 July 1945
Mobility Allowance	12	1 April 1983
Child Disability Allowance	104	15 November 1987
Wife's Pension	756	5 October 1972
Carer's Pension	89	1 November 1985
Pharmaceutical Allowance	—	1 November 1990
Bereavement Allowance	—	1 January 1990
The Unemployed		
Unemployment Benefit/Newstart Allowance	2,272	1 July 1945
Job Search Allowance	4,464	1 January 1988
Special Benefit	304	1 July 1945
Families with children		
Family Allowance	2,329	1 July 1941
Family Allowance Supplement	724	17 December 1987
Sole Parent Pension	3,057	1 March 1989
Double Orphan Pension	2	26 September 1973
Widowed Persons		
Widowed Person Allowance	1	1 March 1989
Class 'B' Widow Pension	566	30 June 1942

Source: Department of Social Security.

An outline of each of these social security payments and their conditions for eligibility is set out below. Certain changes were announced in the 1990–91 Budget regarding income support and related programs for people with disabilities (described in the section on the Disability Support Pension)

which took effect during 1991–92. As a result, some of the items in the above table were introduced, replaced or phased out during the year and the amount paid shown against them do not relate to a full year's operations. Details of eligibility for these payments are available in the Annual Reports and Program

Performance Statements of the Department of Social Security.

Payments for the retired

Age pension is payable to men and women who have reached the ages of 65 and 60 respectively. Age pension is generally subject to residence qualifications and income and assets tests.

A wife's pension is payable to the wife of an age (or invalid) pensioner when she is not entitled, in her own right, to an age or invalid pension or rehabilitation allowance. There is no residence qualification, but income and assets tests apply.

A carer's pension is payable to a person providing constant care and attention for a severely disabled age (or invalid) pensioner living in the same house or a neighbouring dwelling where the carer is not eligible for a pension in his or her own right. Carer's pension is also subject to the pension income and assets tests.

From 1 July 1993 a carer's pension is also payable to those caring for a person who is precluded from pension entitlement because of residence qualifications. Carers will be able to study or work for up to 10 hours a week while continuing to receive full pension. They will also gain access to the Jobs, Education and Training Program (JET).

Additional pension is payable, subject to the income and assets tests, for each dependent child under 16 years (at a higher rate for children aged 13-15) and dependent full-time students aged 16 to 24 years, who are not in receipt of a prescribed educational allowance (for example, AUSTUDY). Major reform of the families assistance system in 1992-93 will make the system simpler and more consistent, provide greater assistance to low and middle income families, and stronger incentives for work force participation.

Widowed or other unmarried age (or invalid) pensioners with a dependent child may, in addition, receive mother's/guardian's allowance. Rent assistance, combined with the basic pension or benefit rate is assessed under the general pension or benefit income and assets tests. It is available to pensioners if they pay private rent or pay for lodging, or board and lodging.

Pharmaceutical allowance is paid to all pensioners and to certain older long-term beneficiaries and allowees to compensate them for expenditure on pharmaceuticals purchased under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The amount paid to a social security recipient over the course of the year is equal to the level of the PBS concessional 'safety net' limit. The allowance is paid fortnightly but advance payments are available to those with high pharmaceutical usage and private income of less than \$10 a week (single) or \$20 a week (married).

Bereavement allowance is payable to eligible age, carer or invalid pensioners, in respect of the death of their spouse or the person receiving care. The allowance is equivalent to 14 weeks payment that would have been made to the spouse for that period. Allowances are available in lump sum form to assist with funeral and associated expenses. The estate of a deceased single pensioner is credited with one extra fortnightly instalment of pension following death.

From April 1993, age pensioners requiring small loans may use the Government sponsored Home Equity Loans Scheme for Aged Pensioners to access some of the savings tied up in their homes while retaining a sizeable proportion of the equity. Repayments will not have to be made until pensioners have permanently vacated their homes.

8.2 AGE PENSIONERS, 30 JUNE

Age (years)	1990	1991	1992
60-64	167,252	175,269	192,664
65-69	314,390	329,223	360,490
70-74	286,600	288,553	296,923
>74	572,226	582,804	596,091
Total	1,340,468	1,375,849	1,446,168
Number of wife's/ carer's pensioners	27,791	31,156	36,476
— \$'000 —			
Total payments during year(a)	8,182,453	9,207,544	9,924,404

(a) Includes allowances, rent assistance, and wife's pensions where applicable.

Source: Department of Social Security.

Payments for people with disabilities and the sick

Disability Support Pension. Major reforms announced in the 1990-91 Budget provided a new active approach to income support and related programs for people with disabilities. The Disability Reform Package (DRP) minimises work disincentives and provides opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in rehabilitation, labour market programs, education and employment and mainstream community activities. As part of the DRP initiatives, on 12 November 1991, the Disability Support Pension (DSP) replaced Invalid Pension (IP) and Sheltered Employment Allowance, Sickness Benefit was replaced by Sickness Allowance and Rehabilitation Allowance commenced to be phased out.

Eligibility for DSP is based on a minimum 20 per cent level of impairment and an inability to work at least 30 hours a week at full award wages in at least the next two years, due wholly or substantially to a physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment or permanent blindness. A reduced range of non-medical factors was also introduced to target the payment more clearly to those with a significant disability.

Claimants who are assessed as having an impairment rating over 10 per cent but below 20 per cent are able to request a second impairment assessment. This is in addition to the normal appeal rights that already exist.

Referrals to rehabilitation and training is undertaken by panels comprising Social Security Disability Support Officers and officers from the Commonwealth Employment Service and Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service.

Disability support pension is paid subject to an income and assets test — with the exception of permanently blind persons who receive the payment free of any income or assets test — and disability support pensioners must satisfy residence requirements.

For those granted DSP from 12 November 1991 overseas portability of DSP will be limited to 12 months. The only exceptions will be pensioners with a severe disability and those moving to countries covered by relevant Social Security agreements.

A new payment structure for new grants to 16-20 year old disability support pensioners was also introduced and is closely aligned with unemployment assistance provisions to remove incentives for young people with disabilities to downgrade their employment potential.

8.3 DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSIONERS 30 JUNE

Age (years)	1990	1991	1992
16-19	7,808	7,700	8,303
20-39	63,874	68,110	84,843
40-59	164,261	173,807	197,206
>59	80,770	84,617	88,206
Total	316,713	334,234	378,558
Number of wife's/ carer's pensioners	95,839	99,548	108,788
	— \$'000 —		
Total payments during year(a)	2,679,752	3,095,780	3,584,246

(a) Includes allowances, rent assistance, and wife's pensions where applicable.

Source: Department of Social Security.

Sickness Allowance replaced Sickness Benefit on 12 November 1991. It is payable to people aged between 16 and age pension age who have a short-term incapacity for work due to sickness, illness or accident and as a result have lost income. They must be unable to work for more than eight hours a week at award wages. Payment of sickness allowance is generally limited to 12 months (except in certain special circumstances where payment can be extended to 24 months) to avoid long-term dependence on the payment and the weakening of links with the labour market.

Payment of Sickness Allowance is available to under 16 years olds who are over the school leaving age, who previously had an attachment to the work force and who are living independently of their parents or guardian.

Job Search and Newstart Allowances (JSA/NSA) recipients who become incapacitated for work for short periods stay on JSA/NSA rather than being transferred to Sickness Allowance. Persons undertaking a Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service program for at least six weeks are also eligible to receive Sickness Allowance.

The payment rates and income and assets testing arrangements for these payments are the same as those for JSA/NSA. A

pharmaceutical allowance of \$2.60 per week is also available to Sickness Allowance recipients.

8.4 SICKNESS BENEFIT/ALLOWANCE, YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE

	1990	1991	1992
Number of new benefits granted	116,000	121,300	159,002
June average number on benefit	79,195	71,397	44,172
Average number on benefit at end of each week during year	78,103	76,088	52,239
Amount paid during year (\$'000)	611,167	650,612	444,855

Source: Department of Social Security.

Mobility Allowance is paid free of income and assets tests to people with a disability over 16 years of age who are unable to use public transport without substantial assistance and who are engaged for a minimum of eight hours per week in vocational training (which is not a training program under the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service) or in gainful employment (including sheltered employment). Mobility allowance is not payable if a sales tax exemption has been received for a new motor vehicle purchased within the previous two years or where a person has received a 'gift' vehicle from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Child Disability Allowance may be paid to a parent or guardian (usually the recipient of family allowance) of a child under 16 years or a dependent full-time student aged 16 to 24 years who lives in the family home and requires substantially more care and attention than a child of the same age who does not have a disability. The child must be medically classified as having a physical, mental or psychiatric disability.

Child disability allowance is not payable for students aged 16–24 years receiving disability support pension or sole parent pension. It is payable in addition to family allowance and is not subject to an income or assets test. Residence criteria similar to that for family allowance apply.

As at June 1992, the total number of child disability allowance recipients was 50,800 paid in respect of 54,900 children. Total expenditure for 1991–92 was \$104 million.

Other payments. The following are also payable to people with disabilities or their

spouses or carers: wife pension, carer pension, additional pension for dependent children, pharmaceutical and bereavement allowances and rent assistance. Details of these have been included in the section, Payments for the Retired.

Payments for the unemployed

Until 30 June 1991, unemployment benefit was payable to unemployed persons aged between 18 and the eligibility age of the age pension, and job search allowance was payable to unemployed persons aged 16 to 17.

Unemployment benefit was replaced from 1 July 1991 by a new two payment structure under the Newstart strategy. Job search allowance is now payable to those aged 18 years and over who have been unemployed for less than 12 months and to unemployed people aged 16 and 17 (and to certain 15 year olds from 1 January 1991). Newstart allowance is payable to those who have been unemployed for a year or more and who are aged 18 years and over.

To be eligible for job search or Newstart allowances, a person must be unemployed and be capable and willing to undertake suitable paid work. A job search allowance or Newstart allowance recipient must also be registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service, must be taking reasonable steps to obtain work and must not be unemployed due to industrial action.

Income support under the new structure is subject to the same income and assets tests and generally the same eligibility requirements as the old job search allowance and unemployment benefit. Added requirements are

an enhanced activity test for all recipients and the Newstart activity agreement as a condition of receiving Newstart allowance.

Income support under the Newstart strategy is linked to active job search and participation in labour market programs designed to encourage an early return to the work force. Clients who approach 12 months unemployment must apply separately for the payment of Newstart allowance if they still require income support. The payment of Newstart allowance depends on the recipient entering into an activity agreement with the CES. The activity agreement sets out a course of action designed to improve the recipient's job prospects and is tailored to the needs of the client and the local labour market.

Recipients of job search allowance or Newstart allowance must be permanent residents of Australia. Eligibility is subject to an income test and an assets test. In addition, job search allowance for under 18 year olds considered

dependent on their parents is subject to tests on parental income and assets.

Special benefits may be granted to persons not qualified for any other payment but who are unable to earn a sufficient livelihood for themselves and their dependents and are in hardship. The rate at which special benefit is payable may not exceed the rate of job search or Newstart allowance that would have been paid if the claimant was qualified to receive either of those allowances.

Recipients of job search or Newstart allowance or special benefit may also be eligible for supplementary payments including additional payment for dependent children, guardian allowance, rent assistance or remote area allowance. Job search allowance or special benefit for under 18 year olds is payable at a higher rate to single young people who are homeless or have established independence from parental support.

8.5 UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (UB), JOB SEARCH AND NEWSTART ALLOWANCE (JSA/NSA), SPECIAL BENEFIT, YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE

	1990	1991	1992
UB/JSA/NSA			
Number of new benefits granted	725,000	1,242,200	1,677,320
June average number on benefit	419,785	676,705	851,831
Average number on benefit at end of each week during year	385,014	535,947	771,352
Special Benefit			
Number of new benefits granted	170,000	166,400	181,513
June average number on benefit	27,913	29,811	34,792
Average number on benefit at end of each week during year	26,463	30,021	34,895
	— \$'000 —		
Amount paid during year(a)			
UB/JSA/NSA	3,067,796	4,561,353	6,736,363
Special Benefit	214,767	261,748	304,105

(a) Includes additional allowances.

Source: Department of Social Security.

Payments for families with children

Family allowance is payable, subject to income and assets tests, to a person with dependent children under 16 years or dependent full-time students aged 16 to 24 years who are not in receipt of a pension, benefit or allowance in their own right or prescribed educational allowance. An additional allowance, also subject to income and assets tests, is payable in respect

of multiple (three or more) births until the children turn six years. Hardship provisions exist to assist those who do not meet the assets test but are in genuine hardship. Payments are usually made to the mother and are indexed each January to maintain their real value. Approved charitable, religious or government institutions are paid family allowance for children in their care.

Generally, to be granted an allowance the person and the child must be in Australia and

be Australian citizens, or have been given permission to remain in Australia permanently.

8.6 FAMILY ALLOWANCES, 30 JUNE 1992

Number of children and students in family	Number of families								
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
1	241,606	180,349	132,924	62,548	69,256	20,997	8,955	11,145	727,780
2	246,830	190,866	135,663	67,116	77,109	22,565	7,820	12,858	760,827
3	106,972	82,212	60,180	24,712	33,562	9,811	3,814	5,677	326,940
4	30,271	21,285	17,128	6,037	9,000	2,681	1,357	1,544	89,303
5	6,261	4,172	3,581	1,032	1,779	516	429	283	18,053
6	1,637	1,054	979	252	452	150	172	58	4,754
7	403	304	291	55	128	32	41	17	1,271
8	146	85	78	14	27	9	15	5	379
9	34	32	43	6	8	3	7	4	137
>9	13	14	22	4	5	1	4	1	64
Total families	634,173	480,373	350,889	161,776	191,326	56,765	22,614	31,592	1,929,508
No. of children in families	1,222,820	924,285	680,362	302,326	373,002	110,098	45,158	62,037	3,720,088
Amount paid during year (\$'000)	(a)795,814	584,135	446,903	193,629	234,217	68,568	5,767	(a)	2,329,028

(a) ACT expenditure included in NSW.

Source: Department of Social Security.

Family allowance supplement is paid in addition to family allowance and is subject to income and assets tests to low-income families with one or more children eligible for family allowance so long as they are not in receipt of any Commonwealth pension, benefit or allowance which provides additional payment for dependent children, and so long as the children of these families are not receiving means-tested Commonwealth payments. Levels of payment are age-related and are adjusted annually. Rent assistance is also available to recipients of family allowance supplement if they pay rent other than to a public housing authority. The number of families in receipt of family allowance supplement at 30 June 1992 was 241,241. The amount paid during the year 1991-92 was \$723,848 million.

From January 1993, Family allowance, Family allowance supplement, additional pension payments for children, guardian allowance and rent assistance for eligible families with children will be combined into a single integrated family payment. The system of family payments for children will be simplified and more of the assistance will be directed to the primary care-givers, usually mothers. Families will find it easier to apply for this assistance.

Sole parent pension amalgamates the former Class 'A' widow's pension and supporting parent's benefit, the two income support payments for people bringing up a child or children without a partner. All persons who were receiving either payment at 1 March 1989 were transferred to sole parent pension without any change to their eligibility.

Maximum rates are identical to those applying to age pension.

Sole parent pension may be paid to a person who has a 'qualifying child'. This is a child under 16 years or a child attracting child disability allowance, and who is:

- a natural or adopted child; and
- in the person's legal custody; or has been in the person's care and control for 12 months and likely to remain so permanently or indefinitely.

Sole parent pension may be paid to:

- a person who is not a member of a couple (including widowed, divorced, separated or unmarried persons);
- a person whose legal or de facto spouse has been in gaol for at least 14 days; and

- a person who is unable to live with his or her spouse or de facto spouse in the matrimonial home because of the spouse's or de facto spouse's long-term illness or infirmity.

To qualify for sole parent pension, clients must meet residency requirements and are expected to undertake action to obtain maintenance where it is reasonable to expect them to do so.

Sole parent pension is indexed six monthly. Persons receiving sole parent pension may also be eligible for additional pension for each dependent child, guardian allowance and rent assistance. Employment and education entry payments are also available.

See table 8.7 for statistics on sole parent pensioners.

Jobs, Education and Training Program for sole parents.

In conjunction with the Departments of Employment, Education and Training, and Health, Housing and Community Services, the Department of Social Security administers the Jobs, Education and Training (JET) program. The JET program was introduced in 1989 and provides an integrated program of assistance for sole parents in the form of individual counselling and support, and access to training, education, job search assistance and child care. Participation in the program is voluntary.

The JET program is open to all sole parent pensioners. Three groups are especially encouraged to take advantage of JET assistance: teenage sole parent pensioners, those who have received the pension for over a year and whose youngest child is at least six years old, and those who will lose eligibility for the pension within two years due to their youngest child turning 16 years.

An Employment Entry Payment of \$100 is available to sole parent pensioners who have been receiving the pension for more than 12 months and obtain permanent work earning more than \$400.00 (approximately) a fortnight.

Sole parent pensioners who study full or part time in AUSTUDY-approved courses may receive the AUSTUDY Education Supplement of \$30 a week and an annual Education Entry Payment of \$200.

From March 1993 access to the JET program is to be extended to Class 'B' widow pensioners and certain sole parents receiving special benefit. From July 1993 carer pensioners will become eligible for JET program assistance.

See table 8.8 for statistics on the JET program.

8.7 SOLE PARENT PENSIONERS, BY AGE AND TYPE, 30 JUNE

	1990	1991	1992
	— number —		
Age (years)			
Under 20	10,245	10,026	9,975
20-29	89,653	92,989	98,208
30-39	100,393	109,849	120,582
40-49	42,152	46,373	51,630
50-59	6,197	6,271	6,617
>59	246	212	216
Type of pensioner			
Females			
Unmarried mothers	47,845	49,623	52,625
Widows	9,940	9,412	9,052
Divorcees	22,817	20,208	18,025
Separated wives	138,645	153,478	170,214
Separated de facto wives	18,334	19,383	20,868

For footnotes see end of table.

8.7 SOLE PARENT PENSIONERS, BY AGE AND TYPE, 30 JUNE — *continued*

	1990	1991	1992
Males			
Widowers	805	864	976
Divorcees	953	1,102	1,232
Separated husbands	8,203	10,092	12,389
Separated de facto husbands	857	956	1,097
Other	487	602	750
Number of pensions	248,886	265,720	287,228
	— \$'000 —		
Total payments during year(a)	2,334,211	2,686,319	3,056,554

(a) Includes rent assistance and allowances.

Source: Department of Social Security.

8.8 JET PROGRAM

	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
SPPs entering JET program	13,252	31,919	46,823
Referred to the CES	9,211	20,245	29,086
Places in DEET training courses	4,658	9,531	12,471
Entering education	*1,200	3,481	8,552
Starting a job	*2,000	4,269	8,726

* Estimated.

Source: Department of Social Security.

Child Support Scheme. Stage 1 of the Child Support Scheme commenced in June 1988 with the establishment of the Child Support Agency (CSA) in the Australian Taxation Office. Under Stage 1 of the Scheme, maintenance orders and agreements made, registered or approved by the courts can be enforced by the CSA.

Stage 2 of the Scheme, which began on 1 October 1989, replaced the system of court ordered child maintenance. Instead, the custodian can apply to the CSA which will assess the amount of child support payable using a formula set out in legislation. Stage 2 is prospective in that it applies only to people who separate or have a child born on or after 1 October 1989.

Under both Stage 1 and Stage 2, the Agency can collect child support from liable parents and these payments are distributed to custodians on a monthly basis by the Department of Social Security. Alternatively, custodians can collect child support privately, providing it is at least the amount payable under the formula or court order. (Prior to 1 January 1993, DSS clients were required to have child maintenance payable under court orders or agreements collected by the Agency.)

Double orphan's pension

Double orphan's pension is payable free of income and assets tests to guardians of, or institutions caring for, children under 16 years, or dependent full-time students aged 16 to 24 years whose parents are both dead or one parent is dead and the other is missing, imprisoned or in an institution. The family allowance residence test applies. The pension may also be paid to persons caring for refugee children. The rate is indexed annually.

As at June 1992, there was a total of 1,404 recipients of double orphan's pension paid in respect of 1,783 children. Total expenditure for 1991-92 was \$2 million.

Provisions for special circumstances

Widowed person allowance was introduced from 1 March 1989 and replaced Class 'C' widow's pension.

Widowed person allowance provides short-term assistance for persons whose partners die, and who are not eligible for sole parent pension. It allows a period of adjustment to make funeral arrangements, settle financial matters or to seek employment. The allowance may be granted to a person who, immediately before his or her spouse's death, was either legally married or living in a de facto relationship with that person.

There is no age restriction on the payment of widowed person allowance but the allowance cannot be paid concurrently with another pension, benefit or allowance. Widowed persons with dependent children generally qualify for sole parent pension immediately.

The allowance is payable for up to 14 weeks after the date of the spouse's death, although payment can be extended if a widow is pregnant at the time of her spouse's death. Otherwise, the allowance is paid under the same conditions as other pensions.

Class 'B' widow pension. Gradual phasing out of the Class 'B' widow pension began from July 1987. From that date, no new grants were made except to women who were aged at least

50 at that date or at least 65 and received sole parent pension or one of its pre-runners which would have made them eligible before that date.

It was payable to a widow who was either at least 50 years of age or, after having reached the age of 45, ceased to receive a Class 'A' pension by reason of ceasing to have a qualifying child or student.

8.9 WIDOW PENSIONERS/WIDOWED PERSON ALLOWANCE, BY TYPE AND AGE, JUNE

	1990	1991	1992
	— number —		
Class 'B' widow pensioners			
Aged (years)			
Under 50	3,624	1,883	114
50-59	53,810	50,613	48,047
>59	21,291	21,628	20,905
Widowed person allowance	222	315	342
Total	78,947	74,439	69,408
	— \$'000 —		
Total payments during year(a)	553,743	577,256	566,551

(a) Includes payment to benevolent homes for maintenance of pensioners. It also includes rent assistance and allowances.

Source: Department of Social Security.

Fringe benefits

The Commonwealth Government provides eligible Department of Social Security clients with a range of fringe benefits. Eligibility for the various concessions is generally linked to possession of a Pensioner Health Benefits (PHB) card or, in the case of sickness beneficiaries, older long-term Newstart allowees and special beneficiaries, a Health Benefits (HB) card. The issue of a PHB card is subject to a special income and assets test. The benefits available to PHB card holders include:

- a range of concessional pharmaceuticals — all card holders pay \$2.60 a script up to a 'safety net' of \$135.20 per year;
- a telephone rental concession (to become telephone allowance from 1 July 1992) currently valued at \$51.80 a year;
- assistance to blind pensioners with costs of communication material received through the mail;

- reduced fares for Commonwealth government railway services;
- postal redirections concession; and
- free hearing aids and free assessments — from 1 November 1991, pensioners are charged an annual fee of \$25 to cover the repair and maintenance of hearing aids and supply of batteries.

The issue of an HB card has no separate income and assets test. The benefits available to HB card holders are as for PHB card holders except that HB card holders are ineligible for the postal redirection service and telephone allowance are available only to older Newstart allowees.

State and Territory Governments, local government authorities and private organisations also provide certain fringe benefits. The most valuable of these are public transport concessions and reductions in local government rates and utility payments such as energy.

There were 2,006,667 pensioners at 30 June 1992 with PHB cards entitling them to Commonwealth pensioner fringe benefits.

Pensioners who are not eligible for a PHB card are entitled to a Pharmaceutical Benefits Concession (PBC) card providing concessional pharmaceuticals. Newstart allowees, special beneficiaries, FAS recipients and other low income people (subject to an income test) receive a Health Care (HC) card entitling them to a range of pharmaceuticals at a concessional rate and limited non-Commonwealth concessions.

Seniors cards are currently provided to aged people (usually over 60 years) in all States and Territories except Northern Territory. These cards provide a range of State and private business concessions which vary between States/Territories.

Pharmaceutical allowance

Pharmaceutical allowance is paid to all pensioners and to certain older long-term beneficiaries and allowees to compensate them for expenditure on pharmaceuticals purchased under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). The amount paid to a social security recipient over the course of the year is equal to the level of the PBS 'safety net' limit. The allowance is paid fortnightly, but advance payments of the first ten instalments (a total of \$50) are available to those with high pharmaceutical usage and private income of less than \$10 per week. From January 1992, pension clients are able to receive advance payments of up to seven times the fortnightly rate of pharmaceutical allowance at any time if they meet the eligibility criteria. These criteria include continued eligibility for pharmaceutical allowance, and the expenditure on pharmaceuticals must not be less than the amount of pharmaceutical allowance received in the entitlement period.

Financial Information Service (FIS) for pensioners

The FIS in the Department of Social Security gives information that will help current and future pensioners improve their standard of living in retirement by using their own money to best advantage. FIS has branches with specialist staff in 20 Social Security Area Offices and 27 Social Security Regional Offices throughout Australia. In addition, it provides a visiting service to regional centres,

a telephone hotline and an interpreter service. FIS officers can provide advice on the social security, veteran's affairs and tax treatment of investments and information and discuss financial strategies and types of investments with clients and referral to appropriate financial counselling services. They do not recommend particular investments or arrange investments for clients.

International agreements and payment of pensions abroad

Age pensions and certain categories of pensions for sole parents, widows and wives can be transferred abroad without restriction. Other pensions are either not payable abroad at all, or payable for 12 months only.

Australia has bilateral agreements with Italy, Canada, Malta, Spain, The Netherlands and Ireland which ensure full social security coverage for people who have lived or worked in those countries as well as Australia. Both countries in these agreements pay a part or full pension to a person, reflecting the length of time the person lived or worked there. Agreements have been signed with Austria, Portugal and Cyprus with effect from late 1992 to early 1993.

Australia has older agreements with New Zealand and the United Kingdom which were originally based on a 'host-country pays' principle, but which are now in need of revision due to changes in the social security laws of all three countries. The renegotiation of the agreement with New Zealand has already commenced.

More than 50 per cent of Australia's migrant population come from countries with which Australia has an operating or negotiated social security agreement.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE THROUGH WELFARE ORGANISATIONS

Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP)

SAAP is a Commonwealth/State funded, State administered program which aims to provide a range of supported accommodation and related support services to assist people who are either

permanently homeless or temporarily homeless as a result of a crisis, to move to longer-term stable accommodation and eventually to assist them to achieve independent living. Examples include refuges, halfway houses and support services such as counselling, referral and advocacy services.

SAAP provides funds for equipment and recurrent costs for services. Capital housing funds for the program are available under the complementary Crisis Accommodation Program (CAP) within the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement.

8.10 SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING (\$ million)

	<i>Commonwealth</i>	<i>States</i>	<i>Total</i>
1989-90	72.9	48.1	121.0
1990-91	81.0	50.5	131.5
1991-92	90.3	69.9	160.2
1992-93	95.6	73.6	169.2

Source: Department of Housing, Health and Community Services.

Commonwealth capital funding provided under CAP in each of the above four years is \$39.655 million.

Crisis Accommodation — Youth Social Justice Strategy

This program is part of a four-year comprehensive package of measures aimed at assisting disadvantaged young people who are homeless and in crisis by offering a range of support services including accommodation.

Capital housing funds for this initiative are available under the Crisis Accommodation Program (CAP) within the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement.

8.11 CRISIS ACCOMMODATION FUNDING (\$ million)

	<i>Commonwealth</i>	<i>States</i>	<i>Total</i>
1989-90	2.2	2.2	4.4
1990-91	4.4	4.7	9.1
1991-92	5.2	5.2	10.5
1992-93	5.3	5.3	10.6

Source: Department of Housing, Health and Community Services.

As an extension of the Youth Social Justice Strategy, the Federal Government announced a new initiative for homeless young people in August 1992. Called the Job Placement and Employment Training (JPET) program, the Federal Government will provide \$10 million over two years to assist young homeless people move into meaningful employment while being supported in their housing, income, health and personal needs.

For further information on other government funded housing assistance programs, see the section on Commonwealth and State government housing assistance and housing in the chapter on Construction and Housing.

Children's Services Program

The goal of the Children's Services Program is to assist families with dependent children to participate in the work force and the general community by ensuring that child care is affordable for low and middle income families and by improving the supply and quality of child care.

The Program's three main objectives are to improve the supply, affordability and quality of child care. These objectives are being achieved as follows.

Since 1983, the number of funded child care places has increased from 46,000 to almost 193,000 in June 1992. These comprise 40,300 community long day care places, 53,200 private long day care places, 45,500 family day care places, 4,100 occasional care places, 1,600 Multifunctional Centre and Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Service places, and 48,200 outside school hours care places.

8.12 CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE WHO USED FORMAL CARE, NOVEMBER 1990

<i>Type of formal care</i>	<i>Number</i>
Before or after school care program	43,996
Preschool/kindergarten	267,227
Long day care centre	113,075
Family day centre	78,062
Other formal	57,351
Total(a)	530,441

(a) Sum of individual counts exceed the total because some children use more than one type of formal care.

Source: ABS Child Care Survey, November 1990.

**8.13 FAMILIES WHO USED FORMAL CHILD CARE: TYPE OF CARE
BY COMBINED FAMILY INCOME, NOVEMBER 1990**

Type of formal child care	No income	Less than \$159	\$160 to \$319	\$320 to \$479	\$480 to \$639	\$640 to \$799	\$800 and over	Don't know	Total
Before and after school care program	**	**296	3,005	3,540	3,810	2,088	21,424	2,794	36,957
Preschool/kindergarten	2,047	4,602	32,146	47,820	49,529	37,328	81,763	16,947	272,182
Long day care centre	**	1,331	10,949	17,923	12,966	15,311	40,015	2,124	100,618
Family day care	**308	1,519	8,909	8,908	7,104	5,736	23,135	3,743	59,362
Other formal care	**263	**523	5,650	7,812	7,828	7,036	16,583	1,821	47,516
Total(a)	2,618	7,785	54,912	78,137	76,165	62,510	159,027	25,692	466,845
Percentage of families using formal care	0.6	1.7	11.8	16.7	16.3	13.4	34.1	5.5	100.0

(a) Sum of individual counts exceed the total because some children use more than one type of formal care.

** Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes.

Source: ABS Child Care Survey, November 1990.

Table 8.13 above shows the number of families, by income level, who used formal child care facilities in 1990.

In 1992-93, an estimated 27,000 additional places will be funded under the National Child Care Growth Strategy. Of these, 17,000 will be in long day care. By 1995-96 over 250,000 places will be funded under the Children's Services Program.

The Federal Government assists low and middle income families with their child care costs through an income related fee relief system. Child Care Fee Relief is available to eligible families using private and community based services. The threshold for maximum fee relief assistance is linked with the Family Allowance Supplement cut-off point and indexed annually. The introduction of an assets test with hardship provision in July 1993 will ensure that this assistance is targeted to those most in need.

It is estimated that in 1992-93, 135,000 low and middle income families will receive assistance with their child care costs through the fee relief system. It is expected that 45 per cent of these users will be eligible for maximum fee relief assistance.

The Federal Government is encouraging employers to become more involved in the provision of child care for their employees and provides Fringe Benefit Tax exemptions as incentives for employers. As a further initiative, from January 1993, fee relief assistance will be available for employer sponsored places in funded Family Day Care schemes (in addition to Long Day Care

centres) as part of the Government's efforts to encourage more employer sponsored child care.

Three independent Work and Child Care Advisory Services were established during 1991-92, one each in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. These services aim to make the process of employer provided care as smooth as possible by assisting employers, unions and staff to examine child care options and needs.

The Federal Government is committed to funding quality child care services which are well managed, responsive to families' needs, culturally relevant and developmentally appropriate for children.

The Government has supported quality child care through funding the provision of support, training and advice to services, including those providing services for children with special needs such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children with disabilities. Additional Commonwealth funding was provided in the 1992 Budget to enable commercial and employer sponsored centres, as well as community centres, to provide the extra level of care required for children with special needs.

Youth Activities Services for 11-16 year olds living in disadvantaged areas and Family Resource Centres, established to help local agencies improve the effectiveness and quality of services to families in high-need areas, are other major initiatives under this Program.

The Federal Government has also provided funding to the industry-based Interim National

Child Care Accreditation Council (which was formed in December 1991) to develop an accreditation system for child care centres.

Emergency Relief Program

The Emergency Relief (ER) Program provides funds, as supplementary grants to approved agencies, to be used for emergency financial assistance to families and individuals in crisis. Assistance is usually provided through cash relief, purchase vouchers or payments to creditors.

Reflecting the flexibility required to respond to the large number of individual crisis situations, funds under the ER program are delivered through some 900 established agencies operating through about 1,200 outlets Australia wide. These agencies are predominantly community based with the provision of emergency relief being only one part of a broader social welfare or community service role.

The allocation of funds throughout Australia takes into account the distribution of main client groups, in particular Social Security recipients and Aborigines.

8.14 EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS (\$)

1990-91	9,648,000
1991-92	14,342,000
1992-93	18,352,000

Source: Commonwealth Department of Housing, Health and Community Services.

People with disabilities

The *Disabilities Services Act 1986* was introduced to expand the opportunities for people with disabilities for integration into the Australian community. Under the Act, the Federal Government provides grants to a State or an eligible organisation for the provision of services to people with disabilities.

The kinds of services eligible for funding include accommodation support, respite care, independent living training and a range of employment services (including competitive employment training and placement and supported employment) and advocacy, information, recreation and print disability services.

In 1991-92 the Federal Government provided \$314.8 million to organisations to provide services to people with disabilities.

A census undertaken in March 1991 of services provided the following information on the numbers of people with disabilities accessing services classified into the following broad categories:

8.15 USAGE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

Service description	Number of services	Number of people with a disability
Employment	479	23,231
Accommodation	684	13,629
Community participation	255	43,404
Other	169	13,935
Total	1,587	94,199

NOTE: A person with a disability may be accessing more than one service.

Source: Commonwealth Department of Housing, Health and Community Services.

The Department of Health, Housing and Community Services administers the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (CRS) which provides vocational and social rehabilitation services for working age people with disabilities. The major criterion for acceptance into a rehabilitation program is the expectation of significant gain towards vocational or independent living goals.

Services are provided from and arranged through a network of some 150 regional locations in metropolitan and country locations.

Programs may include:

- employment, vocational mobility and other independent living, training and education courses;
- assessment services, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy and counselling services; and
- aids and appliances, and home, vehicle and workplace modifications, and associated accommodation and training allowances as appropriate, where required as part of a rehabilitation program.

In 1991-92, 25,786 people received rehabilitation assistance from the CRS. Expenditure on rehabilitation services in 1991-92 was \$97 million.

Home and Community Care Program (HACC)

HACC is jointly funded by the Commonwealth Government and the State and Territory Governments. HACC funds organisations and community groups which provide basic maintenance and support services for the frail aged and people with disabilities to enable them to remain living at home. Support is also provided to the carers of these people.

The Program aims to enhance the independence, security and quality of life of frail aged and younger people with disabilities by avoiding their inappropriate admission to long-term residential care. It achieves this by facilitating and promoting the development of cost-effective community care alternatives

which are appropriate and which can flexibly respond to individual needs.

Services funded under the Program include home help and personal care; home maintenance and modification; food services; community based care; transport services; community paramedical services; community nursing; assessment and referral; education and training for service providers and users; information and coordination.

Over 3,500 projects are funded throughout Australia, some providing a specific focus on the needs of younger people with disabilities, those with a non-English speaking background, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, those with dementia or the carers of the frail aged and younger people with disabilities.

8.16 HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE (HACC) EXPENDITURE(a), 1986-87 TO 1991-92 (\$ million)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Commonwealth</i>	<i>States/ Territories(b)</i>	<i>Total</i>
1986-87	135.4	104.0	239.4
1987-88	169.4	127.2	296.6
1988-89	205.1	145.0	350.1
1989-90	242.1	165.8	407.9
1990-91	278.9	188.3	467.2
1991-92	315.8	205.3	521.1

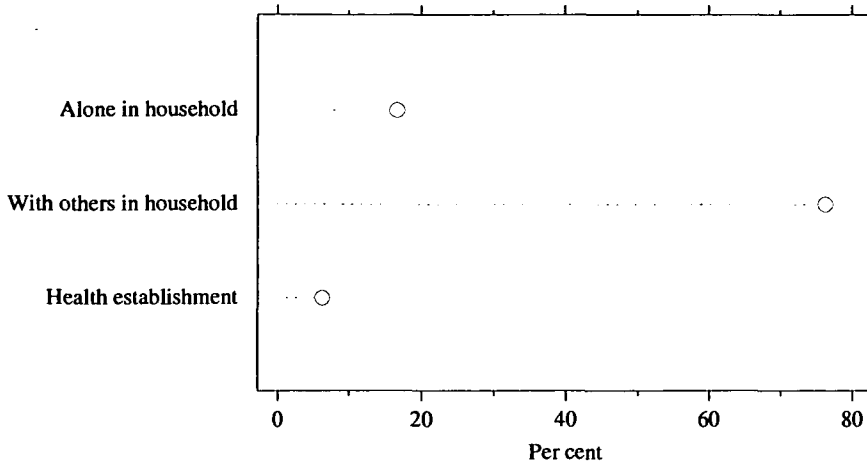
(a) Includes unmatched money and planning and development but excludes running costs. (b) Estimated expenditure required for matching Commonwealth outlays and may vary to the actual cash expenditure due to the effect of recoupments in respect of previous years.

Source: Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing and Community Services.

Graph 8.17 shows the living arrangements of disabled persons, with the majority (76.5%) living with others in the household, 16.9 per cent living alone and 6.5 per cent in health establishments.

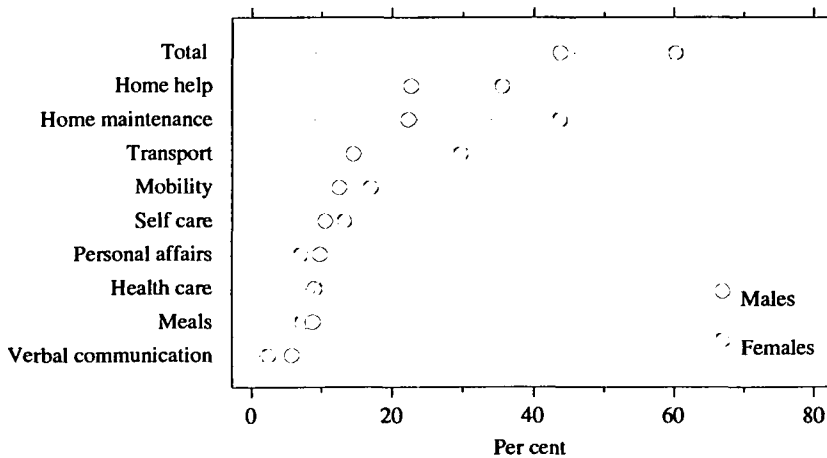
Graphs 8.18 and 8.19 show the types of activity for which disabled and aged persons surveyed reported a need for help. Home maintenance was the area that required the most help for both the disabled and the aged.

8.17 ALL DISABLED PERSONS: TYPE OF LIVING ARRANGEMENT, 1988



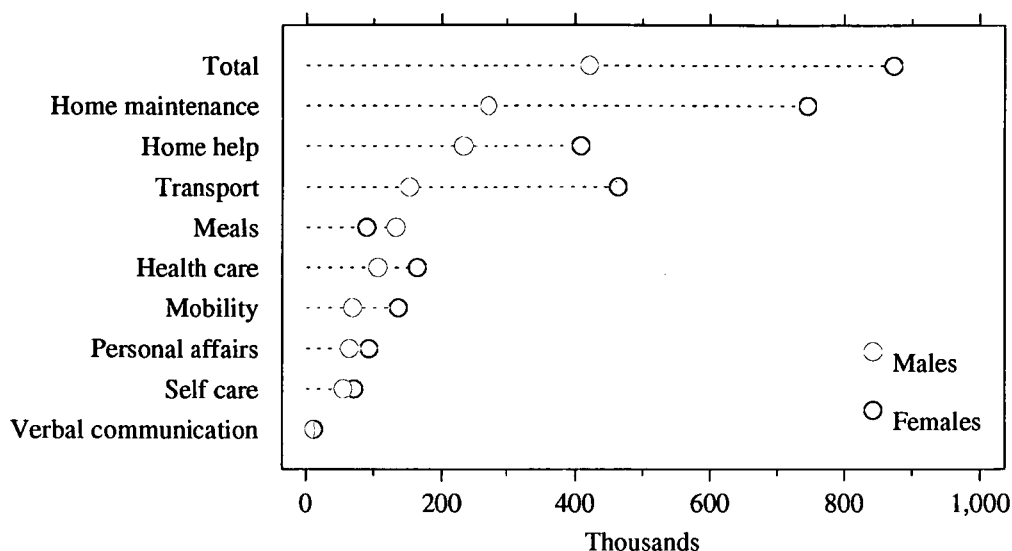
Source: *Disabled and Aged Persons, Australia, Preliminary Results, 1988 (4118.0)*.

8.18 ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH A DEMAND FOR HELP WAS REPORTED BY DISABLED PERSONS AGED 5 TO 59 YEARS LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS, 1988



Source: *Disabled and Aged Persons, Australia, Preliminary Results, 1988 (4118.0)*.

8.19 ACTIVITIES FOR WHICH A DEMAND FOR HELP WAS REPORTED BY PERSONS AGED 60 YEARS OR MORE LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS, 1988



Source: *Domestic Care of the Aged, Australia, 1988* (4121.0).

Hearing Services Program

The Hearing Services Program, through Australian Hearing Services (AHS), fits approximately 60 per cent of all hearing aids in Australia.

Eligible people include holders of Pensioner Health Benefits cards and their dependents, all persons under 21 years of age, Veterans' Affairs clients, referred clients of the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service and certain compensation claimants. Services are delivered through a network of 48 AHS Hearing Centres across Australia plus some 65 visiting centres in rural and remote areas.

The AHS Head Office at Chatswood provides equipment and training and develops procedures to support the delivery of services through the Hearing Centres. AHS staff also conduct noise and audiological research, evaluate new devices and techniques, advise on measures to prevent hearing loss and report

on environmental and occupational noise problems.

Residential care for aged people

The aim of the Commonwealth Government's Aged Residential Care Program is to ensure that frail aged people who are assessed as being unable to live at home have access to residential support and care services appropriate to their needs. Support is provided by the Commonwealth for two main types of residential care and assistance — nursing homes and hostels. Nursing homes provide services for people who need continuous professional nursing and personal care, while hostels provide a wide range of personal care and accommodation services for less dependent aged people.

Two key objectives of the aged residential care program are to provide a range of accommodation and care services to meet the assessed needs of aged people, and to promote their quality of life.

8.20 COMMONWEALTH EXPENDITURE ON NURSING HOMES AND HOSTELS, 1991-92 (\$ million)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	NT	Aust.
Nursing homes for aged (recurrent)	621.4	420.2	217.3	162.8	126.4	41.6	4.7	11.1	1,605.5
Hostels (recurrent)	71.8	58.0	49.3	27.8	19.2	5.6	0.8	1.9	234.4
Nursing homes and hostels (capital)	68.7	50.4	49.5	17.5	19.5	11.3	1.5	1.6	220.0

Source: Commonwealth Department of Housing, Health and Community Services.

8.21 APPROVED NURSING HOMES, HOSTELS AND BEDS AT 1 OCTOBER 1991

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	NT	Aust.
Approved nursing homes and beds for aged									
Nursing homes	491	420	198	155	113	53	6	6	1,442
Beds	29,061	16,841	11,988	7,077	6,107	2,166	545	173	73,958
Approved hostels and beds									
Hostels	371	280	220	144	140	38	11	8	1,212
Beds	16,272	12,151	10,336	5,855	4,563	1,155	512	120	50,964

Source: Commonwealth Department of Housing, Health and Community Services.

Future directions. As part of the 1986 Nursing Homes and Hostels Review the Government decided to reduce the reliance on nursing homes for aged care through the adoption of a needs based approach to the planning of services for the frail aged including the introduction of target ratios for nursing homes and hostels. The Government's aim is to provide 95 places per 1,000 persons aged 70 years and over across all States and Territories. The long-term target distribution within the 95 places per 1,000 is 40 nursing home and 55 hostel places.

The rationale behind the increased emphasis on the provision of hostel services is that hostels will increasingly be equipped to cater for more dependent frail aged people. In the past, before the uniform geriatric assessment program was introduced, many people were inappropriately admitted to nursing homes. Since 1986, substantial increases to the level of personal care subsidy have been provided as an incentive for hostels to cater for more dependent residents. Further, in April 1992 hostel personal care funding was restructured to provide increased funding to hostels to care for those people who have the greater care needs.

Improved community care is also proving a desirable and effective way of assisting frail elderly people who choose to remain in their own home.

Hostel funding. To facilitate the equitable redistribution of resources to alternative, less institutionalised forms of residential care, hostel resources have been substantially enhanced through capital and recurrent funding.

The Commonwealth Government has committed substantial resources to the expansion of hostel services as an integral part of its residential aged care program. Since 1986, the Government has raised the level of subsidy available for residents of approved age care hostels. In particular, the introduction of three levels of subsidy ranging from \$23.55 to \$29.85 in April 1992 was a major change in the way hostels are funded to provide for the range of care needs of their residents.

Major adjustments have also been made to the planning and funding mechanisms for hostels. Unnecessary restrictions on organisations' access to funds have been removed by allowing greater flexibility to raise funds themselves via borrowings and entry contributions from people with the capacity to contribute to the cost of their own accommodation.

Increasing the capacity of organisations to raise funds has allowed the Commonwealth to target capital subsidies to financially disadvantaged people and other disadvantaged groups more comprehensively. For example, significantly increased subsidies have been

made available to provide accommodation for financially disadvantaged members of the community. Indeed, the Commonwealth now pays a capital grant of up to \$52,550 for each hostel place which must be provided to a financially disadvantaged person.

The subsidy for general places varies depending on the proportion of financially disadvantaged people aged more than 70 in the area from which the hostel will draw its residents — the higher the percentage of financially disadvantaged residents, the higher the general place rate subsidy. This approach acknowledges that the greater the proportion of financially disadvantaged residents in a specific hostel population, the lower the number of people able to make an adequate entry contribution. Recurrent funding reflects this concern of the Government to ensure that less well off people can gain access to hostels and that hostels that provide places for financially disadvantaged people receive support. Care subsidies for financially disadvantaged people will be \$3.20 more than for non-financially disadvantaged residents, at all levels of care, from January 1993.

While the residential care program focuses mainly on long-term residential care, there are provisions under the program for assistance to those aged and disabled people who wish to stay in the community.

A number of pilot projects have illustrated the potential of such an approach in enabling those people with higher and more complex care needs and most at risk of needing residential care to remain in the community, through providing the necessary care services in the home. Given the suitability of this service model, the Government announced its commitment to develop Community Aged Care Services Packages as a service alternative in the aged care program. Over 100 places were available in 1992–93 for this initiative with provision for substantial growth in later years.

In addition, short-term or respite care is available which not only allows carers a break from their responsibilities, but also provides support for frail aged people who are caring for themselves.

Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefit (DNCB) is available to assist people who choose to care at home for a person who is very frail, or perhaps has severe dementia, someone with a

long-term illness or a person with a disability, who is assessed as requiring the level of care available in a nursing home.

The basic criteria for payment of the benefit are that the person being cared for must be aged 16 years or over, and live in the same residence as the carer. Certification must also be provided by a registered nurse that the carer is providing adequate continuing care.

From the first pay day in January 1993 DNCB will be increased by \$10 to \$52 per fortnight and thereafter the benefit will be indexed annually. The benefit will continue to be paid when the person being cared for is in overnight respite care for up to 42 days.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Repatriation Commission was established under the *Repatriation Act 1920*. With the repeal of that Act on 22 May 1986, the Commission has continued in existence under the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986*. At present, the Commission consists of three full-time members. The functions of the Commission are set out in section 180 of the *Veterans' Entitlements Act* and include:

- granting pensions, allowances and other benefits in accordance with the provisions of the Act;
- establishing, operating and maintaining hospitals and other institutions for the treatment of eligible persons;
- arranging the provision of treatment and other services for eligible persons;
- advising the Minister and providing him with information on matters relating to the Act;
- performing other functions conferred on the Commission by the Act or other Acts; and
- administering the Act subject to the control of the Minister.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs provides the administrative machinery through which the Commission operates. The central office of the Department is in Canberra. There is a branch office in the capital city of each State which is under the control of the Deputy Commissioner. Regional offices are located in Newcastle, Wollongong, Canberra, Ballarat, Townsville and Darwin.

Repatriation benefits are provided under the Veterans' Entitlements Act in respect of service with the Australian Defence Forces in World War I, World War II, Korean and Malayan operations, Australian contingent of the British Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve, Vietnam and South-East Asia conflict and for service in the Regular Defence Forces on or after 7 December 1972. Certain civilians may also be eligible for benefits, as are Australian members of certain designated peacekeeping, observing and monitoring forces who had peacekeeping service overseas. Under the *Papua New Guinea (Members of the Forces Benefits) Act 1957*, indigenous inhabitants of Papua New Guinea who served in the Australian Forces in World War II and members of the Royal Papuan Constabulary and New Guinea Police Force who served in that conflict are eligible for

compensatory type benefits. Australian mariners of World War II are eligible for compensation benefits under the *Seamen's War Pensions and Allowances Act 1940* and for income support benefits (service pension) subject to the conditions laid down in the Veterans' Entitlements Act. Members of other Commonwealth countries' forces and other allied veterans are not eligible for compensatory-type benefits in respect of their service, unless they were domiciled in Australia immediately before their enlistment. They may, however, qualify for income support payments such as the service pension.

The Annual Report of the Repatriation Commission provides more detailed information on Repatriation allowances, benefits and services.

8.22 VETERANS' AFFAIRS, TOTAL EXPENDITURE (\$'000)

Class	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Pensions, allowances and other benefits	2,766,858	3,111,508	3,180,025	3,393,270	3,674,453	3,766,548
Medical treatment(a)	778,111	511,986	526,932	575,053	662,717	719,051
Administration(b)	107,330	135,588	144,072	151,334	191,852	171,401
Works and maintenance	66,425	56,861	70,659	55,425	46,555	43,317
Total expenditure	3,718,724	3,815,943	3,921,688	4,175,082	4,575,577	4,700,317

(a) Excluding hospitals, including beneficiary transport. (b) Including property operating expenses.

NOTE: Expenditure figures exclude all operating expenses for the Repatriation General Hospitals, and all expenditure associated with the Defence Services Homes Corporation, the Australian War Memorial and Office of Australian War Graves. Total expenditure by the Veterans' Affairs Portfolio in 1991-92 was \$5,331,524,000.

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Benefits Program

The principal objective of the Benefits Program is to compensate veterans and their dependants for the effects of war or defence service. Benefits such as pensions and allowances are administered under two sub-programs, the Compensation Sub-program and the Income Support Sub-program. Housing related benefits are administered under the Housing Assistance Sub-program.

Compensation Sub-program. The main benefits provided under this sub-program are the disability pension and the war/defence widow's/widower's pension.

The disability pension is a compensatory payment for incapacity due to eligible war, defence or peacekeeping service. General rate

disability pensions range from 10 per cent up to and including 100 per cent, depending on the degree of war-caused or defence-caused incapacity. Higher rates of pension (intermediate rate and special rate) are payable if the degree of incapacity suffered from war or defence-caused injury or disease is determined to be at least 70 per cent and the veteran is totally and permanently incapacitated from accepted disabilities alone as to render him/her incapable of undertaking remunerative work for periods aggregating more than 20 hours per week for the intermediate rate or eight hours for the special rate.

An Extreme Disablement Adjustment, equal to 150 per cent of the general rate, is payable to severely disabled veterans who are 65 years of age or over.

The war/defence widow's/widower's pension is payable to the widow or widower of a veteran:

- whose death has been accepted as war-caused or defence-caused; or
- who at the time of his or her death was receiving or entitled to receive a special rate disability pension or the Extreme Disablement Adjustment.

As from 1 January 1993, war widow's/widower's pension is also available to the widows/widowers of former prisoners of war.

Orphan's pension is payable to the children of these veterans.

8.23 NUMBER OF DISABILITY AND WAR WIDOWS' PENSIONS

Recipient	30 June 1991	30 June 1992	Variation %
Veterans	159,579	157,790	- 1.1
Wife's and wife widows	99,269	94,729	- 4.6
Children	8,871	7,889	- 11.1
War widows	78,140	79,844	2.2
Orphans	601	561	- 6.7
Other dependants	1,091	1,055	- 3.3
Total	347,551	341,868	- 1.6

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

8.24 NUMBER OF DISABILITY PENSIONS FOR INCAPACITATED VETERANS, 30 JUNE 1992

Pension	World War I	World War II(a)	Korea, Malaya and FESR(b)	Special Overseas Service	Peace- time forces	Miscel- laneous	Total
General Rate — from 10% to 100% assessed disability	290	107,608	3,756	8,870	14,910	113	135,547
Intermediate Rate	1	789	29	68	62	2	951
Special Rate (T & PI or equivalent)	70	16,637	785	1,277	645	12	19,426
Extreme Disablement Adjustment	8	1,831	16	1	7	3	1,866
Total	369	126,865	4,586	10,216	15,624	130	157,790

(a) Includes Interim Forces. (b) Far East Strategic Reserve.

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

8.25 DISABILITY AND WAR WIDOWS' PENSIONS: NUMBER AND EXPENDITURE

Year	Number of disability pensions in force at 30 June				Annual expenditure(a) to 30 June (\$'000)
	Incapaci- tated veterans	Dependants of incapacitated veterans	Dependants of deceased veterans	Total	
1987	169,257	132,971	72,884	375,112	991,744
1988	166,830	125,821	75,029	367,680	1,091,764
1989	163,660	120,325	76,360	360,345	1,123,624
1990	161,546	114,625	77,911	354,082	1,219,647
1991	159,579	108,478	79,494	347,551	1,340,420
1992	157,790	102,953	81,125	341,868	1,396,192

(a) Includes associated allowances.

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

A number of specific need allowances are available to certain incapacitated veterans. They include attendant allowance, specific disability (section 27) allowance, clothing allowance, recreation transport allowance, vehicle assistance

scheme benefits, temporary incapacity allowance and loss of earnings allowance. Decoration allowance is also available. Various payments intended to assist with funeral and other bereavement expenses are also available.

8.26 SPECIFIC NEED ALLOWANCES

Benefit	Number of recipients at 30 June		
	1990	1991	1992
Attendant allowance	1,017	999	992
Section 27 (items 1-6)	64	58	60
Section 27 (items 7-15)	1,244	1,229	1,225
Clothing allowance	2,323	2,245	2,166
Recreation transport allowance	3,211	3,138	3,068
Decoration allowance	1,321	1,326	1,350
Vehicle assistance scheme	95	67	(a)62

(a) The data source has changed and previously published data are not comparable.

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The Veterans' Children Education Scheme provides assistance with education and training for the children of special rate disability pensioners and certain other incapacitated veterans and deceased veterans whose death has been accepted as war-caused or defence-caused or who were receiving special rate disability pension or a section 27 allowance (items 1-6) at the time of death. See tables 8.27 and 8.28.

Income-support Sub-program. The main benefit paid under this sub-program is the service pension. This is an income and assets tested pension similar to the age and disability support pensions payable by the Department of Social Security. The pension is payable to veterans with qualifying service at age 60 (males) or 55 (females). Veterans with qualifying service may be paid the pension at

any age if they are permanently incapacitated for work. Qualifying service generally means service in an area and at a time when danger from hostile enemy forces was incurred by the veteran.

Veterans of other Commonwealth and allied countries may also qualify for the service pension for service in wars or war-like conflicts in which Australia has engaged. Veterans of Commonwealth forces must have served outside the country of enlistment or be entitled to the award of a campaign medal for service within that country. Allied veterans must have served in formally raised forces. The veteran must be an Australian resident with at least ten years residency. Service pension is also available to Australian, other Commonwealth and allied mariners of World War II.

8.27 VETERANS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME, EXPENDITURE (\$'000)

Year	Cost of education of beneficiaries						
	NSW(a)	Vic.	Qld	SA(b)	WA	Tas.	Aust.
1986-87	1,674.0	1,093.0	951.4	324.1	367.0	221.3	4,630.8
1987-88	1,754.0	1,233.1	1,166.0	387.6	349.2	267.2	5,157.1
1988-89	1,568.9	1,017.6	1,061.4	333.8	359.3	259.2	4,600.4
1989-90	1,492.2	975.3	971.6	293.6	361.9	268.8	4,363.4
1990-91	1,470.3	975.6	1,015.4	459.6	290.4	308.7	4,520.0
1991-92	1,475.8	1,068.2	1,201.6	542.5	289.6	358.8	4,936.5

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

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

8.28 VETERANS' CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME, NUMBER RECEIVING BENEFITS AT 30 JUNE 1992

Type of training	NSW(a)	Vic.	Qld	SA(b)	WA	Tas.	Aust.
At school							
Primary(c)	109	79	146	30	94	42	500
Secondary	317	223	319	93	172	98	1,222
Total at school	426	302	465	123	266	140	1,722
Tertiary professional	141	99	82	28	32	22	404
Technical	31	—	23	1	24	16	95
Total	598	401	570	152	322	178	2,221

(a) Includes Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Northern Territory. (c) Not in receipt of an education allowance.

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

From 1 April 1993, all service pensioners became eligible for 'fringe benefits', provided by the Commonwealth Government, which include medical and hospital treatment, pharmaceutical benefits and the payment of a telephone allowance.

A number of supplementary benefits are also available under the sub-program. These include:

- rent assistance;

- additional pension in respect of dependent children;
- remote area allowance;
- carer's pension;
- guardian allowance;
- bereavement payment; and
- pharmaceutical allowance.

The following tables show the total number of pensions in force as at 30 June 1992, and the annual expenditure.

8.29 NUMBER OF SERVICE PENSIONS, 30 JUNE 1992

Class	World War I	World War II	Korea, Malaya and FESR(a)	Special Overseas Service	British Commonwealth	Allied Forces	Miscellaneous	Total
Veterans								
Old age	565	170,780	4,144	863	26,760	4,075	2,574	209,761
Permanently incapacitated	—	91	1,874	2,415	287	112	67	4,846
Tuberculosis(b)	2	388	7	1	5	—	—	403
Total	567	171,259	6,025	3,279	27,052	4,187	2,641	215,010
Wife's and widows	536	123,747	4,124	2,305	20,718	3,320	1,853	156,603
Total	1,103	295,006	10,149	5,584	47,770	7,507	4,494	371,613

(a) Far East Strategic Reserve. (b) Eligibility on these grounds ceased on 2 November 1978.

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

8.30 SERVICE PENSIONS: NUMBER AND EXPENDITURE

	Pensions in force as at 30 June			Annual expenditure(a) (\$'000)
	Veterans	Wife's and widows	Total	
1987	234,209	170,585	404,794	1,745,888
1988	232,711	170,153	402,864	2,011,205
1989	229,097	167,342	396,439	2,048,138
1990	223,164	163,184	386,348	2,164,449
1991	218,398	159,511	377,909	2,325,077
1992	215,010	156,603	371,613	2,377,619

(a) Includes associated allowances.

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Treatment for veterans and dependants of veterans

Treatment is provided for all disabilities which have been accepted as service-related, and for pulmonary tuberculosis and cancer not related to service. In addition, and subject to certain conditions, treatment in Australia is provided for most non-service-related disabilities for: incapacitated veterans receiving disability pensions at or above the maximum (100%) general rate; World War II veterans receiving both service pension at any rate and disability pension at the 50 per cent rate or higher; veterans or nurses who served in World War I; veterans who were detained by the enemy; war widows and certain other dependants of deceased male veterans whose deaths have been accepted as service related, and of deceased Special Rate pensioners; certain service pensioners; returned servicewomen of World War II; and mariners who received both a service pension and a disability pension at or above 50 per cent of the general rate, and all Australian mariners of World War I.

Special emphasis is given to caring for the aged, aimed at limiting the dependence of veterans and war widows on nursing home care and encouraging the alternative of home care.

The Department has a Joint Ventures Scheme to assist veterans' organisations to help veterans and their dependants live at home for as long as possible.

Treatment was provided at six Repatriation General Hospitals (RGHs — one in each State); three Repatriation Auxiliary Hospitals (New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland); Anzac Hostel in Victoria; Repatriation Artificial Limb and Appliance Centres (RALACs) and the Vietnam Veterans' Counselling Service (VVCS).

In addition to the Repatriation facilities, and subject to certain criteria, entitled persons are treated in State and private metropolitan and country hospitals and nursing homes at departmental expense. During 1991–92 the estimated paid bed days for entitled persons in public hospitals was 411,698 and for private hospitals, 284,419.

Under arrangements with State Governments, entitled persons requiring custodial, psychiatric care for a service related disability are treated

at departmental expense in State psychiatric hospitals.

General medical practitioner services are provided through the Local Medical Officer Scheme (LMO). There were 17,003 Repatriation LMOs in the scheme as at 1 June 1992. During 1991–92 LMO consultations totalled 3,233,867.

Entitled persons may also be provided with dental treatment through the Local Dental Officer (LDO) Scheme which comprised 6,073 LDOs as at 1 June 1992. In addition, the services of approximately 630 dental prosthetists were also available to eligible beneficiaries. During 1991–92 557,063 dental services were undertaken.

Optometrical services, including the provision of spectacles; the services of allied health professionals and a comprehensive range of aids, appliances and dressings may be provided to entitled persons.

In addition, entitled persons may be provided with pharmaceuticals through the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Repatriation General Hospitals

The Repatriation General Hospitals (RGHs) are teaching hospitals providing short-term treatment during an acute episode of illness. They also provide outpatient services and assessment of need for domiciliary and other community support facilities through Aged and Extended Care Departments (AECDs). During 1991–92 there were 988,867 outpatient occasions of service at the RGHs.

The RGHs contribute to State health care services by treating members of the general community where capacity exists after the needs of entitled persons have been met. Limits on the level of available beds for community patients are determined by the Repatriation Commission.

The following table gives details of in-patients (including community patients) treated at RGHs. The figures shown refer to treatment episodes, for example, a person who is admitted to hospital twice during a year is counted twice.

Repatriation General Hospital Hobart (1 July 1992) and Repatriation General Hospital Concord (1 July 1993) have been integrated into their respective State health systems. Although they still provide treatment for

eligible Repatriation beneficiaries, hospital care is also provided through the Repatriation Private Patient Scheme, whereby entitled

beneficiaries are treated as private patients in local public and private hospitals.

8.31 REPATRIATION GENERAL HOSPITALS: IN-PATIENTS TREATED, 1991-92

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	Aust.
Admissions	37,321	23,211	16,053	10,600	16,134	2,852	106,171
Separations	37,338	23,183	16,017	10,577	16,107	2,858	106,080
Daily average occupied beds	602	407	358	224	276	65	1,933

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Repatriation Auxiliary Hospitals

The Repatriation Auxiliary Hospitals (RAHs) provide slow stream rehabilitation of patients; maintenance care of patients awaiting nursing home admissions and respite care for a limited number of patients. Community patients are admitted to spare capacity in some RAHs subject to maximum limits determined by the Repatriation Commission.

The following table gives details of in-patients (including community patients) treated at RAHs. The figures shown refer to treatment episodes, for example, a person who is admitted to hospital twice during a year is counted twice.

Repatriation Auxiliary Hospital Macleod (Victoria) was decommissioned in January 1993.

8.32 REPATRIATION AUXILIARY HOSPITALS: IN-PATIENTS TREATED, 1991-92

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	Total
Admissions	1,929	961	387	3,277
Separations	1,934	961	391	3,286
Daily average occupied beds	157	84	59	300

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Anzac Hostel provides minimal nursing supervision in a residential setting to eligible persons. The daily average occupied beds figure for 1991-92 was 26.

Artificial limbs and appliances

Entitled veterans and war widows receive free artificial limbs and appliances and surgical footwear through the Repatriation Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre (RALAC).

During 1990-91, the Free Limbs Scheme was replaced by the Artificial Limbs Scheme (ALS) which introduced charges for non-pensioners and minimum limb life expectancies. The ALS provides limbs to Australian residents who need them. Limbs can be provided through the RALACs or commercial limb manufacturers. Amputees can access these manufacturers through some 83 amputee prescribing clinics Australia wide.

RALACs are located in each State capital with sub-centres in Darwin, Townsville, Canberra, Newcastle and Albury. A mobile workshop operates in Victoria to provide services to remote locations. The Central Development Unit is located in Melbourne, and engages in research, development and evaluation in prosthetics and orthotics.

The following table gives details of production by all centres and commercial firms as a result of orders placed by the Department.

8.33 REPATRIATION ARTIFICIAL LIMB AND APPLIANCE PRODUCTION, 1991-92 (numbers)(a)

	Entitled Veterans	Community patients	Total
Artificial arms	13	116	129
Artificial legs	419	1,549	1,968
Appliances	875	490	1,366
Artificial limb repairs	1,961	6,884	8,845
Appliance repairs	866	175	1,041
Custom footwear	5,218	324	5,542
Depth footwear	1,344	106	1,450
Footwear repairs	10,434	878	11,312

(a) Figures do not include limbs (101 arms, 2,002 legs) and limb repairs (6,631) provided by commercial firms as a result of orders placed by the Department.

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Total artificial limbs for ALS clients was 3,768.

Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service

The Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service (VVCS) has centres in Canberra, Harris Park (Sydney), South Melbourne, Brisbane, Townsville, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart and Darwin. Regional centres have been established in Launceston and Albury/Wodonga. The service is intended to provide counselling to veterans and their families, as well as working with the ex-service community to promote acceptance of veterans, particularly Vietnam veterans, by the community.

The service is staffed by psychologists and social workers with detailed knowledge and experience about Vietnam service and its impact on veterans and their families, especially the impact of post-traumatic stress.

A Country Outreach Program was introduced in 1988 to extend the VVCS service to rural areas and access to counselling has been improved through provision of a 008 toll free telephone service.

The following table shows the increase in usage of the service.

8.34 VIETNAM VETERANS COUNSELLING SERVICE, 1989-90 TO 1991-92

	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Numbers of counselling sessions	29,464	34,323	34,996
Including:			
Face to face	16,057	14,066	12,850
Telephone (including 008)	10,818	13,108	13,180
Group	2,240	332	290
Country outreach	n.a.	6,817	8,676

Source: Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The Office of Australian War Graves

The Office of Australian War Graves has two main functions. Its major area of responsibility is the implementation of government policy for the perpetual commemoration of eligible Australian veterans whose post-war deaths are related to their war service. The authority for this program was established by a War

Cabinet decision on 10 March 1922 and re-confirmed in several subsequent decisions.

It also maintains on behalf of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, War Cemeteries and other commemorations in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal) and Norfolk Island. This responsibility is covered by a formal agreement between Australia and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission which was signed on 1 January 1975. Under a separate arrangement with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission the Office of Australian War Graves also maintains the Ambon War Cemetery in Indonesia.

The *War Graves Act 1980* created the statutory position of Director of War Graves. The Director is responsible under the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs for administering all matters associated with the Office of Australian War Graves' commemorative functions.

The Office maintains 19,520 war graves in 76 war cemeteries and 900 civil cemeteries. It also maintains 166,000 post-war commemorations scattered throughout 1,500 civil cemeteries. In 1991-92 it commemorated 5,500 veterans who died of war-related causes.

The Office provides an information service to those wishing to visit any of the 75,000 Australian war dead buried in some 70 countries overseas.

It holds records relating to the Commonwealth dead of World War II, the Australian dead of World War I and of the post-World War II conflicts.

Full details of the operations of the Office of Australian War Graves are contained in its Annual Report.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Household expenditure

The most recent Household Expenditure Survey (HES) undertaken by the ABS was conducted over the 12 month period July 1988 to July 1989. Similar surveys were conducted in 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1984. The next HES

is scheduled to take place throughout the 1993–94 financial year. These surveys have been designed to measure levels and patterns of expenditure on commodities and services by private households in Australia, and to identify factors which influence these levels and patterns. Information from these surveys provide the basis for reviewing the weighting pattern of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the measure used to monitor changes in the cost of living. The information is also used by government departments, research organisations and businesses for a wide range of other purposes.

The 1988–89 HES statistics in the 1992 Year Book described differences in expenditure levels between the States and Territories of Australia. This year's edition looks at how 1988–89 household expenditure levels were associated with selected household characteristics.

Household income is one of the main factors affecting levels of expenditure but various other household characteristics also influence income and expenditure levels. For example, larger households typically have more earners and thus a higher level of income and expenditure than smaller households. Household income and expenditure is also influenced by such factors as the age of the household reference person, and whether households derive a large share of their income from wages and salaries or from pensions and benefits. (For survey purposes the *reference person* is the husband in a married couple income unit, unless he is away for the survey period, the parent in a one-parent income unit and the person in a one-person income unit.)

Household size, the age of the household reference person and other factors tend to be interrelated and typically vary according to life cycle stages. The relationship between life cycle stages and levels of household income and expenditure is illustrated in table 8.35. The table presents ten household types based on household composition and, depending on composition, the age of the reference person or the age of the eldest family child. The ten types provide a simplified view of life cycle possibilities but together represent about 70 per cent of all households in Australia in 1988–89.

As can be seen the total amount spent on commodities and services generally rises through the early stages of family creation and, with increasing family size, reaches a peak as family children mature to adulthood. In subsequent stages of the life cycle household expenditure declines as household size is reduced. This trend follows very closely the trend in gross household income over the life cycle.

Household income

The effects of government benefits and taxes on household income. The ABS has completed two studies assessing the effects of government benefits and taxes on the distribution of household income based on the results of the 1984 and 1988–89 Household Expenditure Surveys (HES).

In both studies household income was adjusted according to selected government taxes paid and benefits received by households. Adjustments were made for cash benefits and pensions, personal tax and medicare liabilities, benefits from government outlays on health, education, social security and welfare, and indirect taxes imputed from household expenditure on goods and services.

The 1988–89 study showed that government benefits and taxes reduce differences in income between households. The net effect of benefits and taxes was to increase the average weekly private income of the lowest income group (the 10% of households with the lowest gross income) from –\$1.05 to an average weekly final income of \$146.74. In comparison, the average weekly private income of the highest income group (the 10% of households with the highest gross income) was reduced from \$1,665.44 to an average weekly final income of \$1,227.58.

The relative contributions of benefits and taxes to the redistribution of income from high to low income groups are shown in graph 8.36. Taxes increased proportionally with income while benefits showed an initial increase and then a fall as income rose. The initial increase in benefits among households in the lower income deciles was associated with differences in the representation of households according to their size and type.

8.35 AVERAGE WEEKLY HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE(a) BY EXPENDITURE GROUP FOR SELECTED LIFE CYCLE GROUPS, 1988-89 (\$)

Commodity or service	Married couple with dependent children only					Married couple with		Married couple - husband and wife only, reference person 55 to 64		Married couple - husband and wife only, reference person 65 and over	
	Married couple with dependent children only					Married couple with		Married couple - husband and wife only, reference person 55 to 64		Married couple - husband and wife only, reference person 65 and over	
	Single person only, under 35	Married couple - husband and wife only, reference person under 35	Eldest child under 5	Eldest child 5 to 14	Eldest child 15 to 24	Dependent and non-dependent children only	Non-dependent children only	reference person 55 to 64	reference person 65 and over	reference person 65 and over	reference person 65 and over
Broad expenditure group(b)											
Commodity or service											
Current housing costs (selected dwelling)	80.83	123.09	108.33	97.80	76.84	77.56	49.34	38.67	29.64	25.85	
Fuel and power	7.62	10.75	14.07	15.72	18.18	19.33	16.24	12.36	11.03	6.91	
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	52.94	89.56	98.09	120.83	140.05	166.54	138.90	83.38	70.71	34.85	
Alcoholic beverages	19.30	21.43	13.62	14.04	20.14	27.51	30.73	12.57	10.54	3.78	
Tobacco	5.20	7.30	6.60	6.96	5.96	9.85	11.44	5.26	3.18	1.81	
Clothing and footwear	15.39	38.04	29.97	34.98	47.90	70.78	47.33	21.79	15.44	10.34	
Household furnishings and equipment	29.30	65.98	48.15	40.60	46.78	65.36	47.92	31.72	23.70	13.68	
Household services and operation	13.67	20.49	38.16	31.03	27.75	30.88	29.34	22.15	17.53	12.92	
Medical care and health expenses	9.30	20.36	25.22	26.36	32.91	33.83	32.41	24.53	18.62	11.70	
Transport	57.85	88.35	74.91	79.05	92.87	149.65	140.57	75.95	48.72	12.03	
Recreation	54.26	67.39	50.79	72.07	92.66	96.99	90.20	60.24	37.03	18.39	
Personal care	5.94	10.82	9.33	10.81	15.95	18.80	16.99	8.04	6.43	4.63	
Miscellaneous commodities and services	20.15	44.12	43.67	48.91	77.62	76.31	51.96	20.17	12.21	7.86	
Total commodity and service expenditure	371.74	607.69	560.92	599.15	695.62	843.40	703.36	416.83	304.78	164.75	
Average weekly household income(c)	439.80	854.34	648.41	766.37	874.40	1,100.06	1,004.75	533.79	356.93	171.72	
Estimated total number in population ('000)											
Households	265.3	274.9	373.3	830.2	318.7	244.5	347.2	318.8	431.0	417.5	
Persons	265.3	549.7	1,299.0	3,601.3	1,376.9	1,158.1	1,165.2	637.6	862.1	417.5	

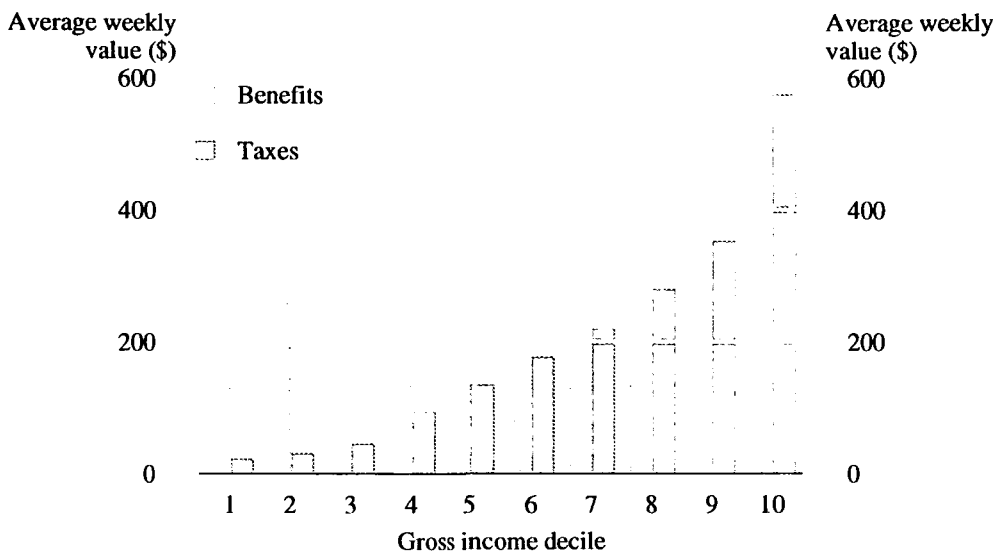
(a) The average obtained when the total estimated expenditure for a particular broad expenditure group is divided by the estimated number of households within the scope of the survey in the relevant category of household type. (b) Details of the component expenditure items of the broad expenditure groups are given in Appendix B of the 1988-89 Household Expenditure Survey, Information Paper (6527.0). (c) Household income is the sum of the gross weekly income of all household members.

Source: Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Household Characteristics, 1988-89 (6531.0).

Government benefits and taxes also redistributed income across the life cycle. Households containing single persons only aged under 35 years paid \$155.00 per week in tax and received \$36.73 per week in benefits. Married couple households with dependent children only,

and the eldest aged 15 to 20, paid \$284.79 per week in tax and received \$268.01 per week in benefits. Households containing single persons only over 65 years paid \$22.96 per week in tax and received \$189.75 per week in benefits (table 8.37).

8.36 ALL HOUSEHOLDS: BENEFITS AND TAXES BY GROSS INCOME DECILE, 1988-89



Source: *Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: The Effects of Government Benefits and Taxes on Household Income, 1988-89* (6537.0).

Income distribution. Surveys of income have been conducted by the ABS at regular intervals. The last such survey was conducted in the period October to December 1990. Income sources include wages or salary; own business, trade or profession; government cash benefits; superannuation; interest; rent; dividends; other sources. Income was collected both on a

financial year basis (in respect of 1989-90) and on a current basis (at the time of interview). Tables 8.37, 8.38 and 8.39 provide estimated income profiles according to various characteristics of individuals and for groups of individuals such as income units, families and households.

	Single person only, under 35	Married couple – husband and wife only, reference person under 35	Married couple with dependent children only				Married couple with		Married couple – husband and wife only, reference person 65 and over	Single person only, 65 and over
							Dependent and non-dependent children only	Non-dependent children only		
			Eldest child under 5	Eldest child 5 to 14	Eldest child 15 to 20					
<i>Income, benefits and taxes</i>										
Private income	427.95	848.95	623.84	726.28	838.68	1,065.62	935.80	472.74	191.80	64.53
Direct benefits										
Age pension	..	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.75	100.82	83.25
Invalid pension	*	*	*	3.51	*4.26	*8.72	*24.19	*22.55	1.68	*
Veterans Affairs pension	*	*	*	0.52	1.77	*1.19	15.45	18.81	54.02	19.66
Unemployment benefits	*7.97	3.61	10.64	11.79	4.98	*7.97	9.79	5.99	*	..
Sole parent pension	..	..	*	*	*	*	*	..	..	..
Family allowance	..	..	10.03	18.52	15.51	7.48	0.10	..	..	..
Other direct benefits	2.15	1.57	1.20	3.15	9.04	8.60	6.35	3.95	8.60	3.32
<i>Total direct benefits</i>	<i>11.85</i>	<i>5.39</i>	<i>24.01</i>	<i>38.06</i>	<i>35.85</i>	<i>34.44</i>	<i>68.96</i>	<i>61.05</i>	<i>165.13</i>	<i>107.19</i>
Gross income	439.80	854.34	647.85	764.35	874.53	1,100.06	1,004.75	533.79	356.93	171.72
Direct tax	104.10	205.06	147.18	176.05	200.94	227.47	200.07	100.61	33.58	8.28
Disposable income	335.70	649.28	500.67	588.29	673.59	872.59	804.68	433.18	323.35	163.43

... continued

8.37 AVERAGE WEEKLY INCOME, BENEFITS AND TAXES FOR SELECTED LIFE CYCLE GROUPS, 1988-89 — continued
(\$)

	Single person only, under 35	Married couple with dependent children only			Married couple with dependent children only		Married couple with dependent children only		Married couple - husband and wife only, reference person 55 to 64	Married couple - husband and wife only, reference person 65 and over	Single person only, 65 and over
		Eldest child under 5	Eldest child 5 to 14	Eldest child 15 to 20	Dependent and non-dependent children only	Non-dependent children only	Dependent and non-dependent children only	Non-dependent children only			
<i>Income, benefits and taxes</i>	335.70	649.28	500.67	588.29	673.59	872.59	804.68	433.18	323.35	163.43	
<i>Disposable income</i>											
Indirect benefits	*	*	4.57	99.48	134.43	82.05	*	*	*	*	*
School education	10.50	14.92	7.52	7.88	32.45	48.31	14.69	1.26	1.08	*	*
Tertiary education	0.35	0.54	0.72	5.41	6.13	4.62	0.50	0.07	*	*	*
Other education benefits	10.92	15.77	12.81	112.77	173.01	134.99	15.50	1.33	1.10	*	*
<i>Total education benefits</i>											
Hospital care	5.78	13.08	17.20	19.07	25.01	29.45	33.95	25.93	70.55	41.93	
Medical clinics	3.97	9.18	18.38	18.48	17.38	19.28	16.70	12.93	16.39	8.79	
Pharmaceuticals	0.28	0.49	1.05	1.28	1.46	1.73	4.44	4.35	14.35	8.60	
Other health benefits	0.90	1.97	3.26	4.11	4.16	4.83	3.30	1.91	1.81	0.94	
<i>Total health benefits</i>	10.94	24.72	39.89	42.94	48.02	55.29	58.40	45.12	103.10	60.26	
Housing benefits	1.40	1.25	2.74	1.85	1.81	1.64	1.13	1.26	1.50	3.73	
Social security and welfare benefits	1.62	0.68	6.45	10.18	9.33	8.20	12.95	13.04	31.13	18.33	
<i>Total indirect benefits</i>	24.89	42.42	61.89	167.74	232.16	200.12	87.97	60.75	136.83	82.56	
<i>Disposable income plus indirect benefits</i>	360.58	691.74	562.51	756.05	905.75	1,072.70	892.66	493.93	460.17	246.01	

... continued

**8.38 FULL-YEAR, FULL-TIME WORKERS(a): MEAN GROSS ANNUAL EARNED INCOME
BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY AGE BY SEX, 1989-90**

Educational attainment	Males (^{'000})	Females (^{'000})	Persons (^{'000})	Mean gross annual earned income		
				Males (\$)	Females (\$)	Persons (\$)
With post-school qualifications						
Degree	499.3	198.9	698.2	46,290	33,680	42,700
Certificate (non-trade)/diploma	521.5	520.9	1,042.4	34,820	25,330	30,080
Trade certificate	1,047.7	43.3	1,090.9	29,010	19,770	28,640
Other	25.5	2.6	28.1	31,250	21,420	30,350
Total	2,093.9	765.6	2,859.6	34,600	27,170	32,610
Without post-school qualifications						
Left school at age						
18 or over	222.5	75.4	297.9	28,610	20,890	26,660
17	299.6	163.5	463.1	27,630	21,260	25,380
16	384.4	204.2	588.6	26,490	20,690	24,480
15 or 14	593.9	299.6	893.5	25,930	19,720	23,850
13 or under	107.5	30.9	138.4	24,700	16,160	22,790
Never went to school	8.3	1.9	10.2	19,940	17,670	19,520
Total	1,616.1	775.5	2,391.7	26,630	20,270	24,570
Total	3,710.1	1,541.2	5,251.2	31,130	23,700	28,950

(a) Excludes 100,300 full-year, full-time workers whose earned income was zero.

Source: Survey of Income & Housing Costs and Amenities: Persons with Earned Income, Australia, 1990 (6546.0).

**8.39 ALL INCOME UNITS: DECILE GROUPS, TYPE OF INCOME UNIT, INCOME SHARE
AND MEAN GROSS WEEKLY INCOME, OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1990**

Decile group(a)	Married couple income units									
	With dependent children		With no dependent children		One-parent income units		One-person income units		All income units	
	Income share	Mean weekly income	Income share	Mean weekly income	Income share	Mean weekly income	Income share	Mean weekly income	Income share	Mean weekly income
	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Gross weekly income decile										
Lowest 10%	2.3	194	2.3	158	3.4	121	1.7	59	1.5	85
2nd	4.6	387	3.8	254	5.5	194	2.9	135	3.1	162
3rd	6.0	501	4.4	297	5.7	213	5.7	151	4.2	231
4th	7.1	596	5.5	364	7.3	236	5.4	180	5.5	301
5th	8.2	688	6.9	463	7.5	261	7.0	235	6.9	383
6th	9.3	783	8.9	591	8.8	298	9.4	314	8.6	471
7th	10.6	888	11.2	746	10.3	360	11.4	386	10.6	580
8th	12.3	1,023	13.6	914	12.9	451	13.5	457	13.3	729
9th	14.4	1,210	16.9	1,128	15.5	542	16.4	553	17.2	944
Highest 10%	25.2	2,107	26.6	1,772	23.1	794	26.6	897	29.2	1,607
Total	100.0	838	100.0	669	100.0	348	100.0	338	100.0	550
Mean gross weekly income(\$)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Median gross weekly income (\$)	736	523	278	273	426					
Number (^{'000})	2,057.3	2,007.5	385.7	3,554.5	8,005.1					

(a) 10 per cent groupings of the estimated population when income units are ranked in ascending order according to each income unit's total gross income.

Source: Unpublished ABS data from the 1990 Survey of Income & Housing Costs and Amenities.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

The ABS has a far wider range of information on Australia than that contained in the *Year Book*. Information is available in the form of regular publications, electronic data services, special tables and from investigations of published and unpublished data.

For further information contact ABS Information Services at one of the addresses listed on the page facing the Introduction to the *Year Book*.